



SESSION 27 | REVELATION 14:1-13 | FORESHADOWING THE END

THE 144,000 IN THE KINGDOM | REVELATION 14:1-5

- Verse 1 -
 - “Lo!” - This is the common "Behold" imperative of the book of Revelation.
 - The Lamb on Mt. Zion - This is the interpretive remark that allows us to know that what follows is a parenthetical statement, a "flash-forward" to the future, when the Lamb, Jesus Christ, shall stand on this earth in Jerusalem, and his throne (v. 3) will be established. Thus, vv. 1-5 take place *after* the Second Coming.
- Verse 2 -
 - Used three times in v. 2, **Voice** is φωνή [*phone*], which is literally the "sound," not necessarily a human voice, though it can be.
 - This is not the voice of the lamb, though his voice is as the **voice of many waters** in Rev. 1:15. In Rev. 19:6 the same sound is heard, and is clearly not Christ.
 - In Rev. 6:1 the **voice of a great thunder** is one of the four living Creatures. In Rev. 19:6 there is also the voice of great thunder.
 - This appears to be the same unidentified celebratory sounds/voices as in 19:6.
 - **The voice of harpers harping** - This is either a second **voice** that John hears, or more likely the identification of the **voice of many waters**. The grammatical structure appears to make this a clarification of the first voice.
- Verse 3 -
 - The 144,000 is the subject of this verb **sung**.
 - Note that *The Message* has the wrong subject.
 - The **voice from heaven** and the **voice of harpers** in v. 2 appear to be accompaniment and/or harmony, not the singers.
 - The verb "to sing" is in the present, so "they sing" would be better Greek than **they sung** (which is a past participle, equivalent to "they were singing"). Many English translations put this in past tense to align with English grammatical standards.
 - How they sing - **as it were a new song**
 - The "as it were" is adverbial, describing the manner of singing--They were singing in the manner that they would sing a new song.
 - In context, it is hard to determine whether this means "their lack of practice showed through" or "they sang with excitement of something new." Either possibility is true.
 - Notice that in Rev. 5:9 the creatures and 24 elders sang a new song, without the adverbial issues.
 - Where they sing -
 - **Before the throne** is also adverbial, describing the location of the singing. This is the throne of the Lamb on earth (v. 1).

- Since this is before the throne of the Lamb, the **four creatures** and the **twenty-four elders** have come to earth.
- Verses 4-5 - The description of the 144,000
 - All of the descriptors and the grammatical genders used in the verse are masculine, thus the 144,000 must be exclusively male.
 - The 144,000 are the **firstfruits**
 - There are several firstfruits in the New Testament.
 - Christ is the firstfruits of them that slept (1 Cor 15:20,23).
 - Men who were firstfruits of evangelism in various provinces (Rom. 16:5, 1 Cor 16:15)
 - Jewish believers were a kind of firstfruits of his creatures (James 1:18)
 - The 144,000, who were the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.
 - These are men have perfectly obeying the Mosaic Law and all its commands (v. 5).

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL | REVELATION 14:6-7

- The Angel - **in the midst of heaven** - Literally, "at the highest point in the sky" i.e.: the zenith.
- The Gospel - A matter of utmost importance is to distinguish the Gospels. Many modern Christians assume there is one Gospel that has always been proclaimed. Scofield mentions the following gospels:
 - The Gospel of the Kingdom - God will establish the earthly reign of His Son, the Messiah. This gospel was proclaimed in the past and will be again proclaimed in the Tribulation.
 - The Gospel of the grace of God - The good news that the penalty has been paid in full by the death, burial, and resurrection, and that eternal life can be received as a grace gift to all who believe.
 - The Gospel of Paul ("my Gospel") - Includes the Gospel of grace but also the fact that those who receive it become "one new man," the body of Christ (the church).
 - The Everlasting Gospel - The message which is to be proclaimed at the arrival of the Messiah. It is good news to those who have endured to the end of the Tribulation.
- The **everlasting gospel** is not one that is to be proclaimed today, but is Everlasting in that, when it is initiated, it is the final Gospel proclamation that lasts for all time.
- The content of the **everlasting gospel**-
 - **Fear God, and give him glory** - This is an imperative. Literally, "be afraid of God."
 - The gospel of fear and worship has been proclaimed in our world, with disastrous consequences. In our dispensation, fear and worship should be *results* of receiving a gift of grace.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE FALL OF BABYLON | REVELATION 14:8

- Like the judgment of v. 7, this verse is a "flash-forward" of the fall of Babylon, which will take place just prior to the judgment.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE DOOM OF THE FOLLOWERS OF ANTICHRIST | REVELATION 14:9-11

- Verses 9-11 need no interpretation: all those who will receive the mark of the beast will be cast into the lake of fire.

THE PATIENCE OF THE SAINTS | REVELATION 14:12-13

- This is an age in which the remnant of Israel will both **keep the commandments** of the law and **have the faith of Jesus**. The physical results for many are seen in v. 13.
- Those who refuse the mark are likely going to die. Verse 13 proclaims the blessedness of their death. Note that **their works do follow them** because they will be living in an age of the Law.