

The Book of Revelation
Message #32
What Will Take Place Later
The 144,000

3. Their qualities.

a. Purity. Rev 14:4a *“**These**” are the ones who have not been defiled with women*

John uses the language of sexual purity in a figurative sense as referring to their spiritual purity.

b. Commitment. Rev 14:4b *“... **These**” are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.*

c. Standing. Rev 14:4c-5 *“... **These**” have been purchased from among men as first fruits*

‘First fruits’ takes us back to the O T to where the Jews offered the first part of the barley harvest called the first fruits to the Lord. They took this to the priest who waved it before the Lord in acknowledgment that the whole harvest belonged to God. As the first fruits this was also a guarantee that the rest of the harvest was yet to follow.

Revelation 14:1-5

3 /12/17

I. The Sealed of God.

A. What John Sees.

1. The Lamb. Rev 14:1a *Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb...*”
NASU

The word ‘*the*’ indicates a “specific” Lamb. It points to the Lamb as slain in 5:6, as glorified in 5:8, 12,13, as exalted in 7:9–10, as redeemer in 7:14, as Shepherd of His people in 7:17, and as Lord of Lords and King of Kings in 17:14

This is a contrast to the false prophet in 13:11 who John described as a lamb with two horns. Another words, John is saying, this is the true Lamb, any other is counterfeit.

2. Mount Zion. Rev 14:1b *“... was standing on Mount Zion...”*
NASU

This is the literal Mount Zion in Jerusalem, not heaven, and the fulfilment of prophecy that clearly states that from this literal Mount Zion Christ would reign on earth (Ps 48:1; Isa 24:23; Joel 2:32; Zech 14:2-5b, 9

‘The whole point would be lost if Mount Zion here refers to heaven, because that would mean the 144,000 had died. In that case, their sealing with the mark of God (7:3–4; cf. 9:4) would be meaningless. Isaiah 11:9–12 and 24:23, and Joel 2:32, also support the identification of the Mount Zion in this passage with the earthly Mount Zion.’ **John MacArthur**

3. The 144,000. Rev 14:1c “... and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. NASU

Some say they are the same 144,000 mentioned in chapter 7. Others think they are the faithful believers of all history.

Here are some reasons why they are the same 144,000 as in ch 7;

a. The exactness of the numbers. If they were different John would have set them apart.

b. The lack of any identification. John wrote as if they would be recognized.

c. It answers the question of what happened to them.

d. God’s protective seal. They were sealed and therefore kept from harm.

“No other age has produced a company like this, a genuine army of militant believers marching unharmed through every form of danger. It has been theirs to defy the dragon, to bait the Beast, and to give the lie to the false prophet. Their calling has been to preach the gospel from the housetops when even to name the name of Christ called for the most dreadful penalties. They have been surrounded with impenetrable hedges, able to laugh at all the grand inquisitors of hell. They have walked the streets in broad daylight, careless of the teeth-gnashing rage of their would-be torturers and assassins, true witnesses of Jehovah in the most terrible era of the history of mankind. The devil knows about this coming band of conquerors, and is in agony of their anticipation.”

Dr. John Phillips

B. What John Hears.

1. A heavenly voice. Rev 14:2 *I heard a voice “from” heaven*

"Like the sound of many waters" - majesty

"Like the sound of loud thunder" - authority

"Like the sound of harpists playing on their harps" - sweetness

2. A heavenly song. Rev 14:3 *they sang a new song before the throne*

We are not told the words of this song, or why the song is only for the 144,000, but **Dr. Henry Morris** indicates why this may be:

“Although the words of the song of the 144,000 are not recorded, it surely dwells in part at least on the great truth that they had been “redeemed from the earth.” Although in one sense all saved people have been redeemed from the earth, these could know the meaning of such a theme in a more profound way than others. They had been saved after the rapture, at that time in history when man’s greatest persecutions and God’s greatest judgments were on the earth. It was at such a time that they, like Noah (Genesis 6:8), had “found grace in the eyes of the Lord” and had been separated from “all that dwell upon the earth” (Revelation 13:8). Not only had they been redeemed spiritually but, they had been redeemed from the very curse on the earth (Genesis 3:17), being protected from pain and death by the guarding seal.”

