

## **A Glorious Victory Celebration (Message # 32)**

Revelation 14: 1-5

We have spent several weeks studying the dark, disturbing passages that have dealt with Satan, the Antichrist, the False Prophet, and the mark of the Beast. We have seen how the world will be deceived and commit them-selves to the worship of Satan. Tonight we come to a passage of hope amidst the darkness as we see the 144,000 around the throne.

The Bible must deal with the deceit of Satan and the depravity of man, but that isn't its central theme. The Bible is the HIM Book; Jesus is the theme and focus of the Bible. Among the tragedies and wickedness of a sin cursed world blooms the Lilly of the Valley, the Rose of Sharon. Once again we find a scene of rejoicing and triumph in the midst of great Tribulation. We are dealing with literal future events, but we can draw encouragement from the pages of Revelation. Our world is dark, but we are not without hope! Let's take some time to rejoice as we consider: [A Glorious Victory Celebration](#).

**I. The Identification of the 144,000** (1) – [And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads](#). We 1<sup>st</sup> encountered these men in [Chp.7:3-4](#). They were sealed of God to carry the gospel of Christ to those who would receive Him during the Tribulation.

- We have now come to the end of their ministry. They have kept the faith and finished the course, finally being martyred by the Antichrist, and now their faith has ended in sight. There are a couple of things we need to consider concerning them.

**A. Their Association** (1a) – Keep in mind that the vast majority of mankind has bought into the lies of Satan and have chosen to follow Antichrist and receive his mark. They have aligned themselves with the counterfeit of Christ. These on the other hand, have given themselves to the Lord and His work. At the end of life they are found standing with the Lamb. All of the suffering and hardship they've faced has ended and they have been received by the Lamb of God.

- What hope that gives to every child of God! There is much that we must endure in this life. We are often ridiculed and rejected because of our association with the Lord, but there is coming a day when we shall be welcomed into that heavenly city. The trials of this life won't even begin to compare with the glory that we shall behold. [Rom.8:18 – For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us](#). All the mockery, tragedy, and suffering ended with the wonderful privilege of standing with the One they had endured so much to see. We will also see Him as He is.

**B. Their Assurance (1b)** – The world had given in to accept the mark of the Beast. They are now identified with Satan and will spend eternity with him in torments. These have found a much different destiny. They were sealed with God the **Father's name written in their foreheads**. They were identified as belonging to the Lord.

- As they stand before the host of heaven, His name still remains. Satan has marked those who belong to him and God has sealed the 144,000 with His name. They had put their faith in the Lord and He hadn't failed them. There were 144,000 that were sent out to preach the gospel and here we find 144,000, all present and accounted for, standing before the Lord. There had not been a one of them lost during the Tribulation; there wasn't a one of them that God could not keep.

- That ought to make you rejoice tonight. We will not endure the Tribulation, but we have that same assurance. If you have been saved tonight, you are secure in the Lord. He hasn't lost a one who has come to Him and He isn't about to lose you! **Jn.10:28-29 – And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.** Satan may not like it, but we are safe and secure in the hands of our blessed Lord! We are gonna' make it!

## **I. The Identification of the 144,000 (1)**

**II. The Celebration of the 144,000** – As the faithful of God find themselves in the land of their dreams, a great celebration begins. Let me say that heaven will not be a place of sorrow and depression; it won't be a gloomy place where hearts are heavy, loaded with care. Heaven will resound with the rejoicing and praise of God's people. Notice this celebration. It is:

**A. An Unending Celebration** – We find in **V.1** that these have been ushered into Mount Sion. In the Bible Zion always refers to the city of Jerusalem. There is a difference in opinion as to where these men actually are. Some believe that the text is referring to Jerusalem in the time of the Millennial Reign. Others believe that this is referring to the New Jerusalem, the heavenly city. This seems to be what the text supports. They are found before the throne among the four beasts and the elders.

- Consider the joy that these now have found. They have endured the famines, the droughts, the persecution, and death while preaching to a lost world. They have spent their time witnessing the entire world reject God and follow the Antichrist. Theirs was not an easy existence. But now all of that is a distant memory; they have been delivered to worship the Lord they were faithful to for all of eternity.

- That sounds like my kind of place, a celebration that I look forward to experiencing. I rejoice in the fact that this world is not all there is. We have the promise of a home in heaven where we'll have the privilege of worshipping our blessed Lord throughout eternity!

**B. A United Choir** (2) – [And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:](#) These sing the song of the redeemed, praising the Lamb who delivered and purchased their redemption.

- John described a voice, (singular) as the sound of many waters, the sound of great thunder. Imagine the scene that we shall behold, 144,000 servants of God will lift their voices in praise to the Redeemer in perfect harmony. We can't begin to imagine the beauty of heaven's sights and sounds. There will be no sweeter sound than the redeemed singing praises to God.

**C. An Unknown Chorus** (3) – [And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.](#) They will sing a [new song](#) that no man can sing but these 144,000. It will be a song that is unique unto them. They alone have endured these trials; they alone will know the words to this glorious song. The church will be able to enjoy this wonderful chorus, but we won't be able to sing it with them.

- We maybe can't sing that song, but every child of God has a song to sing! [Ps.40:2-3](#). I have a song within my heart for the Lord. I know what it is to be brought out of the miry clay of sin. I know what it is to have been placed upon the Rock of my salvation. I know what it is to feel His presence near me. That certainly puts a song in my heart!

- We are really the only ones who have a song in our day. There are many who earn large sums of money as music artists, but they can't sing our song. Our song is sung from the heart to the glory of our Redeemer!

## **I. The Identification of the 144,000** (1)

## **II. The Celebration of the 144,000**

**III. The Presentation of the 144,000** (4-5) – There will be many saints that receive great rewards in heaven. Consider the crowns of Abraham, Moses, David, the prophets, and the apostles. Great will be the rewards of many, but these will receive a great reward as well. These have stood the test during the difficulties of Tribulation and emerged victorious. As they are presented to God Himself, their character is revealed. May their stand serve as a challenge to us today! Notice:

**A. Their Spiritual Purity (4a)** – These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. The word **defiled** means “*polluted, stained, or contaminated.*” They have kept themselves pure of the defilement of sin through fornication. There is much sexual perversion in the world today and it will be rampant in the Tribulation. These have kept their lives pure before God.

- There is more than what we see on the surface to their purity. Spiritually they are pure before the Lord. They haven’t defiled themselves with the seductive great whore of Tribulation. They have kept themselves committed to the bridegroom who purchased them.
- I know our world is filled with perversion, but we as God’s people must keep ourselves pure, physically and spiritually. Young people keep yourselves pure. Christian keep yourselves pure from seduction and this world’s religion. We are the bride of Christ and should behave as such!

**B. Their Sacrificial Persistence (4b)** – These were wholly surrendered to the ways of God, they which follow the Lamb withersoever he goeth. They would not compromise the truth due to the pressures they faced. They were consistent in serving the Lord and going at His command. Their lives were lived entirely for the Lord, come what may. The persistence of these has spoken to my heart. They served God in the midst of great Tribulation.

- We often find it hard to serve Him in a Christian environment. We have fellow believers and the church to lean on. God expects us to live committed to Him and His purpose for our lives. The word **follow** means to be in the same way as someone else. We are to live our lives as Jesus did.

**C. Their Symbolic Prophecy (4c)** – These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. In the OT days of sacrifice, the people brought what was known as a “wave offering.” They would bring the first sheaves of grain from the new harvest into the Temple, waving it before the Lord as a testimony to the harvest that would follow. These men were called to carry the gospel message. They have been faithful to the task and are receiving their reward, but their work hasn’t ceased to exist. There will be countless more that will be saved because of their labor in the harvest.

- This ought to encourage us to continue in the harvest. You might think you have been of little value, that your life hasn’t been very fruitful. Listen it isn’t our job to save them; we are called to scatter the seed. I’m sure it will be amazing to see the harvest that has been produced from seemingly insignificant lives. Just keep sowing the gospel seed!

**D. Their Sanctified Position (5)** – And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God. These have been examined as they stand before God. They are **without fault**. There is no **guile** found in their mouths. **Guile** literally means “*a decoy or a deceitful image.*” It has the idea of “*one who isn’t what he appears.*” These are not decoys; they are not counterfeits; these are the “real deal.” They have professed the name of Christ and have been found worthy!

- This dark, sinful world needs to see men who have no guile. They need to see the genuine article. We need not be found as hypocrites. Our lives ought to reflect what we proclaim. We need to be people of character, living in private the same as we do in public.
- The fact is this world knows who we are. We have a personal relationship with Christ and the world needs to see and recognize our faithfulness to Him. Anyone can talk the talk; let's walk the walk!

I hope you have been encouraged and challenged by these verses. The one thing that kept coming to my mind is that a Christian's life is never lived in vain. You may not always enjoy the trip, but God is keeping a record. We have a precious opportunity to live life to the fullest for Jesus. Are you satisfied with your life as it is? If not, come and seek the Lord.