

Revelation

Memorize the TRUTH!

Lesson 15 The 144,000 and Four Heavenly Declarations Revelation 14:1-13

There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name. Revelation 14:11

The Lamb and the 144,000 – Revelation 14:1

Day 1

1. How is the mark in Revelation 14:1 different from the one in 13:16-17?
2. What does placing a name or mark on someone imply about the relationship? Give some modern day examples.
3. God protected and redeemed the 144,000 in the midst of the tribulation. What does this tell you about His ability to protect His own, and especially you?

John 10:27-30

John 17:12

Learn the TRUTH!

Rather than taking the mark of the beast, we believers are “sealed” by God! The Holy Spirit is our seal or mark. He is our guarantee that we belong to Christ and NOTHING can take us away from Him. What are the marks of Christ in your life?

The Sounds and the Song – Revelation 14:2-5

Day 2

4. a. How does John describe the sounds he heard? vv. 2-3
- b. What ideas or mental pictures do these sounds bring to your mind?
- c. Why do you think only the 144,000 could learn it?
- d. Have you found that, in your own life, you can only learn some “songs” through trials?
5. What do the phrases, “redeemed from the earth” and “purchased from among men” suggest about the 144,000 and the One who redeemed and purchased them?

**Followers of the Lamb
Revelation 14:4-5**

Day 3

6. a. How does John describe the character and commitment of the 144,000?
- b. What do you think it means to “follow the Lamb wherever He goes”?
- Psalm 119:9-11
- John 15:5
- c. What do you think the 144,000 will have to do in order to follow the Lamb? Revelation 13:8, 15-17
- d. What makes it difficult for *you* to follow the Lamb?

**Warnings and Blessings
Revelation 14:9-13**

Day 5

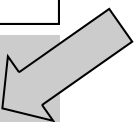
11. a. What does the third angel say will happen to those who take the mark of the beast?
- b. How does this motivate you to spread the gospel?
12. a. How do you think we gain “patient endurance”?
- b. Have you ever been blessed because you chose patient endurance rather than a quick fix?
13. a. What do you think verse 13 means, and why is this encouraging to you?
- Matthew 19:29
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
- b. How should the hope of eternal rewards help you live faithfully in both good times and in evil times?

**Two Declarations
Revelation 14:6-8**

Day 4

7. What do you think the “eternal gospel” is?
Acts 17:24-31
- Romans 1:16-17
8. What is the first angel’s message and why is it so compelling?
9. How is the “fear” in verse 7 different from the fear incited by the beast in Revelation 13?
- Matthew 10:28
10. a. In the second angel’s message, what sins against God caused the fall of Babylon?
- Judges 2:16,17
- b. How do people commit spiritual adultery against God today?

Live the TRUTH!



Do you have “patient endurance”?
The 144,000 people in the end times will! The key to having this mindset is to be sealed by the Holy Spirit and to stay pure by following the Lamb very closely — every day. Anyone can do this! Just follow Him, and in the end, Jesus will say “Well done, my good and faithful servant! ... Come and share your master’s happiness!”
[Matt 25:21]

Commentary Revelation Lesson 15

Chapter 13 introduced the antichrist and the false prophet. Halfway through the Tribulation, they will subdue the earth and begin to eliminate those who will not bow to the beast. Chapter 14 presents some sights and sounds in heaven that pertain to the persecuted and martyred saints, stressing their need to persevere in trial, and revealing the heavenly honor coming to them.

John directs his attention to a vision of the 144,000 servants of God, first introduced in 7:1-8. They are Jewish believers in Christ — 12,000 from each of the specific tribes of Jacob — who were divinely sealed to protect them from God's impending wrath on earth. John sees them standing on Mount Zion, a reference to either earthly or heavenly Mount Zion. The 144,000 are with the Lamb (Christ), who at this time still seems to be in heaven, an indication that the heavenly meaning applies here. John also notes the name of the Lamb and His Father's name written on their foreheads.

John hears a "sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder." He compares the sound to "harpists playing their harps." This music accompanies the believers' song, a "new song" that only the 144,000 Jewish believers are able to learn and sing. "Redeemed from the earth," they are now in heavenly Mount Zion, enjoying fellowship with the Lamb.

John then reflects on four characteristics of the 144,000's service to the Lamb. First, purity characterizes their behavior: They "did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure." Possibly they lived celibate lives, and certainly they avoided the sexual immorality that will characterize the last days. Second, loyalty marks their devotion: They "follow the Lamb wherever he goes." They follow His leadership wherever it takes them — to life or to death. Third, their offering as "firstfruits" defines their position: "purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb," possibly a reference to being Jewish martyrs of the Tribulation. Israel was called "holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest" (Jeremiah 2:3). Even the gospel was "first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Romans 1:16). Fourth, their truthfulness also defines their character: "no lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless." The 144,000 refuse to lie about the deity of the antichrist. All the wonders assigned to the idol by its worshipers are lies as well and the 144,000 refuse to embrace those lies.

Chapter 11 began this explanatory interlude. Those who remain on earth during this period now receive four declarations from heaven. An angel flying in midair proclaims the first declaration — an eternal gospel. This angel brings a message "to those who live on the earth — to every nation, tribe, language and people," designating the scope of the antichrist's authority and of his mandate to worship his image. Heaven's rebuttal is a call to honor the true God. The angel announces, "Fear God and give him glory." Worshipers of the beast are mercifully reminded that the time for repentance is running out (see 2:21). A call to worship God follows because He is the Creator who made "the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water." A person must first believe in a creator God before seeking to be reconciled to Him through the cross of Christ.

Check It Out:

Think about what it means to be "sealed" by God. In Chapter 7 an angel gave instruction that no harm could come to the earth until the 144,000 had been sealed. God intended to protect His chosen people from His wrath, which was about to be poured out on the earth. God "sealed" these people not just for a few years but for eternity. Not one of the 144,000 is lost. When the Bible says, "Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory" (Ephesians 1:13-14), we can depend on it. God won't lose us either.

Another angel declares that the great city of Babylon has been sentenced to destruction. Under Babylon's worldwide influence, "all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."

A third angel warns those on earth that beast worshipers "will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath." John stresses that marked beast worshipers will "be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb," the smoke and the experience of their torment will last forever; and there will be no rest or reprieve, day or night. John reminds the saints that they must patiently endure trials, perhaps even martyrdom, in their resistance to the beast. True saints will remain loyal to Christ. Those who have the outward form of religion without internal faith will cave in to the beast's demands.

Think about the importance of doing a faith check. Paul tells his readers to take an honest look at their own heart: "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you — unless, of course, you fail the test?" (2 Corinthians 13:5). Ask yourself: "Is my faith genuine? Have I really committed myself for today, tomorrow, and forever to Jesus Christ?" This is not fire insurance; it is relationship — a life-changing relationship with God Himself — that lasts for eternity. Do you pass the test?

After the three angels, John hears a fourth declaration by a voice from heaven that instructs him: "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." To die "in the Lord" is to die as a Christian believer. "'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labor,'" meaning they will be done with earthly trial, work, and service. The second promise of the Spirit has to do with their rewards, for "their deeds will follow them." God is faithful to remember the deeds and service of His people; He will reward them accordingly. They have the Spirit's promise to rely on.



We needed a glimpse of glory after the ugliness of the dragon and his beasts. Instead of the beast's mark, we have seen the Lamb's mark. Instead of the monster's proud words and blasphemies, we have heard heavenly worship. Instead of deceived people worshipping a false god, we have observed pure people following the Lamb. God makes clear the horror of the end for all who choose the beast over the Lamb. Some people say a God of love could never allow people to suffer eternal torment. Remember that God's love sent His Son as the perfect sacrifice so all who trust in Him would never have to suffer in hell. Jesus shed His blood on the cross, enduring separation from God so that we could live eternally. That is what our great God of love did for us. Now He invites us to respond.



**What sins against God caused the fall of Babylon?
Acts 7:39-43**

Ezekiel 23:35