

CMPC Sermon Notes

Series: *Revelation: Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow*

Text: *Revelation 14.1-5*

Message: *The Return of the Lamb*

Combatants Revealed, 14.1

- The red dragon, aka Satan, Revelation 12
 - In Chapter 13 he enlists His Helpers
 - The first beast, 13.1 World kingdoms
 - The second beast, 13.11 False prophets
- Suddenly a scene change: Mount Zion... not the earthly Mount Zion... the earthly Jerusalem... but the heavenly one
 - Jesus not really absent... However, not mentioned since chapter 7
 - The return of the Lamb to our story line
 - God's king is installed on his holy hill, as in Psalm 2.6,
- As a contrast against the lamb that came out of the earth, Beast 2.
- As the persecution led by the beasts continues, we do not get discouraged
- We see the triumphant Christ.
 - Again... the stability of our times
- With him: 144,000
 - We've seen this number
 - 144,000 on earth, cf. Revelation 7- the complete number of the saints- an incalculable number – stars of heaven, sand on the seashore- promise to Abraham
 - Already they have been sealed with names on their forehead: the Father and the Son (Mark of the Beast is the counterfeit of this)
 - All of humanity is branded into one of two camps
 - This is how we symbolically sealed Avery today- marking her out as part of God's family.
- Now as we see them in heaven, how many are there? 144,000!
- Satan has failed in his attempt to lead the people of God astray.
 - Jesus said he would not lose any the Father had given him, John 10.29, and he does not. This is the complete number!
- Where are these saints now? Heaven or earth? Correct answer: Yes! Both. Jesus the triumphant Lamb is with his people wherever they are! Some are in heaven... and some are on earth

The Voice from Heaven, 14.2

- Voice from heaven- distinct for its sound- sound of praise; thunder of the theophany... like Niagara Falls... but also sounds like Harps

The New Song, 14.3

- A new song: to celebrate victory, as in the Old Testament (eg, Song of Moses)
 - Church celebrating God's great, redeeming triumph in Christ. A new song to celebrate a new salvation!
- Only singers : 144,000- number is perfection times perfection times a thousand
 - Redeemed from the earth: the people of God, not the dwellers of the earth
 - The song comes from hearts filled with love and gratitude
 - All the saints could sing it; No one excluded
- Nonbelievers cannot sing it

The Redeemed, 14.4-5

- Why call them virgins? Again, this is symbolism. It's not to say these are only unmarried celibate men.
 - This same sort of imagery is also used to describe the church as a virgin bride adorned for her husband later in Revelation (by contrast, Babylon called a prostitute)
 - Also, see II Corinthians 11.2
 - This is the church as a pure army victorious in holy war.
 - When Israel's army was headed to war, the soldiers were required to be ceremonially pure because they were waging holy war.
- Follow the Lamb: exclusive to Christ, not the Beast
 - They are redeemed- that is purchased with the blood of Christ, Revelation 5.9-10
 - Have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, Revelation 7.14
- Firstfruits
- Pure speech, blameless: integrity (Job)- holiness

So What About Us?

- The Clear Contrast
- The happy followers of Jesus
- The picture to keep fixed in our minds
- Our heavenly reward: eternal celebration of the victory of the Lamb.
- A taste today