

Morning Sermon November 28, 2021

“The Redeemed of the Lamb” Revelation 14:1-5

I. *A Lamb –*

1. *Capital L in the NKJV*

Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion...

Revelation 14:1 (NKJV)

A. *Not a literal lamb*

B. *Jesus Christ as the sacrifice for our sins, and the Redeemer of His people –*

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29 (NKJV)

2. *Standing on Mt. Zion, remember this is still a VISION, not of literal earthy Mount Zion, but Zion as opposed to Sinai, not law that condemns, but a place of grace –*

¹⁸ For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard *it* begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. ²⁰ (For they could not endure what was commanded: “*And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.*” ²¹ And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “*I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.*”) ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of* Abel. Hebrews 12:18–24 (NKJV)

II. *With Christ, on Mt. Zion are all of His people, one hundred and forty-four thousand, as seen by God, in His grace, in contrast to the Beast(s) –*

¹⁴ Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads. Revelation 14:1 (NKJV)

1. *one hundred and forty-four thousand - Not a literal number of people, but 12 X 12 for the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles, symbolizing those redeemed by the Lamb, consisting of both Jews and Gentiles from all ages –*

⁸ Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” Revelation 5:8–10 (NKJV)

2. *Having His Father’s name ...*

... having His Father’s name written on their foreheads. Revelation 14:1 B

A. *Another argument against a “literal” interpretation of this passage, His Father’s Name, is God the Father’s name, Who is the Father of Jesus Christ, if you insist on a literal interpretation the 144,000 you have an older (father lamb’s) animal name ... but this is God the Father, for Whom all the family of God is named, the father of Jesus Christ –*

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, Ephesians 3:14–15 (NKJV)

B. *“Whole family” in Ephesians must be understood in the context of Ephesians which includes both Jews and gentiles, believers in Christ from every age -*

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19–22 (NKJV)

“you” in Ephesians 2:19 is a reference to Gentile believers – they are included in the “Whole family” of Ephesians 3:15, which is named according to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ of Ephesians 3:14.

Arnold Brevick

3. *In context, the Father's name on the forehead of believers is in contrast to the followers and worshippers of the Beast, who have 666 on their right hands or foreheads –*

¹⁶ He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Revelation 13:16–17 (NKJV)

III. *A new song, the song of the redeemed –*

² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. ³ They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. Revelation 14:2-3 (NKJV)

1. *Who are the singers? The hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth –*

2. *How is any human being redeemed? Only by Christ's blood –*

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, Revelation 5:9 (NKJV)

A. *Not a special group of Jews only*

B. *Nor a special sinless group of early Christians*

C. *But all believers from every age –*

²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:26 (NKJV)

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20–21 (NKJV)

IV. *The Character of truly saved believers -*

⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among men, being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵ And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

1. *Not defiled by women? Virgins?*

⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. Revelation 14:4 A

A. *Not a condemnation of women or marriage, not referring necessarily to literal "virgins" or even only to men but symbolic of true believers as redeemed by Christ, washed in His blood, filled with His Spirit... Matthew 25:1-13*

B. *Paul communicates this way to the Corinthians, who were hardly sexually perfect, though called to that – 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 Spiritually, they were called to faithfulness to Christ -*

² For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:2 (NKJV)

C. *This is in contrast to the followers of the beast, which is connected to Babylon, which is a whore, a harlot, not a bride –*

⁸ And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." Revelation 14:8 (NKJV)

⁵ And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH Revelation 17:5 (NKJV)

"In the final analysis, it is preferable to understand παρθένοι ("virgins") as a metaphor of *all* true saints who have not compromised in various ways with the world *because* they have remained loyal as a virgin bride to her betrothed" G K Beale

• *We are the bride of Christ, the Lamb – Revelation 19:6-9 & 21:9-14*

2. *Follow the Lamb wherever He goes – Revelation 14: 4 B; John 10:27-30 A characteristic of ALL TRUE Christians, not a select group – 1 John 2:6*

3. *These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. Revelation 14:4 C*

A. *Redeemed, they would not need redemption if not sinners first!*

B. *Firstfruits – God's will for all of us – James 1:16-17*

4. *In their mouth ... no deceit, and without fault – Revelation 14:5 & 21:8; Jude :24-25*