

The Lamb Who is the Good Shepherd Revelation 14:1-5

Over the last several weeks we have been zeroing in on these portraits of Jesus in the book of Revelation

A)Ch.5 We considered the Worth of the Lamb -

- Ch.6 the Wrath of the lamb -
- Ch.12 - The blood of the lamb

B)Today - The Lamb who is the Good Shepherd

V.1 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. 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. 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* first fruits 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.

Now we were first introduced to this group known as the 144,000 back in Revelation 7, turn there

² Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, ³ saying,

“Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” ⁴ And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred *and* forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel *were* sealed:
Revelation 7:2-4

A)Then Just to be clear V.4-8 list the tribes

B)So these are a group of Jewish believers 12,000 from 12 tribes in Israel -

1)who after the rapture - embrace Jesus

C)They are set apart for a special assignment for the Lord - Jewish Evangelist

1)During the Tribulation time.

They are given a seal of protection throughout that period. -

A)The Angels inflicting harm on planet earth are told - leave these alone

B)Turn back to ch.14 - Here In Rev 14 they are standing on Mount Zion with Jesus the Lamb,

C)This shows that they emerge victorious from the great tribulation. -

1)Which will be the most difficult time in the history of the world.

D)I love that it says there were 144,000 - not 142,000 or 143,999 - no 144,000 - they all make it through.

So here is this special group that makes it thru the Tribulation time –

A)they Stand – Strong for the Lord in the Midst of Difficulties

B)They go thru the most Morally Dark time in the History of the World

1)the most Spiritually Difficult time & Come out – Winners /

C)Now I believe that we as the Church will not be here during the Trib. –

1)because we are going to be Raptured ahead of time

But we Presently go thru Tribulations & difficulties

A)Jesus said in John 16 - that in this world *we will have Tribulation* –

B)Tribulation is a part of life - the Great Tribulation is the wrath of God - not appointed

C)But in this life -we have tribulation

But We are to Stand Strong

A)We are currently living in a dark world that is against God And Yet we are called to shine as lights

B)So What can we learn from this group - the 144,000?

1)Consider today- leading into communion

Consider - Five Parallels between us and the 144,000

#1 Their Seal in V.1

#2 Their Symphony in V.3

#3 Their Sanctity in V.4

#4 Their Steps in V.4

#5 Their Standing V.5

Five Parallels between us and the 144,000

A)**#1 Their Seal. V.1** - *Father's name written on their foreheads*

B)They have the seal of God on their foreheads

C)The name of "YAWEH" was written in their foreheads and protected them

1)from the many of the judgements that took place during the Trib. Period

Now Paul declared in Ephesians 1: 13 that when You put your Trust in Christ after you heard the Gospel

A)when You believed, you *were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,*

B)At that moment God The Father placed His seal in us –

C)The significance of this sealing of the Holy Spirit-speaks of many things

1)For one thing, it speaks of a *finished transaction.*

Even today, when important legal documents are processed,

A)they are stamped with the official seal to signify the completion of the transaction.

B)In the Bible Seals were also used as a mark of Ownership

1)In Bible days shipping was big Business/

C)Once goods were packed at one port & ready to be shipped to another they would *SEAL* them

1)by putting a wax seal on the merchandise

D)and putting the imprint of their signet ring upon the wax. This was their *mark of ownership.*

E)When the ships would arrive at the port the servants of these merchants would go to the docks

1)and *identify* their masters goods - They would look of his seal on the items -

The Holy Spirit is God's Seal upon our lives to prove His ownership.

A)You see, Jesus purchased us from the slave market of sin

B)We were once a slave to sin & in the bondage of corruption, but now we belong to Him.

1 Cor 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

A)POINT: We are really NOT OUR OWN to live as we please.

B)It is NOT for me to order my own life or to choose the way that I want to go.

C)I belong to HIM.... He purchased me and has sealed me...

1)He has put His mark of ownership upon me.

D)As soon -as I realize that - life takes on a whole new meaning -

1)I exist for HIM - He doesn't exist for me!

E)I live according to HIS will.- for His glory - His Kingdom - not my Kingdom

#2 Their Symphony:

A)V.3 And they sang as it were a new song before the throne

B)In Revelation 14:1, the 144,000 have their feet firmly planted on an earthly Mount Zion.

C)Yet their praise takes them right to the presence of God, in right before the throne. In V.3

D)In our praise and worship, we really can transport ourselves and be heard in heavenly places.

They have their own song - special to them, and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

A)The Church has their song in Ch.5:9-10

"Worthy is the Lamb to take the scroll and loose the seals, for he was slain, and has redeemed us by his blood out of all the nations, tongues, tribes and people, and has made us unto our God kings and priests and we shall reign with him upon the earth" - Revelation 5:9-10

B)The Tribulation saints have their song - Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" - Revelation 7:10

C) You have a Song - Your Symphony - Your life - a Song is being written

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. Romans 12:1 CSB

D) As we daily present ourselves to God as a living Sacrifice - our song is being written -
1) our symphony is being created.

Paul taps into this idea in Ephesians 2:10 when he refers to us as God's Workmanship -

A) Created in Christ for good works....walk in

B) Being placed in Jesus is what makes us God's workmanship

C) Workmanship is poema in the Greek - Masterpiece

1) You are God's masterpiece in the making

Think about Art - Art is the expression of the artist

A) Musicians sing songs - that are reflecting what is going on in their lives

B) Painters paint pictures that are an expression of a scene they are looking at

C) In the same way - God is seeking to express himself through our lives

1) He is writing a Symphony - with each one of our lives - pointing people to who He is

Our lives are like a Stage upon which God has the opportunity to be seen and glorified.

A) The Lord has not only Promised to Strengthen me & help me

B) but He also promises to walk w/ me thru the Fire
Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'
Isaiah 41:10

C) Now you can tap into the reality of that promise which will produce a symphony in your heart -

1) A song that others will take notice of

D) Or you can ignore that promise and receive instead the Sympathy from People.

See when we are going thru difficulties & hard times there are always well meaning people who come along -

A) with words of Sympathy

B) And what I am referring to is that Type of Sympathy that says things like:

I can't believe that this is happening to you

C) This doesn't make any sense - you are such a good person / Oh you poor thing/ this is just so horrible

1) I don't understand why such a good Christian - would suffer so much

D) Now that type of Sympathy will HAVE two negative effects on Me:

1) First it puts a Message in my mind that what is happening in my life is out of God's Control

2) He is not on the Throne

E) And 2nd it puts My focus on me & my Situation & takes my eyes & mind off of the Lord

Listen God is totally & absolutely faithful to meet us in every Situation in each Tribulation & Difficulty

A) And in each Situation He reveals a new aspect of his Person/ His Power & His Provision

B) Remember in Acts 16 - Paul and Silas wind up in Prison in Philippi -

1) and it tells us that they were singing praise songs at Midnight

C) They were not singing the Blues - singing praise - This Symphony is welling up in their hearts -

1) God is in control - He is with them - for him

D) All the other prisoners were listening - tripping out - who are these guys?

Then Miracle of miracles happens - the Prison doors spring open

A) 2nd Miracle happens - no one leaves - all the prisoners stay put

B) The Jailer wakes up from sleeping - sees the doors open - thinks all the prisoners have escaped -

1) draws his sword - He is going to kill himself - because Romans would have killed him

C) Paul yells out - Don't harm yourself we are all here.

1) The Jailer gets saved and God does this amazing thing in Philippi that has ramifications for decades to come

Instead of wallowing in Sympathy - Paul and Silas were singing their Symphony. -

A) God put a song in their hearts

B) The same thing is true of this 144,000 - and God wants that to be true of our lives as well.

C) Their Seal - Their Symphony -

#3 Their Sanctity V.4 ⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins.

A) There was a Sanctity to their lives - a separateness - they kept themselves from defilement

B) Doesn't mean they were perfect but it means they were intentional about avoiding sinful situations

C) So too The Lord calls us his sanctified - We have been Set apart from the world and to God.

D) We are to be in the world but not of the world - not caught up in the system of the world.

When you realize that you have been sealed by God - that you belong to him and for him

A) You realize - this world is not my home - citizens of another Kingdom

B) Notice again Romans 12 - After Paul said in Romans 12:1 daily present yourself to God as a living Sacrifice

C) Paul follows that us with this exhortation Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2 CSB

D) Note this - Presenting yourself to God as a living Sacrifice - Comes first - that is the starting place

Before I can resist the world - I need to present myself to God -

A) Understand I belong to him. - I am his

B) What follows is this: I am not going to conform to the ways of this world

C) JB Philips - Conformed - Don't let the world Squeeze you into its mold or mindset

D) There is a system and a mindset that is prevalent in this world -

1) and it is seeking to squeeze us into its mold

We present ourselves to God daily as we get into the word

A) Our minds are transformed - by God - our perspectives change - our priorities are re-shaped

B) I think one of the saddest things I witness often as a pastor is someone who has been redeemed by Jesus

C) They have been Saved.

1) But they don't live like they are redeemed -

D) They are not being satisfied and fulfilled by Jesus 1) because they keep seeking to be satisfied by the world

E) They try to live with one foot in the world and one foot in the Lord

1) Unfulfilling - unsatisfying

God asked of the children of Israel through Isaiah the prophet, Why do you spend silver on what is not food, and your wages on what does not satisfy? Isaiah 55:2 CSB

A) Why are you trying to be satisfied by things that will not satisfy?

Let them praise the LORD for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them. For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things. Psalm 107:8 NLT

B) Those are being satisfied by Jesus - live sanctified lives - not seeking to be satisfied by this world!

C) The next thing we learn about the 144,000 is the byproduct of their Sanctity

#4 Their Steps V.4 These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

Following Jesus is the simplest explanation of Christianity.

A) Jesus said: *"Follow Me"*

B) And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23 ESV

C) Daily realizing - I exist to follow Jesus - Die to myself -

1) I will be the most fulfilled by him - through him - with him.

Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12
ESV

These people follow the Lamb wherever He goes

A) Some people follow the Lamb as long as He takes them where they want to go (Blue skies & Sunny days)

B) We love the green pastures & the Still waters -

1) but don't take me through that Valley of the Shadow of death thing - (Not into that)

C) The true Christian is one who follows Jesus wherever he leads them

1) Thomas a Kempis

Thou art the way, the truth and the life.

Without the way, there is no going.

Without the truth, there is no knowing.

Without the life, there is no living.

#5 Their Standing V.4c-5 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.
A) Guys this is one of the Key aspects of our Standing in the times of Tribulation (It is Knowing who you are in God/ Your place in Christ)

B) Heb. 3:1 Holy Brethren / Partakers of a Heavenly Calling

C) Not because of what You have done / or who You are

1) But Who's you are - God's / Where You have been placed - IN CHRIST

D) Love the book of Ephesians where Paul spends 3 Chapters in the book of Eph.

1) Talking about our Position IN CHRIST

E) How we are Blessed w/ Every Spiritual blessing /

Made sons / Inheritance / Abundance of Power /

1) Access to the throne / on and on

Chapter 4 Paul switches gears - because this is who you are Live like it!

Something amazing happens when I discover my standing in Christ!

A) I am No longer striving to earn God's favor /

B) Instead I am resting in & moving in the Reality -

1) I have His favor / I have His love / Because I am IN CHRIST

C) Suddenly I have this spiritual confidence that I can face any situation /

1) I have a Boldness to approach the Father - Knowing I am Welcome

D) I have a FREEDOM - to take steps of Faith in Life & Ministry /

1) It completely Impacts my life in all areas !!!!!

Like in a Marriage - you know your spouse loves you even though they know you are not perfect

A) Stop trying to earn their love and Favor - by doing things to bless and please them

B) You do this to bless and please them - in response to knowing - you are loved.

C) Secure in their love - Life of Joy and response

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1-2