

The Revelation Chapter 14 verses 1 to 5 is an extension of the message presented in the former chapter. These verses offer a glorious response to the *Mark of the Beast*, the name of the beast, and the number of his name; the final, great test for all who dwell upon the earth. The verses give a future glimpse of **the Lamb, Jesus Christ**, and those who are victorious through Him. This group of faithful believers in Jesus, numbering **144,000**, stand tall for God despite the trappings of *the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet*. The focus of the first half of the chapter is upon this group, their characteristics, and the distinct message they bare to the world during the **Time of the End**. This time is an era of **confederacy**, when the counterfeit godhead marshals the world against God and His people (Rev 16:13, 14). The latter half of the chapter shows the conclusion of the struggle between good and evil. At that time, Jesus reaps the final harvest; first the **harvest of the vine of Christ**, the righteous (John 15:1-8); followed by the **harvest of the vine of the earth**, the wicked. We will discuss this reaping process in a subsequent lesson, but let us now focus on the 144,000.

John was shown in vision Jesus, the Lamb of God, upon Mount Zion with 144,000 saints having clean hands, pure hearts, and the Father's name written in their foreheads.

Q: *Where is Mount Zion and what does it represent? Read Daniel 9:16, Zechariah 8:3, Revelation 21:10, Psalm 87*

A: Mount Zion, meaning a "sunny mountain or height," is a name used to denote the city of Jerusalem in general. More specifically, the reference pertains to the heavenly city, **New**

Jerusalem, and its inhabitants. Those who through faith are born of promise and the will of God, make up Jesus' Bride, the Church (John 1:13; Galatians 4:22-26; Psalm 24:3-6). These are the inhabitants of God's holy mountain, Mt Zion. This celestial city is that which John later described as having golden streets, twelve foundations made of precious stones, and twelve gates, each made of a single pearl (Revelation 21:9-21). Jesus has gone to prepare this home for those preparing for His *Second Coming* (John 14:1-4).

Q: *In light of what we have learnt about one's forehead and its symbolism, what does it mean that the 144,000 have the Father's name written in their foreheads? Read Revelation 13:16, 17, 7:1-8; Exodus 3:14, 15, 20:8-11; Isaiah 8:16*

A: The 144,000 received both the **Seal of God** and the Father's name upon their forehead. One may reason that the two are synonymous. Sealed by the Holy Spirit through the **New Covenant** (Jer 31:31-34; Eph 1:13), the 144,000 stood in stark contrast to the masses upon the earth who received the Mark of the Beast, the name of the beast, and the number of his name. In the *Last Days*, those who uphold God's seventh-day Sabbath, the memorial of God, will endure deprivation of all forms, not being able to buy or sell. This group exhibits the self-denying **mind of Christ**, choosing death rather than to sin (Philip 2:5-8; Rev 12:11; Job 13:15).

John described hearing a loud voice from heaven, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of a great thunder. The voice is that of Jesus (Revelation 1:12-15). Along with Jesus is heard the voices of the 144,000 which were

redeemed from the earth. Their voices rise above their harps as they sing a new song that no one could learn. These are they who once saw eye-to-eye and proclaimed the glad tidings of salvation to all who dwelt upon the earth (Isaiah 52:7, 8). As part of Jesus' *one fold* who faithfully served Him through tribulation, they are given a crown of life and harps of God to praise His name forever (John 10:16, Rev 15:2-4).

Q: *What does it mean that the 144,000 have a song that they alone can sing?*

A: The song of the 144,000 must symbolize *an experience* that they alone have endured, and have been victorious through faith of Jesus Christ. The prophet Daniel describes "a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [even] to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book". Daniel further represents **the wise** of this same era as those who "shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever" (Dan 12:1, 3; Isa 60:1-3). The 144,000 constitute this group.

Q: *Is the number 144,000 literal or symbolic?*

A: The number 144,000 seems like a relatively small number compared to the billions of inhabitants of the earth today. However, Jesus once asked the question "...Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Lk 18:8). He was suggesting that true faith and godliness, His Own, would be scarce in the *Last Days*. Further, Jesus likened the final days of earth's history to the time of Noah, when only eight people entered the ark to be saved from

floods issued upon a populated world. Therefore, by these and other Bible examples through time showing fewness among the **remnant**, we may reason that the 144,000 is a literal number. If literal, one need not be dismayed because John also saw an *innumerable multitude* of redeemed, arrayed in white robes with the 144,000 around the throne of God in heaven (Rev 7:9)! On the other hand, the 144,000 are said to be comprised of 12,000 individuals taken from each of the tribes of Israel, represented by a list given in the Revelation 7. This list however, does not include all of the original sons of Jacob, nor do they appear in the order of their birth (Ex 28:9, 10; 1 Chron 5:1). By these facts, we may assume that the 144,000 may not be a literal number, but symbolic. As each name of the sons of Jacob has a particular meaning, the list, when read as ordered in the Revelation 7, yields a song of praise. Consider the table below:

Sons of Jacob in order by birth	Order as it appears in Revelation chapter 7	Names' meaning [Revelation chapter 7]
Reuben	Judah	"I will praise the Lord."
Simeon	Reuben	"He has looked on me"
Levi	Gad	"Given good fortune"
Judah	Asher	"Happy am I"
Dan	Naphtali	"My wrestling"
Naphtali	Manasseh (Jacob's grandson)	"Making me to forget"
Gad	Simeon	"God hears me"
Asher	Levi	"Joined to me"
Issachar	Issachar	"Purchased me"

The Lamb Shall Lead Them

Revelation Chapter 14 – Part 1 [Based on verses 1-5]



Lesson 36

are an earnest, or down payment of the great multitude that have died *in Christ*, having accepted His **Plan of Redemption**, and will be reclaimed at Jesus' *Second Coming*. Similarly, the 144,000 are also a **First Fruit**, representing those who like Enoch and Elijah, have never tasted death. This group will experience a time of great tribulation upon the earth and will be delivered at Christ's *Second Coming*.

Q: *What is meant that the 144,000 are blameless before God and that their mouths have no guile? Consider Zephaniah 3:13*

A: The 144,000 claim and live by the same faith as Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, they are made "partakers of God's divine nature in the present age" (2 Peter 1:1-4; Titus 2:11-14). They embrace God's promise that He will "keep us from falling and present us faultless before His throne of grace" (Jude 24). These have learnt to live an upright life by abiding in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. They in no way deny Jesus in their words or their conduct before the world (Matt 10:32, 33; Rev 3:5).

The 144,000 makeup God's last day evangelists, commissioned to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the world before His Second Coming. Jesus is calling all to be among this number. They have the mind of Christ; they keep their garments white from defilement by faith of Jesus Christ, and they are constant in prayer that they may have the right to the **Tree of Life**. This special group, that we will study in subsequent lessons, has a distinct life-or-death message for the people living at the end of earth's history.

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Babylon, and her daughters that have committed spiritual fornication with the kings and merchants of the earth (Rev 17:1-6; Lev 18:23). That the 144,000 are virgins symbolizes the purity they have maintained from the defilements of *Babylon* and the corruptions of the world (Psalm 24:3, 4). They are presented to Christ at His Second Coming as chaste virgins (2 Cor 11:2; Rev 16:15).

Q: *Who is the Lamb that leads this flock? Consider John 1:29*

A: Jesus is the **Lamb of God** that takes away the sins of the world. Jesus is also the **Good Shepherd**, Who gave His life for the flock. Jesus said that He "goes before them [His sheep], and the sheep follow him: for they know His voice" (John 10:1-5, 11). Those who have learnt Christ's teachings of self-denial, who have kept His commandments by His faith, and who have surrendered self in order to become as His sheep, are those who walk in His footsteps, following the Lamb wherever He leads (Luke 9:23, 24).

Q: *Why are the 144,000 called "firstfruits to God and to the Lamb"? Consider Leviticus 23:17, 20; 1 Corinthians 5:7, 8*

A: At Jesus' resurrection, a select group, once dead, also shared in His resurrection (Matthew 27:50-53). This group were raised from the dead and given the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. They ascended to their final home in heaven with Jesus at His resurrection and were eyewitnesses to a celebratory event 50 days later marking a **Jubilee**, as well as Jesus being anointed **High Priest**. Those who ascended with Jesus, The Firstborn of the dead (Revelation 1:5), were offered to God, the Father, as **First Fruits** of the dead. They

Sons of Jacob in order by birth	Order as it appears in Revelation chapter 7	Names' meaning [Revelation chapter 7]
Zebulon	Zebulon	"Dwelling"
Joseph	Joseph	"Will add to me"
Benjamin	Benjamin	"Son of His right hand"

"I will praise the Lord for He has looked on me and granted good fortune. I am happy because of my wrestling; God is making me to forget. God hears me and is joined to me. He has purchased me a dwelling and will add to me, the Son of His right hand."

Whether the number 144,000 is literal or figurative, let us **purpose** to be among this blessed group!

The Bible provides detailed characteristics of the 144,000 that we will consider for the remainder of this study.

Q: *What does it mean that the 144,000 are redeemed from the earth? Consider 1 Corinthians 15:21-23, 42-49*

A: The 144,000 are the descendants of Adam, who, through Jesus, the Second Adam, have received the gift of salvation—are redeemed from the curse of sin and the *Second Death*.

Q: *What does it mean that the 144,000 are not defiled with women and are virgins? Consider Colossians 2:8; Matt 16:6-12*

A: The Bible describes the victory of the *remnant* of the woman depicted in Revelation 12:1, who is clothed with the light of the sun and the moon, and wears a garland of twelve stars. This symbolic representation of God's true Church, founded in the *Garden of Eden* and sustained by Jesus Christ throughout time, stands in contrast to the whorish church,