

“TRIUMPHANT WORSHIP”

Revelation 14:1-5

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INTRODUCTION

Review 144,000: Who are they?

Sealed before wrath fell

Now we see them triumphant in Heaven; the ultimate triumph of the Lamb and His people.

What are they doing? Praising God! See Psalm 107:21: “O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and wonderful works to the children of men.”

I. THE PLACE OF WORSHIP: MT. ZION (Heb. 12:22)

[This scene can be both Millennial or in the Eternal State.]

- “Standing”—regularly used of those in God’s presence in Heaven
- “Purchased from the Earth”—not part of earthly ways; also, no longer on the Earth here.
- “Before the throne” (v. 3)

II. THEIR ACT OF WORSHIP (v. 2)

A. Majesty of their Worship

- Sound of many waters
- Sound of thunder
- Harpists playing

B. The singing of their worship (3)

- Not that the angels sang and they learn from the angels; they have their own song, just as we see of the great multitude in 7:10.
- Notice “before the living creatures and the elders”; before the “throne” is a reference to God Himself as the Audience of their worship.
- The “new song” is a song of redemption—always fresh and new!
- Only they can learn this song. One must know the Lamb before he can truly sing this song of redemption; there is no hypocrisy in Heaven. [Illus.—fine quality music truly appreciated only by those who really understand it.]
- These individuals have been through special problems, and have experienced special grace. They only can sing this song.

III. THE OBJECT OF WORSHIP: THE LAMB [Cf. 7:9—similar scene]

- See John 1:29—“Behold the Lamb of God.”
- I Cor. 5:7—He is the Paschal Lamb
- I Cor. 11:25—The New Covenant in His blood

A. The Necessity of Sacrifice (Lev. 17:11; Heb. 9:22)—see Ex. 12, the Passover used a lamb.

- B. Worthy Sacrifice: no blemishes; a 5 day examination period required for Passover lamb; cf. I Pet. 1:19.
- C. Vicarious sacrifice—cf. the Paschal lamb substituted for the firstborn son
Notice that the hands of the worshiper was laid on this lamb—see I Pet. 2:24.
His humiliation on Earth precedes his exaltation in Heaven.

IV. THE SUBJECTS OF WORSHIP: 144,000

A. Their position

1. “Without fault”—blameless (v. 5; cf. I Pet. 1:19)—see Jude 24; Col. 1:22
 - They are in God’s sacred presence.
 - They have the imputed righteousness of Christ; since the Lamb himself was also unblemished, so are they.
2. “Redeemed”—“New Song”; cf. I Pet. 1:18-19
 - a. “Purchased from the earth—v. 3
 - b. “Purchased from among men” (v. 4)
 - c. Only they can sing—those of a **virgin heart**.
3. Secure
 - a. Before the Lamb (v. 1)
 - b. Sealed—the name of both **the Lamb** and of **the Father** written on their foreheads—visible and obvious.
 - Shows genuineness
 - Shows property (possession) of God
 - Shows security
 - Shows their allegiance to God
 - There is no confusion between them and those with the *mark of the Beast*.

B. Their Purity

1. Separation (14:4)—“Not defiled with women, virgins”
 - This concept is based on the OT ritual for ceremonial purity (Ex. 19:15) and for soldiers’ purity and worthiness to eat of sacred things (I Sam. 21:4; Num. 20).
 - This does not imply something unclean with marriage!
 - The language is figurative as often throughout Revelation and in OT revelation (e.g. Rev. 17:1-2, 5-6; 14:8; 18:3, 9; 19:2—the “great harlot”)
 - See II Cor. 11:2—Betrothed to one Husband, Christ, as a *pure virgin*.
 - Pure, despite the corrupt environment.
2. Loyalty—“follow the Lamb” (v. 4)
 - Continuously—present tense
 - “Wherever He goes”—everywhere
 - They even had followed Him to death.
 - They are not their own; they belong to the Lamb.
3. Truthfulness—“no lie was found in their mouth” (v. 5)
 - Contrast 22:15; 21:27—those outside New Jerusalem and in the Lake of Fire.

- No lie—like the Lamb Himself (see Is. 53:9—“No deceit in His mouth”)
 - **Obviously, honesty is a very important virtue.**
4. Sacrificial Offering—“firstfruits” to both God and the Lamb (See James 1:18—firstfruits as compared to those who are not saved and don’t belong to God; in this sense all believers are “firstfruits” and the emphasis is not on the promise of others coming to be saved.)
- The best quality
 - Devoted to God and to His service only
 - Free from human entanglements—“from among men”
 - Cf. James 1:18—of the Church
 - Cf. Jer. 2:3—of Israel

CONCLUSION

Let us so worship God and the Lamb now!

Let us exalt in our position.

Let us maintain our purity.