

Revelation 14.1-5

Look Up!

Apostle John to WEARY CHRISTIANS > Warns of IMPENDING TROUBLE

“Woe to the earth and the sea, because *the devil has gone down to you!* He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.” Revelation 12.12

“a beast coming out of the sea...was given power to make *war against the saints and to conquer them.* And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation” Revelation 13.7

“another beast, coming out of the earth... it could speak and cause *all who refused to worship the image to be killed*” Revelation 13.15

Not EMPTY THREATS > 2000 yrs of Christian History > Much SUFFERING
ULTIMATE TERRORISTS > Dragon, Anti-Christ, and False Prophet
DEMONIC Tools of godless STATE and secular CHURCH > Grim & Bloody

50 years EARLIER > Lord Jesus taught Disciples about LAST DAYS...

“How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations...Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world ...*When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.*” Luke 21.23-28

John who HEARD that Message from JESUS > Echoes His Master’s Exhortation
LOOK UP! Does not SUGAR-COAT SUFFERING > Sees beyond it to GLORY

John REMINDS Believers > Ultimate Reward of Endurance > Final Blessedness
Beyond Storm of Unholy Trinity > Bright Morning of Eternity with Lamb in Zion

REASSURES > Church MILITANT with Vision of CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

1. Peace 2. Protection 3. Praise 4. Purity 5. Purpose 6. Purchased

1. Peace

BIG QUESTION > Time Sequence of Revelation

v. 1 “Then I looked...” v. 6 “Then I saw...” v. 13 “Then I heard a voice from heaven say...” v. 14 “I looked, and there before me was...”

Refer to > WHEN EVENT OCCURRED or WHEN SEEN by JOHN??
 ORDER of REVELATION EVENT > *and then God showed me, and then...*

Stephen SAW JESUS IN GLORY ALREADY - Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
 Acts 7.55

SCENE CHANGE > While Counterfeit Unholy Trinity Rages on EARTH
 Same Time in HEAVEN > True & Living God REIGNS in TRIUNE FULNESS
 v. 1 "Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion"

John sees the Lamb > True & Authentic Lamb > Distinct from False Lamb
 Standing > Alive and Strong > Standing on Mount Zion > Mtn of Divine Grace
 BEAST stood on SAND > LORD standing on HOLY MOUNTAIN

"the Jerusalem that is above is free" Galatians 4.26

"Those who follow the Lamb form the city of God, as opposed to those who worship the beast from the sea, and form Satan's perversion of the state."
 Michael Wilcock

Mount Zion > District in City of Jerusalem > LOCATION of Temple
 OT Figurative Symbol for God's Dwelling Place > HEAVENLY TEMPLE

"everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for *on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance*"
 Joel 2.32

MESSIANIC PROPHECY: The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One. "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters." The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, "*I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.*"
 Psalm 2.1-6

FULFILLED IN JESUS: "You have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant"
 Hebrews 12.22-24

As difficult as the future may be, there remains the joyful prospect of soon standing beyond this sphere of suffering on the mountain of the Lord and singing with the innumerable multitude of the redeemed the new song of salvation. Visions of what will be strengthen the believer to endure the reality of what for the present must be.

Robert H. Mounce

Dragon Lost BATTLE and WILL LOOSE the WAR

Son of the Woman > SAFE from Clutches of DRAGON

“The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child *was snatched up to God and to his throne.*”

Revelation 12.4,5

2. Protection

v. 1 “with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads”

144,000 > COMPLETENESS > the WHOLE CHURCH of Jesus Christ

“put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel”

Revelation 7.3,4

v. 3 “No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.”

WHO SINGS THIS SONG? a great multitude which no one could number, from every nation and from all tribes and peoples and tongues > Song of SALVATION

SAME GROUP > Seen from 2 Perspectives > Church SEALED & GLOBAL Confronted by ENEMIES on Earth > Comforted by SAVIOR in Heaven

“God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus”

Ephesians 2.6

Repetition of Number > None Lost > All those SEALED will be SAVED

“Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. *I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of*

my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.” Revelation 3.12

“The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and *his name will be on their foreheads.*” Revelation 22.3,4

“They are branded as God’s property, under his protection; and they are imprinted with his identity, to share his holiness.” Dennis E. Johnson

GOD’S Name > “Sealing” > God’s nature > Deep inner orientation of their lives

“These two names – the Lamb and his Father – are on the seal because no man comes to the Father except through the Son.” R.C.H. Lenski

“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1.6

STRONG NAME: “The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.” Proverbs 18.10

SAVING NAME: “I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.” John 14.13,14

“Although the dragon has tried his utmost to make them unfaithful to their Lord, and although he has employed two beasts to assist him, not a single one of the 144,000 is missing.” William Hendriksen

“Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.” Ephesians 1.13,14

BEASTS Mark > Not a ‘Seal’ > Seal is sign of PROTECTION and SECURITY
Beasts Mark offers NO PROTECTION from the COMING WRATH of God

Empty Hope of those w/ Mark of Beast > Shattered like Pottery when Son Appears

The destiny of every person is determined by the mark that person bears. When judgment comes there will be no room for ambiguity; people will have by their “mark” declared their master.
Robert H. Mounce

3. Praise

vs. 2,3 And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

Redeemed Kingdom of Priests > Sing wonderful New Song before Throne of God
‘HEAVEN’ Not a GEOGRAPHICAL Reference > Another Dimension

New Song sung ONLY by Redeemed > Have Experienced Deliverance
Those who have been FORGIVEN MUCH will LOVE MUCH

“The purpose of the secret songs is not to keep God’s glory veiled but to symbolize the astonishing truth that sinful people redeemed by the Lamb are qualified by that experience of salvation to extol him in a way that even the purest, highest angel cannot.”
Dennis E. Johnson

“He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.”
Psalm 40.2,3

Loud and Melodic > Roar of Ocean > Sound of Thunder > Ensemble of Harps
VOICE > Overpowering Strength and Heartbreaking Sweetness

Greek Word here for NEW > Something made New from Former State
Throughout Israel’s HISTORY > VICTORIES were CELEBRATED with SONGS
AFTER Red Sea > Egyptians Drowned > People of God walked on DRY LAND
"I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."
Exodus 15.1,2

All PROMISES of OLD COVENANT > Now ‘Yes’ and ‘Amen’ in Christ
NOW > Dragon, Anti-Christ, False Prophet > WILL BE thrown into FIERY SEA

Covenant w/ Abraham > All Nations of World Blessed > Song of Moses & Lamb

“All nations will come and worship before you” (15:4)

CHRISTIANS SING!! > One of GREAT EVIDENCES of Truth of GOSPEL
Wherever and Whenever People Redeemed > Lift their Voices in Songs of Praise
Songs > Their Languages > Their Musical Styles > Quite Diverse and Unique
SINGULAR THEME of Praise to their God and Redeemer

“Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand
and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.” Psalm 98.1

4. Purity

v. 4 These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept
themselves pure.

By 2nd century, Marcion had established a church solely for celibates.
Origen > Great Theologian & Apologist > Castrated himself to insure Chastity
21st C. > CELIBACY Requirement for the Roman Catholic Priesthood

At first blush it seems to be a radically chauvinistic statement, eliminating from
redemption half of the church and demeaning half of the human race. There is no
evidence of celibacy at this point in the history of the Christian movement... It
would seem that the vision is portraying the faithful as those who have not
committed adultery with the harlot, Fallen Babylon, but have kept themselves
“virgins” for their bridegroom, the Lamb. M. Robert Mulholland, Jr.

Sexual Relationships within Marriage are NOT Defiling > HONORABLE
“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure” Hebrews 13.4
First Commandment > Be Fruitful and Multiply > Several Apostles were Married

VIRGINITY > People of God > “O Virgin Daughter of Zion” Lamentations 2.13

UNFAITHFULNESS > Symbolized as Improper Sexual Relationships

“Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. A spirit of prostitution is in
their heart; they do not acknowledge the LORD.” Hosea 5.4

John uses “Adultery” > Turning away from God and Worshipping other Deities

"Fallen is Babylon the Great!. For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her"

Revelation 18.2-4

Contrast > God’s faithful are the New Jerusalem > Bride of the Lamb

"Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." Revelation 21.9

“The people in question have kept themselves completely free from intercourse with the pagan world system. They have lived up to what is implied in their betrothal to Christ.”
Leon Morris

Followers of LAMB > Characterized by LOYALTY > Pictured by Virginity
SEXUAL PURITY is One Element of SPIRITUAL PURITY

“I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him...sincere and pure devotion to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 11.2,3

Israelite SOLDIER on MISSION > Ceremonial Purity > No Sexual Intercourse
Soldier URIAH > More Righteous than King David who stole U’s wife Bathsheba

v. 5 No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

Pagan World: “exchanged the truth of God for a lie”

Romans 1.25

Christ:

“nor was any deceit in his mouth”

Isaiah 53.7

Christian:

“no lie was found in their mouths”

Revelation 14.5

“The remnant of Israel will do no wrong; they will speak no lies, nor will deceit be found in their mouths.”

Zephaniah 3.13

REJECT the LIE > Lies of the Dragon, Anti-Christ, and False Prophet

Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist--he denies the Father and the Son. *No one who denies the Son has the Father*; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. 1 John 2.22,23

KNOW GOD but NOT Follow Jesus??? ABSOLUTE IMPOSSIBILITY

“What is in mind here is not merely general truthfulness, but the saints’ integrity in witnessing to Jesus when they are under pressure from the beast and the false prophet to compromise their faith and go along with the idolatrous lie.”

G.K. Beale

5. Purpose

v. 4 They follow the Lamb wherever he goes.

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.

Mark 1.16-18

DISCIPLE = ‘follower’ > CORE IDENTITY > Turn from Sin & Self to Christ
New Master > New Destiny > New Purpose > Part of God’s Eternal Plan

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

Mark 8:34

Before Each Series of Judgments > John gives VISION of Sovereign Glory
GOD is the Righteous Judge > Judgment on Rebellious > Mercy for the Repentant

Ch 1 > Glorious Jesus in Church > *Chs 2 & 3 Church Struggles on Earth*

Chs 4 & 5 > God & Lamb Enthroned > *Ch 6 Seven Judgment Seals Opened*

Ch 7 > People of God Sealed > *Chs 8 & 9 Seven Trumpets of Judgment*

Ch 11 > Saints Measured and Secure > *Chs 12,13 Unholy Trinity of Evil*

Chs 14 & 15 > Saints in Zion > *Ch 16 Seven Bowls of Wrath*

“following the Lamb wherever he goes” calls for an abandonment of our lives to God in all things. Our agenda, our plans, our purposes, our wants, our needs, our desires, our goals, all become expendable for God’s purposes in and through our lives. M. Robert Mulholland, Jr.

Those who FOLLOW HIM > STUCK TO HIM – “In Christ”
Apostle Paul’s Fundamental Description of Believer > Union with X

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8.38,39

6. Purchased

v. 4 They were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb.

Redeemed from All Humanity, not just Israel > God's Restored kingdom.

“with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation”
Revelation 5.9

Firstfruits > Totality of the Redeemed “He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.” James 1.18

Earth > Rebellious Realm of Evil Mankind > Saints “purchased” from There
“Redeemed *from the EARTH*” > Word of Hope > Possible to BE CHANGED

“Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. *And that is what some of you were.* But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” 1 Corinthians 6.9-11

The purpose of Christ's coming was to make the defiled pure and to sanctify the unholy. The virginity of which St. John is speaking is the spotless purity of the incarnate Son. This is the white robe which cleanses and covers the saints. It is because they ‘have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb’ that they stand ‘before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple’ Only by the cleansing power of the gospel can we be purified.

Philip E. Hughes

Revelation 14

1. Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

2. And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps.

3. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

4. These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb.

5. No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

