

REVELATION: Lesson 127
Chapter 14:1-5, The Sealed Witnesses

11 December 2020

Revelation chapter 14 gives a *broad* overview of the events of Revelation viewed through 7 visions:

1. The sealed witnesses (1-5).
 2. The angel preaching the everlasting gospel (6-7).
 3. The fall of Babylon (8).
 4. The doom of those who have taken the mark (9-11).
 5. Words of comfort for the saints (12-13).
 6. The harvest of the Earth (14-16).
 7. The treading of the winepress (17-20).
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THE SEALED WITNESSES

These are 144,000 Jewish male virgins (Rev 7:4-8; 14:7) whom God sealed in their foreheads for protection while they witness for Him.

- 144,000 were sealed in chapter 7 before the judgments were carried out.
 - 144,000 remain in chapter 14, standing with the Lamb on mount Zion. None were lost.
 - New Testament Saints are also sealed (Eph 1:13, 4:30) and given promises (1 Pet 1).
 - We can be assured that all of God's born-again saints are saved for eternity.
 - They are on mount Zion. The place is not what's important. They are with Jesus Christ.
 - Being sealed and protected by the Lord did not exempt them from going through the trials of the Tribulation time. But in the end, they get to be with Jesus.
 - New Testament Christians belong to God, even so, they will face troubles and trials in their life. But none of those troubles can separate us from our Lord Jesus Christ.
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Psalm 91, a Tribulation Psalm

Vs 1 In the Tribulation, the Jewish remnant will be hiding in the secret place. God's shadow will protect them from enemy detection.

5-8 These verses seem to describe the sealed witnesses who cannot be harmed. They will SEE all the terrors, the pestilence, the destruction, and the death, but it won't touch them.

Rev 14:1 Notice that their relationship to God the Father is not like ours. They have "**his** (Jesus') **Father's name written in their foreheads.**" It is significant that the verse does not say "**their** Father's name."

- They are not born-again, so God is not their Father in the individual sense (Rom 8:15).
 - Christians in New Jerusalem have the Lord's name in their foreheads (Rev 22:3-4). The Lord Jesus said it is "My new name" (Rev 3:12).
 - The 144,000 witnesses are not referred to as sons of God.
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Vs 2 The harp is mentioned here as a symbol of great joy.

- In Isaiah 24:1-7 “**the joy of the harp ceaseth**” (vs 7) because of the tribulation.
- In Psalm 137:1-4 the Babylonian captivity causes the Israelites to hang their harps upon the willows (vs 2) because there is nothing to sing about; their joy is gone.
- The Earth is defiled in the Tribulation (Isa 24:5), so the harps are put away. The witnesses are not defiled (Rev 14:4), and when the Tribulation is over, the harps play once again. They’ll play a new song (vs 3). “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning” (Ps 30:5).

Vs 4 They were “**not defiled with women.**” This does not imply that women defile men. It means that disobedience to God’s commands to not fornicate or commit adultery is sin. Sin defiles a man.

Spiritual adultery will also defile a man. God refers to idolatry as whoredom. **See Exodus 34:12-16.**

- It hurts God when we turn to false religion or idols or statues. It is as painful to Him as adultery is to the cheated spouse.
- **Judges 2:16-17.** The Israelites did not obey God and destroy the false religion. Their children quickly went after other gods and committed spiritual adultery.
 - Pastors must condemn false religion or the same will happen to your children.
- **James 4:1-4.** You may not be participating in the sinful activities of the world, but if in your heart, you want to do what God told you not to do, then you don’t love God.

They “**follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.**” Not only on certain days, but every day. Not only in the comforts of my own hometown, but wherever He would ask me to go.

Vs 5 BECAUSE they are “**without fault before the throne of God,**” they speak no guile toward men.

- Their relationship to God affects their relationship with men.
- Eternal security is not a license to do wrong.

