

The Victorious Saints

Revelation 14:1-5

I. Introduction:

A. Dark Picture Thus Far

1. The antichrist & the false prophet are 2 evil people who'll come to power during the 7-year tribulation which will begin after the church is raptured.
2. Antichrist: The antichrist will arise from the masses of a chaotic & confused world.
3. The rapture of the church will throw the world into panic.
4. Satan will raise up this man who'll be intelligent, charismatic, well spoken, and seem to have all the answers; however, he'll also be most wicked leader world has ever seen.
5. Being Satan's man in the tribulation, he'll be demon influenced and /or possessed.
6. False Prophet: Satan will raise up a religious leader who will be gentler, kinder, and more persuasive. He will lead the world in worshipping the antichrist.
7. Those who refuse to worship the antichrist will be executed.

B. Victory in Jesus

1. Satan can do his worst in this world, he but can't alter that we have victory in Jesus.
2. Antichrist will rage & wage war against the saints, but they have victory in Jesus.
3. False prophet will lead multitudes into eternal doom, but saints have victory in Jesus.
4. The 144,000: In John's vision he sees the 144,000 who were sealed by God standing with Jesus on Mount Zion. These are the 144k Jews selected by God by in Revelation 7.
5. God chose 12k out of each of the 12 tribes of Israel for a total of 144k to preach the gospel throughout the tribulation and sealed them with His mark.
6. Antichrist won't be able to harm them & they'll be impervious to Satan's attacks.

II. John's Vision of Christ Return (Revelation 14:1)

A. Christ's Return to Earth

1. When Jesus departed angel told the disciples He'd return in like fashion (Acts 1:10-11)
2. Just as Jesus literally ascended back to heaven in His resurrection body, so He'll return again personally at the end of the tribulation to set up His earthly millennial kingdom.

B. The 144,000

1. Standing with Jesus on Mount Zion are 144k Jewish saints who God chose & sealed.
2. Jesus sealed 144k in chapter 7 and at the end of the tribulation the number is the same.
3. Jesus did not lose even one of those who belong to Him.
4. Application: Those who are genuinely saved by faith in Jesus are eternally secure.
5. Genuinely saved can't be lost again, they can't lose their salvation. **(John 10:27-30)**

III. Praise and Worship (Revelation 14:2-3)

A. The song of redemption

1. The new song is the song of redemption, which began being sang in chapter 5, with the elders (raptured church) & were joined by the 4 living creatures encircling God's throne.

2. Since these 144k have been redeemed out of the tribulation, they sing the song of redemption from the perspective they have experienced.
3. All Will Praise Him: When Jesus finally sets up His earthly kingdom, all heaven sings.
4. Application: One evidence of genuine child of God is desire to praise & worship Him.
5. The natural desire & practice of those saved is to thank God every day for His goodness

IV. Character of the 144,000 (Revelation 14:4-5)

- *The character traits describe spiritual & moral lives of those serving God in tribulation.*
- A. – They were not defiled by women.**
1. That means they were chaste, they maintained sexual purity in their lives.
 2. The word “virgin” means chaste but does not mean none of them were married.
 3. Sexual activity is undefiled (pure) in the marriage relationship between one man and one woman (**Hebrews 13:4**). They were morally pure in the area of sexuality.
 4. This will be a notable character trait in the midst of the tribulation for false pagan worship is always associated with sexual perversion and sexual sins.
 5. Application: Victorious Christian life today requires exercising equal sexual purity.
 6. It’s God’s will for us to abstain from all sexual sin & immorality (**1 Thessalonians 4:3**)
- B. – Sold out for Jesus**
1. They were not ashamed to follow Jesus no matter what the rest of the world was doing or no matter the sacrifice or cost. Their loyalty was unequivocal without doubt or reserve.
 2. If Jesus needed someone to speak against sinful policies, or confront the antichrist, or a faithful witness to the lost so those in the tribulation might be saved, they were there.
 3. Application: Jesus wants us to be sold out for Him. He said we are to take up our own cross and follow Him. (**Matthew 16:24**) The cross is symbol of suffering and death.
 4. Thus, that means a willingness to suffer, whatever the cost might be, as we serve Him.
- C. – They are the first fruits.**
1. The first fruit was the first part of the harvested crop.
 2. The first fruit was viewed as a sign of the harvest that was to come.
 3. These 144,000 Jews were the first fruit of a great harvest in two ways.
 - (1) First fruit of the Jews
 - a. This 144,000 will part of the core group of redeemed Jews who will enter the millennial kingdom of Christ on the earth.
 - b. They represent the harvest of Jews who will be saved and make up the Jewish nation in the millennial kingdom.
 - (2) First fruit of all saved in the tribulation
 - a. Many will be saved during tribulation through preaching of these 144k preachers.
 - b. The majority of those saved in the tribulation will die a martyr’s death being executed because of their faith in Jesus and refusing to worship the antichrist.
- D. – Blameless**
1. There’s no guile or lie in their mouth. They’ll preach & speak God’s word without hesitation or deviation. They’ll speak the truth no matter who’s offended or angry over it.
 2. They will call sin what it is and preach salvation by grace through faith in Jesus plus nothing.
 3. Their preaching and their lives will agree with one another and these men will be powerful weapons in the hand of God in the tribulation.