

“Blameless!”

(Rev. 14:1-5)

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I. Introduction

A. Talk about an “entrance”

1. It will all start on the Mount of Olives
2. The day Jesus returns to Jerusalem
 - a. Through the “Golden or Eastern Gate”
 - b. What a moment
4. To close the Tribulation & to establish his kingdom on Earth
5. As the mountain splits to let Him in...
 - a. There will be a welcoming party
 - b. And it will be large
 - c. 144,000 strong
5. We’ll meet them in Rev. 14:1

B. Review

1. The action has stopped
 - a. Ch. 12-14
2. Still awaiting the 7th (and final) trumpet

II. Text (Rev. 14)

A. The Lamb on Mount Zion.....v.1a

“Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion,”

1. The Lamb is Jesus
 - a. The Lamb of God
 - b. Sacrificed for *YOUR* sin
2. Mt. Zion is Jerusalem
 - a. The only usage for the term
 - b. (II Sam. 5:7)—“Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the City of David”
 1. (Psalm 48:2) and (Isa. 24:23)
2. The time will be the “glorious return of Jesus”
 - a. Jesus will first “land” outside the city of Jerusalem
 1. On the Mount of Olives
 2. The mountain will split
 - b. Will walk through the Golden Gate (eastern side)
 - d. Will enter “Mt. Zion”
 1. Site of the Temple

B. The Entourage.....v.1b

“and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads”

1. Jesus will be surrounded by 144,000 men
 - a. Probably the Jewish Evangelists of Rev. 7
 1. Chose 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes
 2. Sealed on their foreheads by the Name of God
 3. Will lead a world wide revival

2. They likely will survive all that the Antichrist tries to do to them

C. The Sound from Heaven.....v.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”

1. John hears a sound coming from Heaven
 - a. Roared like mighty Niagara
 - b. Thunder
2. He hears a sound like harpists playing
 - a. The happy instrument
 1. When Jerusalem fell to Babylon
 2. “They hung their harps in the willows
 - a. Sorrow
 - b. No harps please
 - c. Now?
 1. Pull out the harps!!
 2. Joy!
 - d. Playing with great gusto and volume

D. The New Song.....v.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 earth.”

1. Opened the service with “Psalm 40” “a new song”
1. What is the “new song”
 - a. How would I know!!!

- b. Only the 144,000 learn the song
 - a. Due to their suffering
 - b. Sing to the gathered tribulation saints
- 2. The Four Living Creatures & 24 Elders
 - a. Met them earlier
- 3. The 144,000 are called “the redeemed from the earth”

E. Why will they be so special? (v.4)

1. They will focus on pleasing Christ...and Christ alone

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

- a. Physical virgins
 - 1. “not defiled with “women”
 - 2. What’s this all about!!!
- b. Does this teach celibacy?
 - 1. Absolutely not
 - 2. Paul addressed this question in I Cor. 7
 - 3. He spoke of the stresses of the coming Tribulation
 - 4. Said it will be easier in some ways for those who are not married
 - a. Won’t have to worry about the safety of their spouse
 - 5. But he made it clear that it’s not a sin to marry
 - a. I Cor. 7:28 “But even if you do marry, you have not sinned...”
 - b. That’s a relief!
 - 6. Paul was talking about the coming Tribulation when he said in I Cor. 7:31-32

For the form of this world is passing away.³² But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things that belong to the Lord—how he may please the Lord.³³ But he who is married cares about the things of the world—how he may please his wife.”

- c. The 144,000 will be an elite corps of unencumbered evangelists
 - 1. Free to go wherever the Lord leads them
 - 2. Couldn't do it with families
- d. The Marine Corps prefers its men be single
 - 1. “If the Marine Corps wanted you to have a wife, we would have issued you one”
 - 2. Doesn't want “nesters”
- e. Some types of service are best done by “singles”
 - 1. Like “first responders”
- f. Singles in our church
 - 1. You have a special opportunity
 - 2. A special and honorable calling

*Are you called?
- g. The 144,000 will be “*pure*”
 - 1. “Purely” surrendered to Christ

2. They will go wherever Jesus leads them

“They follow the Lamb wherever he goes.” (v.4)

- a. Wherever He leads them
 - 1. Without excuses
- b. The 144,000 will want to be close to Jesus

c. What about you???

1. What is holding you back from getting close to Jesus?

2. Things that keep you from getting close to God:

a. A lack of personal discipline

1. Getting up every Sunday

2. Praying when its not convenient

3. All of life takes discipline

b. A lack of persistent follow through

1. Start with a bang

a. Then it gets tedious

2. Steve's story

c. A half-hearted faith

1. Billy Graham and Charles Townsend

*book

2. Their early days

3. The day Billy put his entire trust in God

4. Then what happened in Los Angeles ten days later

5. "The Bible says..."

d. An unwillingness to connect with others in need

e. A stingy attitude toward giving

f. A preoccupation with pornography

g. Addiction to alcohol or drugs

h. An unwillingness to forgive

1. “bitter or better?”
2. Angry at God
3. A “one-handed surrender”
 - a. Japan and WWII
 - b. Unconditional surrender
4. The peace that comes with unconditional surrender

3. *They will recognize their need for a Savior*

“they were purchased from among men” (v.4)

- a. Saved!
- b. From among men
- c. Paid for in full
 - By Jesus
- d. Salvation is paid in full!
- e. Knew salvation was impossible based on their own merits
 1. Put all their trust in God

4. *They will be proof that God is able to both save and protect*

“and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb”

- a. The purpose of Tribulation
 1. Judge sin
 2. ...but also to redeem Israel

(Romans 11:26-27 ²⁶ *And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;* ²⁷ *for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”*

- b. The first fruits will guarantee the rest of the harvest
 - 1. These 144,000 are the first fruits...and they're good!
- c. ...and they will be divinely protected

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

- a. God never loses His kids....spiritually
 - 1. Can’t lose your salvation
- b. You too are sealed by Holy Spirit
 - 1. At salvation

5. They will be authentic

“No lie was found in their mouths” (v.4)

(NKJV) ***“And in their mouth was found no deceit,”***

- a. “do los”
 - 1. “deceit”
 - 2. Especially deceitful speech
 - 3. Tricky speech
 - 4. Older translations say ***“without guile”***
- b. Is your speech “without guile?”
- c. Are you authentic
 - 1. Are you really what you appear to be?
 - 2. Does anybody really know what’s going on in your life?
 - 3. When it comes to personal faith...is it all talk?
 - 4. Have you masked who you are in what you do?

d. “Oh, oh, oh yes...I’m the great pretender. Pretending that I’m doing well. I seem to be what I’m not you see.”

1. Bobby Hatfield of the Righteous Brothers
2. His death in Kalamazoo

e. Nathaniel

1. Nathaniel (John 1:47)—“Jesus saw Nathaniel coming toward him, and said of him—‘Behold, an Israelite indeed in whom is no guile.’ ”
2. Never gloried in the misfortunes of others
3. Weep over their sins!

f. What a legacy to leave

1. On your tombstone?
2. “...In whom was no guile”

...for your kids to remember you by

g. It’s the people without guile that reach the unsaved

1. Billy Graham one-on-one

h. I want us to be a “church with no guile”

1. To get right the two most important commandments
 - a. The first is to love God with sincere hearts
 - b. The second is to love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves

i. People are searching for a church with no guile

1. I want to us be that church
2. Vision

6. They will be blameless

“they are blameless.” (v.4)

- a. The Greek
 - 1. (Greek) ***“for blameless they are before the throne of God”***
 - 2. “blameless”
 - a. “am o moi”
 - b. “without blemish”
- b. The NKJV ***“For they are without fault before the throne of God.”***

F. They will be “blameless” before two thrones

1. Blameless before the throne of man

- a. Attempts to live a “blameless” life
 - 1. Qualifications for an elder (I Tim. 3:2)
 - 2. A different Greek word for “blameless”
 - 3. “Nothing to get hold of”
 - a. Vase with no handle
 - 4. Above reproach
 - a. Can’t point to a sin
 - b. Whether inside or outside the church
- b. Yet none of your elders is completely blameless
 - 1. Or are we???

2. Blameless before the throne of God

- a. Can we ever deserve to be blameless before the throne of God?
 - 1. Most other religions based on “deserving to be saved”
 - 2. When the “good” out weighs the “bad”

b. Yet God says we can never deserve to be saved

1. Not based on our own merits

a. One sin out weighs all of your good deeds

2. “There is none righteous...no not one”

c. So God sent his son to pay for your sins

d. That you can be “blameless” before God

(Romans 8:31-33)

*“If God is for us, who can be against us? (32) He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? (33) **Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?**”*

e. That’s why “Grace” is so amazing

1. That God would do it for you and me

2. A free gift that you must accept...or reject