

NOON BIBLE STUDY: REVELATION 14 (PART 2)

LAST WEEK WE SPENT THE TIME DISCOVERING WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT ZION. WE LEARNED THAT ZION IS A PLACE AND THAT ZION WAS A TIME AND LASTLY THAT ZION THEN BECAME SYMBOLIC OF A HOPE.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS EXPLAIN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT "THE TIME OF ZION" MEANS:

IN YOUR OWN WORDS HOW DOES THE "TIME OF ZION" RELATE TO THE FUTURE HOPE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD:

REVELATION 14:1-5

TODAY WE ARE GOING TO FOCUS ON THE 144,000 ACCOMPANYING THE LAMB ON MOUNT ZION. CAN WE MOVE TOWARDS IDENTIFYING THE 144,000 ARE A LITTLE BETTER FROM THIS SECTION? HERE IS WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW:

REVELATION 7:1-3 - JUDGMENT ABOUT TO COME, BUT FIRST A "SEALING" OF THE BONDSERVANTS OF GOD.

REVELATION 7:4-8 - 12,000 FROM 12 TRIBES

JOHN HEARS THAT THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO WERE SEALED EQUALS 144,000, WHICH IS SPECIFICALLY 12,000 FROM EACH OF THE 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL ($12 \times 12,000 = 144,000$). BUT THE LIST IS NON-TRADITIONAL, MEANING IT ISN'T THE USUAL LISTING OF THE 12 TRIBES. IT DOESN'T LIST THEM IN BIRTH ORDER, IT INCLUDES JOSEPH AND LEVI RATHER THAN EPHRAIM AND DAN IS MISSING ALTOGETHER. THIS ISN'T THE LIST OF JACOB'S SONS, NOR THE TRIBES THAT INHERITED CANAAN.

REVELATION 7:13-17 - MORE ABOUT THIS GROUP

WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS THAT STAND OUT TO YOU AS YOU READ ABOUT THIS GROUP?

THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE DESCRIBED AS WEARING "WHITE ROBES" AND WHO CAME OUT OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION (7:14), IS THIS THE SAME GROUP AS THE 144,000? IF SO, THEN IT IS A GROUP THAT IN REALITY IS MORE THAN 144,000...

REVELATION 7:9 - A GREAT MULTITUDE, WHICH ONE ONE CAN COUNT, FROM EVERY NATION, TRIBE AND PEOPLE - WEARING WHITE ROBES

I BELIEVE THAT THE 144,000 IS NOT TALKING ABOUT A SPECIAL GROUP OF ETHNICALLY JEWISH/ISRAELITE BELIEVER'S THAT HAVE EITHER ALREADY BEEN SAVED, OR WILL BE SAVED IN THE LAST DAYS. I BELIEVE THAT THIS NUMBER 144,000 IS SYMBOLIC OF A "COMPLETE OR PERFECT NUMBER" AND IT IS TALKING ABOUT GOD'S PEOPLE GENERALLY. THEY ARE GOING TO BE "SEALED" OR MARKED OUT AS GOD'S OWN.

HERE ARE OTHER PLACES THIS WORD "SEAL" IS USED:

MATTHEW 27:66 - AND THEY WENT AND MADE THE GRAVE SECURE, AND ALONG WITH THE GUARD THEY SET A **SEAL** ON THE STONE.

JOHN 6:27 - "DO NOT WORK FOR THE FOOD WHICH PERISHES, BUT FOR THE FOOD WHICH ENDURES TO ETERNAL LIFE, WHICH THE SON OF MAN WILL GIVE TO YOU, FOR ON HIM THE FATHER, GOD, HAS SET HIS **SEAL**."

2 CORINTHIANS 1:21-22 - NOW HE WHO ESTABLISHES US WITH YOU IN CHRIST AND ANOINTED US IS GOD, 22 WHO ALSO **SEALED** US AND GAVE US THE SPIRIT IN OUR HEARTS AS A PLEDGE.

EPHESIANS 4:30 - DO NOT GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD, BY WHOM YOU WERE **SEALED** FOR THE DAY OF REDEMPTION.

HERE'S SOME HELP ON THE GREEK WORD USED FOR "SEAL" (σφραγίζω, *SPHRAGIZŌ*) - "A SEAL MADE OF WAX, CLAY, OR VARIOUS KINDS OF SOFT METAL WOULD SIGNIFY EITHER OWNERSHIP OR AUTHENTICATION OF AN ITEM OR A DOCUMENT: THE SECOND SENSE IS PROBABLY IN VIEW HERE. (ESV STUDY BIBLE ON JOHN 6:27)

IT SEEMS LIKE THERE IS A CONTRAST BETWEEN THE PEOPLE WHO GET THE "MARK" OF THE BEAST AND HIS NUMBER AND NUMBER AND THOSE WHO ARE "SEALED" BY GOD WITH HIS NAME WRITTEN ON THEIR FOREHEADS. THE PEOPLE WHO RECEIVE THE MARK OF THE BEAST ARE IDOLATERS AND ALIGNED WITH THE DEVIL HIMSELF! LET'S LOOK A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THE GROUP FROM REVELATION 14.

HERE ARE THE DESCRIPTORS USED:

144,000 (14:1)

THE NAME OF THE LAMB AND OF HIS FATHER WRITTEN ON THEIR FOREHEADS (14:1)

EXCLUSIVE ABILITY TO LEARN THE NEW SONG (14:3)

THEY HAVE BEEN PURCHASED FROM THE EARTH (14:3)

NOT BEEN DEFILED WITH WOMEN, FOR THEY KEPT THEMSELVES CHASTE (VIRGINS) (14:4)

FOLLOW THE LAMB WHEREVER HE GOES (14:4)

BEEN PURCHASED FROM MEN AS FIRST FRUITS TO GOD AND THE LAMB (14:4)

NO LIE FOUND IN THEIR MOUTH (14:5)

BLAMELESS (14:5)

WHAT DO YOU LEARN/OBSERVE ABOUT THIS GROUP FROM THESE DESCRIPTIONS?

NAME OF GOD WRITTEN - WHY DO YOU THINK THIS GROUP IS IDENTIFIED AS HAVING THE NAME OF THE LAMB & HIS FATHER ON THEIR FOREHEADS?

HOW IS THIS IN CONTRAST TO THOSE FROM THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER WHO RECEIVE THE "MARK OF THE BEAST"

REVELATION 13:16-17 - AND HE CAUSES ALL, THE SMALL AND THE GREAT, AND THE RICH AND THE POOR, AND THE FREE MEN AND THE SLAVES, TO BE GIVEN A MARK ON THEIR RIGHT HAND OR ON THEIR FOREHEAD, 17 AND HE PROVIDES THAT NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO BUY OR TO SELL, EXCEPT THE ONE WHO HAS THE MARK, EITHER THE NAME OF THE BEAST OR THE NUMBER OF HIS NAME.

Q - IS THIS NAME WRITTEN SPECIAL TO JUST 144,000 OR FOR ALL THOSE WHO OVERCOME?

REVELATION 3:12 - 'HE WHO OVERCOMES, I WILL MAKE HIM A PILLAR IN THE TEMPLE OF MY GOD, AND HE WILL NOT GO OUT FROM IT ANYMORE; AND I WILL WRITE ON HIM THE NAME OF MY GOD, AND THE NAME OF THE CITY OF MY GOD, THE NEW JERUSALEM, WHICH COMES DOWN OUT OF HEAVEN FROM MY GOD, AND MY NEW NAME.

KNOWING & SINGING NEW SONG

WHAT DOES "NEW SONG" MEAN?

7X IN OT, 2X IN NT

NET: A *NEW SONG* IS APPROPRIATE BECAUSE THE LORD IS CONSTANTLY INTERVENING IN THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE IN FRESH AND EXCITING WAYS. (PS 33:3)

PURCHASE FROM THE EARTH (AS FIRST FRUITS TO GOD)

THIS PHRASE IS USED TWICE IN THIS SECTION (14:3, 4).

NOT BE DEFILED, VIRGINS, NO LIE/BLAMELESS

V. 4-5 - ESV STUDY BIBLE - THE SPIRITUAL PURITY OF THOSE WHO BEAR THE LAMB'S NAME IS SYMBOLIZED BY THE SEXUAL SELF-DENIAL THAT CONSECRATED ISRAEL FOR THE WARS THAT GOD COMMANDED (CF. DEUT. 23:9—11; 1 SAM. 21:5).

IF THE 144,000 IS INDEED A SUMMATION OF THE FAITHFUL PEOPLE OF GOD, THEN THIS REFERENCE TO SEXUAL CHASTITY AND "NOT BEING DEFILED WITH WOMEN" IS SPEAKING TO THE LEVEL OF DEVOTIONAL HOLINESS OF THE GROUP GENERALLY.

SEXUAL INTERCOURSE (WITHIN THE MARRIAGE COVENANT) WAS NOT A SIN, BUT IT WOULD MAKE SOMEONE CEREMONIALLY UNCLEAN AND THUS WOULD PROHIBIT THE MAN/WOMAN FROM ENTERING INTO GOD'S HOUSE (**EXODUS 19:15**, **LEVITICUS 15:18**). IT WAS ALSO A SOURCE OF PLEASURE WHICH WOULD BE ABSTAINED FROM IN TIMES OF SERIOUSNESS AND WATCHFULNESS (CP. DAVID AND HIS MIGHTY MEN IN 1 SAMUEL 21:5 AND UURIAH IN 2 SAMUEL 11:9-11)

THE SAME IS TRUE ABOUT THOSE WHO TELL LIES:

PSALM 24:3-4 - WHO MAY ASCEND INTO THE HILL OF THE LORD? AND WHO MAY STAND IN HIS HOLY PLACE? 4 HE WHO HAS CLEAN HANDS AND A PURE HEART, WHO HAS NOT LIFTED UP HIS SOUL TO FALSEHOOD AND HAS NOT SWORN DECEITFULLY.

SO THIS GROUP OF 144,000 IS ONE MARKED BY FAITHFUL DEVOTION TO THE LAMB AND PERSONAL HOLINESS. BOTH ARE TREMENDOUS WEAPONS OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND ACTS OF RESISTANCE TO THE DEVIL.

THIS GROUP HAS BEEN PURCHASED BY GOD, MADE AND KEPT HOLY, NOW PREPARED IS A CHOIR-ARMY-ASSEMBLY HYBRID OF SORTS TO SEE, SAVOR AND CELEBRATE THE VICTORY OF GOD OVER EVIL.

REVELATION 14:4 - THESE ARE THE ONES WHO FOLLOW THE LAMB WHEREVER HE GOES. THESE HAVE BEEN PURCHASED FROM AMONG MEN AS FIRST FRUITS TO GOD AND TO THE LAMB.

REVELATION 7:16-17 - "THEY WILL HUNGER NO LONGER, NOR THIRST ANYMORE; NOR WILL THE SUN BEAT DOWN ON THEM, NOR ANY HEAT; 17 FOR THE LAMB IN THE CENTER OF THE THRONE WILL BE THEIR SHEPHERD, AND WILL GUIDE THEM TO SPRINGS OF THE WATER OF LIFE; AND GOD WILL WIPE EVERY TEAR FROM THEIR EYES."

ZEPHANIAH 3:11-13 - "IN THAT DAY YOU WILL FEEL NO SHAME BECAUSE OF ALL YOUR DEEDS BY WHICH YOU HAVE REBELLED AGAINST ME; FOR THEN I WILL REMOVE FROM YOUR MIDST YOUR PROUD, EXULTING ONES, AND YOU WILL NEVER AGAIN BE HAUGHTY ON MY HOLY MOUNTAIN. 12 "BUT I WILL LEAVE AMONG YOU A HUMBLE AND LOWLY PEOPLE, AND THEY WILL TAKE REFUGE IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. 13 "THE REMNANT OF ISRAEL WILL DO NO WRONG AND TELL **NO LIES, NOR WILL A DECEITFUL TONGUE BE FOUND IN THEIR MOUTHS;** FOR THEY WILL FEED AND LIE DOWN WITH NO ONE TO MAKE THEM TREMBLE."

LORD, HOW I WANT TO BE IN THAT NUMBER, WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN.