

2025 Focus: Committed to Executing the Word James 1:22

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The Lamb and the 144,000

Revelation Chapter 14:1-7

One of the themes that link Revelation Chapters 14-16 together is expressed by the word "voice," which is used 11 times. In the events recorded, God speaks to His people or to the lost world or His creatures speak to the lost world or His creatures speak out in praise of the Lord or in warning to the world. As the world moves into the last half of the Tribulation, heaven is not silent.

The mark of the beast that ends Chapter 13 is contrasted by the voices of the 144,000 with the seal of God on their heads in chapter 14.

Verse 1. The 144,000 was the special group of Jewish men sealed by God before the seventh seal was opened in Revelation Chapter 7:48. They are now seen on Mt Zion with the Lord Jesus Christ These 144,000 are in contrast to the followers of the beast in Chapter 13, whose mark is on their foreheads. God always has His faithful people, no matter how wicked the world may become. The 144,000 are standing with Christ on Mt. Zion: the heavenly one—Hebrews 12:22-24. With the beast setting out to kill all Jews and Christians, God gives John and us a quick foretaste of the final outcome of such satanic fury. The Lamb indeed not only has the right to open the great title deed but also the power to expel all the false pretenders of His rule; and all those redeemed by His blood will eventually stand with Him in triumph on Mt Zion.

Verses 2-3. Not only are the 144,000 standing but they are also singing. Because of the special experiences they had during the Tribulation, they have a new song to sing that others cannot share—Psalm 33:1-3, Psalm 40:1-3, Psalm 96:1-2, Psalm 98:1,144:9,149:1-2. They are accompanied by heavenly harps and other heavenly voices. It is encouraging to know that one day our sorrows will be transformed into songs only the redeemed from earth like the 144,000 are allowed to learn.

Verse 4 This verse gives us additional insight and information about the 144,000 Jews who were sealed. They were young Israelite men not yet married and having maintained their sexual purity throughout their lives. The Bible describes adultery and fornication as pictures of idolatry—.Exodus 34:15, James 4:4. They will have been especially chosen and prepared by God for this special ministry with deep respect for the Old Testament Scriptures, especially the Mosaic Laws. These were presumably being raised in Orthodox Jewish homes. Somehow, after the rapture of all believers, shortly before the Tribulation begins, they will have been led to receive Christ and to recognize Jesus as their Messiah and Savior and to dedicate their whole lives to Him at all costs. Then, God will have sealed them for their future service—Revelation 7:3.

Verse 5. In their mouth was found no guile. They speak God's truth accurately and precisely, with no exaggeration or understatement. They were not sinless but they were sanctified. They were without fault or deceit with regard to their testimony for Christ. In particular, they did not participate in falsehood because they rejected the lie of the antichrist—they refused to receive the mark of the beast. They were the first fruits of the future Israel. At the end of the Tribulation, no doubt in large measure through their witness, all Israel shall be saved—Romans 11:26, Zachariah 12:10.

Verse 6 Everlasting Gospel. During the present age, the angels are not privileged to preach the Gospel. That responsibility has been given to God's people. However, during the last half of the Tribulation, the angels are permitted to preach the Gospel. This is the final, climatic reference to the gospel in the Bible. It is called everlasting so it can be no different from the Gospel preached by Paul. In fact, it will be proclaimed by an angel from Heaven and Paul had specifically warned against any Gospel preached by an angel if it were different from the Gospel he preached—Galatians 1:8. Loud voice—evidently the angel will be flying from nation to nation, shouting loudly enough so that everyone on earth can hear, so that all will hear the Gospel one last time before it is too late. Once again, the Gospel must be preached all over the world before the end—Matthew 24:14.

Verse 7. The Gospel message at this point encourages and pleads with unbelievers to fear God and give glory to Him and escape the hour of His judgment. This is the theme of Scripture calling people to give honor, glory, worship; and reverence to God. This is the last moment to repent before God pours out His wrath.