

The Joy of the Redeemed Revelation 14:1-13

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The Contrast of Good and Evil

- Revelation 14 is the dramatic opposite of 13
 - John now speaks about the Lamb and His followers
 - John turns from speaking about the darkness to speaking about the light

The Contrast of Good and Evil

- The days of evil cannot last
- They are cut short by God Himself
- The Lamb returns and the saints rejoice!

The 144,000

Question: Are these the same ones as in Rev 7?

Answer: Very likely

- This number stands for the entire and complete number of the redeemed people of the earth who have come through the Great Tribulation

The 144,000

- The seal or mark of God on their foreheads
 - See 7:3-5
- A clear contrast with those who have taken the number or mark of the beast – chapter 13

The 144,000

NOTE!

- Chapter 7 shows the 144,000 entering into the Great Tribulation
- Chapter 14 shows the 144,000 coming out of the Great Tribulation
- They remained faithful through the worst persecution and suffering of all time

The 144,000

- The sound of like the roar of mighty rushing waters
 - Ezek 1:4-9, 22-24; 43:1-2
- A loud peal of thunder – Rev 19:6
- Harpists playing their harps

The 144,000

- They sing a new song that only they can sing
 - See also 5:9
- NOTE!
 - This song could only be sung by the redeemed!

The Redeemed: 3 Facts

1. They did not defile themselves with women
 - The word used is often translated as “virgins”

Question: Does that mean that the 144,000 are all virgins?

The Meaning of Virgins

Answer: No

- Scripture encourages sex in marriage
- Adam and Eve were commanded to multiply and fill the earth

Question: What is the meaning of this then?

The Meaning of Virgins

Answer: Old Testament Imagery and motifs

- Virgin daughter of Zion
 - 2 Kings 19:21; Lam 2:13
- The virgin of Israel
 - Jer 18:13; Amos 5:1-2

The Meaning of Virgins

- Israel has played the harlot with other gods
 - Jer 3:6-10; Hos 2
- God warned them of this in Ex 34:15-16
- The church is referred to as a virgin in the N.T. – 2 Cor 11:1-4

The Meaning of Virgins

This likely refers to the church as a whole that did not go after other gods in order to save their life or enhance their life in some way

The Redeemed: 3 Facts

2. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes
 - Stayed with Jesus
 - Counted the cost of following Jesus as worth it, even unto death
 - They chose to be disciples of Christ –
Matt 8:18-22; Matt 10:37-39

The Redeemed: 3 Facts

3. They are blameless – No lie was found in their mouth
- Question: Does this mean they have never lied?
Answer: No

Blameless, without lie

See Rev 22:15 – loves and practices falsehood
See Romans 1:25 – exchanged truth for lie
See John 8:31-47 – satan is the father of all lies.
Those who follow false gods are really following satan

Blameless, without blemish

This speaks of O.T. offerings that were without blemish
The N.T. speaks of the church in this way
• See Eph 1:3-10; 5:27; Col 1:21-23
• Jesus is the lamb without blemish
• 1 Peter 1:18-23

Conclusion/Summary

The 144,000 represent the redeemed of God who have kept themselves away from following the antichrist and have counted the cost of following Jesus as worth their very lives. They are the true virgin bride of Christ who are blameless and spotless in the eyes of God
