

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series  
 Study #59: The Characters of the 144,000  
 Revelation 14:1 - 5  
 Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

In our previous studies of Revelation 13, the Bible clearly identifies the leopard like beast with seven heads as Papal Rome, the beast with two lamb-like horn as the United States of America, the image of the beast is all apostate protestant churches. At the end as time the Bible predicts that Papal Rome will be able to set and established the seventh earthly kingdom in which all the world will wonder after the beast. Those who wonder after the beast and worship the beast and his image will receive the mark of the beast. Their names are not written in the Lamb's book of life. All those who refuse to bow down to these beasts, not receive the mark of the beast and stay true to the commandments of God and the testimonies of Jesus will not be able to buy or sell. Soon afterwards during the seven last plagues a death decree will be issued worldwide to terminate God faithful people.

At the end of Revelation 13, 666 is the number of the beast that only applies to the leader of Papal Rome and the blasphemous title of the pope that used for centuries, "One of the ancient titles of the popes that was used for centuries is "Vicarius Filii Dei" which is Latin for "Representative of the Son of God." Verse 18 says, "count the number of the beast." When you count and add the Latin numerals to "Vicarius Filii Dei" it equals, 666.

#### **Interlude Revelation 14:1 – 5**

After the prophetic scenes of Revelation 13, Jesus interrupts in Revelation 14:1 – 5 with a special end time message for his end time people. These messages are messages of hope, encouragement, inspiration, and warning.

#### **What special group of people does John see at the beginning of Revelation 14 and what type of character did they possess?**

##### **Revelation 14:1**

1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Here we see the 144,000 of God's end time people standing on heavenly mount Zion in the New Jerusalem, the dwelling place of God, with the Lamb, Jesus Christ, with God the Father name in their foreheads.

Name (Greek)= "character" . The "forehead" of your brain is known as the frontal lobe of the brain. This is the section of your brain where you make decisions. This is where your spirituality resides. This is where your character is formed.

So it is clear that the 144,000 stand with Jesus because they possessed the character of God the Father. They followed in the footsteps of the Lamb.

#### **We studied the meaning of the 144,000 in study #41: 144,000 & Seventh Seal (Revelation 7:5 – 17). Go back to that study for more details.**

##### **In summary from our previous studies of the 144,000 we learned...**

- Like the 12 tribes, 12 disciples and 12 apostles were a whole literal number, the same must be true with the 144,000. Even though the numbers have a symbolic meaning that represent a mission or purpose, the number itself is literal.
- The 144,000 are 12,000 times larger than the original 12. So the 144,000 represents a larger worldwide discipleship and apostleship who have the Father's character and sealed with the seal of the living God in their forehead.

- 144,000 will go through persecution and the great time of trouble of the seven last plagues. They will be alive when Jesus comes. They will not experience the first death.
- 144,000 are trained by Jesus like the 12 disciples and will give the loud cry message during the mark of the beast crisis.
- 144,000 work like the time of the 12 apostles will have results. They will have a harvest who will stand with them through the seven last plagues sealed with the seal of the living God.

### **144,000 = Servants of our God = worldwide disciples and apostles.**

Again the 144,000 are not only sealed with the character of the Father in their foreheads, they are also sealed with the sealing of the living God in their foreheads according to Revelation 7:1 – 3.

### **Seal of the Living God (review)**

Remember, the official document of the everlasting covenant is the ten commandments and the signature line and seal of the everlasting covenant is the seventh day Sabbath.

### **Ezekiel 20:12, 20**

12 - "Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them."

It's repeated again in verse 20, but notice a slight difference.

20 - "And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God."

In verse 12, the keeping of the sabbath is a sign between Him and "them", His faithful followers as a whole. But notice in verse 20 God makes it very personal; the sabbath is a sign between Him and YOU!

### **Exodus 31:13-17**

13 "Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.

14 Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

15 Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.

16 Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a **perpetual covenant**.

17 **It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever:** for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed."

"Sign" in the Hebrew, "ôth", means "a signal (literally or figuratively), as a flag, beacon, monument, evidence, etc.: - **mark**, miracle, (en-) sign, token." - Strong's Hebrew Dictionary

So based on our study, sign, seal, and mark are the same. They are synonymous in their meaning. Remember, keeping the seventh-day Sabbath is a sign or mark that proves your loyalty to God in which you keep ALL of His Commandments as an expression of your love for Him. This sign is the evidence that you rather keep the commandments of God rather than the commandments men.

**Don't miss this.** It is very clear that in order for the 144,000 to receive the seal of the living God they MUST possess the character of the Father.

**What does John hear next as the 144,000 stand on Mt. Zion with the Lamb?****Revelation 14:2-3**

2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

That voice is no other than Jesus Christ. He is the same voice of many waters described by John in Revelation 1:15?

**Revelation 1:15**

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

John hears not only the voice of Jesus but he hears the voices of the 144,000 harping on their harps and singing a NEW song before the throne of God that no one else knew, but the 144,000 because they went through an experience in which no other generation went through.

**The 144,000 will sing to the glory of God their testimony of deliverance will they play their harps from God. It is obvious that God will give US an instant skill as a gift to play the harp! Amen. I may not know how to play the harp now, but when I get to heaven I will have the skill of a professional harpist.**

**Where were the 144,000 redeemed from? End of Revelation 14:3, “redeemed from the earth.”**

Redeem (Greek) agorazō [ag-or-ad'-zo] From G58; properly **to go to market**, that is, (by implication) to **purchase**; specifically to redeem: - **buy, redeem.**

**The redeemed were bought with a price at the market place called Calvary and the purchase price is death through the spilling of the blood of Jesus!**

**What other characteristics does the 144,000 possess?**

**Revelation 14:4**

4 These are they which were not defiled (polluted or contaminated) with women; for they are **virgins**. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, *being* the **firstfruits** unto God and to the Lamb.

**We already studied that God compares His people as a “comely woman”.**

**Jeremiah 6:2**

2 I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate *woman*.

Notice “woman” in the context singular.

**Ephesians 5:23, 25**

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Christ is the head of his church, the woman, and loves her as a husband should love his physical wife.

Like the husband, Christ only has one woman, the church, not women. Christ has one true church.

**Ephesians 4:4 - 6**

- 4 *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;  
 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
 6 One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

Christ is the head of that body. Remember the Bible teaches only ONE truth.

**Everything that God has that is genuine Satan has counterfeits. God has a one and only true woman, Satan has counterfeit women or churches that have a form of godliness. The women, mix the worldliness and things of God. They mix hot and cold and get "lukewarm".**

They mix the witchcraft "pharmakiea" with the gospel and call it a christian medical hospital. They mix the devil's rhythm of rebellion with the gospel and call it Gospel hip hop, Gospel Rock, Gospel Rap, Gospel Jazz, Gospel R & B. They mix Hollywood and gospel and call it "christian entertainment". They mix the worldly pagan dances of ballot hip hop, etc and the gospel and call it "praise dance." They take the pagan entertainment of miming and the gospel and call it "gospel miming." They take the pagan craft of puppets and ventriloquism and the gospel and call it "gospel ventriloquism or puppetry." They take the disease causing worldly diet and pray over it hoping for healing and vitality. They are deceiving themselves. They allow themselves to be mesmerized by the world but still claim godliness.

They love lustful pleasure more then doing the things of God. Their are multitudes more at the fish fry, card night, movie night, church superbowl party night, gospel prom night, church picnic, then at Bible study.

The modern apostate churches have become like Facebook, only a social network devoid of the true gospel. An apostate church social network full of "selfies."

**The "worldly" fallen churches like Judah fall because of their pride and apostasy.**

#### Isaiah 3:8 – 13,16 - 26

- 8 For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: **because their tongue and their doings are against the LORD**, to provoke the eyes of his glory.
- 9 The shew of their **countenance (face)** doth witness against them (**In other words, what they have on their face reveals their guilt before God**); and they **declare their sin as Sodom**, they **hide it not**. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.
- 10 Say ye to the righteous, that *it shall be well with him*: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.
- 11 Woe unto the wicked! *it shall be ill with him*: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.
- 12 *As for* my people, children *are* their oppressors, and women (i.e. worldly churches) rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause *thee* to err, and destroy the way of thy paths (took away the pillars of truth!)
- 13 The LORD standeth up to **plead**, and standeth to **judge** the people.
- 16 Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty (prideful), and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet:
- 17 Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts.
- 18 In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of *their* tinkling ornaments *about their feet*, and *their* cauls, and *their* round tires like the moon,
- 19 The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers,
- 20 The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings,
- 21 The rings, and nose jewels,
- 22 The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins,
- 23 The glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the veils.

- 24 And it shall come to pass, *that* instead of **sweet smell there shall be stink**; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher (clothing for celebrations or holiday) a girding of sackcloth (clothing for grief and loss); *and* burning instead of beauty.
- 25 Thy men shall fall by the sword, and thy mighty in the war.
- 26 And her gates shall lament and mourn; and she *being* desolate shall sit upon the ground.

The women's outward worldly appearance revealed what was in the inside. But the women rejected the message of spiritual character reform and continue to walk in the way of the world even though they claimed godliness. The women rejected the dress reform message to be totally different from how the world dresses with their painted faces and jewelry. Did you know that the origin of world jewelry and makeup comes from pagan worship and promotes pride and vanity? God reveals here that he will judge us on this. Did you know that God will give precious jewels in heaven on your crown of victory? He is more interested in what is on the inside than the outside.

### **What are the women's response to this prophecy in Isaiah 3?**

Continues in chapter 4:1 (POWERFUL!!!)

#### **Isaiah 4:1**

**1 And in that day seven women (7=complete number of fallen churches) shall take hold of one man (Jesus), saying, We will eat our own bread (interpretation of the scriptures), and wear our own apparel (spiritual covering): only let us be called by thy name (Christians), to take away our reproach (judgment).**

They say, "Don't judge us Lord. We are good people, but we like to partake in some of the festivities of the world. We like to wear some of the clothes and accessories of the world. Don't hold that against us. We pay our tithes."

On contrast, the 144,000 is part of God's true woman, His pure undefiled church of overcomers who do mix the world and the gospel. There was no confusion. Their character clearly determined who side they were on. They have a total hatred of sin and worldliness. Their healthy lifestyle, dress, and character was in line with the Bible not the world. They were not defile or pollute her self with churches claiming godliness with no power. Their pure and undefiled character is of great value to God.

#### **1 Peter 3:3, 4**

- 3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;
- 4 But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

#### **1 Timothy 2:9**

- 9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest (orderly) apparel (clothes), with shamefacedness (reverent modesty) and sobriety (aware, sound mind, self control); not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;
- 10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

These apostate women are part of the beast and the image of the beast in which the whole world, expect the faithful will worship. Let the bible teaches us the true standard of God only one truth church.

### **What should you do when a church has identified herself as being apart of women who are mixing worldliness and the gospel?**

#### **2 Timothy 3:1- 5**

- 1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

- 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
  - 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
  - 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
  - 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: **from such turn away.**
- TURN AWAY! GET OUT! If you didn't you will be defiled by women.

Modern prosperity preaching churches corrupt the gospel by telling them that the more expensive cars, houses, jewelry, clothes, and stuff you have the more blessed you are by God and the more holier and righteous you are.

**What does the Bible say we should do if we are in this type of church environment teaching this?**

**1 Timothy 6:5**

- 5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, **supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.**

**GET OUT!** Dumpster scenario. If you are diving in a dumpster full of rotten, polluted, and nasty garbage to find your \$100 bill you had in there you WILL get dirty. Eventhough you find your money you will become defiled.

**Revelation 18:2, 4**

- 2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.
- 4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

**Because the 144,000 did not defile herself with women, they were known as spiritual virgins.**

A virgin in a spiritual sense is a person “who has abstained from all uncleanness and whoredom attendant on idolatry, and so has kept his chastity”

Spiritual virgin keep themselves pure through Christ. They are faithful to him. They do not share their affections with God and the world.

The 144,000 are known as virgins spiritually because they did not defile themselves with women, churches who are mixing the things of God with the things of the world.

**Why? What does the Bible say?**

**2 Corinthians 11:2**

- 2 For I (Christ) am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you* as a chaste virgin to Christ.

**What does Bible call those who “cheat’ on Christ with there affections on the things sin and the world?**

**James 4:4**

- 4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity (hatred) with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Those who mix with the world even though they are claiming godliness are know as adulterers and adulteresses and enemy of God!

Another key characteristic of the 144,000 singing this new song on mount Zion with Jesus in Revelation 14:4 is that they “follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.” The 144,000 did not follow their own path, but only the path of Jesus.

### **1 Peter 2:21**

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

We should ALL desire to be apart of the 144,000 following the Lamb Jesus Christ wherever he goes.

The 144,000 make no excuses they obey in faith. They are sheep that hear their Master and follow.

Are you sheep or a goat?

### **What does Jesus says in his parable about sheep and the goats in the last days when He comes?**

#### **Matthew 25:31-34, 41**

31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand (the goats), Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

The sheep obey the will of God and do what Jesus does. The goats always ways have excuses. Real sheep are docile animals they just follow the shepherd voice full trusting in his leading. What are real goats famous for, “butting”. You can identify yourself as a sheep or a goat. When God reveals his truth through His Word do you accept it by faith and follow the truth revealed with NO EXCUSES or do you say, “Yes Lord I know your word say.... but....my wife, what will my family think.... Anytime you but God you just identified yourself with the goat. Fall on your knees and ask God forgiveness.

Again the 144,000 have no excuses!

### **Going back to Revelation 14:4, Why are the 144,000 called the “firstfruits”?**

**144,000 “These were redeemed from among men, *being* the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. “**

In general the “firstfruits” are the first “pickings” of a harvest. As part of the sanctuary service that pointed to Jesus Christ, two days after Passover, the Jewish celebrated the feast day know as the feast of firstfruits. The priest would take a handful of ripened grain into the sanctuary and wave it before the Lord. The first handful of grain was a pledge showing thanks and praise for the coming bountiful harvest. Showed joy and thanksgiving over the bountiful harvest.

Jesus fulfilled this prophecy when he rose the grave on the feast of firstfruits.

### **1 Corinthians 15:20**

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

And as the priest waved a handful of grain before the Lord, not just one kernel, so there were others resurrected as part of firstfruits.

**Matthew 27:52-53**

52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

**These are the firstfruit of those who died the first death and resurrected.**

**The 144,000 are the fruitfruit of the living harvest who alive at the coming of Jesus Christ.**

**What are more characteristics that the 144,000 must have?**

**Revelation 14:5**

**5** And in their mouth was found **no guile (deceit)**: for they are **without fault** before the throne of God.

The 144,000 only speaks the truth and are blameless through Jesus Christ.

**Summary and Appeal**

144,000 represent a larger worldwide discipleship and apostleship who have the Father character and sealed with the seal of the living God in their forehead. They will go through persecution. They will be alive when Jesus comes. They will not experience the first death. They will have the Father's character sealed with the seal of the living God, God's holy seventh-day Sabbath. They follow the example of Christ with no compromise. They are not defiled with fallen churches who decides to mix the world and the gospel. They are pure only to God only speaking the words of truth. Their minds are transformed in the likeness of Christ. They lifestyle and diets are reformed after the model of Christ abundant life giving plan. They practice true dress reform. Their dress is modest and orderly that only pleases God. They are not caught up the latest fashions that change from season to season. They spend time adorning the character with the character of Christ instead of jewelry and make up of the world. They have totally left worldliness behind in ALL of its forms.

Do you want to be a part of the 144,000 sealed with the seal of the living God with the character of God?