

Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 3:28 PM
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study on Revelation 14:1-5

"Sing to Him (the Lord) a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts!" (Psalm 33:3)

So, what will the coming seven-year Tribulation Period, prophesied by Daniel, forecast by Jesus with His disciples (in Matthew 24), and seen in a vision by the "beloved disciple," John, while in exile on the Isle of Patmos, be like? Among other things, we learned from our last three studies of Revelation 12 and 13 that it will be dominated by a "satanic trinity" (in contrast with the Holy Trinity), made up of the "great red dragon," or Satan; a "beast," known as the Antichrist; and another beast, known as the False Prophet! Satan, once Lucifer, the anointed cherub who, after rebelling and being thrown out of heaven, will claim the world as his rightful possession and summon and empower a "beast coming out of the sea" (the world), known as the "Antichrist," who will be "given a mouth to speak arrogant words and blasphemies," and become the world's greatest-ever leader, and even worshiped by "all the people of the world" (unbelievers), and "making war against the saints" (and eventually "defiling the temple" and claiming to be God)! Then, the second beast, the False Prophet, who will also be empowered, and controlled, by Satan, and perform great signs and require people of the world to "make an image to the beast" (Antichrist) and worship it (or be killed), and then "cause all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the freemen and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead and provide that no one will be able to buy or sell, except the one who has the mark..!"
Wow!

Constable writes that chapters 12 and 13 "paint a picture of a tribulation where there will be one government, one religion, and one economic system for the world with Satan, the "ruler of this world"! (For a time!) Something that's never happened before! And a time of great distress for all the world! But also, a time of great persecution and martyrdom for believers and followers of Christ! (And one wonders: could there be any real hope for anyone's salvation in such chaotic times, when the whole world is under the clutches of the Antichrist?)

And it's with this background and setting that we entered into our lesson last night, and John's next vision, recorded in Revelation 14:1-5!

And it begins with another "behold"! Depicting something highly eventful! And surprising about to come about!

Revelation 14:1 "And I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their forehead!"

What could this be but the return of Christ to the world? An actual "preview" of His second coming (seen by John)! And thus, the end of the Great Tribulation! And what a contrast with Revelation 12 and 13! With the 144,000 "bond-servants" wearing the "mark" of "the Lamb" (Jesus), and the mark of God the Father written on their foreheads (for all the world to see), in stark contrast to the "mark of the beast" required for all the people of the world!

The "Lamb"! Long ago supernaturally identified by another John (John the Baptist recorded in John 1:29) on an eventful day: "The next day he (John the Baptist, near the start of Christ's earthly ministry) saw Jesus coming to him and said, 'Behold (there it is again!), the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!' (John had it right!) And then, remember in Revelation 5:6 where John (the disciple John) "saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb (the resurrected Christ) standing, as if slain..." Taking the book (scroll). and beginning to open the seals (all of which got us to this point)!

And now the Lamb returning to deal with Satan and set up His Millennial reign!

Standing on Mount Zion! Depicting the place of the salvation of the Lord! The place where Messiah will return and place His feet!

Psalms 2:6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King (says the Lord)! Upon Zion, My holy mountain!"

Psalms 48:1-2 "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, in the city of God, His holy mountain. Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, in the far north!"

Joel 2:1 "Blow a trumpet in Zion and sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming! Surely it is near!"

And what about the 144,000, who are first to join Him there? We saw how they were called (in Revelation 7) during the early part of the tribulation where John "saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds" (the judgment of the seventh seal) ...and "another angel having the seal of the living God" crying out for them to hold off the harm they were about to do to the earth "until they have sealed the bond-servants" the 144,000, with 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel! And so, the 144,000 were "sealed! And sent! (And sanctified!) And John writes that "after these things he looked, and behold (there it is again!), a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and people and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes ...with all the angels and the four living creatures and twenty-four elders giving blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might to our God!" (This indicates that a great number of people were "saved" during the tribulation, due apparently to the witness of the 144,000, and that many were martyred for as a result!)

And so, ironically, according to John's vision, the time of unparalleled distress and persecution and hardship, during the tribulation, will also be a time of unprecedented revival and redemption! And the 144,000 will be in the middle of it all and be specifically protected by the Lord so they are able to accomplish the mission!

Who are these guys (according to Revelation 14:1-5)?

- They stand out in the crowd with the mark of God on their foreheads!
- They've kept themselves "chaste" and have "not been defiled with women" (despite the allurements that will obviously be there in that day!
- They "follow the Lamb wherever He goes"!
- They've been "purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb" (meaning first of many)!
- "No lie was found in their mouth, and they were blameless"!

Blameless? But not sinless! Yet "elect of the elect"! (MacArthur calls them the most triumphant group of men the world will ever know, who will emerge from the worst holocaust in history, the Tribulation!)

Ephesians 1:4 says, "Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him!"

Ephesians 5:27 "That He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless!"

Colossians 1:21-22 "And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach!"

All of this text, in contrast with Revelation 12-13, calls for great rejoicing in heaven and, according to Revelation 14:3, "singing a new song"! A song of redemption!

Just like the children of Israel, after being rescued from captivity in Egypt! Exodus 14:1-2 says, "Then Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and said, 'I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted; the horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea. The Lord is my strength and song; and He has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise Him; my father's God, and I will extol Him...' (And lots more!)

Psalm 40:1-3 "I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, and He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear and will trust in the Lord!"

And our memory verse, Psalm 33:3 "Sing to Him a new song! Play skillfully with a shout of joy!" (NAS)

And so, what a text to take to heart!

May we seek to emulate the lives of the 144,000! And be able to sing about it too!

Lowell