

“Book of Revelation—Part 5”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a nine-part series about the book of Revelation. Part 5 was about the “Four Characteristics of the 144,000.”

Although I am going to focus on Revelation 14:1-5, we will take a quick peek at Revelation 7:1-10.

Quick peek at Revelation 7

- Revelation 7:1—John saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds.
- Revelation 7:2-3—Another angel (who had the seal of the living God) cried out with a loud voice: “Do not harm the earth, the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of God on their foreheads.”
- Revelation 7:4—The number of those who were sealed was 144,000 of the children of Israel.

Question: Does the list of the sons of Israel mentioned in Genesis 49:1-27 match the names mentioned in Revelation 7:5-8?

Answer: The tribe of Dan is missing in Revelation 7:5-8.

Question: Why is the tribe of Dan missing from the Revelation list?

Answer: Bible students traditionally mention Dan’s gross idolatry and often quote Judges 18:14-31 as a reference.

Question: Which name replaced Dan in the Revelation list?

Answer: Bible students traditionally mention that the replacement name on the list is Manasseh, and also conclude that the name Joseph on the list refers to Ephraim—since Genesis 48:5 mentions Ephraim and Manasseh as sons of Joseph.

- Since the 144,000 have the privilege of being sealed, disciples would certainly consider it an honor to be included in that list.
- But disciples should remember that boldly claiming to be included as a member of the 144,000 can easily be viewed by the Father and Son as an act of arrogance.
- Make no mistake about it—we should go boldly to the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16)—with repentance, not with arrogant proclamations.

■ Revelation 7:9-10—Congratulations to the innumerable multitude (of nations, tribes, peoples and tongues) standing before the Lamb saying: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Revelation 14:1-3

■ Revelation 14:1—There was a Lamb standing on Mount Zion with 144,000 who had His Father's name written on their foreheads.

■ Revelation 14:2—There was a voice from heaven (loud like thunder) and the sound of harps playing.

■ Revelation 14:3—The 144,000 (who were redeemed from the earth) sang a new song before the four living creatures and the elders.

Following the Lamb wherever He goes

■ Since the first phrase in Revelation 14:4 has instruction from a man's perspective (not being defiled with women) and Revelation 19:7-8 has instruction from a woman's perspective (a wife being preparing for the marriage supper), I decided to lump this lesson into the second phrase that John mentioned.

■ Revelation 14:4—"These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes."

Redeemed and firstfruits

■ Revelation 14:4—"These were redeemed from among men [people], being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb."

■ Philippians 1:6—The apostle Paul wrote: "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Because of my goal of giving my Wednesday-night presentation in the allotted time frame, I did not read or mention the following two scriptures. But I will now add them to this article.

■ John 10:28—"And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

■ John 10:29—"My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand."

■ Reminder—Although we are saved by grace, our Heavenly Father has expectations from us, and obedient children will listen to the Father's expectations and will follow the Father's expectations.

No deceit in their mouth

■ Revelation 14:5—"And in their mouth was found no deceit."

Because of my goal of giving my Wednesday-night presentation in the allotted time frame, I referred to James 3:2-18 without reading or describing them. But I will now briefly mention them in this article.

- James 3:2-16—No one can control the tongue.
- James 3:17-18—When disciples receive power from above, we can exhibit remarkable behavior—peace, gentleness, yielding, mercy, good fruit, no partiality and no hypocrisy.
- Those behaviors are a part of our lives when we are in a state of repentance.

Without fault before God

- Revelation 14:5—“They are without fault before the throne of God.”
- John 1:7—“If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
- John 1:8-9—“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- John 2:1-2—“If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”
- John 2:5-6—“Whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”
- Disciples walk in a state of repentance.