

61. The Book of Revelation—14:4-6

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
(11-10-21)

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As we said last week, Chapter 14 is a little different and therefore difficult to make sense out of leaving many commentators somewhat baffled as what to make of it.

It only begins to make sense when you realize that it seems to be a “*preview of coming attractions*” or a “*table of contents*” highlighting the things that will take place in Chapters 15-19.

If you don't understand that and keep it in mind, Chapter 14 is going to puzzle you in that you're going to read things that haven't happened yet—as though they had already taken place.

Revelation 14:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. ³ They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. ⁴ **These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.**

The phrase “**defiled with women**” does not imply that sex within marriage is evil, because it is not (Hebrews 13:4)—it merely indicates that these 144,000 Jewish/Christian men were *unmarried*.

During the Great Tribulation Period the times are going to be so incredibly difficult and dangerous for these men as they serve God that—it will not be wise to bring a wife and children into a ministry so fraught with peril and persecution as they will be experiencing at that time.

Think of Jeremiah, John the Baptist, Jesus, Paul, etc. But in a spiritual sense, nowhere in the Bible does it say that a woman *defiles* a man—unless it is due to sex involved in pagan worship. (Explain)

As we come to Revelation 14, the 144,000 have finished their ministry on the earth, and have kept themselves pure from false doctrine and the sexual practices that went along with it during the Tribulation Period. So, in a spiritual sense, the idea of being “*defiled with women*” could be a reference to participating in the deviant sexual practices of the false religious system of the Antichrist and his followers—which the 144,000 did not.

Revelation 14:4 (NKJV)

⁴ **These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes...**

It seems that because of their faithfulness to Jesus during the most difficult period of suffering and evil in the history of mankind—He gives them a special place of honor in the Kingdom by making them His ‘royal guard’ that travels with King Jesus wherever He goes.

Of course, they will not be with the Lord Jesus as His *'bodyguards'* who protect Him (God needs no protection!)—this will simply be positions of honor given to them by the Lord for their faithfulness in serving Him upon the earth during the Tribulation Period.

Revelation 14:4 (NKJV)

⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. **These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.**

The 144,000 are the beginnings of a much greater harvest—a *firstfruits* if you will that come from/out of the Great Tribulation Period.

On the Feast of Firstfruits, the priest waved the first shoots of the barley harvest to come up from the earth before the Lord as an offering to God who would receive this offering and guarantee that a great harvest would follow.

In that regard, Jesus Himself became a 'Firstfruits' from the dead through His resurrection—never to die again:

1 Corinthians 15:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Revelation 7:9 describes an innumerable company saved out of the Great Tribulation, and these 144,000, described as **firstfruits**, no doubt were used to preach the gospel to those who were saved (and martyred) during this period of time—

Revelation 14:5 (NKJV)

⁵ **And in their mouth was found no deceit...**

This no doubt means that they didn't participate in the 'big lie' of the Antichrist and False Prophet when they used lying signs and wonders to deceive people into following them. (2 Thessalonians 2:11)

These faithful servants of God didn't fall for their lie but remained faithful to God's truth! (John 8:31-32)

Remember what the Lord Jesus said of this period of time—

Matthew 24:24-25 (NKJV)

²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand.

The *"See, I have told you beforehand"* was Jesus' way of telling us that prophecy would warn us ahead of time of coming deception so that we would not be taken in by it but would remain faithful to the truth of God found in His Word!

Folks, that is the purpose of the entire Book of Revelation!

So, the statement, **"in their mouth was found no deceit..." (verse 5)** was John's way of saying that these 144,000 Jewish/Christian evangelists knew what Jesus (and the New Testament writers) had said and didn't fall for nor propagate Satan's lies during the reign of the Antichrist—but faithfully spoke God's truth.

They will be like those of whom Zephaniah wrote—

Zephaniah 3:13 (NKJV)

¹³ The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness and speak no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth...

The final 7 years of human history as we know it leading up to the return of Jesus Christ will be a time of unprecedented worldwide deception. A time Jesus summed up with a succinct warning in the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24)—“*Take heed that no one deceives you.*” (verse 4)

The New Testament has many warnings and exhortations about how the world will be full of deception that many will embrace and promote happily during this period believing it to be truth.

God’s Word tells us that the unbelieving world will be consumed with “*false wonders,*” “*the deception of wickedness,*” and a “*deluding influence (spirit)*”—all judgmentally decreed by God so that those who reject the “*love of the truth, that they might be saved—God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie.*” (2 Thessalonians 2:10)

But in contrast the 144,000 will accurately and faithfully proclaim the Word of God without wavering.

Revelation 14:5 (NKJV)

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

That does not, of course, mean that they will be *sinless*—it could simply be a reference to the fact that they didn’t waver or compromise their commitment to God during the Tribulation Period in discharging their ministries.

However, in the larger doctrinal sense it could be a reference to how they were without fault because they were (will be) clothed in the “*righteousness of Christ.*”

Isaiah 61:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks *himself* with ornaments, And as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels.

➤ **LISTEN:** Parable of the Marriage Feast—Matthew 22:1-14

Revelation 14:6 (NKJV)

⁶ **Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people--**

There are those who interpret “**angel**” (the Greek is ‘*messenger*’) to mean a “*satellite*” broadcasting the Gospel to the world via television and radio.

But we already have that going on right now—which would not be anything special then.

Also, I have a hard time believing that during the Great Tribulation Period the one-world government controlled by Antichrist would not severely limit speech and prohibit the broadcasting of any religious message that conflicted with the religion of the Antichrist (see Revelation 13:6 and 2 Thessalonians 2:4).

No, I believe that this **angel** is a literal angel sent from God, flying through the sky, preaching the Gospel to the inhabitants of the world before God unleashes the last and greatest judgments upon the ‘earth-dwellers’ (Chapter 16) so that no one on the earth can say, “I never heard the Gospel.”

Matthew 24:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

One pastor and commentator had this to say—

“By the time the angel begins his ministry, the world will have suffered the incredible devastation of the seal and trumpet judgments. Relentless holocausts will have rocked the globe, and the once stable heavens will have become a disintegrating source of terror (cf. 6:12–14).

During this time, the unbelieving world will have heard the Gospel preached by the 144,000 Jewish evangelists and the two witnesses, as well as countless thousands of others saved under their ministries.

But despite all that, most of the earth’s population will reject the gospel (9:20–21; cf. 16:9, 11); thus, God graciously sends this powerful angel to proclaim the Gospel to them—one last time.”

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

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