Revelation 14:1-7

Victory

1. The 144,000
   1. Mt. Zion
      1. Zion in the Old Testament
         1. 2 Samuel 5:7
            1. Signifies God’s dwelling and saving presence among His people.
      2. The Lamb (Jesus) standing on Mt. Zion.
         1. In Rev. 5:6 we saw the exaltation and coronation of the Lamb.
   2. From defeat to victory
      1. In Rev. 13:7,15 God’s saints are conquered. Here in chapter 14, the saints are victorious.
         1. This scene marks the beginning of the end of the present world.
   3. Significance of 144,000
      1. This number is also found in Rev. 7:1-8.
         1. There it depicts God’s people in warfare.
            1. In Rev. 14 it’s the church militant ready to become the church triumphant.

(From Rev. 7 outline)

\*The 144,000 is the church militant. This number represents all of God’s people on earth ready to carry out God’s orders, i.e. Matthew 28:18-20. 144,000 = 12 x 12 x 1000. This is the whole church; all the elect.

12 = church (12 tribes of Israel; 12 Apostles). 1000 = a long but completed and determined time/quantity. We will revisit the number 1000 when we come to Rev. 20 and discuss the millennium (mille = 1000).

* + 1. Why is the 144,000 described as male virgins not made unclean by women?
       1. Virgin
          1. The Bible portrays the church on earth as a pure virgin or bride.

In the Old Testament Israel is described as a virgin bride. See Jeremiah 18:18; Amos 5:2.

* + - 1. Male
         1. The male gender is used to designate God’s people. Israel, Jacob, and Judah are names used to designate God’s people.

Hosea 11:1 “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.”

* + - 1. Made unclean by women
         1. There are examples where men would separate from women sexually for a time.

Uriah while in battle in 2 Samuel 11:9-13.

When Moses prepared to meet God at Mt. Sinai, him and others prepared by not having sexual relations. Exodus 19:15

The one time in the NT where voluntary and temporary abstinence is mentioned is for the sake of prayer. 1 Corinthians 7:5.

* + 1. Taken all together the 144,000 male virgins symbolizes that through faith in Christ, the church on earth is pure and holy in God’s eyes. The church has been set aside for God’s purposes.
  1. Firstfruits
     1. In the Old Testament firstfruits were the firstfruits of the harvest that were offered to God in thanksgiving.
        1. To call the saints on earth the firstfruits indicates they are an offering to God for the sake of the mission of Christ.
           1. In Romans 8:36 Christians are referred to as “Lambs led to the slaughter.”
     2. The 144,000 as firstfruits are pure and truthful.

1. The defeat of the dragon: vv6-13 (part 1)
   1. The three angels
      1. The announce the judgment of God on the beasts and dragon.
   2. The first angel
      1. An eternal Gospel
         1. Verse 7: sober news of judgment
            1. This is a call not only to repent of the judgment but also the gracious call to worship (gospel) the Lord.
            2. This eternal gospel is the eternal message of God’s judgment and grace.
      2. The fear of God
         1. This is an essential part of contrition over sin and repentance.
            1. Acts 2:37
         2. Fear is the beginning of wisdom
            1. Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 9:10