

Just a quick reminder. I have published a book entitled “**Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message.**”

Liberating the Book of Revelation is intended to help us all know what the Spirit said and how He said it. This book is focused not so much on interpreting the book of **Revelation**, that is what this podcast is for, but on accurately representing the book of **Revelation** in the manner in which the Spirit originally spoke it to John.

I encourage you to go to amazon.com and you can find the book either under the title “**Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message**” or by my name as the author: **Stephen Villanueva**. It is available in hardback, paperback, e-book format, and the *audible* version was recently released.

EP117 Revelation 14 verses 1-4

In our last podcast we discovered the mystery surrounding the infamous number of the Beast, **666**. With the wisdom of God as unveiled across the **Codex**, we calculated the number.

**THE CALCULATION OF THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST IS:
RELIGION + WEALTH + GOVERNMENTAL POWER AND AUTHORITY = 666**

Let's pick back up in **Revelation 14**.

Revelation 14

Overview: various non-sequential events surrounding the Seventh Trumpet. The Lamb with the Chosen – the 144,000. The final call to honor God. Fallen is Babylon (religion). The warning of doom for those who worship the Beast. The harvest of the earth (rapture of the church and the winepress of God's anger).

This chapter contains a lot of information and pulls from many other places within the **Codex**. It is broken out into 4 sections which are not sequential, rather, each section is like a small vignette—its own little story. What they have in common is that they are all connected to the blowing of the Seventh Trumpet, and all these vignettes occur at or about the same time. We will approach this chapter one vignette at a time.

The first section gives us another glimpse of the Lamb standing amidst His Chosen ones, the two Witnesses, the 144,000, comprised of both the Gentile and the Jew. It is a gathering that depicts the fulfillment of so many promises which **Yahweh** made to His people.

In the second section we see two angels who have been charged to make two proclamations to those on the earth. One angel preaches the eternal gospel and urges people to repent and worship the Lamb. Mercifully, God gives the peoples of the world one final chance to choose Him before He drops the hammer of wrath. Then the second angel announces the doom of Babylon saying that the “*great city*” of

religious apostasy is fallen.

In the third section, we see a third angel who announces the horrific and irreversible consequences to those who worship the image of the Beast or who accept his mark. These consequences are meant to encourage the true followers of Jesus Christ to, even now, endure—to hang in there trusting Jesus till the end, knowing that those who have harmed them will get their comeuppance; it is just a matter of time.

In the fourth and final section, the earth is harvested. There are two separate and distinct harvests or gatherings. The first one being the gathering of the people of God, an event which we call the *rapture* of the church. The second harvest is of the people of the world. They will be thrown into the winepress of the Lord's wrath and drink from the cup of His anger.

The Gathering

Revelation 14:1-5

Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb had been standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, **now** having His name and the name of His Father caused to have been writing on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists **now** playing on their lyres {or harps}. And they **now** sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could be caused to learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who were caused to have been being purchased from the earth.

These **now** are the ones who have not been caused to be defiled with women, for they **now** are virgins. These **now** are the ones who are **now** accompanying the Lamb wherever He may **now** go. These were caused to have been purchased from among men as first fruit to God and to the Lamb. And no falsehood was caused to be found in their mouth; they are **now** unblemished.

The Standing Lamb

“Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb had been standing on Mount Zion...” The imagery of a Lamb is a potent picture that spans throughout the **Codex**. It is a picture connected to sacrifice and atonement, as in the Passover Lamb. Thus, in appearing as a Lamb, Jesus is reminding His people that as He suffered and gave His life a ransom for many, so too must they. They must follow in His footsteps. But instead of an offering for sin, they are a sort of first fruits offering, unto **Yahweh**.

This idea of being a living sacrifice, as in **Romans 12:1**, much less a literal sacrifice, as is the fate of the two witnesses (the 144,000), is difficult for us to accept. In our human minds and emotions, we just think of pain, discomfort, injustice, and brutality; and, understandably, we want none of it. But the Spirit wants us to embrace sacrifice as so much more; hence, the image of the Lamb who had been standing.

Though an image of sacrifice, this image of the Lamb is not one that is tied down to an altar with its life exhausted. No, this Lamb is alive, and this Lamb is **standing**. In other words, this Lamb has been victorious over death and victorious over all those who wanted to harm the Lamb.

Thus, for those who must follow in His footsteps, this image of the **Lamb Standing** provides for us a promise of victory, for if we become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.¹ And even though we must endure sacrifice, in the end, we will be those we are standing—we will be victorious over death.

The Spirit is communicating to the 144,000 (those who are now overcoming) that Jesus is only asking them to walk in the path that He chose to walk. He has been there, He too had to choose, and He knows how hard this is going to be, but He will be there with them every step of the way. Therefore, they do not have to fear those who can kill the body but are unable to kill the soul.²

Mount Zion

Where they are standing is also where they are heading—to *Mount Zion*. This is a powerful image, and though it is referenced 162 times throughout the **Codex**, this is the only time that “*Mount Zion*” is used in **Revelation**.

The concept of *Mount Zion* has its roots in physical topography, but it is primarily used throughout the **Codex** as a spiritual picture of the presence of **Yahweh** in the city of the living God, in the heavenly Jerusalem.³

As far as its physical topographical roots, King David took Jerusalem from the Jebusites by capturing the “*stronghold of Zion*,” which he renamed the “*City of David*.”⁴ Solomon then built the Temple of **Yahweh** on a hill directly north of the City of David.⁵ Henceforth, the area of the Temple along with Jerusalem at large came to be symbolically known as “*Mount Zion*.”

It is said to be the place where **Yahweh** dwells; the seat of divine worship upon the earth; as well as the place of deliverance and gathering for those coming out of the final days.⁶ **Yahweh** will fight on *Mount Zion*, and from this Mountain He will protect, deliver, pass over, and rescue Jerusalem.⁷

The Mountain that Speaks of Judgment & Doom

In the New Testament, *Mount Zion* is used symbolically and is contrasted with Mount Sinai.⁸ Mount Sinai is a symbol of the law—a mountain that could not be touched for it was shrouded in blazing fire, darkness, gloom, and a whirlwind. The words themselves which emanated from this mountain caused such great distress that those who heard the words begged that no further word be spoken to them. That is Mount Sinai, that is the law.

It is clear from that image that the law could not be followed. It is an untouchable terror. The law subjected all who heard it, much less touched it, to judgment, doom, and to death. It is said that Mount Sinai bears children that are slaves (imaged as a modern-day Jerusalem)—slaves who will have no part in

¹ **Romans 6:5-6**

² **Matthew 10:28**

³ **Hebrews 12:22**

⁴ **2 Samuel 5:6-10**

⁵ **1 Kings 8:1-6**

⁶ **Psalms 48:2; 74:2; Isaiah 8:18; 18:7; Joel 2:32; Obadiah 17, 21; Isaiah 4:2-6**

⁷ **Isaiah 31:4-5**

⁸ **Hebrews 12:18-24; Galatians 4:21-31**

the freedom that comes from Mount Zion (the heavenly Jerusalem). In fact, **they are cast out!**

The Mountain that Speaks of Hope, Victory & Safety

But the Chosen of God did not come to Mount Sinai, but to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, to the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who were caused to have been enrolling in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous caused to have been perfecting, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which now is speaking better than the blood of Abel. Hallelujah.

That is amazing. Thus, this image of the 144,000 on Mount Zion with the Lamb is a powerful symbol of liberty. In contrast to Mount Sinai, Mount Zion speaks of **hope**, it speaks of **victory**, it speaks of **safety**, it speaks of **grace** and **mercy**, it speaks of **acceptance**, it speaks of **belonging**, it speaks of **forgiveness**, it speaks of **deliverance**, it speaks of **perfection**, it speaks of spiritual **community**, it speaks of a **gathering** in the heavens, and it speaks of **Jesus**—the one in whom they find their entire hope for all things all the time.

144,000

“... and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand...” As we discovered in **Revelation 7**, the 144,000 is a symbolic number indicating the completion of the mystery of God, the joining of the Jews and Gentiles in faith. This number represents a beautiful gathering from across the globe of all those who love and worship the Lamb. It is a complete gathering of all the Called and Chosen and Faithful from amongst both Gentile and Jew.

Why 144,000?

There are so many ways the true people of God are described in **Revelation**: bondservants, 24-Elders, those who are now overcoming, the two witnesses, the priests of God who are now found worshipping in the Sanctuary, the 144,000, those clothed in white, those who choose to come out of the great tribulation, those who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, the Bride of Christ, and the Called and Chosen and Faithful.

The various ways God refers to this gathering can lead to confusion, but please understand that each reference drives home a different point which the Spirit wants to convey. Much like with the “shining one” (Lucifer) who has so many different references which are all tied to various aspects of his character and nature (and our experience of him), so too the Spirit has used various references to describe the people of God, as He highlights differing aspects of their identity and how others experience them.

In this instance, besides a calculation which derives for us the composition of this number being of both Jews and Gentiles (we covered this in **Episodes 61-63** in our study on **Revelation 7:4-17**), the number communicates that they have been measured, they have been counted, they are a part of a larger collective of believers, they have been set apart, and marked; therefore, they can now trust the Lamb with their lives. They can follow Him wherever He goes.

The Name

“... **now** having His name and the name of His Father caused to have been writing on their foreheads.” With the use of the *present active participle*, we know the 144,000 is not just describing those who will be

physically alive during the tribulation. Rather, this describes those who even **now** are “bearing” the name. The 144,000 are not those made up “*tribulation saints*” most often spoken about by those who propagate **fiction**.

The fact that “*having*” is rendered as *participle* (more of an ongoing action and not just a done deed), indicates that, unlike those priests who were not included in the final measurement of the Sanctuary, these 144,000 never stopped having His name. They never stopped believing, they never stopped overcoming.

This ongoing action is symbiotically connected to the fact that the name of Jesus and the name of the Father was “*caused to have been writing on their foreheads,*” also rendered as a *participle* (again, more of an ongoing action and not just a done deed).

Though easily missed, this describes that relationship we have talked about so many times pertaining to God’s sovereignty and man’s choice. They are intertwined realities that are forever connected.

Being rendered in the *perfect passive participle*, we know that God caused His name to **being written** (or to **have been writing**) onto their foreheads sometime in the past. The Spirit utilizes a *participle* because He wants us to focus on the fact that it was a process and not just a one-time done deal. These 144,000 had to be taught **WHY** they can now be believing and **HOW** to now be believing, such that they could exercise their right to become children of God. Thus, it was a process, the effects of which still resonate in their now.

In like manner, they are now having, and continue to now be having the name of Jesus and the name of the Father caused to being written on their foreheads. Thus, there is a symbiotic relationship between the two activities: one that started in the past and echoes or resonates to the present of those who are now and continually having the name.

Oh, by the way, the name of the Lamb, Jesus, and the name of the Father is the “***Hayah asher Hayah***” (in effect, a “***Hayah***” for each of them), which means, **I AM** that **I AM**, all of which is expressed in the name **Yahweh**—which is their memorial name which has been given to all generations.⁹

The Father and the Son are one, hence, they share the name. “*Hear oh Israel (Oh God prevails), Yahweh our Gods Yahweh one.*”¹⁰ They are our each our **I AM**, our ever-existent resource and go-to for all things all the time.

The In-Your Face Contrast

In addition, this picture is intended to stand in direct contrast to those who have now been marked on their foreheads with the mark of the Beast—those who now bear the number of his name. The marking on the forehead is a picture of ownership and identity. And clearly, as with **666**, this is a spiritual mark seen by those in the spiritual realms.

If you remember, back in **Revelation 7:3**, the four angels who were granted to harm the earth and the sea were told, “*Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we might have sealed the bondservants of our God on their foreheads.*” This is the seal; this is the mark; it is the name of Jesus and the name of

⁹ See **Exodus 3:13-15**

¹⁰ **Deuteronomy 6:4**

the Father.

And being on the **forehead**, it stands as a testimony to all those who see the mark that they choose to now be believing—now and continually. They are distinguished from all others as the true worshippers of **Yahweh**. They stand in contrast to the **Called**—those in the household of God who never let go of their slavery—their addiction to the law, and from the **Chosen** who are **NOT** now worshipping in the Sanctuary (in the “*naos*”) but are busy serving God in the Temple at large (in the “*hieron*”).

The Song

*“And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists **now** playing on their lyres {or harps}. And they **now** sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could be caused to learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who were caused to have been being purchased from the earth.”*

John heard a voice from heaven, just one voice (it is singular). But this one voice was like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The image of many waters symbolizes people from many nations gathered as one voice, in one grand expression of worship. This voice was so loud that it can only be described by the loud rumble and explosion of thunder.

Literally, the voice was like the sound of harpers (or harpists) harping on their harps (clearly plugged into a Marshal stack given the thunder like rumble).

Perhaps this takes us back to the view around the throne of the Lamb where each of the 24-Elders were given a harp.¹¹ The 24-Elders, also being a representation of the completion of the mystery of God, had sung a new song exalting the Lamb as being the only one worthy to open the 7-seals.

And now, this gathering **now** sings a **new** song, and they sing before the throne and before the Four and before the Elders.¹² This is a new song, not in terms of order or time, but in terms of its creative content. This is a song that the words of which along with its melody had never been sung before.

And no one could be caused to learn this song except for the 144,000. This phrase is rendered in the rarely used *imperfect passive indicative*. In other words, no one in the past could be taught the song or learn it. This is a song for those who will uniquely identify with **Yahweh’s** sacrifice, so much so that they are willing to follow Him wherever He goes.

Previously, in **Revelation 5:6-10**, when the 24-Elders, each with guitars in hand (ok, “harps”), first saw the image of the Lamb, as if having been caused to being slain, they also sang a “**new**” song, such that they are **now** saying,

*“Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals; for You had been slain and purchased for God with Your blood from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made us kings and priests to our God; and we will in the **future** reign upon the earth.”¹³*

¹¹ **Revelation 5:8**

¹² “sing” is rendered in the *present active indicative*

¹³ **Revelation 5:9-10**

As with our song, this too was new, not in terms of order or time, but in terms of its creative content. This is a song that the words, along with its melody, had never been sung before.

Now it is odd that unlike before, the Spirit did not give us the words of this new song; He just mentioned it. But that's ok, surely you know the words and the melody and have joined those who **now** sing this new song? If you do not know the words, well, you might be a bit concerned since only the 144,000 can learn this song. Ok, that is a joke, a bit of terrible **Revelation** humor. Ok, I get it; it was not funny. I'm sorry. Just let me be while I go sing that song. Just joking!

Dual Existence: Our Place in the Unseen Realm

As with the singing of the other song, which is also **now** happening (as it too was rendered in the *present tense*), our song is **now** sung *before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders*.

The fact that this **new** song is **now** being sung communicates that there is an aspect to our lives that is lived and expressed in the unseen realm before the presence of **Yahweh**, before the Lamb, before the Four and before those who are resting in His presence. It is so very hard for us to grasp this truth, but true believers live a *dual existence*, though they are rarely aware of this reality. The Spirit has more than once snuck this hidden truth into the text. Even the fact that we are gathered to Him on *Mount Zion* speaks of our *dual existence*.

Clearly, the Spirit does not want us to miss the importance of this reality. We tend to believe that everything about our existence is physical, tangible, emotional, and is bound to this time and space dimension. But that is simply not the case. We are spiritual beings, all of us. In fact, all of humanity is comprised of spiritual beings. Our existence on earth is more like the "*Matrix*" than we can comprehend (if you did not see that movie, you most definitely should watch it).

Consider that those who follow the Lamb wherever He goes stand with Him on *Mount Zion*, for they have come to *Mount Zion*, to the city of the living God, to the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who were caused to have been enrolling in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous caused to have been perfecting, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which now is speaking better than the blood of Abel.¹⁴

This is our reality separate from the time and space constraints of this physical realm. **Revelation 12:12** clearly stated that true believers are ***now dwelling, or encamping***, in the heavens. And this phrase is rendered in the *vocative* case, which in textual form is highlighted, italicized, underlined, and bolded. In other words, it is something which shouts at us. In the unseen realm, before the Lamb, not only do we camp or set up our tent, we **now** sing, and we **now** sing as a collective, as one voice, and it is a loud and powerful voice, backed by a melody played on our stringed instruments.

Our Song

And this **new** song is our song. In the prior "**new**" song referenced in **Revelation 5:6-10**, the Four Living Creatures seemed to join the 24-Elders in singing, but this song is reserved exclusively for the 144,000—those who have been counted, measured, and set apart as **Yahweh's** own possession. Only they can be caused to learn this song.

¹⁴ See **Hebrews 12:22-24**

Purchased

“... the one hundred and forty-four thousand who were caused to have been being **purchased** from the earth.” The Greek word translated as “purchased” is “*agora*,” which literally is a marketplace or shopping center. From the great shopping mall of humanity, the “144,000” were being purchased. Some of your translations might say that they were “redeemed,” but that is a different Greek word, a sort of strengthened form of the word “*agora*.” Thus, we are **NOT** to over spiritualize what is being said.

The “144,000” were caused to have been being purchased from the store of the earth. This phrase is rendered the *perfect passive participle*. Meaning it was a transaction that occurred in the past, the evidence of which resonates even today (the *perfect* tense); they were purchased by God (the *passive* voice), and it was a process, as they were “*being*” purchased—it was not just a one and done transaction (the *participle*). The idea is that it took a lot of negotiation and dealing, and time, to complete the purchase transaction.

From the Earth

“... the one hundred and forty-four thousand who were caused to have been being purchased **from the earth**.” It is vital that the people of God understand and accept that though they are a part of this earth, they **DO NOT BELONG** to this earth; they are aliens and strangers.¹⁵ Those who now and continually choose to make their permanent abode in this earth, desperately look to this world to find their identity, purpose, and meaning for life. They look to all that is dead and dying—all that is passing away—and therefore can never find that for which they are looking. It is as if they are forever chasing an apparition that disappears right when they think they could grasp it.

In contrast, the **Called and Chosen and Faithful** people of God are to live like Abraham and Sarah—as aliens in a foreign land sent on assignment by the Lord.¹⁶ As the Spirit said, we are *Ambassadors*, sent from our true home in the heavenlies to this world, to represent our King, as though our King was making an appeal through us.¹⁷ We are to therefore realize and be convinced of the truth that all that this world has to offer is temporary and will not satisfy. It will not meet our needs and it will only lead us into darkness and despair.

You might be thinking, “OK, that sounds nice and religious, but what does it really look like to not just be, but to live as an alien and stranger in this world?”

Their Identity

Revelation 14:4-5

These **now** are the ones who have not been caused to be defiled with women, for they **now** are virgins. These **now** are the ones who are **now** accompanying the Lamb wherever He may **now** go. These were caused to have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. And no

¹⁵ **1 Peter 1:1, 2:11**

¹⁶ **Hebrews 11:9**

¹⁷ **2 Corinthians 5:20**

falsehood was caused to be found in their mouth; they are **now** unblemished.

They are Virgins

*“These **now** are the ones who have not been caused to be defiled with women, for they **now** are virgins.”*¹⁸

With the use of the *present* tense, this speaks of what is, not what will be. And let us be clear, this is not a statement on their sexual history. This is **Code**, and it addresses their spiritual history. The **Codex** is replete with the use of sexuality as an idiom for idolatry, false worship, and religious indulgence. From the time God chose Israel out of the nations, He has communicated that they are not to play the harlot with the gods of the land.

Exodus 34:14-17

... for you shall not worship any other god, for **Yahweh**, whose name is Jealous (“**Qanna**”), is a jealous God — otherwise you might make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land and they would play the **harlot** with their gods and sacrifice to their gods, and someone might invite you to eat of his sacrifice, and you might take some of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters might play the **harlot** with their gods and cause your sons also to play the **harlot** with their gods. You shall make for yourself no molten gods.

This image of the immoral woman, the harlot, contrasted with the virgin is used throughout the **Codex** to refer to the way that Israel prostituted herself with other gods and did not remain faithful to her vows and did not wait for her true husband.¹⁹

Jeremiah 18:13-16

Therefore, thus says **Yahweh**, 'Ask now among the nations, who ever heard the like of this? The **virgin** of Israel has done a most appalling thing.' Does the snow of Lebanon forsake the rock of the open country? Or is the cold flowing water from a foreign land ever snatched away? 'For My people have forgotten Me, **they burn incense to worthless gods**, and they have stumbled from their ways, from the ancient paths, to walk in bypaths, not on a highway, to make their land a desolation, an object of perpetual hissing ...

Playing the harlot with foreign Gods was and is a very personal thing to God.

¹⁸ “are the ones” is rendered in the *present active indicative*; “defiled” is rendered in the *aorist passive indicative*; “are virgins” is rendered in the *present active indicative*

¹⁹ **2 Kings 19:21; Jeremiah 31:4, 21, Lamentations 2:13**

Ezekiel 6:3-10

Thus says **Yahweh Adonai** (the Lord God) to the mountains, the hills, the ravines, and the valleys: "Behold, I Myself am going to bring a sword on you, and I will destroy your high places. So, your altars will become desolate, and your incense altars will be smashed; and I will make your slain fall in front of your **idols**. I will also lay the dead bodies of the sons of Israel in front of their **idols**; and I will scatter your bones around your altars. In all your dwellings, cities will become waste and the high places will be desolate, that your altars may become waste and desolate, your **idols** may be broken and brought to an end, your incense altars may be cut down, and your works may be blotted out. The slain will fall among you, and you will know that I am **Yahweh**.

However, I will leave a remnant, for you will have those who escaped the sword among the nations when you are scattered among the countries. Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations to which they will be carried captive, **how I have been hurt by their adulterous hearts which turned away from Me, and by their eyes which played the harlot after their idols**; and they will loathe themselves in their own sight for the evils which they have committed, for all their abominations. Then they will know that I am **Yahweh**; I have not said in vain that I would inflict this disaster on them."

Leviticus 20:2-6

Any man from the sons of Israel or from the aliens sojourning in Israel who gives any of his offspring to Molech, shall surely be put to death; the people of the land shall stone him with stones. 'I will also set My face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given some of his offspring to Molech, so as to defile My sanctuary and to profane My holy name. 'If the people of the land, however, should ever disregard that man when he gives any of his offspring to Molech, so as not to put him to death, then I Myself will set My face against that man and against his family, and I will cut off from among their people both him and all those who **play the harlot after him, by playing the harlot after Molech**.

'As for the person who turns to mediums and to spiritists, to play the harlot after them, I will also set My face against that person and will cut him off from among his people.

Jeremiah 2:20-23

For long ago I broke your yoke and tore off your bonds; but you said, 'I will not serve!' For on every high hill and under every green tree **you have lain down as a harlot**. Yet I planted you a choice vine, a completely faithful seed. How then have you turned yourself before Me into the degenerate shoots of a foreign vine? Although you wash yourself with lye and use much soap, the stain of your iniquity is before Me," declares **Yahweh** God. "How can you say, 'I am not defiled, I have not gone after the Baals'? Look at your way in the valley! Know what you have done! You are a swift young camel entangling her ways,

Jeremiah 3:6-10

Then **Yahweh** said to me in the days of Josiah the king, "Have you seen what faithless Israel did? She went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and she was a **harlot** there. I thought, 'After she has done all these things, she will return to Me'; but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it. And I saw that for all the **adulteries** of faithless Israel, I had sent her away and given her a writ of divorce, yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear; but she went and was a **harlot** also. Because of the lightness of her **harlotry**, she polluted the land and committed **adultery** with stones and trees. Yet in spite of all this her treacherous sister Judah did not return to Me with all her heart, but rather in deception," declares **Yahweh**.

In the book of **Proverbs**, the Spirit contrasts two women. One is imaged as a harlot, an immoral woman, and the other is imaged as wisdom. They both go out into the streets and call out to the inhabitants of the earth. Wisdom calls, but so few turn to her; most turn to the harlot and indulge in her pleasures. Entering her house leads to death; it is the road to hell. The man who visits her is doomed. He will never reach the paths of life. The wise man is emphatically told to run from her—to not even go near the door of her house!

She is described as the brash rebellious type who is often seen in the streets and markets, soliciting at every corner. A fool is enticed by her seductions and wiles. This same fool is pictured as a bird flying into a snare not knowing that it would cost him his life.²⁰

Hence, this image of virginity is about a person being set apart in their soul for **Yahweh** and **Yahweh** alone. We are to metaphorically wait for our marriage to the Son of God and not play the harlot with any other spiritual influence or so-called god. We are not to join ourselves in any other form of worship to any other so-called God.

This same type of imagery is used for a believer in Jesus who chooses intimacy (sexuality) with the world and intimacy (sexuality) with the religion of Christianity and its love for the law.

James 4:4-5

You **adulteresses**, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

2 Corinthians 11:2-4

I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a **pure virgin** to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims **another Jesus** than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

²⁰ See **Proverbs 1,2,5,7**

The corrupting spiritual influence which dominates the religion of Christianity, as well as the religions of the world, is imaged as a woman, a great harlot, who sits on many waters. She is found riding on the back of the Beast. She is a seductress, a mystery. She is Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth, the *Great City* of religious apostasy that reigns over the kings of the earth (the spiritual rulers who are the powers behind their earthly counterparts).²¹

Rejected the Harlot

The 144,000 remain true to their lover Jesus Christ and love Him with their heart, mind, soul, and strength. They have not retreated to the harlot, no matter how difficult their lives have been. In other words, they have rejected the law, they have rejected shame, they have rejected the idea that they can do anything for God, they have rejected the idea that they can be good for God, they have rejected the thousands of Jesus which the religion has proffered, and they have rejected the idolatry of the world or the so called “gods” that rule the land.

Instead, they have stood and they **now** stand only on the grace of God dependent upon **Yahweh** for all things all the time. That is what it means to be a virgin.

Not Defiled

“*These now are the ones who have not been caused to be defiled with women, for they now are virgins.*” It is important to note that “*defiled*” is rendered in the *passive* voice. Thus, if we present ourselves to another religion, another god, a different Jesus, a different gospel, to the law even, we will be defiled. This is like what happens if we present ourselves to the world, it will conform us into its image.²² It is what it does, and there is no way out of this reality.

The real threat, however, is not found in Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, or some other obviously idolatrous system of belief, but in the **religion of Christianity** and its love for legalism, for right and wrong, for goodness, and for trying very, very hard to do it right for God and not do it wrong, where one’s aim in life is to not sin, or at least not to be caught in sin, but to be a good Christian for God and for others—to be a good witness to the world.

In this regard, the religion of Christianity provides a level of “*sexual indulgence*” (metaphorically speaking) that is rampant and out of control. It seduces everyone who has not actually entered into the believer’s Sabbath rest with the sensuality of the **work of their hands**, all that they do for God.

The consequences of this religious philosophy have put many into prisons of performance, anxiety, failure, and shame, from which few break out. The seduction tied to this form of sexuality works slowly at first enticing its adherents with a promise of personal goodness, honor, and blessing, but once it has a person’s attention, it moves quickly and effectively! Consequently, there is not a single part of their life that is not controlled by this mindset resulting in all sorts of perverse “*sexual*” behavior. This even invades the normal “Christian” activities of reading the Bible, praying and so on. It is all one big mind-job wrapped up in trying to be good for God, trying to be blessed by God, and trying in one-way-shape-or form to

²¹ **Revelation 17:1-7, 15-18**

²² **Romans 12:1-2**, “conformed” and “transformed” are both rendered in the *present passive imperative*

control the outcomes of our lives.

ONCE AGAIN, JUDE AND REVELATION TARGETS THOSE WITHIN THE VISIBLE CHURCH WITH A MESSAGE WHICH SEPARATES THOSE WHO STAND ONLY ON THE GOODNESS OF GOD FROM THOSE WHO ARE TRYING VERY HARD TO BE GOOD FOR GOD.

When a person has played the **harlot** with the religion of Christianity, worshiping on this hill or under that green tree, it literally takes a miracle to free them and completely cleanse them of their **adulteries**. But their cleansing starts with knowing the truth that **Only God Is Good**; we are not. Therefore, He must possess us and live through us for our lives to display any true goodness (anything that matters to Him). Everything else is inadequate, no matter how religious and “good” it seems or how well intentioned we may be.

Virgins let Jesus do His work in-and-through their lives and, in that regard, they do only what the Father tells them to do, saying only what the Father tells them to say, and going only where the Father tells them to go, when He tells them to.²³ As a result, **true Christianity is all about the source: THE SOURCE MATTERS, THE SOURCE IS EVERYTHING!** If the well is pure then the water will be pure, but if the well is poisoned, even that nice, cool, refreshing water will eventually kill us, it is just a matter of time.

The good news is that our virginity can be restored! There is a beautiful passage in the **Codex** which speaks of the judgment that God will bring on His children. To those who survive this sword of judgment and find grace and rest in the wilderness, He once again refers to them as virgins.²⁴ But it takes judgment.

Therefore, those who want to be free from the harlotry of religion, those who are **willing**, God will send them to the desert (to the wilderness) for the purpose of cleansing them of the sexual idolatry, their legalism, and to teach them how to be pure and undefiled followers of Jesus depending only upon **Yahweh Tsidkenu** (the Lord our Righteousness), thereby, rejecting any attempt to be righteous without Him.

It is in the desert that a person finds and comes to understand the truth about grace. It is where they learn that they must be 100% dependent (now believing) upon all that God provides, as He is the source—our only source. And while no discipline is enjoyable while it is happening, afterward there will be a quiet harvest of right living and peace for those who are trained in this way, and they will share in His holiness and be pure as a virgin.²⁵

The True Threat of Defilement

Just a little side note. Hopefully by now it has sunk in that this book of **Revelation** is written to those in the household of God. As it says in the very first line, “*The Revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave Him to show His bondservants...*” Thus, all the **WARNINGS** herein are directed at those in the household

²³ See **Hebrews 3-4**

²⁴ **Jeremiah 30-31, See 31:4**

²⁵ **Hebrews 12:4-13**

of God, and not to the pagan or the heathen.

That is why the real threat to our lives and to the world is not found in Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, or some other obviously idolatrous system of belief, but in the **religion of Christianity** and its love for legalism, for right and wrong, for goodness, and for trying very, very hard to do it right for God and not do it wrong, where one's aim in life is to not sin, or at least not to be caught in sin, but to be a good Christian for God and for others—to be a good witness to the world.

It is crazy to say it out loud, much less think it, but yes, the religion of Christianity is the greatest of all threats to our spiritual lives. This is why God gave this **Revelation** to the Son. He wants us to know what it means to have our identity found only in Him, and what it means to be virgins, to be undefiled, and to accompany the Lamb wherever He goes. These are the marks, or the indices of the “144,000.”

Let's stop here, and we will pick up in our next podcast and continue with **Revelation 14:4**.

I am glad you “tuned in” and have been “ready to listen.”