

Revelation 14:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Analysis

And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.... This verse from Revelation's vision of lamb and 144,000 - redeemed firstfruits, three angels' messages, harvest judgment employs apocalyptic imagery rich with Old Testament allusions and symbolic meaning. The Greek text uses vivid apocalyptic language characteristic of Jewish prophetic literature, drawing heavily from Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Zechariah.

The symbolism must be interpreted within its first-century context while recognizing timeless spiritual realities. The imagery would resonate powerfully with persecuted believers facing Roman imperial cult worship, providing hope that despite present suffering, Christ reigns sovereign and will consummate His kingdom. The apocalyptic genre uses symbolic numbers (seven, twelve, 144,000), colors, beasts, and cosmic imagery to convey theological truth rather than photographic descriptions.

Christologically, Revelation consistently exalts Jesus as the victorious Lamb, the faithful witness, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Every vision ultimately points to Christ's supremacy, His finished redemptive work, and His certain return to judge the living and dead and establish the new creation.

Historical Context

John received this revelation circa AD 95 during Domitian's persecution, exiled on Patmos for his testimony. The seven churches of Asia Minor faced increasing pressure to participate in emperor worship and pagan religious practices. Refusal meant economic hardship, social ostracism, and potential martyrdom. Understanding this context illuminates Revelation's encouragement to faithful endurance.

The apocalyptic genre was familiar to first-century Jewish and Christian readers. Rather than newspaper-style predictions, apocalyptic literature uses symbolic imagery to reveal spiritual realities behind earthly events, encourage the faithful, warn the unfaithful, and assert God's ultimate sovereignty over history. Parallels with Daniel, Ezekiel, and intertestamental apocalyptic writings would help original readers decode the symbols.

Rome's imperial cult demanded worship of Caesar as divine, placing Christians in impossible situations—compromise their faith or face persecution. Revelation identifies Rome as "Babylon" and assures believers that despite appearances, the Lamb conquered through His death and resurrection, and all earthly kingdoms will submit to His reign.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Revelation 14:1 reveal God's character, particularly His sovereignty, holiness, and justice?
2. What specific encouragement or warning does this verse offer for maintaining faithful Christian witness amid cultural pressure?

3. How does this passage point to Christ's victory and the hope of new creation, and how should that shape your present priorities?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εἶδον	καὶ	ἰδού,	ἀρνίον	ἐστηκὸς	ἐπὶ	τὸ	ὄρος
And	I looked	And	lo	a Lamb	stood	in	G3588	the mount
G2532	G1492	G2532	G2400	G721	G2476	G1909		G3735
Σιών	καὶ	μετ'	αὐτῶν	έκατὸν	τεσσαράκοντα	τέσσαρες		
Sion	And	with	him	an hundred	forty	and four		
G4622	G2532	G3326	G846	G1540	G5062	G5064		
χιλιάδες	ἔχουσαι	τὸ	ὄνομα	τοῦ	πατρὸς	αὐτῶν		
thousand	having	G3588	name	G3588	Father's	him		
G5505	G2192		G3686		G3962	G846		
γεγραμμένον	ἐπὶ	τῶν	μετώπων	αὐτῶν				
written	in	G3588	foreheads	him				
G1125	G1909		G3359	G846				

Additional Cross-References

Joel 2:32 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

Revelation 3:12 (Parallel theme): Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Luke 12:8 (Parallel theme): Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:

Micah 4:7 (Parallel theme): And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.

Psalms 2:6 (Parallel theme): Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

Romans 9:33 (Parallel theme): As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Revelation 14:14 (Parallel theme): And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

Revelation 15:5 (Parallel theme): And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

Isaiah 49:14 (Parallel theme): But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me.