

**The 144,000 Lambs
On
Mount Sion**

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Chapter 1

Introduction

How well and how accurately we are able to run the spiritual race that is set before us will greatly depend on our correct apprehension of God's mind through the written scriptures. The greatest barrier to the church is her limited entrance into prophetic scriptures. This limitation is partly due to the secretarian and the ecclesiastical approach of God's people to spiritual matters.

A great many of the Lord's people are a lot in a hurry and such attitudinal approach can only succeed to receive but a little light of understanding. Greater penetration into prophetic subjects requires more patience in the place of prayers and sometimes even fasting to seek the face of God. Daniel did this for effective intercession for the release of his people from captivity.

One set-back in the church in the present day and hour is the misplacement of value with respect to many minds that are exercised along the lines of commercial gains through the gospel of Christ. In any case, when the time is rife for an aspect of God's programme for His people or for the world, He begins to stir the hearts of some to be so disposed as to qualify to be some among the stewards of His

mysteries. This He does often and again. This is not necessarily because such ones are qualified by merit but simply because they have found favour with God as vessels that are a voice of witness for their time.

The 144,000 Lambs is a two part serial, which featured first as articles in the pages of the print media that were published once every Sunday under a religion page.


Having thus judged under God, and considering the encouraging requests to transliterate the articles into French and circulate the same among the Francophone countries of the West African Sub-region along with other similar requests, it seems approved of God that this and other serialised articles be made into Book forms for the benefit of the greater majority of God's people. It is this conviction that has been translated into the evidence of which you are among the readership.

The 144,000 Lambs that is based on one of the widely misunderstood subjects of the **Book of Revelation** has been explained in as simple form as a prophetic thought can be. Since prophetic revelations are coded in spiritual language, to understand such subjects require not as much of our carnal knowledge and experience as much as we need to depend on the Spirit of God Himself to interpret to us the mind of Christ. Our ability to understand this book is able to

provoke our interests to seek to understand other similar prophetic subjects in the book of Revelation. If this is so, one aim of the book will then have been achieved.

Chapter 2

THE BOOK OF SYMBOLS

 Our Text for consideration is taken from Rev. 14 vs. 1-5. The picture painted in this text is that of a Lamb that stood on the Mount Sion and standing with him are other one hundred and forty and four thousand lambs.

"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". Rev.14: 1

The Bible in general is a prophetic book and the Book of Revelations is a Book of signs and symbols. The signs and symbols are adopted in order to help our understanding by using things we can see and understand to explain to us the mind of God for us. This is but one among other reasons.

We can highlight on the word-symbols in vs. 1. The first is the Lamb. From the Book of Genesis to Revelation, the Lamb has almost always symbolized the Lord Jesus Christ. Even when we read of the beast that comes out of the earth and having two horns like a Lamb, the picture painted is that of imitation of Christ. When the Scriptures chose the '**Lamb**' as a symbol for Christ, it is because there are certain

characteristics, which are predominant in the natural lamb to which we can relate and to which the Holy Spirit is drawing our attention. When our attention is so drawn, it is that the mind of God for us may be revealed.

The natural lamb is a symbol of meekness, humility, innocence, submission, obedience and willingness to be offered for a sacrifice. Prophet Isaiah said,

" ... he is brought as a Lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth". Is 53 vs. 7

"...made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of man: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross". Phil. 2 vs. 7-8

In prophetic symbols, two things are to be noted in Christ being set forth in picture as a Lamb. One, it reveals Gods desire and expectation of what He wants us to become and two; what God has ordained or prepared for some to become. By this it is evident that God can see ahead that there will be men and women who will lay hold on the redemptive provision and turn this into advantage of becoming what Christ is - the Lamb of God. **"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no**

sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously ... " (I Pet. 2 vs. 21-23). Several Scriptures like this endeavour for us to be like him, to imitate him, to be fashioned like him and to become his image and his likeness.

With the principal lamb are 144,000 other lambs. If the Lamb is a symbol, then the number 144,000' is also a symbol. The number has nothing to do with exact natural value conveyed by 144,000. Rather, it is in prophetic symbolism just as the Lamb speaks of Christ in prophetic symbolism. In Rev. 1: 1, John wrote, "*the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his Servants of things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and SIGNIFIED it by his angel unto his servant John*". Note the word "*Signified*". The Book of Revelation is a book of signs. Said differently, the Book of Revelation is a book of symbols. Remember . that John said, "*I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet*"; (Rev. 1 vs. 10). The things penned down in the Book of Revelation were things that John saw in the spirit. He also heard a voice, which was like a trumpet. Not a trumpet but it was like a trumpet. If we understand that the Book of Revelation is a Book of signs then it will be easy for us to understand the prophetic treasures that lay hidden for us in those symbols.

"And with an hundred forty and four thousand..."

The number 144,000 speaks of an identity or mark. You can call it a codification or a prophetic symbol or a spiritual name to represent men and women who are to be seen as having risen in the maturity of Christ having his mind and having the Father's name written upon their minds (foreheads). The father's name expresses the father's character, will, nature, purpose, righteousness and authority. Those who have the Father's name are to be seen as Christians who have come to adopt the nature of God in their minds and thoughts and are having the mind of Christ and the Father's authority. The minds of many Christians are beclouded by countless number of images of things: personal ambitions and goals, emotions, passions and desires, all which do not promote God's primary interests or purposes. This is part of what the Bible calls the image of the beast or the mind of antichrist. However, the **'144,000'** are signalled to represent those Christians who will have learnt to forsake their personal goals and ambitions to God's purposes of eternal value. They no longer allow their personal aspirations override God's primary purposes. Many times our priorities however spiritual they appear are at cross - purposes with God's. It is not because they are not spiritual but being spiritual, they are nothing but dead works. Spiritually speaking dead works fall under God's programme, which has become de-

emphasized by the Holy Spirit. It will be understood that God has a programme, which is revealed, to His Church in dispensations. For instance, God has a programme for Israel and for the other nations of the world. In a particular dispensation of the move of His Spirit, the emphasis was the message of salvation to Israel but in another season that emphasis shifted to the gentiles. Although the works of salvation for Israel did not cease completely, it was evident that the emphasis has changed. This is similar to the move of the Holy Spirit in Evangelical power and then the Pentecostal. So from time to time, God has his emphasis for the Church through the workings of His Spirit. It is the responsibility of His people from age to age to recognize when emphasis has shifted and identify with the burden of His heart for a particular dispensation. God's people have always have problem in this area. Two striking examples are the messages of circumcision and the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. Just like the Christian Jews fought against the new dispensation that our circumcision was now a spiritual one so also did the Church greatly resist the belief in the Holy Spirit Baptism in Pentecostal powers for a long time. All these are to manifest the myopic way in which the visible Church has always discerned spiritual changes. With patient study in the Book of Rev. 14 it will be clear that God is saying something to the Church. The mind of God is contained in this Scripture both for the place of God's intention for his people as well as the prophetic signal

for the timing of this event. When in vs. 2 of Rev. 14, a voice was reportedly heard from heaven; it is to signify that a spiritual message is involved; the message so signalled requires the attention of God's people. "***I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps***", (Rev. 14 vs. 2). It is in order if we picture this passage, as some singing Choir in heaven, although for the enlightened mind, such prophetic description goes beyond God trying to fascinate his people with issues only to arouse their emotional and sentimental awareness. A voice from heaven definitely relates to a message to be embraced by a spiritual people, a prophetic generation of saints. This voice was said to be a voice of many waters. Rev. 17 vs. 15 says, "***the waters ... are peoples ...***". We are to understand that in a particular phase of God's work, there is a message; a prophetic direction to be taken by the Church and with this direction many will be identified. That the message is a prophetic one is confirmed by "***harpers harping with their harps***". The message only relates to God's burden of the hour thus signified. In every age, God's message has always come to the Church by prophetic insight.

Talk of the message of "***the just shall live by faith***" by Martin Luther or the message of holiness Championed by Wesley or the latter rain revival of the nineteenth century. First, men whose lives have been

consecrated to God's purposes with prophetic burden begin to sound the trumpet of God's purposes for the hour they represent. At first the Church resists for sometime but because the message has been anointed by the Lord for that particular hour, the worst antagonists begin to receive grace to understand the message and in several cases, partake of the spiritual benefits which go along with the particular message. This was particularly so when there was the revival of the Holy Spirit with the great miracles which attended this in the early nineteenth century and much later in the last 50 years.

Usually the harpers are prophetic vessels in the Church. They enter into God's mind with the prophetic binoculars and relay to the Church what the mind of God is for their time. We are informed in vs. 3 of Rev. 14 that, "***they sung as it were a new song before the throne ...***". The indication of a new song suggests a change of message of God to the Church at the time that John's prophecy is signifying. The song is being sung before the throne. It is a message from God's mind. The Church may resist it but it is a new song - it will take a new direction and it is to be born by a new wave or move of the Spirit.

"...no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth". Rev 14:3.

Certain characteristics will run through those whose minds will be united in one in the matter of the burden of the Lord's mind at the time signified by the prophecy of John - the time of the End. "**Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision**", (Dan. 8 vs. 17). The End time Church is to be most prophetic of all the ages of the past. The revival of the Holy Spirit to round up this age is to be of the sort that will cause tremendous prophetic understanding to alight upon the Church. Except this is so, the Church in this end time cannot be empowered to enter into God's divine purposes for her. Admittedly, the message of the Church for decades now has dwelt on Salvation, Holy Spirit Baptism, faith as emphasized through healings, deliverances and miracles and more lately material and financial prosperity. As good and as sound as these teachings are, God has to move the Church beyond all these in order to usher us into the next age. The Church ought to be ready and be prepared else the story of the ten virgins (Matt. 25) will find expression in the ignorant and the spiritual sluggard. "**Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: how long will thou sleep, O sluggard? When will thou arise out of thy sleep**" (Pro. 6 vs. 6, 9). The new song is to usher the Church unto perfection, (Heb. 6 vs. 1-3).

Chapter 3

The 144,000 Lambs

The Prophecy of John about the 144,000 Lambs on mount Sion is the revelation of God concerning the Lord's overcomers. That these Lambs are seen on Mount Sion is to identify them with a walk of overcomership. They have lived an overcoming life. They have demonstrated the victory of the Lamb and his blood over the world and over the devil. Their moral and spiritual lives are symbols of victory and triumph. They have the Father's mind; their thoughts are processed by the Holy Spirit. They submit to God in their minds. The sin nature in their body cells has been re-structured. Their minds have been recovered and their mind-set re-trained. The Lamb overcame and so they overcome as they identify with him. These Lambs plant their steps in His steps so that they can be fashioned like unto him. They have running qualifications for our encouragement. The spiritual qualifications of the Lambs are written for us in Rev. 14 vs.4-5.

"These are they, which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God".

They are "***not defiled with women***".

In line with prophetic Scriptures, '**women**' in this context are to be understood to mean Christians as individuals or as spiritual expressions, who are married to several other personal concerns. They must have lost their pure holy zeal. They are no longer virgins. They signify unfaithful Christians whose love for a unique goal has waned, whose vision for overcomership has become clouded and whose first love has become lukewarm. Women have husbands just as Christians so symbolised are into covenant relationships and under allegiance to other matters apart from their vows to God. This has nothing to do with physical women in marital relationships with physical husbands. A Christian who is physically married may remain faithful to his or her consecration vows to God whereas physically unmarried persons may have their hearts occupied by so many distractions as to render their love for God of no consequence. Christians who are referred to as women symbolically, are not necessarily so referred due to their natural gender; rather the Bible refers to such Christians as women because they have their own plans, goals and ambitions whereas God wants men and women who have no plans for themselves. God wants Christians who have singleness of eyes and singleness of purpose. The 144,000 Lambs or the overcomer company will not allow anything or

anyone whose purposes are at cross paths with God's purposes defile their pure minds. Today, several among God's people are spiritually married in the sense that their hearts are divided and distracted. They are women in this context. Their hearts are engrossed by several things. They have several personal goals and ambitions other than God's. Once you have your personal ambition, God's goal and purpose may never find full expression in your life; if it does it may be perverted. God wants men and women who will not mingle with the affairs of this world. Paul said, "***no man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully***" (II Tim. 2 vs. 4-5).

The 144000 Lambs "***are virgins***". To be a virgin is to live a life of total consecration to God with all purity. It implies that we have all our affections set on God. A spiritual virgin has nothing to occupy his or her heart, attention or affection; all his or her desire and goal is to please God. Several among God's people have their personal motives; self-will and set goals but the virgins have reserved all their love for God. They are chaste. They are pure in heart and in motives. The overcomers or the Lamb Company follow the Lamb "***whithersoever he goeth.***" This simply reveals the hearts of the overcomer company. They are sensitive

enough to discern the movements of the Lamb. They are always willing to do his will. They will not go except the Lamb goes. They do nothing except as they follow the Lamb's example. They simply follow the footsteps of the Lamb. When the Lamb carries his cross they also carry their own cross. If the Lamb dies to the world, they also die to the world. If the Lamb has nowhere to lay his head, they will similarly have nowhere to lay their heads. When the Lamb's pillow is a stone like Jacob's, they also have stones for their pillows. When the Lamb is hungry, they are also hungry. Their life is not different from the Lamb's. If the world hates the Lamb, the world will also hate them. If the Lamb hates the world, they also hate the world and all its allurements. They simply follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. It is a walk of total consecration to God in word and indeed. Jesus himself said, "***verily, verily, I say unto you, the son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the son likewise***". (John 5 vs. 19).

The Lamb Company are "***redeemed from among men***". The 144,000 lambs on Mount Sion are humans, irrespective of race, colour, nation or age. They are men - all sons of Adam before becoming the sons of God. Gender does not pose a limiting factor. Being one of the "**144,000**" is not exclusive to a particular nation, tribe, tongue or even gender. They are redeemed from among men. They are not angels.

They are not spirit beings. They are not qualified because they belong to a denominational movement. They are just a redeemed people. The primary qualification is that they have come to terms with God's redemptive provision. They are the evidence of the full redemptive price that was paid by the Lamb of God, which stood upon mount Sion. Their trademark is obedient walk. They discern God's will and submit to it. They just want to please him who died for them. They have denied themselves of every burden, which is not in harmony with God's primary concern. They are not distracted. They do not take their eyes from Him. They do not play with their consecration. They are **"the firstfruits unto God and unto the Lamb"**. The men and women are the **"first"** among the sons and daughters of Adam in whom God is able to realise the full benefits of the work of redemption. They are become full grown and fully developed express image of his person. They are first to become his true likeness. They are first to have attained the full stature of Christ in all his redemptive glory. They are indeed the first fruits unto God and unto the Lamb.

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming" (1 Cor. 15 vs. 22-23).

"Of his will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures" (James 1 vs. 18).

"Be patient therefore brethren unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain".
(James 5 vs. 7).

Our yieldedness to the Spirit of God varies in degrees, from one person to another. Yet if we must express him, if we must express his image, if we must be like him, it behoves us to submit to the on going process of the active work of the Holy Spirit in us the purpose of which is to produce in us the perfect new creation man. ***"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure"***. (Phil. 2 vs. 13). There is an active working by the Holy Spirit in us in order to produce a new creation man who is fashioned after the image of Christ!

"They are without fault before the throne of God" .

This simply speaks of the Church of perfection. The church without spot nor wrinkle. A people who have allowed God full access into their lives so as to accomplish his full purpose in them. The Bible speaks of Jesus as being ***"the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person"*** (Heb. 1 vs. 3).

This is the exact purpose, which God is to realise in us. We must however be able to purge ourselves of all allegiance to our several ***"husbands"***. Remember the

woman of Samaria who Jesus met by the well. At the instance when Jesus met her, she was confronted with 'the truth. She has had five husbands. Five is quite significant. Five is the number of ministry. The Bible speaks about five-fold ministry gifts of the apostle, the prophet, the evangelist, the shepherd and the teacher. Five also points to grace. Salvation comes by grace. This woman accosted by Jesus, was standing in prophecy to typify the Church of Christ. On one hand this woman in relation to her five husbands expresses the unfaithfulness and inconsistency of the Church in relationship with God who is her "**Ishi**". In Ez. 16 vs. 32, God accused his people, the natural Israel, of being "a wife that committed adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband". "**As is the mother so is her daughter. Thou art thy mother's daughter, that lotheth her husband 'and her Children ...** " (Ez. 16 vs. 44-45).

"And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, that thou shalt call me Ishi; and shall call me no more Baali" (Hos. 2 vs. 17). All these express unfaithfulness in spiritual relationship, unfaithfulness in matters relating to God.

Just as the Church in her corporateness can stand in unfaithfulness so can individual Christians stand in unfaithfulness. When we look up to men as shields or as coverings we have found expression in another husband. Anything, which takes the place of Christ in

our lives, however beautiful, has become our husband. Our ministers are God's instruments to bring us into perfection. They are neither to stand in the place of God in our lives. They are to show us the way and point us to God but not otherwise. Theirs is supposed to be the ministry of Eunuchs. They are custodians for their master. They should have no power to touch their master's wife even though they wait on and take care of their master's wife. We are not to worship men. We are not to idolize men.

Even when Paul said, "***we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and over you in the Lord and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake ...***" (1 Thes. 5 vs. 12) and "***let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in word and doctrine***" (1Tim. 5 vs. 17), yet we are not to see men as idols or objects of worship. It will be surprising that the messenger who showed and signified to John the Book of Revelation had a standing so imposing and so compelling that John fell at his feet to worship him.

"And he said unto me, see thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God" (Rev. 19 vs.10; 22 vs. 9).

The first commandment is, "***thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them, for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God....***" Ex.20 vs. 3-5.

God does not accept any position that places any man above him. We are not to make graven images of men however spiritual or else we can lose our place in the company of the overcomers. The overcomers are virgins, They have not defiled themselves with women that is, they do not company with unfaithfulness. They follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth; when the Lamb is going in a different direction from my spiritual mentor's, I will rather follow the Lamb.

"That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death" (Phil. 3 vs. 10).

Chapter 4

Like Him

A greater majority in the church has devoted much attention to the secular benefits derivable in the secretarian and the ecclesiastical order that emerges in the absence of a right spiritual environment for the Spirit's enlightenment of God's plans and purposes.

Subsequently, tendency has been to misread God's mind and intention for prophetic subjects both in the style adopted to pass a message across and in the prophetic content itself. If we fall into this school, we will likely not appreciate the intention of this Book, the reading of which we are about to complete. If this is so we will possibly fling it into one corner of our shelf, as one of such books we ever came across.

The entire Christian race for an individual can turn out to be a tale that is told if he misses God's purpose of having saved and called him. Ultimately, those among God's people who will not have made a waste of their sojourn in this waste land are those who will have become like Him: His meekness, humbleness of mind, his harmlessness and His willingness to die for His worst enemy. Not only that, but His nature and character must be rightly imparted into them so they can become God's ensigns and

beacons - God's overcomers, the 144,000 Lambs who have so become because they have diligently followed the pattern Lamb - the only begotten of the Father, Jesus Christ the Lord, Amen.

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