



Today's Message

Date: April 13, 2014
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *The New Song*

Text: Revelation 14:1–5 (ESV)

¹ Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³ and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴ It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵ and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

Introduction: Revelation 12 began an interlude in the narrative of John's vision. This interlude gives an overview of Satan's rage directed against Israel during the Great Tribulation. Chapter 14 concludes the interlude with a preview of the final outcome. Verses 1-5 envision the 144,000 servants of God (cf. Rev. 7:3-8), risen and standing in Zion (Jerusalem) with the Lamb. An angelic choir sings of their redemption. The passage concludes with a description of their noble character. From this vision we learn that:

Today's take-home truth: God keeps his own.

I. God will fulfill all of his promises . . . 1

A. His Christ will rule from Zion.

B. He will lose none of *his own*.

II. For the sake of his glory . . . 2-3

A. His mighty deeds evoke worship in song . . .

B. that only *his own* can fully understand.

III. And the good of his people. 4-5

A. God redeems a people for *his own*.

B. Those who belong to him bear distinguishing marks:

1. Sexual purity
2. Dedicated obedience
3. Faithful testimony
4. Moral holiness