

³ Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near. —
Revelation 1:3 (NKJV)

A man with a long white beard and hair, wearing a simple brown robe, is seated in a desert landscape. He is holding a scroll in his left hand and a quill pen in his right hand, writing on it. The background shows rolling hills and a clear sky.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“The Triumphant Saints On Mount Zion” (14:1-5)

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- The **imagery** and **symbols** in Revelation are necessary in comprehending the **BIG PICTURE** - but if we focus too much on the imagery and symbols we can easily MISS the BIG PICTURE.
- Asia Minor, in the last decade of the first century, is set in the context of an eternal struggle, a world-shaking cosmic battle between good and evil.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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“The Triumphant Saints On Mount Zion” (14:1-5)



**Revelation 8:4
(NKJV)**

⁴ And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

- A series of three “7's” — 7 seals (6:1-8:5); 7 trumpets (8:6-9:21); and 7 bowls of wrath (15:1-16:21).
- John describes them one after the other by revealing from different viewpoints the judging and restraining action of God.
- Those who prayed for help in their distress CAN know that God HEARS - it would be their prayers that initiate divine judgment.

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“The Triumphant Saints On Mount Zion” (14:1-5)



■ THE LAMB ON MT ZION (14:1)

- ▶ Chapters 12 & 13 contain a terrifying description of the immediate future tribulation with the dragon, his beast, and the false prophet in control.
- ▶ The 3 beasts represent very powerful antagonists to the Kingdom of God, but as John depicts in this chapter, they are infinitely inferior to the Lamb and will shortly be defeated!

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Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“The Triumphant Saints On Mount Zion” (14:1-5)



- THE LAMB ON MT ZION (14:1)
 - ▶ What will be the ultimate destiny for the loyal saints when earthly tribulation runs its course?
 - ▶ In this chapter, John describes the triumphant scene of the redeemed.
 - ▶ Beyond the storms of earthly life is the bright morning of eternity.

Revelation 14:1–5 (NKJV)

¹ Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. ³ They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. ⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵ And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

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Revelation 14:1 (NKJV)

¹ Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.

■ THE LAMB ON MT ZION (14:1)

- ▶ John sees a new vision “Then I looked, and behold. . .” (*kai eidon, kai idou*; see also 5:1; 6:5, 8; 13:1, 11; 14:14; 19:11). In this vision, the Lamb and his 144,000 reappear from chapter seven.
- ▶ “A Lamb” - Christ Jesus (Rev. 5:6; Is. 53:7; John 1:29; 1 Pet. 1:19).
- ▶ “Standing” - the triumphant Christ is standing victorious in approval of the faithful (Acts 7:55,56; Dan. 7:26,27)

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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“The Triumphant Saints On Mount Zion” (14:1-5)



- **THE LAMB ON MT ZION (14:1)**
 - ▶ “On Mount Zion” - John employs actual physical geography to set forth his theological ideas.
 - ▶ Literal Zion, the highest elevation in Jerusalem - the citadel of the Jebusites. David conquered Zion and reigned there for 33 years (2 Sam. 5:7; 1 Chron. 11:5).
 - ▶ Zion stood for the place of refuge and strength because it was God's dwelling place (Ps. 9:11; 20:2; 48:2-3).

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Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“The Triumphant Saints On Mount Zion” (14:1-5)



■ THE LAMB ON MT ZION (14:1)

- ▶ Messianic prophecies spoke of Zion as the “holy hill” upon which God would set his king (Ps. 2:6; Zec. 9:9).
- ▶ “Out of Zion shall go forth the law, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (Isa. 2:3; Mic. 4:2; Joel 2:32; Acts 2).
- ▶ From Zion the Lord would reign through the restored dominion of David (Mic. 4:7f.; Ps. 110:2; Acts 2:29-36). — etc.

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“The Triumphant Saints On Mount Zion” (14:1-5)



Revelation 14:1 (NKJV)

¹ Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.

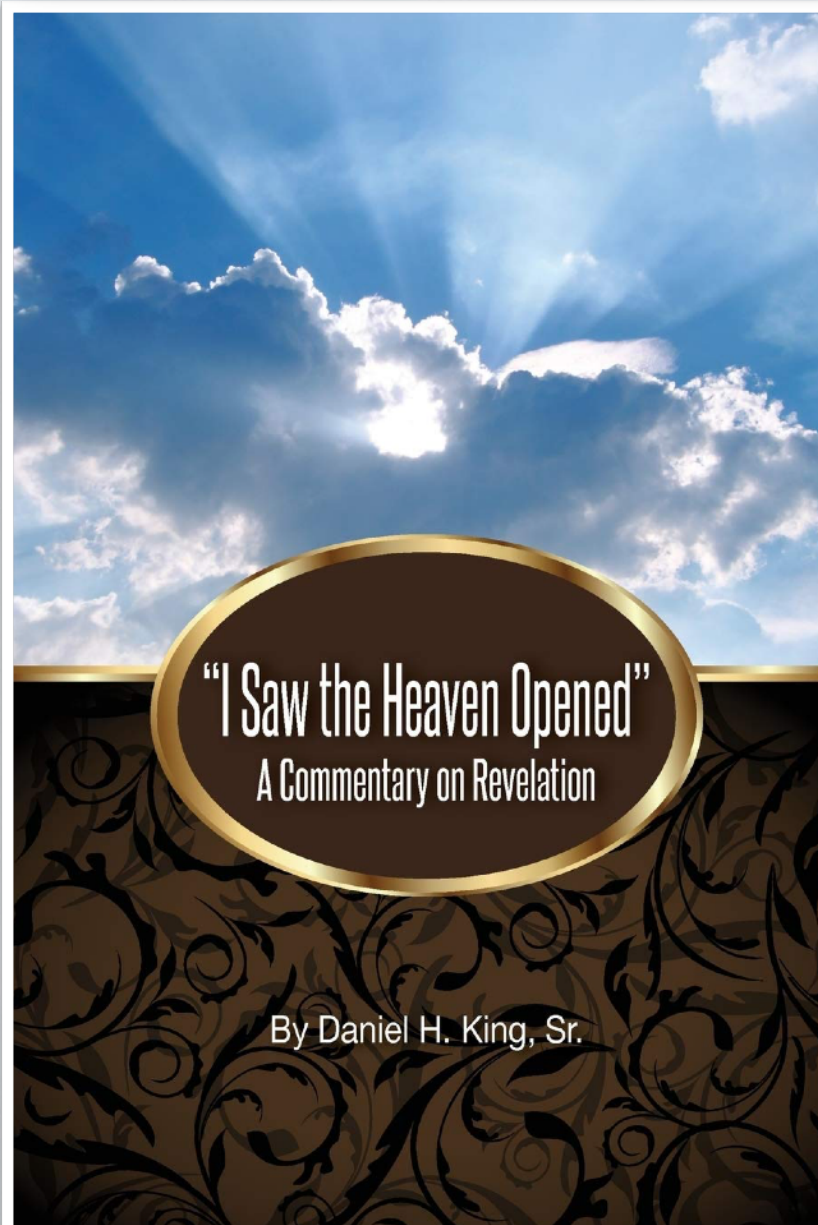
■ THE LAMB ON MT ZION (14:1)

- ▶ While on earth, Christians come to mount Zion in the sense of being in a spiritual kingdom yet to be delivered to the Father (Heb. 12:22-24) —Our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20); and we still seek that “continuing city” (Heb. 13:14).
- ▶ This spiritual Zion exists now, but in this vision, John sees the heavenly city of mount Zion and those who have been redeemed from the earth. (vs. 4)

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“Central to all of these applications of the term was the understanding that Zion, whether as place, building, or people, was the location of God’s presence and the central focus of God’s rule over His people (1 Kings 8:1; 2 Chron. 5:2; Pss. 2:6; 9:11; 14:7; 50:2; 53:6; 84:7; 99:2; 125:1; etc.).”

“I Saw the Heaven Opened” Daniel H. King, Pg. 262

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“The Triumphant Saints On Mount Zion” (14:1-5)



■ THE LAMB ON MT ZION (14:1)

- ▶ These 144,000 are the same persons mentioned in 7:3-8, who were at that point, still living on earth, surrounded by enemies.
- ▶ They are no longer dwelling on earth but are now standing triumphant on the heavenly mount Zion.
- ▶ They are not the total number of all the redeemed, but representative of the first-fruits of the saved (v. 4; cf. 7:9).

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Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

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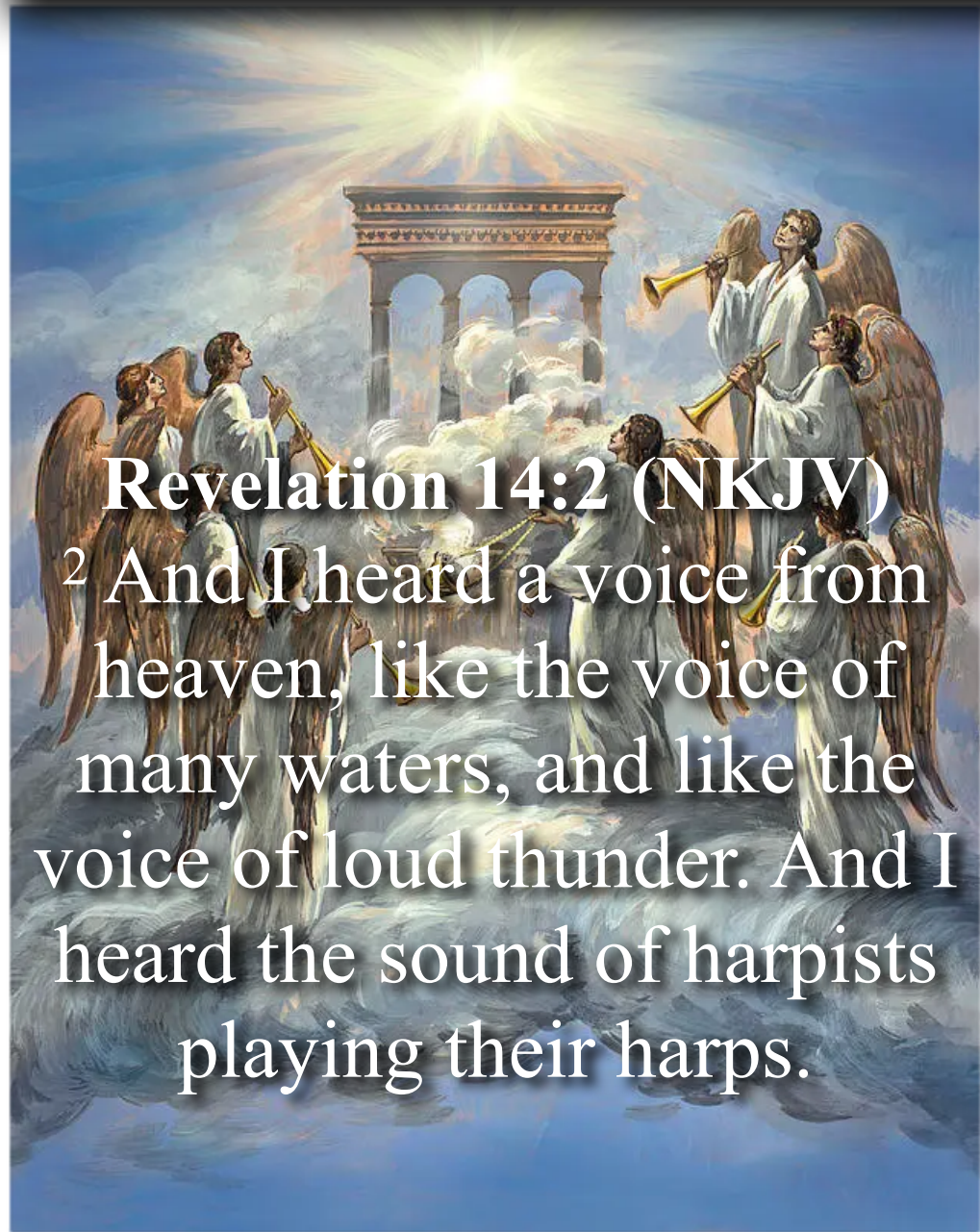
■ THE LAMB ON MT ZION (14:1)

- ▶ When they were introduced in chapter seven, four angels were about pour out God's judgment upon the earth.
- ▶ These 144,000 were “sealed,” i.e., identified as God's people and protection from the wrath about to be poured out on the wicked.
- ▶ God's protection did not prevent suffering physical persecution, even death, but assured a better habitation.

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Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“The Triumphant Saints On Mount Zion” (14:1-5)



Revelation 14:2 (NKJV)

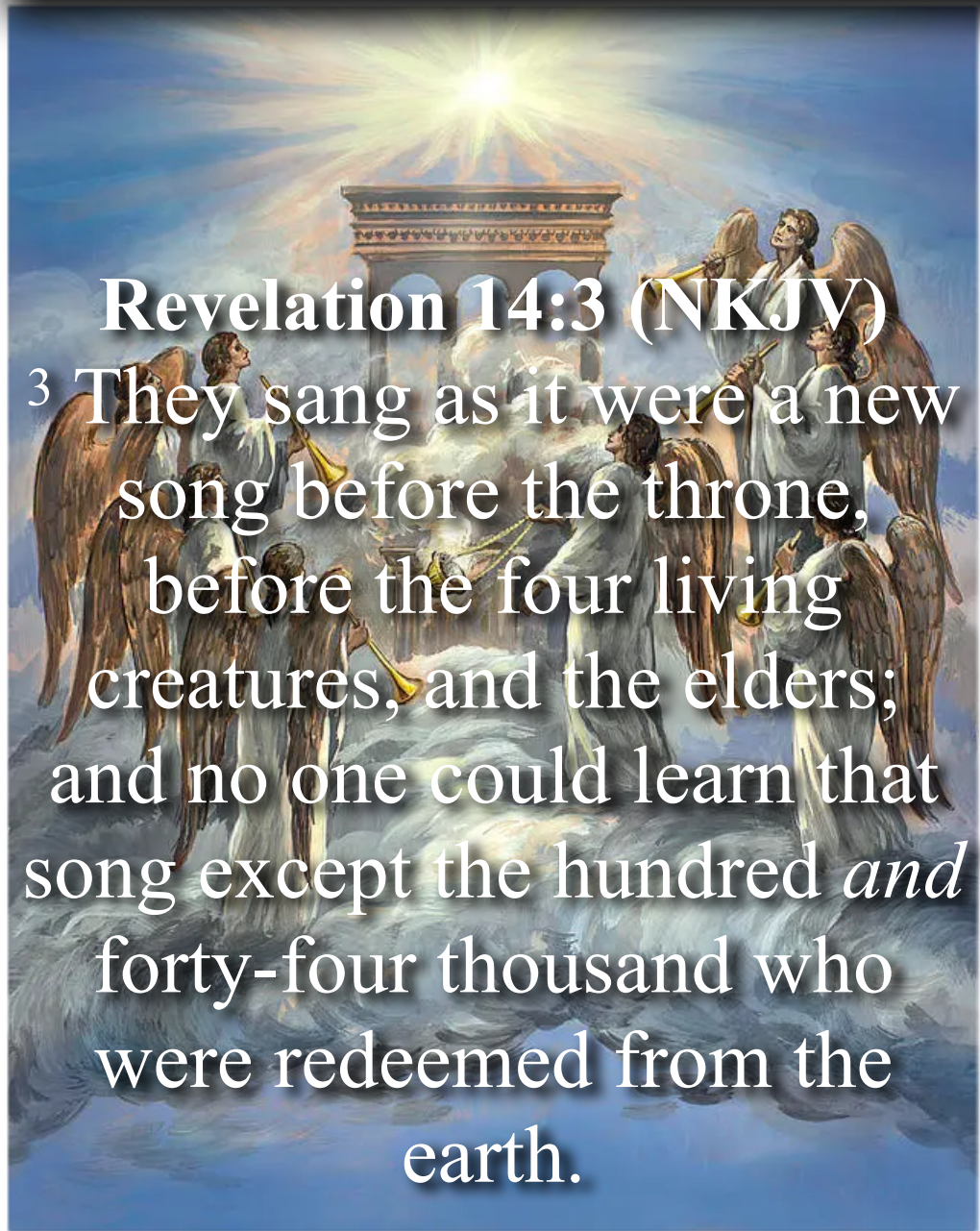
² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

- THE HEAVENLY CHORUS (14:2,3)
 - ▶ A wondrous crescendo of voices came from the great host now pictured as in heaven.
 - ▶ Their voices were singing like the lovely and sweet sound made by many harps. (ESV) “² ... “The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps,” (Rev. 1:15; 19:6; 5:8-9.)

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“The Triumphant Saints On Mount Zion” (14:1-5)



Revelation 14:3 (NKJV)

³ They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

- THE HEAVENLY CHORUS (14:2,3)
 - ▶ They sing a new song, made possible by their new experience.
 - ▶ Only those who have been purchased by the blood of Christ and redeemed out of the earth can know the joy the saved will experience.
 - ▶ The time will come when all of the saints will be redeemed from the earth and will come to Mount Zion and to the Lamb.

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Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“The Triumphant Saints On Mount Zion” (14:1-5)



■ THE VICTORIOUS FIRSTFRUITS (14:4)

- ▶ These are they who keep themselves pure from the spiritual fornication of pagan worship. They remained spiritually chaste (2 Co. 11:2; Ep. 5:27).
- ▶ Symbols, not to be taken literally.
 - ❑ Not literally only 144,000
 - ❑ Not literally virgins (v. 4),
 - ❑ Not literally only men (v. 4),
 - ❑ Not literally only of Israel (7:4).

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Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“The Triumphant Saints On Mount Zion” (14:1-5)



Revelation 14:5 (NKJV)

⁵ And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

■ THE VICTORIOUS FIRSTFRUITS (14:4)

- ▶ Not only do they refuse to bow to Caesar, but they maintain fidelity of faith by obeying the commandments of the Lord (Matt. 7:21-23; Heb. 5:8-9; 1 Pet. 2:21-23; Rev. 22:14).
- ▶ Quite simply, they are the faithful disciples and followers of Jesus who were suffering under the persecutions of the dragon, the first sea beast, and the beast from the earth - i.e., Rome.

This world has repeatedly brought suffering to the people of God, but the day will come when God will avenge His saints, and glorify His people.

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God would, by His sovereign power and might, preserve the gospel and His people in spite of terrifying odds which seemed at the moment to be so unassailable.

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“The Triumphant Saints On Mount Zion” (14:1-5)



All the earthly powers Satan and man may assail against
the people of God will ultimately and utterly fail!

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May we hold tenaciously to the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ — and refuse to bow to the demands of the world! Doing so assures victory in the end!

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“The Triumphant Saints On Mount Zion” (14:1-5)

**WILL YOU TAKE PART IN THE
JOYOUS VICTORY OF GOD’S PEOPLE?**

Believe — John 3:16;

Repent — Acts 17:30;

Confess — Romans 10:9,10;

Be baptized — Acts 2:38;

Endure by faith — I Corinthians 15:58

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)

Charts by Don McClain

Preached September 18, 2022

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Acts 8:9–11 (NKJV)

⁹ But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, ¹⁰ to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the great power of God.” ¹¹ And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time.