Revelation 14:1-5

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

* Day 1

Read Revelation 14:1-5.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

1Then I looked, and behold,

the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion,

and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand,

 having His name

 and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

2And 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 playing on their harps.

3And they sang a new song

 before the throne

 and before the four living creatures

 and the elders;

and no one could learn the song

 except the one hundred and forty-four thousand

 who had been purchased from the earth.

 4These are the ones who have not been defiled with women,

 for they have kept themselves chaste.

 These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

 These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb.

 5And no lie was found in their mouth;

 they are blameless.

1. Throughout Revelation, John has often used the phrase “then I looked” to mark a shift in focus. What has come before this section, back in chapter 13?
2. Where does this take place?
3. When does this take place?
4. Compare 14:1 with chapter 13. What are some key differences? What point does John seem to be making?
5. Where was the last place we saw the Lamb in Revelation? What was He doing then? Where is He now in 14:1?
6. Where was the last place we saw 144,000 mentioned in Revelation? Who were they identified as there? How are they further identified now in 14:1?
* Day 2

Read Revelation 14:1-5 again.

1. In verse 2, what does John hear? Where does it come from? What does it sound like?
2. Where is the singing taking place in verse 3?
3. Who is singing in verse 3? (Hint: the locations mentioned in verses 1 and 2 help determine this).
4. What is being sung in verse 3? What is the biblical significance of this?
5. Who can learn this new, heavenly song?
6. What 6 characteristics of the 144,000 are mentioned in verses 3-5?
7. How does the purchase of the 144,000 “from the earth” contrast with those who “dwell on the earth” in chapter 13?
* Day 3

Read Revelation 14:1-5 again.

1. In verse 4, what does John say is the result of the 144,000 keeping themselves chaste (that is, remaining virgins)? Why would this be important?
2. Who do the 144,000 follow, and how?
3. What does it mean for the 144,000 to be “first fruits?” (Consider doing a word study on “first fruits” to see how it’s used throughout the Bible).
4. Read Zephaniah 3:12-13 (or, for greater context, all of Zephaniah 3). How does this relate to the 144,000 of Israel in Revelation 14:5?
5. How does the fact that the 144,000 are “blameless” connect both to their own description in this passage and to the One whom they follow?
6. How should 14:1-5 comfort us, especially in light of the previous chapter?
7. How would you summarize the passage in 21 words or less?

In preparation for Sunday, pray for understanding and trust in God’s hope-filled promises in Revelation, and praise Him for His assured victory over sin and glorious return.