

# Pursuing Resilience in Revelation

## The Song of the Lamb

**Revelation 14:1-5**

## Intro

Psalms 2:6 ESV, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

Exodus 19-24 tells the story of God's people receiving His covenant on Mt. Sinai. Here we see Moses and the people gathering at the mountain, and the Lord calling Moses up to Himself. There God instructs Moses who is called to lead and instruct the people in His ways. The Lord said to Moses, "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel" (Exodus 19:5-6 ESV).

In ancient times it was known that upon the mountain was the place where a god would meet with people. In fact, it is thought that Eden itself was set upon a high place, that it was a mountain (or at least the central part where the trees were) where God met with His people who were made in His image.

This is why after the fall people built their altars to their gods on high places, and built tall temples, and thought of the gods as living on places like Mt Olympus. There was some truth in their thinking, but they were trying to regain what Adam lost by their own means. Paul made clear that this sort of attempt to save and justify ourselves, to regain what has been lost in our own strength, cannot succeed.

"For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin." -Romans 3:20

"Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." -Galatians 3:11

The only way that we can properly approach God's mountain is if we are pure and holy, and only God can reverse what Adam did and make us new once again.

"Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?

And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. “He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.” -Psalm 24:3-5

“Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him.” -Isaiah 59:15-16 ESV

God called Israel to the mountain to prepare them for the battles and struggles ahead, that they might have confidence in who they were and that they might truly live and fight evil as His people. This passage parallels Israel's call to the mountain, and I believe that God is preparing His church for the final battle and to take the earth like God prepared Israel for their battle to take the land.

Today we have the joy of seeing Christ's work in us put on display as we get a glimpse of our future as people restored by Christ and made holy to come up to His mountain. We will see today that what has been lost in Adam, is restored to us in Christ.

## Discover

### I. The saints of the Lord will stand with Him forever (1).

- A. Hebrews 12:22-24 ESV, “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, [23] and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, [24] and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”
- B. Those marked by the Beast will be with him, but those marked by the Father and the Lamb will be with The Lord forever.
  1. In ancient times, the peoples would be called up to the mountains to meet their gods.
    - a) This is why the ancient depictions of Mt. Olympus and etc, and why people built pyramids and ziggurats in order to connect with their gods in worship.
    - b) Adam was called up to a place in God's divine council, likely replacing fallen Satan but Satan weaseled his way back in by stealing Adam's birthright.
      - (1) From the moment Adam lost his place, people have been attempting to regain what was lost.

- (2) Most have attempted to do this in their own strength and might. This is why every human attempt fails.
  - (a) No amount of man-made religion or asceticism, or self-help can regain what was lost in Adam.
    - (i) Colossians 2:20-23
  - (b) Only God is pure enough to regain what Adam lost, and so He became a man in order to accomplish this redemption for Himself.
    - (i) Isaiah 59:16
- 2. God's people are called up to His mountain to be with Him and to rule with Him forever.
  - a) This image of Christ and His saints on the high mountain is significant, and reminds us that all that was lost in Adam has been regained in Christ for all who are His.
    - (1) Adam lost his place on God's high mountain, but Christ has redeemed us and brought us back there.
    - (2) People are always trying to climb their way to Mt. Olympus, but only God can seat us on His holy hill.
      - (a) Psalm 24:3-6 tells us that only the pure and holy with clean hearts can ascend to the Lord's mountain. The gospel tells us that in Christ this is what we have become (2 Corinthians 5:21).

## II. There is a new song which only the saints of the Lord can learn (2-3).

- A. The sound of the saints singing resembles descriptions of the voice of the Lord throughout Scripture.
  - 1. We were made in His image, but that was tainted in Adam. In Christ His image is restored in us.
    - a) God's great call to His saints is that we would become like His Son, so it only makes sense that when we stand in His presence our voices will resemble Him.
  - 2. This is the opposite of Satan's song, which is the rivers of deception which flow from his mouth and from the mouths of his corrupted children.
    - a) Whereas the rivers which flow from Satan's mouth destroy and wash away, the rivers which flow from Christ's mouth and from His saints redeem and restore.
- B. The song of the Lamb sung by His saints resembles the playing of harps.
  - 1. Harps are a beautiful instrument, often symbolizing victory which leads to peace.
    - a) Christ has won, and so now we have healing and peace forever in Him.
- C. Previously we saw a vision of the saints leading worship in heaven and the angels bowing down before the Lord. Here we see this in even greater detail.

1. Only the saints can learn this song, as only the saints could possibly understand what it means to be made in God's image, to fall from grace, to be redeemed in Christ, and to be restored in Him.

### III. The Lord has made his saints to be like spiritual virgins, fully free from sin (4-5)

- A. 2 Corinthians 11:2 ESV, "For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ."
  1. Zephaniah 3:11-13 ESV, "On that day you shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain. [12] But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord, [13] those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid."
  2. Psalm 32:2 ESV, "Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit."
  3. Isaiah 63:8 ESV, "For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior."
- B. Those who were once far from God and spiritually cursed have been made fully ritually clean in Christ.
  1. Like David and His men when they were preparing for battle, God's people are kept from anything which might make them unclean.
    - a) Though we are still awaiting our entrance into Christ's presence, there is no reason why we would not practice this high level of holiness today.
    - b) It is appropriate that we always be on our toes and ready to go to war against the beasts and the dragon who would love nothing more than to slay us in battle.

## Nurture

Who is God? He is Christ who is worthy to ascend to God's mountain.

What has God done? He has sealed us, purified us, and called us up to His Holy Mountain to sing a new song in His presence.

Who are we? We are those who have been purified in Christ, marked by Christ, and made righteous to stand before Him and sing His song before the multitudes of heaven.

What is God calling us to do? He calls us to live today like the sealed and pure sons of God which we are, and to bear witness to the world of who He is.

# Act

James 1:18 ESV

“Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

Jude 1:24-25 ESV, “Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

As we close, I want to draw our attention to the story of Mad Jack Churchill. Jack was a Lt. Colonel in the British Army during WW2. He was of Irish descent, and though a modern soldier fighting in a modern war, he always went into battle carrying a longbow, a Scottish broadsword at his side, and a set of bagpipes. He would play his pipes during the battle like an old Celtic warrior. The Germans were terrified by him, and by the ferocity with which he fought. His troops were emboldened and exhorted by his example.

As Mad Jack was not afraid to play his song and to wear his garb boldly, may we wear Christ upon ourselves, walking in righteousness and singing the song He has given us. By doing so we put our enemy to shame, and we encourage the church to be who Jesus calls us to be.