



VISION OF VICTORY

A STUDY OF REVELATION

#13: STANDING IN HOPE—7:1-17 (PART 1)

JIM HINTON

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, “Don’t be afraid! I am the First and the Last. I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.

Revelation 1:17 (NLT)

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF HOPE

Man can live about forty days without food, about three days without water, about eight minutes without air...but only for one second without hope.

Hal Lindsey

I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope,

Acts 2:25-26 (NIV)

II. THE REASONS I CAN STAND IN HOPE—REVELATION 7:1-17

1. I am sealed by God (v.1-8)

This means that...

- I am known by God
- I belong to God
- I am protected by God

This seal is the Holy Spirit

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NIV)

Reasons I believe the 144,000 symbolically represents the saved under both covenants:

- **It is a strange number**
- **The list of Jacob/Israel's sons is irregular**
- **Jewish and Gentile Christians are never separated for different rewards**
- **The symbolism of the numbers $12 \times 12 \times 1000 = 144,000$**
- **The term "Israel" was used to describe faithful Christians under the New Covenant**

No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by God's Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.

Romans 2:29 (NLT)

This means that Abraham's physical descendants are not necessarily children of God. Only the children of the promise are considered to be Abraham's children.

Romans 9:8 (NLT)

- **Revelation 14:1-5 affirms exactly who the 144,000 are**

Then I saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him were 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of mighty ocean waves or the rolling of loud thunder. It was like the sound of many harpists playing together. This great choir sang a wonderful new song in front of the throne of God and before the four living beings and the twenty-four elders. No one could learn this song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. They have kept themselves as pure as virgins, following the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been purchased from among the people on the earth as a special offering to God and to the Lamb. They have told no lies; they are without blame.

Revelation 14:1-5 (NLT)

Next week:

- 2. I am not alone (v.9)**
- 3. I am saved by the blood of the Lamb (v.10-14)**
- 4. I will be eternally satisfied in the presence of God (v.15-17)**