

# 144,000 Celibate Men?

By Scott Nelson 12/21

“...and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-for thousand who were redeemed from the earth. **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 first-fruits to God and to the Lamb.”

Revelation 14:3b-4 *NKJV*

From the day I first read these words that are highlighted in bold print, I have had a difficult time accepting what they appeared to be saying. When I researched the commentaries, I found the predominate view appears to be that this passage is indeed speaking of celibate men. There was one other view that said these men were those who never had sex with pagan temple prostitutes, which were common at the time of the writing of Revelation. This interpretation apparently came from a more Preterist persuasion considering we don't have temple prostitutes today.

What bothered me was not just the fact that women were excluded from this group, it was the fact that the prophecy implied women were responsible for preventing all other men from being a part of it! Something about it just didn't ring true for me. I can only imagine how a woman might feel when reading these words. What's more, I know of no Scripture that suggests a man who has had sex with a woman is permanently defiled. Since I couldn't make sense of it, I did as I usually do in such cases and put it on the shelf in that back of my mind, hoping in time more information would eventually come along that would give me understanding. Well, that time has come!

I've discovered that sometimes, prophecies simply are not possible to understand until the time they begin to be fulfilled. It is only after we begin seeing the strange and unusual happenings that we can finally make the connection. I know of several such prophecies ...and this one from Revelation 14:4 happens to be another. The short take is; this prophecy has absolutely nothing to do with human sexuality. It has **everything** to do with what is going on in the world today!

My first clue that this passage had nothing to do with human sexuality actually came a couple years ago when I was looking up the Greek word that was translated “virgins”. It's Strong's # 3933 and means (“a **maiden**; by implication an unmarried **daughter**: - *virgin*”). That's it. Nothing more! This Greek word is strictly a **feminine** word and was never used in the ancient world to

describe sexually celibate men! I did notice some lexicons had expanded the meaning of the Greek word to include celibate men for the very purpose of accommodating this particular passage's usage of it, but that's what *lexicons* do. They tell us how their authors believe a particular word has been used in the Bible ...as opposed to giving us the exact ancient meaning of a word. Their approach can be very helpful at times, but it can also easily become a form of reverse-translation that can further obscure already hidden problems.

In the early English language, the word "virgin" was used exclusively in reference to females up until the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. Only after that did it slowly begin to be used to describe chaste men. Before that it was only used in reference to chaste women. In old English and old Greek, the word *virgin* always carried with it the picture of an *un-penetrated* woman. The only way this Greek word could be used in reference to men is if it were used in a figurative sense, where men were "*like*" or "*as*" virgins in that they were *un-penetrated* in some way! **In *normal* human sexuality, men don't get penetrated. They do the penetrating!**

The book of Revelation is awash in figurative language, and its use of the word *virgin* in reference to men here is no exception. The 144,000 men described here are themselves *un-penetrated* in some way that is figurative of a virgin woman being unpenetrated. The inverse of this is that other men who weren't of the 144,000 **had** been penetrated in some way mirroring the picture of a man penetrating a virgin woman. What's more, these men were permanently "defiled" because of it. **The defilement of a body is caused by some defiling agent entering a body, not by something exiting it!**<sup>i</sup>

So, what is occurring today on a global scale, where nearly all men are being penetrated by phallic objects and having genetic programs injected through those objects into their bodies that is defiling them before their Creator? If you haven't figured it out by now, **it's the vax! A man penetrating a woman's body and injecting his genetic program into her is the perfect figurative for hypodermic needles penetrating a body and injecting genetic mRNA and DNA programs into them!**

Some might object to this interpretation on the grounds that the passage says: "*These are the ones who were not defiled with women,*". It is my contention, based on the fact that the word *virgins* could not be used in reference to sexually celibate men, and that defilement is caused by something entering a body and not from something leaving it, that these two words do not belong there. I fully believe they were added and were **not** in John's original text. There are many such additions and subtractions in the book of Revelation that have been noted and recorded by scholars. For example, in the very same verse that we are dealing with (14:4) it says: "*These were redeemed from among men...*", but some manuscripts say: "*These were redeemed **by Jesus** from among men...*". In the very next verse (5) it says: "*...for they are*

*without fault before the throne of God.*” But some manuscripts don’t have the words “*before the throne of God.*” They end the sentence at the word “*fault*”. In just these two examples found here in the same passage is proof that some things were added and/or taken out by scribes throughout history. It is my belief that a very early *ascetic* copyist interjected the words “*with women*” as either an innocent form of his own commentary or notation ...much the way I do in my own Bible, or it was a deliberate attempt to twist the meaning of the passage to reflect his ascetic views. Regardless of which it might have been, I don’t believe these two words belong there. I believe John’s original text read: “**These are the ones who were not defiled, for they are as virgins.**”

## What about women and children?

We know Revelation 14:1-5 is clearly speaking of 144,000 **men**. This is especially true in light of the fact that the “*male child*” of Revelation 12:5 is very likely a reference to this same 144,000 portrayed from a different angle and figure. What I believe is that women and children under these men will also be included and numbered over and above 144,000. This picture is not without precedence. In Matthew 16:9 Yeshua said:

*“Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the **five thousand**...”*

If this were the only reference to the feeding of the five thousand that we had, we would not know that there were actually many more than five thousand people there that day. If we go back to the record of the event in chapter 14:21 we read:

*“Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, **BESIDES women and children.**”*

So likewise, I believe there will be 144,000 men, besides the women and children who are under them. When God has delivered righteous men from destruction before, He has taken out their families with them. He did it for Noah, and He tried to for Lot as well.

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<sup>i</sup> The defilement of one’s body is not to be confused with the defilement of one’s soul, which is what Yeshua was speaking of in Matthew 15 and Mark 7. The defilement of one’s soul is even more serious and was the point that Yeshua was making in these passages.