

A NEW SONG

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In Revelation 5:9-10, the four beasts and 24 elders sing a new song to the Lamb (Jesus Christ): *“Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”* Revelation 14:1-3 also says, *“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: and they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.”* From both this passage, and earlier in the book (Revelation chapter 7), the 144,000 symbolically represent all the redeemed from the earth. Thus, *all the saved* will be singing a new song, along with those four beasts and 24 elders in heaven.

Of every nation

The new song says that the Lamb (Christ) is worthy to take the book, and to open its seals, because he was slain, and has redeemed us to God by his blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. Jesus died for all of these nations, kindreds, peoples, and tongues. The gospel is to be preached to them (Rev 14:6), and they will all be found in heaven (Rev 7:9), where they will bring glory to God (Rev 22:24). It is another precious blessing from God that he has opened the door of faith to the Gentiles in the New Testament (Acts 11:18; 14:27). It does not matter what nation or race we come from, what language we speak, what color our skin is, or how rich or poor we are. God does not look on any of these outward things. He only looks at our heart (1 Sam 16:7). Acts 10:34-35 says, *“God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation he that fears him, and*

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(continued)

works righteousness, is accepted with him.” We all have equal standing in Christ. *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus”* (Gal 3:28). This is one of the most powerful and appealing aspects of Christianity. Unfortunately, men often fall short of the challenge to see and judge others like God does (John 7:24). If we judge by the flesh and show respect to people based on outward things, then we are guilty of sin and we will be judged by God for it (Jas 2:1-13). These fleshly designations – including race, color, ethnicity, nationality, language, and economic status – have absolutely no place with God and do not belong in the church of Christ. Let us be thankful that Christ died to redeem us all and also treat others with the same love, equality and fairness that God does.

Kings and priest, undefiled and without fault

The new song also says that Jesus has made us kings and priests unto God, and we shall reign on the earth. This does not agree with the premillennial doctrine that says that after Christ’s return, Jesus and his followers will literally reign on the earth in Jerusalem over an earthly kingdom for 1,000 years. The new song reveals the fact that Christians are kings and priests right now (see also Rev 1:5-6). We are part of the spiritual kingdom, the church (Matt 16:18-19; Acts 2:36-47; Col 1:13; Rev 1:9). Jesus is the King and the High Priest (Zech 6:11-13; Heb 2:17; 3:1; 4:14-15, etc.), and we are the “royal priesthood” offering up spiritual sacrifices unto God (1 Pet 2:5-9), serving under Christ our head (Eph 1:22-23; 5:23; Col 1:18). Our reign with Christ will be forever and ever (Rev 22:5). We are truly part of an eternal kingdom (Dan 2:44-45; Matt 16:18-19). But in order for us to be worthy to be there in Heaven as part of that kingdom, we must be undefiled, follow Christ wherever he goes, with no guile in our mouth, being without fault before the throne of God (Rev 14:4-5).