

Following the Lamb

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Study by W. D. Frazee—March 27, 1964

Revelation is the climax of the Bible. The heart of Revelation is chapter 14.

“Then I looked again and before my eyes the Lamb was standing on Mount Sion, and with Him there were a hundred and forty-four thousand who had His name and His Father's name written upon their foreheads. Then I heard a sound coming from heaven like the roar of a great waterfall, and the heavy rolling of thunder; yet the sound which I heard was also like the music of harpists sweeping their strings. And now they are singing a new song of praise before the throne and before the four living creatures, and the elders. No one could learn that song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been redeemed from the earth. These are the men who have never defiled themselves with women, for they are celibate. These are the men who follow the Lamb wherever He may go. These men have been redeemed from among mankind as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. They have never been guilty of any falsehood. They are beyond reproach” Revelation 14:1-5, Phillips translation.

For 120 years this people have looked forward to gathering the sealing and redemption of the 144,000. I know that there are some things that are not fully understood about the 144,000. But it is our privilege to steer by the stars we know, and it is the things we do know about them cheers my soul.

The 144,000 are gathered in this last generation. They are a special group with a special experience, and they sing this special song. For 120 years the people of God have been thinking upon this wonderful subject because it concerns us. You and I are candidates for this group.

In the first vision which was given the Lord's messenger in Portland, Maine in December of 1844 this group was brought to view traveling on that narrow pathway cast high above the world. They see the light of the midnight cry shining behind them giving light all the way to the pearly gates. Jesus, their leader, was just ahead all the way from 1844 until we reach home. There came a time when the voice of God sounded in the midst of the angry time of trouble, and that voice spoke the day and hour of Jesus' coming. The Holy Spirit was poured out. The saints were glorified. Then comes the expression

“By this time the hundred forty and four thousand were all sealed and perfectly united. On their foreheads was written God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus' new name” *Word to the Little Flock*, pages 14-15.

In the King James Version it says they have the Father's name. Phillips and the Revised Standard and the New English translations all say Jesus' name and the name of the Father. Of course, the name stands for nature, and the Father and the Son have the same nature. But I like the wording of the wonderful thought that we are to have Jesus' name in our foreheads. We are to have His Father's nature in our foreheads. I want it, don't you?

By this time, the time of the sounding of the voice of God down through Orion that closes Jacob's trouble, the 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united. Little did the one who saw that vision and penned these words sense what a lapse of time there would be from the time of the vision until the sealing of the 144,000 should be completed. What a long weary way it has been, and the work is not finished yet. But thank God, it is going to be terminated.

“For He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth” Romans 9:28.

The 12th and 13th chapters of Revelation are full of the struggles of the great controversy between the dragon and the beast and his helper, and the woman and her children. After these awful battles were brought to view what a joy it must have been for John to look away from all that and look up to Zion and see those who have been engaged in a death struggle with the beast and his image triumphant with the Lamb.

Friends, the Lamb is going to win. The dragon, the beast, the false prophet, and all the kings and all the people of this earth combined will join to wipe out the people of God, but they will not triumph. The hour they fix for the assassination of God's people will be the hour of their own doom. And down through Orion sounds that mighty voice. Jesus comes to deliver His people. The 144,000 are translated, and with the resurrected saints they ascend to the Seas of Glass, and on Mount Zion the prophet sees and hears them.

Notice how the prophet describes the song as it come cascading across the ages and falls upon his ears. It sounds like a great waterfall. It sound like rolling thunder. Yet it sounds like the music of ten thousand harps all being played together in the most perfect harmony. It is the choir of this special group of the redeemed singing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb. What a sound it will be.

Will you be in that choir? You can be. You are called to that wonderful privilege. And we are exhorted to strive with all our might to be among them. Let's do it. What do you say?

They are redeemed from among men in this closing hour. They have the seal of God. They have God's nature. They have Jesus' name and the Father's name written in their foreheads. The name represents the nature of God.

“And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty” Exodus 34:5-7.

It is all summed up in the book of Revelation. Twenty-eight times Jesus is called the Lamb. That is to indicate His nature. When John saw Him at Jordan he stretched forth his hand and said, “Behold the Lamb of God.”

The 144,000 are with the Lamb, and they have written in their foreheads His name. It is expressly said that Jesus is the Lamb. Will they be lambs too? I want you to think about it. Imagine a hundred forty-four thousand lambs.

“Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves” Luke 10:3.

The idea of the dear Lord giving me the assignment as a lamb is hard for me to imagine. I can think of several characters He might have asked me to double for, but He assigns me as a lamb. Behold, I send you forth as a lamb. How could He pick me for that assignment? I am sure there is only one way I can ever fill it. That is to have a change of nature. I believe His promise:

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh” Ezekiel 36:26.

And when I think of those blood-thirsty ones who are even now being marshaled by the prince of demons to slay the people of God, I know that but for God's grace my nature would lead me to be among them. It is only a miracle of God that can take a poor, wicked, hating, human heart like mine and change it and make me a lamb. But I am so thankful that He has promised to write that nature in my forehead.

Jesus says He sends us as lambs among wolves. Wolves are all around us. And we need to get the picture. Some people think that if only they could get into a heavenly environment, then they could be nice. But our text is clear. I send you as lambs among wolves.

Does a lamb sound like a wolf? Could you tell the difference? If you heard some creature sounding out on the hills would it confuse you? Would you say? Is that a lamb or a wolf?

Some years I picked up a little poem in a child's reader. I liked it so much I copied it out. It is supposed to be a little child talking to a little lamb.

Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life and gave thee feed
By the stream and or the meed?
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Soft as clothing woolly bright?
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the veils rejoice?

Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Little lamb I will tell thee,
He is called by Thy name,
For He calls Himself a lamb.
He is meek and He is mild,
He became a little child;
I a child and thou a lamb,
We are called by His name.
Little lamb God bless thee,
Little lamb God bless thee.

I love to hear little lambs bleating over the hillsides and meadows. And I never got one of them mixed up with a wolf. Never did.

How is it in your home? Are the voices the voices of lambs or wolves? How is it around the breakfast table? How is it in the kitchen, the bedroom, in the yard? Are you a lamb, or do you sound like a wolf? Is that a good question? Notice how it is put:

"Those who are brought in controversy with the enemies of truth have to meet, not only men, but Satan and his agents. Let them remember the Saviour's words, 'Behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.' Luke 10:3. Let them rest in the love of God, and the spirit will be calm, even under personal abuse. The Lord will clothe them with a divine panoply. His Holy Spirit will influence the mind and heart, so that their voices shall not catch the notes of the baying of the wolves" *The Desire of Ages*, page 353.

Jesus told His disciples this when He sent them out to give His word. He knew that they would meet opposition and cruel treatment. But He said, Remember, when you get among wolves you are not to act like or talk like wolves. You are not to fight. The tone of your voice is not to be like a wolf at all.

God help us, friends. I want every bit of that wolf taken out of my voice and heart. What do you say?

If we get rid of this wolf disposition, we won't have the disposition to carve up the people of God at our dinner table. Did you ever hear a preacher or teacher carved up at dinner time? It has happened. There wasn't much left when dinner was over. We have been told about this. If parents understood it, they would never have any works of criticism in the home concerning the servants of God.

Remember that the preacher you are dissecting, the school teacher you are pulling apart, the Sabbath School teacher you are criticizing, may be the one that in secret prayer you are hoping that God will still use to answer your longings for your children. But when you have carved them up, don't think that your prayers are going to be answered. You have effectually closed the door against the answer to your own prayer.

Wolves hunt in packs. And if they can get enough meat to eat they will gather quite a group to feed on it. But if you were a lamb, and happened to be around a group like that, would you join in feeding on the carcasses of some of your friends? Would you?

If you are really a child of God and chance to be in some dinning room or kitchen or pallor, or anywhere else, and you hear people begin to criticize and find fault, it will not appeal to you. You will feel either like rebuking it in a Christian spirit, or else get out of there as fast as you can. And if that kind of gossip appeals to you, no greater evidence could be that you are not a lamb. And I don't care what office you hold in the church, or how sanctimonious you are when you engage in criticism. Lambs do not do that. And don't think you are serving the cause of God by that sort of criticism and fault-finding.

What does Jesus tell you to do when you see something wrong in a brother? Call the wolves? No. Go to him and bite him? No. Plead with him and try to help him.

If you go like a lamb, you may help him. If you go there like a wolf, and there is any wolf in him, you may have a fight. If there is no wolf in him, he may be afraid of you.

I wish we could learn heaven's sweet and simple way of dealing with problems. We don't need a lot of committees and scientific research, and a lot of experts coming in to analyze the problems. We just need to do what Jesus says. I say that we are on the threshold of a glorious opportunity to get ready for the latter rain, the loud cry, the finishing of the work, the sealing of the hundred forty-four thousand, translation day, and the triumph upon Mount Zion with the Lamb.

Will you for Jesus' sake cease every bit of criticism and fault-finding of the people of God? Will you stop every bit of criticism concerning ministers, teachers, Sabbath School officers, or anyone else that God is using in His work? And if you have some way to help them, will you go to them personally? If they won't hear you, take one or two more. Plead with them. Don't go as a police officer to serve a warrant. Go as a shepherd to try to help a sheep that may have missed the way.

You are dealing with lambs, not wolves. You are not a dog catcher. You are seeking to help sheep. It makes a world of difference in one's attitude, doesn't it?

Let us learn the Master's way of doing the Master's work. What do you say?

Can you tell a lamb from a wolf by his coat? Suppose you look out in a field and see some animals. You wonder what they are. You don't know whether they are wolves or lambs. If you get close, could you tell? Yes. A lamb looks like a lamb. You can tell by its coat. A wolf has its coat. But someone is remembering the text that says:

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" Matthew 7:15.

Yes, one does have to beware of that. There are wolves that cover up with sheep's clothing. You can sometimes tell by the voice. It is pretty hard for a wolf to sound like a lamb for very long. But the thing I am concerned about is not wolves in sheep's clothing, it is a sheep in wolf's clothing. Wouldn't it be a strange thing for a lamb to want to look like a wolf? Wouldn't it be a strange thing for a lamb to go out and pay some beauty shop to make them look like a wolf? Can you imagine a thing of that kind?

There are styles of dress that belong to the wolf family. There are styles of dress that belong to the sheep family.

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becomes women professing godliness) with good works" 1 Timothy 2:9,10.

"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel" 1 Peter 3:3.

Why does God picture His church in Revelation as clothed, and why does He picture the harlot as arrayed in purple and scarlet, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls? If the way a person dress doesn't make any difference, then why does the Bible from Genesis to Revelation deal with the dress question? Why does it set forth certain ways of dressing that belongs to the harlot, and why does it set forth certain ways in the modest apparel of the bride of Christ? How would you fix up the bride of Christ for the wedding? Would you tell her that she had to get her hair set after the latest fashion, or her Bridegroom would be ashamed of her? Would you tell her that she had to wear the prevailing styles of footwear or she wouldn't be prepared to trip to the sound of the wedding march in the New Jerusalem?

There are styles that belong to the wolf from head to foot, and there are styles that belong to the lamb from head to foot. And if those who wish to be lambs will get

on their knees and talk to the Lamb of God, He will help them find out what is lamb's clothing and what is wolf's clothing so we can choose the one and avoid the other.

If this were the last time I were to speak to you I would tell you from a bleeding heart that my soul has again and again been made to sorrow as I have seen some poor little lamb after someone had got hold of them and fixed them up. And God knows that the angels and Jesus weeps. I pray that if we are going to be lambs that we will look like lambs and not be mistaken for a wolf. It ought to be possible, for it to be easy to tell the difference between the lamb and the wolf.

What about the thing the lamb eats and the wolf eats? If you laid in a supply of food for lambs and wolves came, they would look at it and say, I don't see anything to eat around here. If you fixed up for the wolves the lambs would go hungry.

You can apply that literally, because the Bible deals with the diet question just as it does with the dress question. It starts out in Eden and gives the program. Adam were given a menu of food that went with Eden. There was no bloodthirsty work done there. And when you get back to the Garden of Eden and the tree of life is blooming again, you will see Adam and Eve and their children who will not hurt nor destroy in all the holy mountains.

Daniel learned this principle when he was on the river Euphrates. They brought him into the king's dining table. If he had been a wolf, even if he had some sheep's clothing, he would have said, Oh, boy, look what we are going to get for supper tonight. And how the wolf nature would have looked forward to leaping at that table.

But Daniel and his 3 friends were lambs. They looked over the table and said there was nothing there for them. They kindly asked the steward if he could give them vegetables to eat and water to drink.

A lamb wants lamb's food and eating the lamb's food helps him to retain his lamb nature.

Someone who doesn't understand will say, Brother Frazee, do you think that people can eat their way into heaven?

No, but you can eat your way out of heaven. Never forget that. Merely eating lamb food won't make you a lamb, but eating wolf food won't help you be a lamb

I would like to have us think of the food for the mind and the soul. Every time you see something and hear something an impression is made on the brain. People are spending at the television more time than the average because you are not spending time there. Is it helping them to get ready for heaven? I am not trying to blame anybody. I just feel sorry for people who talk about going to heaven and then do everything that keeps them from getting there.

My heart was cheered a few weeks ago when I heard one of the greatest evangelists among us, a man whose TV telecasts are heard all over the nation, say

that he had sold his TV. I think that if anyone would have an excuse for having one, He would. He might have had an excuse for having one, but he had a reason for not having one. He wanted his children saved in the kingdom of God. If you want your children to be lambs, don't think you can accomplish it by feeding them on wolf's food. Most of what is coming over the radio and the TV and the newspapers and the popular magazines, and through a lot of channels, is wolf food. If it were not, it wouldn't pay, for nearly all the population wants wolf food. If we look at what they look at we will develop that nature. So for this reason God has called us apart.

I want to be a lamb. We need all the help we can get. And as we behold, what happens?

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” 2 Corinthians 3:18.

As we behold we are changed into the same image as by the glory of the Spirit of the Lord. If we feast on the Bible and the wonderful messages of the Spirit of Prophecy and the open book of nature, won't that lamb food help to make a lamb nature? Which do you want to be, a lamb or a wolf. Angels can tell every time you go to the table whether it is the table that feeds your stomach or the table that feeds your minds.

“They follow the Lamb wherever He goes.” If we are going to follow the Lamb, where do you think we had better begin? We had better begin where He began. He came down and took our nature. He was born as a little babe in Bethlehem. That is the place for us to begin to behold that mystery of God and man united. He took our nature and overcame so we, by taking His nature, might overcome. So let's come to Bethlehem and follow Him through.

In eternity we will follow Him from star to star. We will visit all those millions and millions of universes, on and on. But here in this world we follow Him as He lives life here for us.

Can we really go to Bethlehem, or would that be a little bit too poor for us. Could you take a stable? The poor shepherds came to prove that God could reach even the poor. The rich and wise men came from the East to show that even the wealthy and educated have no excuse for missing this glorious opportunity. They all came and knelt at the manger.

Would you? Oh, think about it. I am afraid that today some don't know how to begin where Jesus began. They assume that anything God has anything to do with is up to date in this jet age, efficient as the world counts efficiency, and if not wealthy at least not poor. All of which would lead people to bypass Bethlehem, for there was no airport there.

If it is difficult to come to Bethlehem, it is difficult to stay at Nazareth. Jesus stayed there until he was thirty years old. I have been thinking of following Him at Nazareth literally. You can read about it in *The Desire of Ages*. Read the story of

Jesus as a child and as a young man. We see Him in the home, bearing the burdens of the home. We see Him as He brings in the wood and helps with the household chores. He is an obedient child, a loving burden bearer. If we follow Him, we will be with Him in that daily, household toil. He was a lamb. If you and I will follow Him, He will make us lambs as we associate with Him.

We will follow Him to the shop. A shop is where work is done. We will see Him use the plane and hammer and saw. He was fulfilling His mission. He was the Lamb of God sent into the world to fill a servant's place and do a servant's job. God was living on earth the life of heaven.

We will follow Him to church on the Sabbath day and join in worship and devotion and witnessing. That is following the Lamb wherever He goes.

We will follow Him in the neighborhood. Read about Christ visiting the poor. Don't misunderstand me when I say that He didn't tell the newspaper to send a reporter down to take His picture as He gave His lunch to some hungry person. God keep us from becoming so publicity conscious that we lose sight of the heavenly audience that is watching us, and of the human soul who needs help.

There is another place we would follow Him. The secret place of communion with God. From time to time He slipped away to the valley or the mountainside, and there He communed with His Father. And this is where He got the power to live day by day that sweet life in the home and shop and church and neighborhood. If we miss that we will fail to talk like lambs in the home and live like lambs in the shop and look like lambs in the street and serve like lambs in the community. The secret is in that secret place of prayer with nature and with God.

This is all Jesus did. But because this is all He did, He encompassed it. He didn't try to run anything else into the program. And if we are ever to be ready to follow Him in glory, we shall learn to follow Him in Nazareth in the home and the shop and the neighborhood, and the secret place of prayer and communion with God.

When the time comes in the providence of God that His beautiful character is developed, Jesus lays down that hammer and saw, goes to Jordan and is baptized by John. He receives that wonderful outpouring of the Holy Spirit without measure. He entered upon His ministry and in a few short years heaven is revealed to men in the most glorious succession of miracles that this world has ever seen.

Will that ever be repeated? Oh, yes. The lambs who learn the lessons of Bethlehem and Nazareth will know also the miracles of Judea and Galilee. It will be wonderful when the loud cry breaks and the power of God is poured out upon His people without measure as it was upon Jesus. When the sick are healed. When thousands upon thousands are converted. When miracles are wrought and heaven is revealed on earth in this glorious latter rain. As was the ministry of Jesus with mighty power, so will be the mighty power of those who here on earth will be following the Lamb.

But we need to begin where He began. We need not think we can bypass the Nazareth years and experience, and when the trumpet blows we can rush into the loud cry and start working miracles. No, we will need the time with the Lamb at Nazareth first.

What will be the climax? As the life and work of Jesus could not be tolerated very long by a selfish and wicked people, so here today the world and the church are going to unite in an unholy alliance to crush out the lives of those who live like the Lamb here on the earth. And as Jesus met His Gethsemane, the remnant must meet their Gethsemane. As the mob came for Him they will come for you and me. As some closest to Him joined in denying Him, so our greatest trial will be when brethren who have been closest to us abandon us in the crisis hour. As Jesus met the torture and humiliation in the judgment hall, so the people of today will be called to meet every indignity and persecution. And as He was led out to Calvary and hung up between the heavens and the earth to die, so the remnant will be put under the death decree.

Following all that humiliation and torture there came the glorious vindication of the resurrection and ascension, so the people of God today will be rescued by the Son of God as He comes with His mighty angels of God in the sky. And there on Mount Zion the Lamb and His lambs will join in that song that fills the universe through eternal ages.

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