**MAIN THOUGHT** In the PROPHETIC (at the second coming) PAST (an accomplished fact – 11:15), the 144,000 are seen victorious in their STANDING (1), their SINGING (2-3), and their SEPARATION (4-5).

**THEIR STANDING (1).**

- John is given a divine proleptic (anticipating) preview about what is to come.
- In this remarkable scene we see the Lamb standing victoriously on Mount Zion with his 144,000 chosen witnesses at his second coming!
- While the Lamb had been SEATED (work finished – at rest) at the right hand of God (Psa. 110:1), now He is STANDING (work beginning to reign – Acts 7:55).
- Jesus returns to Jerusalem at the Mt. of Olives (Acts 1:11) and then proceeds through the Eastern Gate on Mt. Zion (Ezek. 43:1-2) to fill the 3rd Temple (Ezek. 40-48) with His glory.
- The 144,000 had been MARKED (in contrast to the mark of the beast – 666) with the Lamb’s name and the Father’s name on their foreheads (sealed – 7:4).
- Believers today are MARKED and SEALED by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13; 4:30) insuring that they too belong to the Lord (Rom. 14:8) and not to the devil (Jn. 8:44).

**THEIR SINGING (2-3).**

- This new song was sung by a heavenly chorus in the THRONE ROOM of God (5:9). Only later did the 144,000 on earth learn it.
- NEW (GK = kaine – not in time, but in quality, fresh) songs are composed each time we learn something new in our relationship with God (Psa. 33:3; 40:3).
- This new occasion was surely that the 144,000 had been saved through the tribulation period (John 17:15). They had been redeemed (GK = agora – purchased) by the blood of the Lamb FOR God (5:9).

**THEIR SEPARATION (4-5).**

- The 144,000 had remained PURE (chaste NASB; virgins KJV) from the world by SEPARATED living in the worst of circumstances (Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 6:14, 17).
- They “did not defile themselves with women” can mean (1) spiritual purity (Ex. 34:15; James 4:4) and/or (2) literal celibacy (Matt. 19:12). This in no way disparages marriage (Heb. 13:4) as some will do in the last days (1 Tim. 4:3).
- They FOLLOWED the Lamb wherever He went (Matt. 16:24; 1 Pet. 2:21).
- They were purchased (GK = agora – redeemed) from among men.
- They were offered as FIRSTFRUITS meaning: (1) they were the first of a much larger harvest of souls that were anticipated (Rom. 11:26; 16:5); (2) they were also a spiritual OFFERING (Rom. 12:1) to God and to the Lamb.