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From the Ends of the Earth We Hear Singing: Glory to the Righteous One 24: 14-16a

From the ends of the earth we hear singing: glory to the righteous one DIG: Who are the 144,000? Who are they that are rejoicing here? How does their song of glory differ from the sounds of silence in 24:8? How do you account for this flip-side judgment (see 14:4, 16:5, 17:7-8, 18:7, 19:23-25 and 23:18)?

REFLECT: Both joy and sorrow will be the experience of the godly remnant that survives this judgment. When you see or hear about current disaster striking those who deserve it, what do you feel? Can you remember when you were first saved? How did you feel? How grateful were you? Do you still love the LORD as much as you did then? Has your love for Him deepened? Or have you left your first love (see the commentary on **Revelation**, to see link click [Az](#) - **The Church at Ephesus**)? Can you personally praise ADONAI when everything around you is falling apart?



As stated previously, the structure of the book of **Revelation** is based upon **Isaiah 24:1 to 27:13**. In **Revelation Chapter 6**, **John** spells out a series of judgments against humanity, known as the **Seal judgments** (see the commentary on **Revelation**, to see link click [Ck](#) - **The Seven Seals of the Lamb**). In **Revelation Chapter 7**, **John** breaks away from judgment. Then in **Revelation Chapters 8 and 9** he continues with another series of judgments known as **Trumpet judgments** (see the commentary on **Revelation** [Cu](#) - **The Seven Trumpets**). Between the Seal judgments and the Trumpet judgments there is the

worldwide preaching of **the 144,000 Jews** and all those saved by their ministry (see the commentary on **Revelation Cr - Then I Heard the Number of Those who Were Sealed, 144,000 from all the Tribes of Isra'el**). The structure there is the structure here. In the midst of judgment passages, there is a small segment where a glorification of **God's** name is made by **the 144,000** and those **Jews** and **Gentiles** saved by **their** preaching. **The sages teach that these are only Israelites**. Thus, we are told here that in spite of the pollution of the earth by humanity that brings about the judgments, there is a small believing remnant who is glorifying **God's** name and **majesty**.

Those who survive the catastrophe will from the distant parts of the earth offer hymns and praises to the God of Isra'el. They will lift their voices, singing for joy; shouting from the west, literally from the [Mediterranean] Sea, to honor ADONAI (24:14 CJB). The word **they**, the believing remnant, is emphasized in the Hebrew. The Adversary had spiritually blinded **them**. Paul reminds us that **the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (Second Corinthians 4:4)**. As a result of the preaching of **the 144,000**, these new believers will experience the spiritual scales being removed from their eyes and will then sing to **the LORD**. Despite the obvious danger of being beheaded by the antichrist (**Rev 20:4**), **they** nevertheless sing to **God** out of sheer **joy**.

So in the east, literally, in the lights, they will sing out in **honor of ADONAI**; from as far away as **the islands of the sea** they will **honor the name ADONAI, the God of Isra'el (24:15 CJB)**. The content of **their** song will be the glory of **His** name. It will not be **His** name that will be so glorious, but who **He** is as **Creator, Judge, Redeemer** and **LORD**. **They** were snatched **from the fire** and saved. And **they** were so grateful that **they** broke out in song. The celebration reaches its climax in the phrase **the ends**, literally *the wing, of the earth (Philippians 2:9-11)*. Everywhere, in **the west, the east, the islands of the sea, and from the ends of the earth**, they proclaim the same song: **Glory to God, the Righteous One (24:16a)**. Unlike those in **Isaiah's** day who viewed the Assyrian advance as cruel and unfair, the believers during the Great Tribulation will view **the earth's** devastation as a **righteous** act by a **righteous** and **Holy God**.