

Christian Adornment (Part 3)

The 144,000

Jewelry is often Associated with Idolatry in the Bible

"God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel ... and make an altar unto God ... Then Jacob said to his household ... Put away the strange gods ... and be clean, and change your garments ... And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods ... and all the earrings which were in their ears." Genesis 35:1-4. Immediately after the apostasy of the Golden Calf, the Lord said to Israel, "Ye are a stiffnecked people ... now put off thy ornaments ... And the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments." Exodus 33:5,6. "Thou hast played the harlot with many lovers ... Though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold ... in vain shalt thou make thyself fair; thy lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life." Jeremiah 3:1; 4:30. "The daughters of Zion are haughty ... their tinkling ornaments ... the chains, and the bracelets ... the earrings, the rings, and nose jewels ... " Isaiah 3:16-21. "I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, *and forgot me, saith the Lord.*" Hosea 2:13.

All of the Old Testament imagery surrounding jewelry and idolatry merge in the Harlot of Babylon. "The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with *gold and precious stones and pearls* ... And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS." Revelation 17:4,5. God calls to us, "Come out of her my people, that ye *be not partakers of her sins*, and that ye receive not of her plagues ... How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her ... for strong is the Lord God who judges her." Revelation 18:4,7,8. We must come *all the way out*, refusing to "partake" in her pride and worldly adornment. True believers are the Bride of Christ. Revelation 19:7,8. We should live wholly for Him.

A Few Questions Answered

Did not some of the saints in the Old Testament wear some jewelry. Yes, but are they our examples? Some of these "saints" also had many wives. The above Scriptures show that jewelry became a real problem in the Old Testament. What about "the ring" which the Father commanded to be placed on his lost son when he returned home? Luke 15:22. This is a parable. The boy did not put the ring on himself. The previous verse shows how he repented of his sins (vs. 21). Those who repent and obey the word of God will receive "crowns of gold" to wear throughout eternity. Revelation 4:4. Whatever we give up now is small when compared with eternal glory.

**"These are they which follow the Lamb
(in self sacrifice and humility) wherever he goes."
Revelation 14:4**

The 144,000

Revelation 13:16; 14:1 They have the Name of God in their foreheads rather than the mark of the beast.

Revelation 14:4 They are not "defiled with women" - with the harlots of Babylon. Revelation 17:5. They are "virgins" - totally devoted to Jesus. 2 Corinthians 11:2. They "follow the Lamb wherever he goes." The Lamb represents Jesus and His sacrifice. They are willing to make sacrifices.

Revelation 14:5 "They are without fault before the throne of God."

Revelation 7:1-3 They receive "the seal of the living God" rather than the mark of the beast. They are protected when the "four winds" are let loose - the period of the 7 last plagues. Revelation 16. Thus they are preserved and "alive" (1 Thessalonians 4:17) when Jesus returns. There is also "a great multitude which no man could number" (Revelation 7:9) which probably represents all of the resurrected believers from all ages.

Revelation 7:4-8 The 144,000 are from "all the tribes of the children of Israel." There is much symbolism surrounding the 144,000 - not defiled with women, virgins, following a Lamb, four angels on the four corners of the earth, the Seal of God, etc. Are they all Jewish celibate men? I don't think so. They represent a special group of final believers (Jew and Gentile) in Jesus Christ who are the spiritual "seed of Abraham" in the sight of God. Galatians 3:7,16,28,29; Ephesians 2:19,20; 3:1-6; Romans 9:6-8; James 1:1-3; 2:1.

Why the number 144,000? Here is my "opinion":

12 Tribes in the Old Testament X 12 Apostles in the New Testament = 144. The 144,000 represents an expanded, symbolic group of believers who follow the truth in the Old and New Testaments at the end of time. They will sing the "song of Moses ... and the song of the Lamb." Revelation 15:2,3.

End Time Scriptures to Inspire the 144,000

Daniel 12:10 God will "purify" a people for the end of the world.

2 Peter 3:10-14 God will have a people "in peace, without spot, and blameless."

Revelation 22:11,12 God will have a people who are "holy" and "righteous."

Proverbs 4:18 God shines "more and more" light upon us until "the perfect day."

Television, Movies, Magazines, Books, Music

James 1:27 True Bible religion is to keep ourselves "unspotted from the world."

2 Peter 1:4 We must escape "the corruption that is in the world."

Matthew 5:27-29 Jesus says our eyes can lead "to sin" and thus "to hell."

Psalms 101:2,3 "I will set nothing wicked before my eyes ... within my house."

Proverbs 23:26 God says, "let your eyes observe my ways."

Philippians 4:8 "True ... noble ... pure ... lovely ... *think on these things.*"

Ephesians 5:19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and *spiritual songs.*" Music is powerful. Christians must be careful about the kind of music they listen to. *Ancient Babylon used music to lead to sin. Daniel 3.*