

## 2024-2025 BSP#13 Group Time Discussion

### (A) 為查考和認識的題目 Questions for Studying and Understanding (10 minutes)

1. 默示錄用極豐富的形象標記來表達訊息。緊接從海裏和地中上來的兩獸之後，若望看見羔羊站在熙雍山上(14:1)。這代表著美善和邪惡勢力的對立，後者常模仿前者，迷惑眾生。以下解釋正好支持這道理：
  - a. 熙雍山是耶路撒冷所在，它的意義包含著統治(君王)、真理(先知)和祭獻(司祭)。羔羊站在熙雍山上的形象與從海裏和地中上來的兩獸成強烈對比。
  - b. 兩獸與羔羊博鬥，結果打成平手。
  - c. 與羔羊為伍者是「十四萬四千人，他們的額上都刻著羔羊的名號和他父的名號」(14:1)；與兩獸為伍者是「有那獸的名字或牠名字的數字的」印號的人(13:17)。
  - d. 羔羊是死而復活的基督；「那獸的頭中，有一個似乎受了致命的傷，但牠那致命的傷卻治好了」(13:3)。
  - e. 聖父從寶座上賜給聖子統治權、尊榮和國度(達 7:14)；「那龍遂把自己的能力、寶座和大權交給了」那獸(13:2)。

Revelation uses very rich imagery to express its messages. Immediately after the two beasts that came up from the sea and from the earth, John saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion (14:1). This represents the opposition between the forces of good and evil, with the latter often imitating the former and confusing all living beings. The following explanations support this teaching well:

- a. Mount Zion is where Jerusalem is located, and its meaning includes ruling (kingship), truth (prophecy) and sacrifice (priesthood). The image of the Lamb standing on Mount Zion is in sharp contrast to the two beasts coming up from the sea and the earth.
- b. The two beasts fought with the lamb and ended up tied.
- c. Those who associate with the Lamb are “one hundred and forty-four thousand, who have on their foreheads the name of the Lamb and the name of His Father” (14:1); those who associate with the two beasts are those “who had the stamped image of the beast's name or the number that stood for its name” (13:17).
- d. The Lamb is the dead and resurrected Christ; “One of the beast’ s heads seemed to have received a death wound, but its death wound was healed” (13:3).
- e. The Father gave the Son dominion, honor, and kingdom from the throne (Dan 7:14); " the dragon gave its own power and throne, along with great authority" to the beast (13:2).

2. 為甚麼若望視象中十四萬四千人是「獻給天主和羔羊當作初熟之果的」(14:4)？
- 他們多數來自亞熱地帶，比較其它民族早熟。
  - 意即他們像「田中最上等的初熟之果，應獻到上主你的天主的殿中」(出 34:26)。
  - 他們不幸地成了人類中的犧牲品，被宰殺了。
  - 他們是人類中最聖善的，「他們身上也沒有瑕疵」(14:5)，堪配與羔羊為伍。
  - 這可能是若望酒醉後的幻象，一點也不合乎聖經整體的教導。

Why are the 144,000 people in John's vision "ransomed as the first fruits of the human race for God and the Lamb" (14:4)?

- Most of them come from subtropical areas and mature earlier than other ethnic groups.
- It means that they are like "The choicest first fruits of your soil you shall bring to the house of the LORD" (Exodus 34:26).
- They unfortunately became victims among humans and were slaughtered.
- They are the most holy of mankind, "without blemish in their body" (14:5), and are worthy to be with the Lamb.
- This may be John's drunken hallucination, and it is not at all consistent with the overall teaching of the Bible.

**(B) 為反思和應用的題目。Reflection and application question (15 minutes)**

默示錄 14 章為人類提出了兩種截然不同的可能性：一方面，遵守天主的誡命，無論羔羊往哪裡去，都跟隨他；另一方面，崇拜那獸並最終站在那些迫害天主子民的一邊。在我們的日常選擇中，我們每個人都在朝著明確屬於這兩個群體中的一個或另一個的方向前進。您認為您屬於這兩個群體中的哪一個？為什麼您會這樣認為？如果你“不在這裡也不在那裡”，你認為自己死後會怎樣？

Revelation 14 presents two radically opposed possibilities for human beings: on the one hand, keep God's commandments and follow the Lamb wherever he goes; on the other hand, worship the beast and end up on the side of those persecuting God's people. In our daily choices each of us is progressing toward belonging definitively to one or the other of these two groups. Which of these two groups do you think you belong to? Why do you think so? If you are "neither here nor there", what do you think will happen to you after death?