

What Is The 144,000 of Revelation 7 and 14?

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Introduction

Revelation 7:1-4, And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.1 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,2 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.3 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.4

Revelation 14:1, 3-4, And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.1 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.3 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.4

Within these two texts of scriptures, we find the reference to 144,000. But, what does this number represent? What is the meaning of the number 144,000? And, what is the application to the church? As we study the Bible for the answer to these and many more questions, we need to understand that the book of Revelation is written with figurative language. Our approach to answering the question of the hour will be contextual.

We will approach our study of this significant number by answering the question directly and in simplicity. Secondly, we will consider what the 144,000 is NOT. Furthermore, we will see that God's number has a future. Finally, we will consider the price that was paid for this number.

What is the 144,000 of Revelation 7 and 14?

- James 1:1, *James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.*
 - Within the first century, it was not uncommon for Christians to be identified as *the twelve tribes*. Twelve was number used to represent God's people, such as, the twelve apostles or the twelve tribes.

"TWELVE TRIBES = CHRISTIANS

(Jas 1:1)

Christians of faith are of Abraham, father of us all (Ro 4:16).

Those of faith are sons of Abraham (Ga 3:7-9).

Abraham's offspring (Ga 3:29).

The Israel of God (Ga 6:16).

The *true* circumcision (Php 3:3)" (Hess)

- Revelation 14:4, *These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.*
 - Revelation 5:9, *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*
 - James 1:18, *Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*
- Revelation 7:14-15, *And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 14 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the thone shall dwell among them. 15*
 - Revelation 1:5, *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,*

- John 19:33-34, *But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:33 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.34*
- Romans 6:3-6, *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?3 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.4 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:5 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.6*
- I Corinthians 3:16-17, *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?16 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.*
 - c.f. Ephesians 2:20-22, *And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;20 In whom all the building fitly framed together growth unto an holy temple in the Lord:21 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.22*
- Bottom line, the 144,000 are God's people.

What the 144,000 are NOT

- "Rev 14:4-They are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These appear to have never been married and never been intimate with a woman. Some consider the virginity mentioned here is not of a sexual nature but is referring to spiritual purity. However, the fact that women are mentioned, in connection with this, indicates this means exactly what it says. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. This could signify that they were originally the first to be saved after the Rapture.

Rev 14:5-In an age when cursing and blaspheming God is commonplace, it is interesting to note in this verse, And in their mouth was found no guile for they are without fault before the throne of God.

These 144,000 are probably alive right now in Israel. Many of them may be orthodox Jews in the Holy Land today. Though they are zealous for God, at this time, blindness in parts is happened to Israel-Romans 11:25.

Following God's supernatural destruction of the invading forces against Israel, the 144,000 believe and go forth preaching the Everlasting Gospel and the Gospel of the Kingdom over all

the earth. They will preach to fear God, to give glory to God, the message of salvation, and the message of the judgments that are now being brought upon the earth.

Many will get saved as a result of the 144,000 anointed ones of God. However, those that do come to Christ, by faith, will suffer horrible persecutions. Many will have to flee for their lives as time progresses. Many will eventually be beheaded for their faith in Jesus.

What ultimately happens to the 144,000 is not clear.” (Gospel Truth)

- *2 Peter 3:16, As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*
- “The fulfillment of this prophesy can only be completely fulfilled before that great and dreadful day of the Lord (Second Coming). It is scheduled to be accomplished by those assigned this task to prepare the whole world for the return of Christ where He is to rule over this earth. These 144,000 ("Elijahs") will come in the power of Elijah -- the indwelling Holy Spirit. They will prophesy for 1260 days (Rev. 11:13). This is why they are called "servants the prophets." When they have finished their testimony they, like John the Baptist, will also be martyred (Rev. 11:7).” (Gent)
 - *Matthew 28:19-20, Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:19 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.20*
 - All Christians are given the responsibility to preach the gospel of Christ. Not just a select few – 144,000.
- “The answer: They are not yet externalized on the earth, but soon will be. John saw Zion in a vision: Here we are given the key number for the cities of Zion: 144,000. Each completed city of Zion will have approximately this many heads of households and at least one city has to be underway before Christ will return. The inhabitants of Zion will have the Fathers name in their foreheads. This means that each will recognize the authority of the God within and through that power manifest purpose. The center at the top of the head will be active to some extent.” (Dewey)
 - *2 Timothy 2:15, Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*
- “The 144,000 Israelites are converted, end-time, blood-born descendants of the Israelites who were brought out of Egypt in the days of Moses. It could well be - and I hope it is - that some Gentile believers, those who do not balk at the idea of being classified as Israelis or Jews, will be numbered with them: but that is for the Almighty to decide.” (Loughran)

- Compare Revelation 7:4-8 to the record in Numbers 1:5-16.
 - Differences can be found in the fact that the tribe of Levi was not counted in the Numbers list, but counted on the Revelation list. Also, Ephraim and Dan were both left out of the Revelation list, but included on the Numbers list. Hence, the idea above is flawed.

As we can read for ourselves, there are many different ideas concerning the identity of the 144,000. *But these ideas are NOT the 144,000 of the Bible.*

God's Number Has a Future

- Revelation 14:13, *And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*
 - The implied teaching of this verse is the fact that God's number will be in the presence of God.
- 1 Corinthians 15:24, *Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.*
 - The kingdom of Christ or the church of Christ will be delivered up to the Father. The church is represented by the number 144,000. Thus, the 144,000 figuratively stated, shall be delivered up to heaven.
- Ephesians 1:3-5, 11, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:3 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:4 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,5 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:11*
 - God's number is predestined before the foundation of the world to have a home with Christ.
- Hebrews 11:7, *By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*
 - 1 Peter 3:20, *Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.*

- Brethren and friends, the church of Christ has a future.

The Price Was Paid for the 144,000

- Revelation 13:8, *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*
 - Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was *slain* for the world.
 - c.f. Revelation 7:14, *And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*
- Acts 20:28, *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*
 - Our Lord purchased the church by his own blood.
- I Corinthians 6:20, *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*
- Ephesians 2:16, *And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:*
- Hebrews 9:7, 22, *But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:7 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.22*
- God's people, His number was redeemed at a price, the blood of Christ.

Conclusion

- First of all, we have seen where the 144,000 in a very simple and figurative way represents God's people, Christians.
- Secondly, we have read of what others (those outside of Christ) have said about the 144,000.
- Furthermore, God's number has a future.
- Finally, there was a price given for this number, the precious blood of Christ.

Questions

1. Regarding the number 144,000, should this number to be taken literally? **Y** or **N**
2. The 144,000 is not:
 - a. the first to be saved *after* the rapture
 - b. the miraculously gifted prophets like Elijah who will preach the gospel
 - c. the literal number of Israelites that will be converted at the end of time
 - d. all of the above
3. Does God's number have a future home in heaven? **Y** or **N**
4. The 144,000 have been redeemed by the blood of Christ. **T** or **F**

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