## THE MYSTERY OF THE 144,000 EXPLAINED

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- 1. In Scripture is brought to view a mysterious number of saints, the 144,000. Rev. 7:1-4; Rev. 14:1.
- 2. We are told that they are of the tribes of Israel. This is spiritual Israel. Ps. 73:1; Gal. 6:15,16.
- 3. All physical Israel are not of spiritual Israel, they (fleshly Israel) are not the children of God. Rom. 9:6-8.
- 4. The children of the promise (as Isaac) are counted for the seed of God, thus the 144000 of the tribes of Israel are spiritual Israelites. (Rom. 9:8; Gal. 3:7,9-14; Gal. 4:28).
- 5. The twelve tribes of spiritual Israel mentioned are: Rev. 7:5-8.
- 6. The tribe of Dan is missing as it was disinherited very early, and Manasseh (a half tribe from Joseph) took his place. As Dan was a judge in tribal traits, so then will be his replacement Manasseh. (Gen. 49:16; Rev. 7:6).
- 7. The 144,000 is literal in number, because this exact number is contrasted with the great multitude which we are told no man can number. Rev. 7:4,9.
- 8. But what is the significance of 144,000 (thousand)? We need to first look at the number twelve (12) as it is twelve thousand of each tribe that is sealed. Rev. 7:5-8.

- 9. The number twelve (12) signifies perfect organization, thus the twelve (12 "thousand") of each tribe signifies perfectly organized Christians in the end.
  - "Twelve is perfect number, signifying perfection of government, or of governmental perfection." E. W. Bullinger, Number in Scripture, pg. 253.
  - "Twelve ... Governmental perfection or rule." Hartill, quoted in, John J. Davis, Biblical Numerology, pg. 122.
- 10. Observe how often the number twelve (12) is used in the Bible. It is completion.
  - a. Twelve tribes. Gen. 49:28.
  - b. Twelve Pillars set up by Moses. Ex. 24:4.
  - c. Twelve cakes (shewbread) for the sanctuary. Lev. 24:5.
  - d. Twelve months in the year. Est. 2 12.
  - e. Twelve apostles. Matt. 10:1,2.
  - f. Twelve baskets of fragments of bread and fish. Mk. 6:43.
  - g. Twelve hours in the day time. Jn. 11:9.
  - h. Twelve stars on the crown. Rev. 12:1.
  - i. Twelve gates and angels for New Jerusalem. Rev. 21:12.
  - j. Twelve foundations in the new city. Rev. 21:14.
  - k. Twelve pearls on the twelve gates. Rev. 21:21.
  - 1. Twelve manner of fruits on the tree of life. Rev. 22:2.
- 11. In the Bible 1000 (thousand) is used to mean a large number

in contrast to one (1) or one hundred (100). It is the smallest unit of a nation, and thus represents a large amount of people.

- a. One man shall chase a thousand. Josh. 23:10.
- b. One man (Samson) slew a thousand. Jud. 15:15,16.
- c. A thousand shekels cannot motivate a man to slay the king's son, though the money be so much. 2 Sam. 18:12.
- d. One day in God's courts is better than a thousand days. Ps. 84:10.
- e. One Thousand years is as yesterday in God's sight. Ps. 90:4.
- f. A thousand shall fall at the side of one man who makes God his refuge. Ps. 91:7.
- g. God remembers His covenant word which He commanded to a thousand years. Ps. 105:8.
- h. Though a vain man live a thousand years twice he will see no good. Eccl. 6:6.
- i. One man among a thousand can grasp the scheme of things. Eccl. 7:28.
- j. One thousand flees at the rebuke of one. Isa. 30:17.
- k. A little one becomes a thousand. Isa. 60:22.
- 1. One day with God is as a thousand years for man. 2 Pet. 3:8.
- 12. Thus the twelve (12) thousand of each of the twelve tribes, adding up to 144,000 shows that God will have a great body of sealed saints, large amount, at the time when evil men and sinners waxes worse and worse so that Christ have to ask the question if He would find Faith on the earth at His second coming. (Rev. 14:1; 2 Tim. 3:13; Lk. 18:8).

- 13. The 144,000 (thousand) is sealed just before the four winds of strife, war and bloodshed is broken loose by the angels. Thus they live during the time of trouble. (Rev. 7:1-3; Jer. 25:32,33; Dan. 12:1).
- 14. The 144,000 are therefore those saints who remain alive during the time of trouble, while their brethren, many, many Christians, died as martyrs for Christ. (Rev. 15:2,3; Rev. 20:4; Rev. 13:15).
- 15. The one hundred and forty and four thousand (144, 000) are sealed with the Holy Spirit in latter rain power. (Eph. 1:13; Jam. 5:7,8; Rev. 7:4).
- 16. Thus they have an intellectual and spiritual settling into the truth so as not to be moved out of the Faith.
- "A settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually so they cannot be moved." Ellen G. White, <u>The Faith I Live By</u>, pg. 287.
- 17. The sealing of the 144,000 is the Father's name written in their minds. (Rev. 7:4; Rev. 14:1).
- 18. This name is YHWH. Ps. 83:18; Isa. 42:8.
- 19. This name is holy, it is a holy name. Ps. 145:21; Eze. 39:7.
- 20. In fact, because YHWH identifies God as the only true God,

- the very meaning of His name is HOLY. (Isa. 45:5,6, 21,22; Isa. 57:15).
- 21. Holiness means "God-only-ness". (Ps. 86:8,10; Isa. 40:25; 1 Sam. 2:2).
- 22. Thus with Father's name written in their minds, the 144,000 shows God to be God alone or holy against the claim of Lucifer, that he is God with God, in the final reaches of the great controversy. Rev. 14:1.
  - "And Satan, surround by evil angels, and claiming to be God, will work miracles of all kinds, to deceive, if possible, the very elect... God's tried and tested people will find their power in the sign spoken in Exodus 31:12-18." Ellen G. White, <u>Testimonies For The Church, Vol. 9</u>, pg. 15,16.
  - "You know that Satan will come in to deceive if possible the very elect. He claims to be Christ, and he is coming in, pretending to be the great medical missionary. He will cause fire to come down from heaven in the sight of men, to prove that he is God. We must stand barricaded by the truths of the Bible." Ellen G. White, <u>Special Testimonies</u>, <u>Series B</u>, <u>No. 6</u>, pg. 33.
  - "The time is at hand when Satan will work miracles to confirm minds in the belief that he is God..." Ellen G. White, Medical Ministry, pg. 14.
- 23. Thus, by getting men to worship the Beast-Papacy, knowing fully well that this is worship of himself, the dragon, Satan, by

this seeks to be exalted as God with God; but with their theologically and spiritually advanced Faith and life, the 144,000, like Christ, with the Father's name sealed in their minds, exalts God alone to be worshipped, thus saying God alone is God. (Rev. 13:1-4; Matt. 4:8-10).

- 24. The 144,000 are sealed with the Father's name in their minds, this name is YHWH as found in the Sabbath, the seal of God. (Rev. 14:1; Ps. 83:18; Ex. 20:8-11; Eze. 20:20).
- 25. Thus the deep philosophical meaning of the Sabbath for serving YHWH the true God, in the minds of the 144,000' is the knowledge they hold of god as creator thus God being God alone against the contradictory claims of Satan. (Eze. 20:12; Ex. 31:12,13,15-17; Isa. 40:25,26).
- 26. The 144,000 have experienced the existence of sinlessness, since there is no deceit in their mouth and they are faultless before God. (Rev. 14:5; 1 Jn. 3:6,9).
- 27. The 144,000 profess a pure faith because they are not defiled by false religions.
  - a. Babylonian false religion does not deceive them. Rev. 17:4-6; Rev. 18:2-4.
  - b. They are pure-faith Christians (virgins). (Rev. 12:17; Rev. 14:12; Rev. 10:7; Dan. 12:3,4,10).
  - "They are called virgins because they profess a pure faith." Ellen G. White, <u>Christ Object Lessons</u>, pg. 371.

- 28. Through the latter rain of the Holy Spirit experience, the 144,000 experience a kind of superman, supernatural powers as God working in them against their enemies of evil angels and men. Joel. 2:1-10.
  - "The 144,000 were all sealed and perfect united. On their foreheads was written, God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus' new name. At our happy holy state the wicked were enraged, and would rush violently up to lay hands on us to thrust us into prison, when we would stretch forth the hand in the name of the Lord, and they would fall helpless to the ground." Ellen G. White, <u>Early Writings</u>, pg. 15.
- 29. The 144,000 hold a Faith (from the deep philosophical meaning of the Sabbath) that helps them face the seven (7) last plagues in nature and politics adequately. Ps. 46:1-11.
  - "At that time the latter rain, or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come to ... prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues are poured out." Ellen G. White, <u>Early Writings</u>, pg. 85,86.
  - "... they have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation .... They have seen the earth wasted with famine and pestilence, the sun having power to scorch men with great heat, and they themselves have endured suffering, hunger and thirst." Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy, pg. 649.
- 30. The 144,000 goes through a period within the time of trouble

or year of the plagues called Jacob's trouble. Jer. 30:7.

- "... they have endured the anguish of the time of Jacob's trouble; they have stood without an intercessor through the final out pouring of God's judgments." <u>Ibid</u>, pg. 649.
- "A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob's trouble. Then all the saints cried out with anguish of spirit, and were delivered by the voice of God. The 144,000 triumphed." Ellen G. White, Early Writings, pg. 36-37.
- 31. The following account is the (PPPH) Prophetic Progressive Physical History OF Jacob's Trouble. Gen. 32:1-12,24-30.
- 32. In the modern equivalent that the 144,000 goes through, we have the following points:
  - a. The 144,000 are the saints of God that remain alive during the year of the seven last plagues.
  - b. All their past sins are supposed to be blotted out by then, though they may not know.
  - c. A death decree to slay the 144,000 saints at a certain time is spread around.
  - d. The wicked gather to destroy them.
  - e. The 144,000 saints are concerned for their security, they fear that if one sin is in their life that was unforsaken and un-confessed, they shall not be entitled to God's protection, so they shall be overwhelmed by the wicked, destroyed and die lost.
  - f. So they go into a long season of prayer and searching

- of their hearts and lives to see if there is any sin to detect. This causes them excruciating anguish.
- g. The hear and see the plottings of the wicked all around them and fear that they will be killed.
- h. But, try how they may, they cannot bring a single sin to their remembrance, all their sins have indeed been blotted out before the start of the plagues, and God has removed the memory of them from their minds.
- i. This experience is designed to further adjust the minds and thinking of the 144,000 to only the nature and spirit of heavenly things. It burns out the last earthliness from them.
- j. As the wicked rushed upon, the 144,000, God suddenly miraculously interposes to deliver the 144,000 saints from death.
- k. Thus the 144,000 saints triumph over the forces of the beast and his followers.
- 33. Thus 144,000 experiences the thrill of triumph over their enemies of men and evil angels. Jer. 30:7; Isa. 30:29-31.

"It was at midnight that God chose to deliver His people. As the wicked were mocking around them, suddenly the sun appeared, shining in his strength, and the moon stood still. The wicked looked upon the scene with amazement, while the saints beheld with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance." Ellen G. White, <u>Early Writings</u>, pg. 285.

"This was the time of Jacob's trouble. Then all the saints cried out with anguish of spirit, and were delivered by the voice of God. The 144,000 triumphed. Their faces were

lighted up with the glory of God." Ibid, pg. 37.

"When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honour the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof. The people of God—some in prison cells, some hidden in solitary retreats in the forests and the mountains — still plead for divine protection, while in every quarter companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death. It is now, in the hour of utmost extremity, that the God of Israel will interpose for the deliverance of His chosen... With shouts of triumph, jeering, and imprecation, throngs of evil men are about to rush upon their prey, when, lo, a dense blackness, deeper than the darkness of the night, falls upon the earth. Then a rainbow, shining with the glory from the throne of God, spans the heavens and seems to encircle each praying company. The angry multitudes are suddenly arrested. Their mocking cries die away. The objects of their murderous rage are forgotten. With fearful forebodings they gaze upon the symbol of God's covenant and long to be shielded from its overpowering brightness." Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy, pg. 635-636.

"Glorious will be the deliverance of those who have patiently waited for His Coming and whose names are written in the book of life." <u>Ibid</u>, pg. 634.

- 34. The following chart explains the events of the great deliverance of the 144,000, God's people.
- 35. The 144,000 become ambassadors of Christ and the Gospel to the whole universe because of the special experience of the Faith they have. Rev. 14:4.
- 36. The 144,000 sing a new song which only they can know for it is a song of the experience they went through. Rev. 15:2-4.
  - "And they sing "a new song" before the throne, a song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand. It is the song of Moses and the Lamb— a song of deliverance. None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song; for it is the song of their experience an experience such as no other company have ever had." Ellen G. White, <u>The Great Controversy</u>, pg. 648-649.
- The song of Moses and the Lamb is found in Deut. 32:1-37. 43. (Deut. 31:30).
- 38. The 144,000 are trophies of God's salvific grace, thus they are called the firstfruits of the saved. This means that God will have a great number that is even (144,000), of saints who will face all the temptations that Satan and his host can muster, and all will NOT sin, but be triumphant against sin and Satan. God stakes His divinity on the fact that in the worst stage of the earth's history, when the love of many shall grow cold, He will spiritually maintain and keep holy a large body of saints, with even numbers, to prove their success cannot be attributed to the fact that some saints were able to

make it safe. No, the large even number (144,000) proves that it is God that is responsible for their salvation, His grace is able to save to the uttermost, those that come unto Him. (2 Tim. 3:13; Matt. 24:12; Eph. 2:5,8; Heb. 7:25; Rev. 14:4).

Fin.

## **CHART # 1**

<ol> <li>Last Martyr Killed</li> <li>Sins Blotted Out</li> </ol>	Close of Probation	Death Decree		<ol> <li>Dense Darkness Second</li> <li>Saints Delivered Coming of Christ</li> </ol>
3. 144,000 Remain Alive 1st. 2nd. 3rd. 4th. 5th. 6th. 7th.				
4. Plagues Begin to Fall	SEVEN	LAS	ST	PLAGUES
ON	E YE	AR		