

144,000 EYEWITNESSES

144,000 SEALED

Revelation 7:1-4

- 1 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.
- 2 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,
- 3 Saying, **Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees**, till we have **sealed the servants of our God (bond servants) in their foreheads.**
- 4 **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.**

- ❖ Sealed by God for witness, protection and ownership. antichrist will also seal on the foreheads
- ❖ **Servants** - G1401 doulos (doo'-los) - a bond servant to "Christ" - Paul described in the same way
- ❖ A very specific number was sealed - 144,000 Jews called out from the 12 Tribes of Israel
- ❖ 144,000 are saved during the first 3 ½ yrs. Otherwise they would have been raptured.

144,000 CALLED OUT OF 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL

Revelation 7:5-8

- 5 Of the **tribe of Juda** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the **tribe of Reuben** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the **tribe of Gad** were sealed twelve thousand.
- 6 Of the **tribe of Aser** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the **tribe of Nephthalim** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the **tribe of Manasses** were sealed twelve thousand.
- 7 Of the **tribe of Simeon** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the **tribe of Levi** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the **tribe of Issachar** were sealed twelve thousand.
- 8 Of the **tribe of Zabulon** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the **tribe of Joseph** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the **tribe of Benjamin** were sealed twelve thousand.

144,000 EYEWITNESSES STANDING WITH THE LORD ON MT. ZION

Revelation 14:1-5

- 1 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.**
- 2 And **I heard a voice (sound) from heaven**, as the voice (sound) of many waters, and as the voice (sound) of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:
- 3 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.**
- 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.**
- 5 And in their mouth was found no guile: **for they are without fault before the throne of God.**

FIVE REVELATIONS OF THE 144,000 EYEWITNESSES

1. v. 1 - If the 144,000 were in the Heavenly Mt. Zion, then we would have to conclude that they were martyred somewhere between the time that they were sealed in Revelation 7 and 14. In Revelation 12 and 13, we see the devil being cast down to the earth, the antichrist and the false prophet are given power to destroy for 42 months, and establishment of the mark of the beast. If they were martyred during this time, then **what was the purpose of the seal upon their foreheads given in Revelation 7:2-3**, as it was supposed to protect them from the judgments of tribulation ?
 - ❖ The devil is cast down to the earth after war with Michael in Heaven. (Rev 12:7-14)
 - ❖ Israel flees into the wilderness for 3 ½ yrs. (Rev 12:6,14)
 - ❖ The devil indwells and gives his power to antichrist for 42 months. (Rev 13:1-5)
 - ❖ The false prophet joins the antichrist and establishes the mark of the beats. (Rev 13:11-18)
2. v. 2-3 I heard a sound “from Heaven.” If John were in Heaven seeing this, he would not have had to differentiate. John hears a sound from a heavenly choir that sounded like the voice of many waters and great thunder, as well as the sound of harpers harping with their harps. The heavenly choir were singing a new song that only the 144,000 firstfruits of the tribulation could “learn” from the earth. If no man could learn the song, then why were the elders present at the Throne hearing the song. Everyone present at the Throne could hear the song, but only 144,000 from the earth could learn it, as they were God’s chosen eyewitnesses for the last half the great tribulation.
3. v. 4a - The 144,000 follow the Lord wherever He goes. If they were in Heaven, they would be sitting with Him watching the events of the final half of the tribulation unfold. They were in fact His Evangelistic witnesses, being sent out all over the world. This verse describes them as virgins, having never been defiled with women. If they are in Heaven, why is John describing their earthly standing as virgins.
4. v. 5 - They are without fault before the Throne of God. Everyone in Heaven is without fault, so why the differentiation ? Is it because they were a company of witnesses like Stephen, in which the heavens were opened unto them while standing upon the earth. They were called to witness during the most devastating times in all of human history, the time of the greatest wrath ever poured out upon humanity. They were caught up continually before God.
 - ❖ **John 3:12-13**
 - 12 If I told you earthly things and ye believe not, how shall ye believe if I tell you heavenly things?
 - 13 And **no one hath ascended into heaven, but he that descended out of heaven, even the Son of man, who is in heaven.**
 - ❖ **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.
5. v. 4b - The 144,000 being described as firstfruits of the tribulation. The following section describes one of the greatest harvest of souls in all of human history. Most scholars, teachers and bible commentaries believe that this multitude of souls were evangelized by the 144,000 eyewitnesses. However, these souls are saved during the “Great Tribulation”, which was the 2nd half.

THE DEVIL CAST DOWN TO THE EARTH - ISRAEL FLEES TO THE WILDERNESS

Revelation 12: 7-9, 12-14

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 And prevailed not; **neither was their place found any more in heaven.**

9 And **the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth,** and his angels were cast out with him.

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. **Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath,** because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

14 And to **the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time,** from the face of the serpent.

❖ V. 9-14 speaking of 2nd 3 ½ yrs, as Israel was at peace 1st 3 ½ yrs, no need to leave (v.14)

THE FALSE PROPHET EMERGES AND JOINS ANTICHRIST - THEY ESTABLISH THE MARK OF THE BEAST

Revelation 13:11-12, 15-18

11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

THE MESSAGE, DECLARATION AND WARNINGS OF THE THREE ANGELS

1st Angel - Flying in Mid-Air With the Everlasting Gospel

Revelation 14:6-7

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven (AMP Mid-Air), having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

❖ This Angel is flying in mid-air, as to move along the face of the sky. Many translations confirm this. John is seeing this Angel hovering over the 144,000, flying back and forth over them, having and representing the Eternal Gospel that they will soon preach to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. (Matt 24:14 Gospel Preached as a witness, then cometh the end)

2nd Angel - Pronouncing the Fall of "Mystery" Babylon

Revelation 14:8

8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

❖ Revelation 18:1-2

1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, **Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen**, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

❖ Revelation 16:18-19

18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

3rd Angel - Warning of Judgment to Those Who Take the Mark of the beast

Revelation 14:9-11 Angel Warning of Judgment to them that take Mark of the beast

9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

❖ The people of the Great Tribulation will be lost, being exposed to the greatest evil, deception and demonic control the world has ever endured. The 144,000 will carry this message to the world during this time, warning all not to take the mark of the beast.

❖ Revelation 12:13-14 Mid-Way Point of 7 Year Tribulation

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

14 and to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

❖ Revelation 13:15-18

15 he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

A GREAT HARVEST OF SOULS COMING OUT OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Revelation 7:3-4 , 9-10, 13-15

3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God (bond servants) in their foreheads.

4 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.

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

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.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

❖ Revelation 15:2 Martyrs in Heaven Who Were Victorious Over the Beasts

And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

❖ Revelation 20:4 Martyrs Who Refused Mark of Beast During Final 3 ½ Yrs.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

THE HARSH REALITY OF THE “GREAT TRIBULATION”

Revelation 14:12-13

12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

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 Great Tribulation has now begun, and the harsh reality is that it will be better to die “in the Lord” than live out the fullness of these days.