

3 “The 144,000”

There have been countless speculations down through the ages about the 144,000 individuals described in Revelation chapters seven and fourteen of the Bible. Who are these individuals prophesied to be resurrected at the return of Jesus (Rev. 14:1-3)? This chapter will reveal the identity of these individuals and help you decide whether you want to be a part of this group of people or not. The inhabitants of this earth will witness unbelievable events at the end of this age. The book of Revelation describes many of the end time prophecies that will come to pass (Rev. chapters 8-17). One of those end-time events will be the transformation of 144,000 individuals from physical life to Spirit life at Jesus' coming. Jesus told us He would return just before we would annihilate ourselves on this earth. He said that no one would be left alive if He delayed His return any longer (Mat. 24:21-22). The Father will give the green light and Jesus will have a triumphant return at the blowing of the seventh trump. At that moment 144,000 of God's elect will be changed in a twinkling of an eye (I Cor. 15:52). They will have been sealed in the forehead by the Father for this very moment (Rev. 7:3, 9:4, 14:1, 22:4).

The number “144,000” mentioned in Revelation 7 and 14 is not a frivolous number that God just threw in the Bible. It has a lot to do with your future and the future of everyone who has ever lived on this earth. Just who are those individuals that make up this group and what is their destiny? What kind of selection process will God use in determining who will be in this group? You have an opportunity to be a part of that group if you seriously heed God's calling now! It is your opportunity to get in on the “ground floor” of

the establishment of God's all encompassing government for eternity. At the seventh trump you can be changed from physical to Spirit and never see death again! This group of 144,000 is a very special select few that will lead the way for the salvation of the masses in a future resurrection (Rev. 20:5).

Most of humanity has never had an opportunity to accept Jesus as their savior (John 3:17). Many, who have observed society down through the ages, including our own age, have drawn the conclusion that most of humanity is lost. If this were true, Satan would be winning in the battle for "souls." God is not in a battle with Satan for the salvation of mankind as many have concluded. God is in complete control of everything including the salvation of mankind! Satan will not come out in the end as the victor. God plainly said it was not His will that any should perish (II Peter 3:9). Therefore, God's plan will work in bringing salvation to the masses! A basic principle to remember in understanding God's plan for humanity is that everything God does is perfect. There are absolutely no flaws in His plan. He will complete His purpose for humanity's existence. You and everyone else since the "Garden of Eden" were born to be winners not losers. God is not wringing His hands in frustration over our salvation.

The confusion, over how many people will eventually be saved, often arises from a misunderstanding of the timelines associated with some scriptures. We are told that straight is the gate that leads to salvation and few there be that find it (Mat. 7:13-14). We are also told that many are called but few are chosen (Mat. 20:16, 22:14). Those scriptures might lead someone to conclude that most will not be saved. These scriptures

apply to the 144,000 individuals selected for the resurrection at the seventh trump. It will be an extremely small number of people compared to the billions that have existed.

Thankfully, for those not among the 144,000 the opportunity for eternal life in the future still exists for them.

Everyone will have their opportunity for salvation in the order that God will decree (I Cor. 15:23-26). God had a plan before the beginning of time for the salvation of the masses (II Sam. 14:14). He has never abandoned that course of action. Everyone must die but God developed a “means” by which they could be rescued. He began to give mankind a glimpse of that plan by revealing the “Holy Days” outlined in the 23rd chapter of Leviticus to the nation of Israel. When God revealed these days in the Old Testament, Israel didn’t understand the Spiritual significance of these days in the salvation of mankind (Deut. 5:29). He has revealed the meaning of those days to those who seek Him in this age. The spiritual meaning of the “Holy Days” given in the Old Testament was an outline of God’s plan for humanity’s salvation (Request a copy of the booklet titled “The Spiritual Holy Days”).

The 144,000 individuals who will be resurrected at Jesus’ return will become the Priests of God. Is this the only group of 144,000 selected? Contrary to what a lot of people have assumed, there are two separate groups of 144,000! We are told that those whom God would select would be Kings and Priests (Rev. 1:6). Those two positions are not the same. The Kings will rule over a physical realm on this earth as physical beings. The Priests will be over Spiritual matters on this earth as Spirit beings. These are two distinct

functions of leadership. The holders of these positions will make up a total of 288,000 positions in God's Kingdom. There will be 144,000 representing a physical group and 144,000 representing a Spiritual group.

What is the major difference between these two groups of 144,000? The Holy Spirit in its complete form was not available to those of the Old Testament. The Holy Spirit that transforms a person into a "begotten son of God" was not available before the "Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-2). The Father said of Jesus that He was His only "begotten Son" (John 3:16). He was the beginning of the Spiritual group of a 144,000 Priests who would become begotten. No scriptures in the Bible indicate the Holy Spirit in this form would be retroactive to those of the Old Testament Covenant. Since the opportunity of becoming Priests was not offered to anyone before Pentecost, only those after Jesus could be a part of the 144,000 resurrected at the seventh trump. The Old Testament was a physical covenant of kings. The New Testament is a Spiritual covenant of Priests. The first group of 144,000 that was selected came from a time before Jesus and the New Covenant. The second group of 144,000 is made up of those since Jesus. God's plan will produce a righteous physical group and a righteous Spiritual group to help lead the masses to salvation in a future resurrection! There was a moment in time when one member of the physical group (John the Baptist) met a member of the Spiritual group (Jesus) while they were still in the womb. It is recorded in the Bible that John the Baptist leaped in Elizabeth's womb at the salutation of Mary (Luke 1:41-44). Let's look at those two groups that will be selected before Jesus' return. The first group of 144,000 kings has

already been selected. The final selections for the second group of 144,000 Priests are almost complete!

The physical group of kings is revealed in Revelation seven and Ezekiel thirty-seven. The first three verses of Revelation seven describe the ones who are to be sealed as Priests at Jesus' return. The physical group of kings is described, who have already been sealed with the Old Covenant, begins with verse four. We are plainly told that this group of physical kings will come from the "House of Israel" (Rev. 7:4) Twelve thousand will be selected from each of the twelve tribes. Twelve times twelve thousand equals one hundred and forty-four thousand. This group of 144,000 will be resurrected as physical kings at the end of the 1,000 year period (Rev. 20:5, Ezek. 37:1-13). David is designated to be the head King at that time (Ezek. 37:24). The book of Hebrews even mentions some of the other kings that will be in this physical resurrection (Heb. 11:1-40). No one in the New Testament is listed in this group of physical kings. It will be their job to run the government as physical kings on the earth at the end of the one thousand year period. They will rule during a time described in Leviticus as the "Feast of Tabernacles" (Lev. 23:34). The book of Ezekiel (37:1-14) describes this resurrection of the billions of dead back to a physical life on this earth. This group of 144,000 kings selected from the "House of Israel" will also be resurrected at this time as physical kings to help the masses to achieve salvation.

The Spiritual group is revealed in Revelation chapters seven, fourteen and twenty. This group will be sealed by the Father before the blowing of the seventh trump. When Jesus

returns they will be resurrected as Spirit beings and will be Priests. This is described as the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5-6). The rest of the dead, including the physical group of 144,000 kings, will not be resurrected until one thousand years later. This group of Spirit beings will reign with Christ and be taught by Him for a thousand years prior to the resurrection of the physical group of kings (Rev. 20:5).

The thousand year period immediately following Jesus' return will be a time of healing and atonement of the earth (Lev. 23:27). The earth will be in preparation for the habitation of the masses that will be resurrected at the end of this period. Satan's influence will not be present during this time of the thousand year rest (Rev. 20:2). This time of rest corresponds to the institution of the land Sabbath that God gave Israel (Lev. 25:1-4). God ordained the earth should rest from harvesting every seventh year. Six thousand years of abuse and neglect of the earth requires a rest of 1,000 years to restore the earth to its original beauty. One thousand years will allow the earth to completely heal and cleanse itself before the masses of people are resurrected.

Jesus declared that some physical individuals would survive the events at the end of this age (Mat. 24:22). Why were they allowed to survive? What will be their assignment at the start of this one thousand year period? This is a group of physical people who are not a part of the two groups of 144,000. This group of individuals will be used as a special clean-up crew. This earth will be a mess as the result of mankind's abuse and neglect. God will require humans to clean up their own mess. This small group of individuals was allowed to survive for this purpose. This assignment is described in the Old Testament in

very descriptive detail (Ezek. 39:7-17). They are to bury the dead and clean up much of the toxic remains of war and general abuse by mankind. Once this is done the earth will lay idle until the end of the 1,000 year period. This period is described in the Bible as the “Day of Atonement” (Lev. 23:27). It will be a rest for the earth just as this day in Old Testament times was to be used as a rest and a time of fasting for individuals.

The Holy Spirit will not be available for this clean-up crew at the beginning of this 1,000 year period. They will eventually die and have to wait until the resurrection of the masses at the end of the thousand year rest period (Rev. 20:5). It will be a time when the sacrifices will be instituted again to show a time of redemption in the future (Zech. 14:21 and Rev. 14:1-5). These scriptures about offering a sacrifice are for a time still in the future. The need for sacrifices during the beginning of this one thousand year period will end when this group of people (the clean-up crew) ceases to exist on this earth.

The physical group of 144,000 kings was sealed before the “Day of Pentecost” almost 2,000 years ago. The Spiritual group of 144,000 Priests will not be completely sealed until the seventh trump. You have an opportunity to be a part of this very special group. It is described as the better resurrection (Rev. 20:6 and Heb. 11:35). Millions of people are being given an invitation to participate in this one time event. Unfortunately, most throw the special invitation into the trash! The parable of the sower of the seeds describes this invitation process (Mat. 13:3-23). God is revealing vital information to you through His Holy Spirit. He will wait to see how you respond to that new information. The more responsive you are, the closer you will get to being selected for the Spiritual group of

144,000 Priests. God expects us to continually walk through doors He opens in our lives. We should never question God's wisdom in what He asks us to do. If we ever get complacent and stall out in this process, we will temporally halt the process of our salvation.

The Father will never lower His standards for anyone that is to be a part of the "Kingdom of God." Total submission and surrender to His will is required (Acts 2:38). We have to develop a willing mind for obedience in the process of our salvation or we won't be accepted. We are not pleasing God if we respond reluctantly to His will. We must "buy into" God's system completely! He will not accept us unless we agree to a total conversion of our minds from physical to Spiritual (Rev. 3:16). Upon the total conversion of our minds we will rise at the seventh trump to meet Jesus for what is described as the better resurrection (Rev. 20:6 and Heb. 11:35). We are now being called to be a part of that special resurrection (Mat. 22:14). Unless we endure to the end, without wavering, we will not make the cut (Mat. 10:22). We will be a part of the resurrection of the masses of people at the end of the one thousand year rest period of the earth (Ezek. 37:10; Rev. 7:9). Satan will once again be on the job of deceiving and blinding people (Rev. 20:3). You must either deal with him now in this life or face him in the future!

What will you choose for your eternal destiny? Our true destiny can be understood by looking at what Jesus inherited. We are to be joint-heirs with Him of everything the Father possesses (Rom. 8:17). What was Jesus destined to be like (John 10:27-36)? He was to become a Priest after the order of Melchisedec (Heb. 6:20 and 7:11-21). This is

the destiny that lies in front of you! Jesus was the pioneer of this Spiritual group of 144,000 Priests. He is our elder brother today sitting at the right hand of the Father. He and our Father are very anxious for our arrival into the Kingdom of God (Mark 16:19)!

When the two groups of 144,000 kings and Priests are brought together at the start of the “Feast of Tabernacles”, they will work as a team to help the masses that will be resurrected (Rev. 20:5). Can you imagine yourself a part of that special leadership team? We need to get with the program God has laid out for everyone He has called. He promised us all the help necessary to achieve our destiny (John 14:16). We must willingly accept that help from our Father and elder brother Jesus! Some of the very first individuals who were invited to be a part of the Spiritual group of 144,000 had the same question as perhaps you do. Why me? Many people of God have asked that same question (Ex. 3:11, I Sam. 18:18, II Sam. 7:18, I Chron. 17:16, I Chron. 29:14, II Chron. 2:6, Heb. 2:6, and Acts 2:37). Don’t question God’s wisdom and purpose in calling you! The necessary ingredient for entrance into His Kingdom has been in place since the beginning. We must have action in our lives (Mat. 11:22). God has given you a very special invitation! Don’t throw this invitation away (Heb. 2:1-13)!