

WHO ARE THE 144,000?

REVELATION CHAPTER SEVEN VERSES ONE THROUGH NINE

PART I

(Outline # 3)

This outline only gives basic information on the 144,000 and the sealing.

PRAYER THOUGHT: *CSW 25:1.*

INTRODUCTION: The main focus of this study is the study of the 144,000, their relationship to us as Seventh-Day Adventists, and how we may become a part of this great company.

BODY

I. Read: *Rev.7:1-4*

BRIEF OVERVIEW

- A. Four symbolic winds are being held by four angels
- B. An angel comes from the east with the seal of God
- C. The winds cannot be let loose until the 144,000 are sealed
- D. The 144,000 are a very special company

WHAT DO THE WINDS SYMBOLIZE?

II. Read: *5T 152:2*

EXPLANATION: Here we are told that the symbolic winds represent the “time of trouble such as never was” (Dan. 12:1) -- the “mark of the beast” decree or the “Sunday-Blue Laws.”

Thus, the 144,000 have to be sealed before the mark of the beast. Since the “mark of the beast decree is just ahead of us, this indicates that the 144,000 are being sealed today. (See also *7A Bible Commentary*, p. 976:2).

NOTE: These winds in *Revelation 7* could not symbolize war seeing that we have always had wars (for example, World War I and II) and yet the 144,000 are not yet sealed. The winds represent a special strife or trouble that is coming against the church. It does not indicate a clash of nation against nation. It must be held, lest it hurt the people of God. This shows that the winds are religio-political.

WHERE ARE THE 144,000 TO BE FOUND?

II. Read: *verse 4*

EXPLANATION: They are sealed from the tribes of Israel.

- A. However, this could not be ancient Israel, seeing that we are dealing with the time just prior to the mark of the beast -- our time.

- B. The 144,000 must therefore be found in modern Israel. *9T 164, 5T 94, PK 713-714.*

WHO IS MODERN ISRAEL TODAY?

- A. Read: *Rev. 14:1,4*

EXPLANATION: Here the 144,000 are said not to be defiled with women (churches of the world) because they are virgins (professing a pure faith -- See *COL. 406*). In other words, the 144,000 are found in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Further proof: See *EW 14, 42-3--* the only church teaching the “Midnight Cry” is the S.D.A. church.

FURTHER PROOF FOR WOMEN SYMBOLIZING CHURCHES: *Jer. 6:2, 3:14; GC 381:1 ; Jer. 31:4; Eph. 5:24,25.*

IS THIS NUMBER (144,000) SYMBOLIC OF COULD IT MEAN MORE?

- VI. Read: *verse 4.*

EXPLANATION: John clearly heard the number.

- A. Read: *EW 15*

EXPLANATION: Ellen White clearly saw the number.

- B. Read: *verses 5-9*

EXPLANATION: God delineates specifically 12,000 from each tribe. But in verse 9, John saw an innumerable company. The comparison shows that one is a numbered company (144,000), the other unnumbered. Hence, the number of the 144,000 has to be **literal**, not symbolic.

HOW ARE THEY SEALED?

- VII. Read: *TM 445:2*

EXPLANATION: Here we see that the sealing of the 144,000 is also to be found somewhere in the book of Ezekiel. The only such chapter where this prophet gives an account of a sealing, is the **NINTH**. Therefore, John the Revelator and Ezekiel saw the sealing of the 144,000.

- VIII. Read: *Ezekiel 9*

EXPLANATION:

- A. Six men or angels came from Heaven (higher gate towards the north). See *Isa. 14:13; Ps. 48 1,2.*

Note: Angels are sometimes called men. (See *Dan. 9:21; DA 99*)

- B. One was a marking angel.

- C. God told the marking angel to seal or mark only those who sigh and cry for the evils in Jerusalem--the church.

- D. God then commanded the other five angels to follow the marking angel and slay.

- E. He also instructed them to begin the destruction with the church (sanctuary 1 Pet. 4:17) and with the ancient men (leaders).
- F. God is not to have mercy because of the general attitude of the leaders and members. They are acting as if “the Lord will not do good or evil”-- not concerned.

Note: *There is no such thing as a spiritual slaughter.* (See 5 T 211, 505; 1 MR 260)

IX. Read 3 T 266,267

EXPLANATION:

- A. That the true people of God are those who recognize sin in the church, stay aloof from it, but speak out against the sins.
- B. Closing work for the church is the sealing of the 144,000.
- C. This work of the sealing of the 144,000 is forcibly set forth by the prophet (Ezekiel) when in vision. He saw five men (angels) with slaughter weapons and the sixth with a writer’s inkhorn.
- D. Only those who sigh and cry for the wrongs in the church receive the seal.
- E. The servant of the Lord under Inspiration tells us to read Ezekiel Chapter Nine.

An Objection: It is often stated that the slaughter of Ezekiel nine transpires during the plagues or at the second coming of Christ, based upon this statement found in 3 T 267:0: “They will fall in the **general destruction of the wicked. . .**” This, however, could not be so, because:

1. The plagues are described very differently from the destruction in Ezekiel nine.
 - a. In the plagues the angels use **vials**, and pour out the wrath of God upon **Babylon** (the world).
 - b. In Ezekiel’s description, the angels use **weapons** to slay those in **Jerusalem** (the church).
2. When we quote the sentence in full it would read as follows: “They will fall in the general destruction of the wicked represented by the work of the five men bearing which destroys slaughter weapons.” This tells us that this “general destruction” is that the wicked in the church (Jerusalem) not the world.--They are cut down by the five men (angels) not the vials of the seven angels in Revelation 16.

X. Read: 5 T 211

EXPLANATION:

- A. Those who do not mourn over their own sins (sigh) or warn others (cry) will not receive the seal.
- B. The church is the first to feel God’s wrath (literally).
- C. The ancient men are the leaders.

- D. The leaders have been unfaithful--betrayed their trust. They do not warn the members of the coming doom.
- E. They do not believe God will bring judgment on His people. They think that God is too merciful.
- F. Because they have failed as faithful leaders, they will never preach again.
- G. They are likened to dumb dogs (ministers are symbolized in scripture by dogs) because they are supposed to warn the members of danger. See *Isa. 56:10*

We can conclude that the 144,000 are to be sealed and spared because they sighed and cried. This destruction or slaughter is literal and takes place within the Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

NOTE: Four is used in Revelation 7 to show that the mark of the beast and the hurting by the angels are worldwide (four points of the compass) but it begins in the church.

WHERE DOES THE COMPANY IN VERSE NINE COME FROM?

XI. Read: *Rev 14:4*

EXPLANATION:

- A. The 144,000 are called the "First-fruits" -- evidently they are the first ones to be spiritually harvested -- saved from among the living. Note, that one cannot have a first without a second, one necessitates the other. (For an example, see *Rev 20:5* -- "The first resurrection" or *Rev.20:14* -- "The second death"). So, the Great Multitude in verse 9 must be the second fruits brought in by the 144,000, the first fruits.

XII. -- *ISA 66:15-20*

EXPLANATION:

- A. Verse 15 shows us that the Lord comes to bring judgment upon many.
- B. This could **not** be the second coming of Christ, as verse 16 says that He "pleads". There is no pleading at the second coming. (See *2T 691*)
- C. Verse 19 clearly shows that some escape the judgment and are sent as missionaries to preach the gospel worldwide. (This again shows that this coming was not the Second Advent, as no one will escape to preach the gospel).
- D. Therefore, the judgment of verse 15 must be the same as the slaughter of *Ezekiel 9*, and those who escape must be the 144,000 who in turn go out to finish the gospel and gather in the Great Multitude of *Rev. 7:9*.

SUMMARY: Thus we see that *Rev.* clearly forecasts that the church must be purified **before** the Mark of the Beast Decree, and that the Gospel will be completed during the time of the Sunday Laws. **Now** is the time of the Sunday Laws. **Now** is the time to sigh (reform our own lives) and cry (sound the message of reform for others).