

WHO ARE THE 144,000?

PART 1

REVELATION 7:1-4

(Outline # 3)

Meditation: CW25.1

INTRODUCTION: The main focus of this study is the 144,000, their relationship to us as Seventh-Day Adventists, and how we may become a part of this special company. This outline only gives basic information on the 144,000 and the sealing.

1. **Read: Revelation 7:1-4**

- REVIEW:**
- Four *symbolic* winds are being held by four angels
 - An angel *ascends* from the east with the seal of God
 - The winds cannot be let loose until the 144,000 are sealed
 - The 144,000 are a very special company

2. **When Will The 144,000 Be Sealed?**

Read: Rev. 7:1-3

- The 144,000 will be sealed **BEFORE** the blowing of the winds
- Therefore, the winds must be very important or very critical for us to understand because before the winds will be let loosed, the 144,000 must be sealed first.

3. **What Do The Winds Symbolize?**

Read: 57 152

- Winds in the Bible reveal trouble, strife and wars (*GC* 440). However, in Rev. 7 these winds reveal trouble against the church not nation against nation—not wars.
- 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 *Bible Commentary 7A*, p 976.2).
- The Mark of the Beast will be formed and exist before the final close of probation. These winds in Rev7 could not symbolize wars seeing that we have always had wars (for example, World War I and II) and yet the 144,000 are not yet sealed. Therefore, these winds represent a unique strife or trouble, that is designed to interfere with the churches mission. It does not indicate a clash of nation against nation only. It must be held, lest it hurt the people of God. This shows that the winds are religio-political in nature.

4. **Where Are The 144,000 To Be Found?**

Read: Revelation 7:4

- a. They are sealed from the tribes of Israel. 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 —The SDA Church. 9T164

Further proof: See *EW* 14, 42-3 —The only church teaching the “Midnight Cry” is the S.D.A. church. 5T94; *PK* 713-714.

Read: Rev. 14:4

- a. 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: Jer. 6:2, 3:14; *GC* 381:1; Jer. 31:4; Eph. 5:24, 25.

5. **Is This Number (144,000) Symbolic Or Literal?**

- a. **Read:** Rev. 7:4. John clearly heard the number.
- b. **Read:** *EW* 15 Ellen White clearly saw the number.
- c. **Read:** Rev. 7:5-9 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.

6 **How Are They Sealed?**

Read: TM 445.2

- a. 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.

7. **Read: Ezekiel 9**

- a. Six men or angels came from Heaven (higher gate towards the north). See Isa. 14:13; Ps. 48 1, 2.
- b. Angels are sometimes called men. (See Dan. 9:21; *DA* 99)
- c. One was a marking angel.
- d. God told the marking angel to seal or mark only those who sigh and cry for the evils in Jerusalem—the church.
- e. God then commanded the other five other angels to follow the marking angel and slay.
- f. He also instructed them to begin the destruction with the church (sanctuary) (1 Pet. 4:17) and with the ancient men (leaders).
- g. 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.

Read: 3T 266,267

- a. That the true people of God are those who recognize sin in the church, stay aloof from it, and speak out against its 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. 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.

8. **Is This A Literal Slaughter?**

- a. There is no such thing as a spiritual slaughter is recorded anywhere in Scripture. Nobody knows what is a spiritual slaughter.
- b. Verse 7, says "fills the court with the slain."—Ezekiel saw real corpses.
- c. Read: *Manuscript Releases* Vol. 1 p. 260 - will be literally fulfilled.
- d. Read: 1888 *Materials* p. 1303 - The slaughter of Ezekiel 9 will be fulfilled to the letter.
- e. Read: 1T 190 - The Lord is whetting His sword in heaven to cut them down.
- f. **Therefore, EZEKIEL 9 IS LITERAL AND IT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE SDA CHURCH, OUR CHURCH.**

Read: 57211

- 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. They do not believe God will bring judgment on His people. They think that God is too merciful.
- e. Because they have failed as faithful leaders, they will never preach again.
- f. 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

9. **Where Does The Company In Verse Nine Come From?**

Read: Rev 14:4

- 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.

Read: Isaiah 66:15-20

- a. Verse 15 shows us that the Lord comes to bring judgment upon many.
- b. This could **not** be the second coming of Christ, because verse 16 says that He "pleads." There is **no pleading** at the second coming. (See 2T691)
- c. Verse 19 clearly shows that some escape the judgment and are sent as missionaries to preach the gospel world-wide. 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.

CONCLUSION: Thus we see that *Rev. 7* 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 to sigh (reform our own lives) and cry (warn others).

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