

THE 144,000 AND THE GREAT MULTITUDE?
PART 2

REVELATION 7:1-17

(Outline # 4)

Meditation: *COL* 127-128

INTRODUCTION: The primary object of this study is to gain a clearer understanding of the 144,000 in relation to the great multitude and all other saints from the beginning of time as well as to see the part the 144,000 play in the last drama of time.

1. **Read: Revelation 7:1-9**

2. **Are the 144,000 to taste death?**

- a. EW 15 - Here we are told that the 144,000 are "living saints" - not resurrected saints.
- b. GC 648-649 — Once again we see that the 144,000 are called living saints. Furthermore, they are shown by Inspiration to have lived through all the major end-time events and at last translated at our Lord's second advent. Clearly, then they never taste death.

3. **Type and Antitype**

Read: PK 227 or DA 421-422

a. **The Type**

I. Here we see that Elijah is a type of the group of saints who will not taste death.

II. Elijah was an Israelite (1 Kings 17:1)

III. He wore a long mantle (Kings 2:8,14)

b. **The Antitype**

I. The 144,000 are "living saints" and will be translated without tasting death.

II. They are from Israel.

III. They will also wear long mantles - see EW 16-17

IV. The 144,000 will never taste death.

4. **The 144,000 are the first fruits of the living?**

Read: Rev. 20: 5,6,14

- a. First necessitates a second, (i.e. a first resurrection necessitates a second; a second death necessitates a first death. (See Rev. 20:5,6,14)
- b. The 144,000 are called the first fruits. They, therefore, must be the firstfruits of the living. (The first fruits of the dead represented Christ and those who came up with Him at His resurrection - (1 Corinthians 15:20).

5. **Are They Not The Dead From All Ages?**

Read: GC 665.2

This account brings to view four groups or categories of saints.

- a. First Group: "plucked as brands"
- b. Second Group: "Those who perfected Christian characters..."
- c. Third Group: "millions...Who were martyred..."
- d. Fourth Group: "The great multitude"

Note: Inspiration singles out the great multitude. They are separated from the three other groups. Thus, they could not be the dead from all ages.

6. **Why the Great Multitude can't taste death?**

Read: CT532

- a. This reference shows that the Great Multitude live and endure the Great tribulation, which takes place in the last days just prior to the plagues.

Read: Rev. 7:10-14

- a. Here we see that the great Multitude live and endure the Great tribulation, which takes place prior to the plagues.

Read: Rev. 7:16

- a. They are not affected by the 4th plague —the sun lighting on them (see Rev. 16: 8-9; *Great Controversy* 649). Therefore, if they live through the 4th plague, then they must live through all of them and will be translated at Christ's second advent. Thus, they will not taste death.

Read: Rev. 7:11

- a. This verse shows that probation has not yet closed. Notice that the beasts, the twenty-four elders are still in the sanctuary indicating that the judgment is still in progress and that the plagues have not yet fallen (Rev. 15: 1-3, 7-8) and that the Great Multitude have been sealed. But, they are represented as standing before the throne (Rev. 7:9). This is also exemplified by the case of E.G. White's vision recorded in *EW* 54-55, 92

7. **Type and Antitype**

a. Type

- I. Enoch is a type of a class of saints who will be translated without tasting death.
- II. He was not an Israelite (he lived before Jacob - the father of the nation of Israel).
- III. He bore a palm. (*EW* 40).

b. Antitype

- I. Revelation 7:9 - the Great Multitude are not Israelites but from all nations, kindred.
- II. They have palms.
- III. They must be living saints as the 144,000.

Note: There two classes of living saints and two of the dead. Moses is a type of these who will come up in the first resurrection (PK 227; *DA* 421,422)

while Abel is a type of the martyrs (See 1SRp 22, 24; also GC 665).

Read: 9728-29

- a. Here Inspiration shows that there will be gatherings from every city and village world-wide. This indicates a Great Multitude since there are millions and millions of villages and towns.

Read: Isaiah 66:15-20

- a. Isaiah here describes a judgment but those who escape go out to finish the Gospel, gathering in a great multitude from all nations.

CONCLUSION: We have seen that God is first to seal a remnant from His remnant church, and will use them as His consecrated "servants" to proclaim the last message of mercy by calling His people out of Babylon and bringing in a Great Multitude. Thus, at our Lord's return, there will a church made up of millions of living saints awaiting translation. This last great proclamation of the gospel is to far supersede that of the days of the Apostles.

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