



144,000 SEALED FROM ALL TRIBES OF ISRAEL AND A GREAT MULTITUDE THAT NO ONE COULD COUNT REVELATION CHAPTER 7 VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 7

In Revelation chapter 7 John saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree.

Next John heard an angel say: “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” John heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

After this John looked, and before him was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” One of the elders asked John, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” John answered, “Sir, you know.” Then John was told these have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

**And he said, “These are they
who have come out of the great
tribulation; they have washed
their robes and made them
white in the blood of the Lamb.**

Revelation 7:14b (NIV)



Rev 7:1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree.

Rev 7:2 Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea:

Rev 7:3 “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.”

“After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree.” There is somewhat similar prophecy limited to Elam (in modern Iran and parts of Iraq) in Jeremiah 49:36-38.

Jeremiah 49:36-38 (NIV)

I will bring against Elam the four winds from the four quarters of heaven; I will scatter them to the four winds, and there will not be a nation where Elam’s exiles do not go. I will shatter Elam before their foes, before those who want to kill them; I will bring disaster on them, even my fierce anger,” declares the Lord. “I will pursue them with the sword until I have made an end of them.”

Revelation chapter 7 is still a continuation of the sixth seal, for the seventh seal is not opened until the beginning of the next chapter. The sixth seal begin the day of the Lord from a human perspective. In the figurative language of Scripture, the blowing of the four winds together, means a dreadful and general destruction. But the destruction is delayed until the symbolic 144,000 Jewish remnant coming out of the holocaust will accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

“Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea.” In Revelation the “sea” is the spiritual world. The angel “coming up from the east” refers to the demonic kings from the east in Revelation 16:12. These refer to the bowl judgments on the day of the Lord.

Revelation 16:12 (NIV)

The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East.

“Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” The Jews emerged from the holocaust in 1945 completely broken. Until World War II, virtually no Jews had accepted Christ since the early church of the Apostles. *“The servants of God”* are the 144,000 are symbolic of the Jews that have accepted Christ since the Holocaust. Of these, most *“the elect”* have accepted Christ only since 1967. The days of World War II were shortened so that the holocaust did not kill all Jews in the world. Jesus said: *“If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.”* (Matthew 24:22)

Revelation 7:4-8 4 Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. 5 From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, 6 from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000, 7 from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000, 8 from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, from the tribe of Joseph 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.

These five verses of Revelation have raised many questions for hundreds of years! Immediately five quick questions arise from these verses.

First, what does John want us to understand by the precise number of 12,000 from each tribe, for a precise total of 144,000? Second, why is every tribe exactly the same in number (12,000), regardless of its actual size? Third, who are these who are selected from the tribes of Israel? Fourth, why is there a change of the order and missing names of the tribes? Fifth, what else does the Bible tell us about these people?

The first question: what does John want us to understand by the precise number of 12,000 from each tribe, for a precise total of 144,000? There are differences of opinion among reputable Bible scholars as to the identity of the 144,000 in both here in Revelation 7 and also Revelation chapter 14. Some Bible scholars argue that the number referred to those who were saved from the physical nation of Israel. Others believe this group is spiritual Israel, i.e., the Church. Still others believe the 144,000 are symbolic of the Messianic Jews that are part of the Church. **Since the second century, most all Messianic Jews have come to faith only since 1967.** Estimates vary, but many believe there are more than 250,000 Messianic Jews in the world today in 2020. If the 144,000 is symbolic of Messianic Jews joining the Church, the prophecy is fulfilled today.

Until World War II, virtually no Jews had accepted Christ since the early second century. This is the best explanation--- that the 144,000 are symbolic of the Jews that have accepted Christ since the Holocaust. Most of these have accepted Christ since 1967. This fulfills a prophecy of Ezekiel 36:33 (“*On the day I cleanse you from all your sins*”) because the cities of Israel were only rebuilt after the 1967 war. Only after 1967 did Messianic Jews start to appear in Israel.

Ezekiel 36:33-34 (NIV)

“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: On the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns, and the ruins will be rebuilt. The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass through it.”

The second question: why is every tribe exactly the same in number (12,000), regardless of its actual size? There are parts of Revelation text that John meant to be symbolic. This single passage seems to show the mistake of those who always expect the numbers in the Revelation to be precise and exact; for is it to be supposed, that there should be in each tribe 12,000 believers, neither more nor fewer, to make up the total sum of 144,000. The 144,000, with 12,000 in every tribe exactly, is almost certainly a symbolic figure. Another way of looking at it is 12 x 12 x 1,000. It is the twelve tribes and twelve Apostles multiplied by 1,000 to show completeness.

We can see a somewhat similar ratio given in the Book of Numbers (31:1-5).

Numbers 31:1-5 (NIV)

The Lord said to Moses, “Take vengeance on the Midianites for the Israelites. After that, you will be gathered to your people.” So Moses said to the people, “Arm some of your men to go to war against the Midianites so that they may carry out the Lord’s vengeance on them. Send into battle a thousand men from each of the tribes of Israel.” So twelve thousand men armed for battle, a thousand from each tribe, were supplied from the clans of Israel.

The Numbers text supplies another clue that will make sense when matched with texts in Revelation: the 12,000-man army of Numbers 31 is to take vengeance on Midian for its sin of sending women to corrupt the Israelites men with eating things sacrificed to idols, adultery, and fornication. It was the false prophet Balaam who taught the Midianite women how to do this. **Here we see the worship of Baal, the same Baal as the beast of Revelation released from the Abyss.**

According to the Bible, the Israelites, after spending a short time in the plain of Moab, begin to involve themselves with the Moabite women. Consequently, under the influence of Moabite culture, the Israelites begin participating in the worship of the Moabite gods, and join themselves to Baal Peor (Hebrew בעל פעור Ba‘al Pə‘ôr), in the Septuagint Beelphegōr, a baal associated with Mount Pe‘or.

Numbers 25:1-3 (NIV)

While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed down before these gods. So Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor. And the Lord’s anger burned against them.

The 144,000 in Revelation 14:4 are described as virgins and not defiled with women.

Revelation 14:4 (NIV)

These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among mankind and offered as first fruits to God and the Lamb.

“These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins.” Some have tried to interpret this literally as celibate men that have never had sex with a woman. Revelation 14:4 is not referring to men living in a monastery. The focus on Revelation is a warning about spiritual immorality—believing the false doctrinal teaching of the harlot woman—the great city of Mecca.

The word rendered here “defiled” is a word that cannot be applied to the marriage relation. It means properly to “soil, to stain, to defile.” It is also used in Revelation 3:4; “*Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes.*” The word does not elsewhere occur in the New Testament, except in Revelation. It cannot be construed as an expression against marriage and in favor of celibacy. It is a word that is properly expressive of illicit sexual intercourse - of impurity and unchastity of life - and the statement is referring to spiritual impurity, that they who are saved are not impure and unchaste in worshipping the true God.

The Book of Revelation gives many warnings about the spiritual immorality coming from the teachings from Mohammad and the great city of Mecca. The 144,000 remained faithful even when their lives were at risk to convert to Islam or other false religions. The 144,000 have avoided praying to the Kaaba, they did not recite the Shahada-the mark of the beast, they did not believe the Qur'an from the false prophet Mohammad, they did not worship the dragon, and did not kiss the Blackstone of Baal.

Revelation 17:1-2 (NIV)

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters. With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.”

Revelation 18:9-10 (NIV)

“When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: “Woe! Woe to you, great city, you mighty city of Babylon! In one hour your doom has come!”

Revelation 19:1-2 (NIV)

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

The third question; who are these who are selected from the tribes of Israel? The sealed ones are explained to be the servants of God; the description which follows proclaims them to be the “Israel of God.” They are the Jewish people coming out of the holocaust that have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. They are the redeemed. They are the ones identified in Daniel 12:2 with everlasting life. (*“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.”*)

The fourth question; why is there a change of the order and missing names of the tribes? John changes the order and names of some of the 12 tribes. This certainly is to have the readers understand the message is symbolic. According to list given in Deuteronomy 27, Dan is missing and Manasseh has replaced them in Revelation. In Deuteronomy Simeon and Levi are first and second, while in Revelation Judah and Reuben are first and second.

Deuteronomy 27:12-13 (NIV)

When you have crossed the Jordan, these tribes shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin. And these tribes shall stand on Mount Ebal to pronounce curses: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali.

In the Old Testament, the twelve tribes were named after sons or grandsons of Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel after he wrestled an angel of the Lord, the Hebrew people became known as Israelites. Jacob's first wife, Leah, bore him six sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun. Each was the father of a tribe, though Levi's descendants (among whom were Moses and Aaron), the priests and temple functionaries, were dispersed among the other tribes and received no tribal land of their own. Two other tribes, Gad and Asher, were named after sons born to Jacob and Zilpah, Leah's maidservant.

Two additional tribes, Dan and Naphtali, were named after sons of Jacob born of Bilhah, the maidservant of Rachel, Jacob's second wife. Rachel bore Jacob two sons, Joseph and Benjamin. The tribe of Benjamin provided Israel with its first king, Saul, and was later assimilated into the tribe of Judah. While no tribe bore the name of Joseph, two tribes were named after Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. The 10 tribes that settled in northern Palestine and were carried into captivity by the Assyrians became known as the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel.

However the twelve tribes turned into thirteen when Jacob gave Joseph a 'double portion'. This meant that each of his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, became a tribe, rather than just the one tribe of Joseph (Genesis 48:5).

Genesis 48:5 (NIV)

“Now then, your two sons born to you in Egypt before I came to you here will be reckoned as mine; Ephraim and Manasseh will be mine, just as Reuben and Simeon are mine.”

However this thirteen became twelve again as the tribe of Levi received no land. The Levites were only given certain cities and was the tribe of the priesthood who received the tithes of the other twelve tribes who tithed from their land.

It is likely one the differences is that Joseph was split into Ephraim and Manasseh, while Levi was dedicated to the Lord. In Revelation Levi is very conspicuously brought back along side of the others. Obviously this is very symbolic, indicating that the priesthood is over. Now, bringing Levi back is effectively going back to the time before Jacob gave Joseph the double portion, so technically Dan should still be on the list and Ephraim and Manasseh should not, being that they are already represented in Joseph! Truly this is odd and must have some symbolic meaning.

If we assume Dan is removed due to its idolatry (Judges 18:30-31), then Manasseh is added to fill Dan's place to keep the number twelve. Possibly the return of Levi and exclusion of Dan indicates that the Levitical priesthood was over and original election according to the flesh really did not matter any more.

These tribes are actually symbolic of the whole invisible church 'extended' through history. This means they are not a strict grouping at a given time in history, otherwise Joseph and one of his sons would not be on the same list. How will Jewish people even know which tribe they belong to? What about Jewish people have married Gentiles over the many generations? What happens when two tribes marry? Of course, God would know.

One final point in this section should be noticed. Revelation 7:4-8 indicates that when the sealing of the 144,000 occurs, each tribe is larger than 12,000 people. For example, the Bible says, *“from the tribe of Reuben 12,000.”* Today, no one knows the identity or whereabouts of the twelve tribes. Fire destroyed the genealogical records of Israel in 70 AD when the *“the people of the prince who is to come”* (Baal) destroyed Jerusalem and the temple, just as Jesus said.

Daniel 9:26 (NASB)

Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

The fifth question: what else does the Bible tell us about these people? Other Revelation Bible text tells us more about these symbolic 144,000 Jewish servants of God.

1. John calls the 144,000 *“fellow servants”* and *“servants of our God”* in the book of Revelation. (Revelation 6:11, 7:3)
2. The four angels are not allowed to *“harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God”*; until the 144,000 are redeemed by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. (Revelation 7:3)
3. The 144,000 Jews will receive the spiritual seal of God. They accept Jesus Christ and become His disciples. (Revelation 7:3)
4. They *“were purchased from among mankind and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb.”* They are the Jews that the blood of Jesus purchased. (Revelation 14:4)
5. They will not be defiled with the harlot of Babylon. (Revelation 14:4)
6. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. (Revelation 14:4)
7. Unlike the numberless multitude of Gentiles *“from every nation, tribe, people and language”*, the 144,000 are a small enough group of Jews to be numbered. (Revelation 7:5-14)
8. The 144,000 will experience and endure the sufferings of Christ. They will be honored above all other Jews since they are the redeemed remnant. (Revelation 14:1-3)
9. They fulfill the Jews returning to Israel that accept Christ; *“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life”*, (Daniel 12:2)
10. No other Jews will sing their new song, since they are not in the Book of Life. (Revelation 14:3)
11. No lie or falsehood will be found in the mouths of the 144,000. The blood of Jesus has taken away their sins (Revelation 14:5) Jesus is a better sacrifice. (Hebrews 9:23-28)
12. The 144,000 will wear the spiritual mark of the names of the Father and Son on their foreheads throughout eternity. (Revelation 14:1; Revelation 22:3, 4)
13. Their mark is the opposite of the mark of the beast, the Shahada. (Revelation 13:16-18)
14. The 144,000 will be Messianic Jews, descendants of Abraham. (Revelation 7:4-8)

In summary, it is best to see Revelation 7:4-8 as a picture of Paul’s teaching the book of Romans. Romans 9:6-8 (NIV) *It is not as though God’s word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children. On the contrary, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring.*

THE SALVATION OF ISRAEL BIBLICAL HISTORY
THE “TIME OF TROUBLE FOR JACOB”; “I WILL SURELY SAVE YOU”

PROPHETIC EVENT	SCRIPTURE	DESCRIPTION
Jesus gives Olivet Discourse	Matthew 24:21	“Great distress, never to be equaled again”
Daniel end times prophecy	Daniel 12:1	“Distress such as has not happened before”
Time of trouble for Jacob	Jeremiah 30:6	“No other time will be like it.”
Two thirds will perish	Zechariah 13:8	“Two-thirds will be struck down and perish”
Every man afraid	Jeremiah 30:6	“Every face turned deathly pale”
Remnant will be purified	Zechariah 13:8	“I will refine them like silver”
Remnant will be saved	Jeremiah 30:10	“I will surely save you out of a distant place”
Remnant will be saved	Matthew 24:22	“Days shortened for the sake of the elect”
Daniel’s 3 ½ times	Daniel 12:7	“It will be for a time, times and half a time”
Jew’s power broken	Daniel 12:7	“Power of Holy people has been finally broken”
1260 days/years wilderness	Revelation 12:6	“Be taken care of for 1,260 days”
1260 days/years prophecy	Revelation 11:3	“They will prophesy for 1,260 days”
Jews in the dust will awake	Daniel 12:2	“Who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake”
Jews come back to life	Ezekiel 37:12	“I will open your graves”
Jews trapped 3 ½ years	Revelation 11:8	“Three and one-half days refuse them burial”
They stand on their feet	Revelation 11:8	“And they stood on their feet”
They stand on their feet	Ezekiel 37:10	“They came to life and stood up on their feet”
Remnant will be saved	Daniel 12:2	“Some to everlasting life”
Not all Jews are saved	Daniel 12:2	“Others to shame and everlasting contempt”



DEATHLY PALE JEWISH SURVIVORS OF WW II HOLOCAUST CAMPS 1945

THE SALVATION OF ISRAEL BIBLICAL HISTORY THE “TIME OF TROUBLE FOR JACOB”; “I WILL SURELY SAVE YOU”

The Jewish rejection of Christ. The punishment of Israel and the salvation of the Jewish remnant. Putting together the harmonized prophecy of Daniel, Jeremiah, Matthew, Ezekiel and Revelation.

JEWES REJECT CHRIST → TEMPLE DESTROYED → WILDERNESS/DEATH 1,260 years → HOLOCAUST → ISRAEL RESTORED 1948 → OPERATION EZRA & NEHEMIAH → JERUSALEM NO LONGER TRAMPLED → MESSIANIC JEWS REMNANT ACCEPTS CHRIST

Three different Bible texts all describe a catastrophic Jewish event like no other in history. (Matthew 24:21, Daniel 12:1 and Jeremiah 30:6) Since “it is like no other”, they must all be talking about the same catastrophic event. This is the holocaust, where two thirds of Jews were killed in the lands controlled by the Nazis. After this event a remnant will be saved. Revelation 7 text is best understood when read in conjunction with Ezekiel 37, Daniel 12 and Revelation 11.

Much of Daniel’s prophecy is concealed until the end time (Daniel 12:9 “He said, “*Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.*”) There is very similar prophetic language in Ezekiel 37 (Valley of the Dry Bones) and Daniel 12 (Sleep in the Dust) about seemingly dead Jewish bodies coming back to life. Many have viewed Ezekiel 37 as symbolic but see Daniel 12 as a literal resurrection. Both Bible texts most likely are describing the same events. These events are the return of the Jews to Israel from the diaspora and Operation Ezra and Nehemiah (Revelation 11 and the Two Witnesses). These events all were fulfilled right after the Holocaust. (Daniel 12:1 “*There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered.*”) Only a remnant will accept Christ.

Daniel 12:1-4 (NIV)

“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered.

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.”

Daniel’s text tells us that Archangel Michael will “*will arise*” (from the dead after being killed by the beast) before those that sleep in the dust will awake. Then they will be rescued from *the “distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until then”* (the Holocaust). The image of a “resurrection” has a symbolic thrust in the case of Ezekiel’s vision of the valley of dry bones. Just as in Ezekiel 37, Daniel’s seemingly dead bodies return to Israel. In Daniel 12 they have a chance to accept the Gospel. Some will accept the Gospel will (“*some to everlasting life*”, while others reject the Gospel (“*others to shame and everlasting contempt*”).

The 1260 days/years begin as the Dome of the Rock is built in 687-691 and Gentiles are given the outer court, which is where it was constructed. The time period runs from 688 to 1948. It ends when Israel was restored, as God promised.

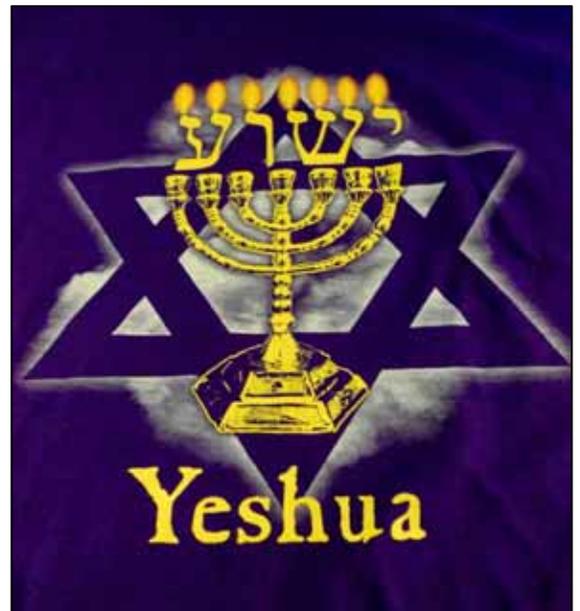
Consider the terms “disgrace and everlasting contempt.” “Disgrace” and “contempt,” as applied to those destined for punishment. “Disgrace” suggests that which is the object of “reproach.” Here the term is plural, “reproaches,” likely for emphasis sake. “Contempt” denotes that which is the focus of “aversion” or “abhorrence.” Clearly these terms, combined with the modifier “everlasting,” reveal the abiding conscious torment of those being punished for rejecting the Gospel after God miraculously returns them to Israel.

Operation Ezra and Nehemiah functioned for the three and one-half years, from May 1948 to the end of 1951. There is much more on this in Revelation chapter 11. After this, only about handful of Jews were left in Islamic countries. Most of the 2,500-year-old Jewish community immigrated to Israel during the three and one-half years between May 1948 and November 1951. The success of Operation Ezra and Nehemiah helped pave the way for future Israeli airlifts of Jews from the around the world who found themselves in dangerous conditions. Such missions include the airlift of Ethiopian Jews in Operations Joshua, Solomon and Mose

MESSIANIC BELIEVING JEWS REPRESENT THE 144,000 FROM ALL THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL

The 144,000 is symbolic of a remnant of saved Jews. This Messianic Judaism of Jesus began with a remnant of Jews from all the twelve tribes. This remnant became the Messianic Judaism of Jesus. Into this remnant the Gentiles were grafted. These two groups are the two witnesses of Revelation 11. Today the number is estimated to be between 350,000 and 500,000. Some estimates are as high as one million. The number in Israel proper is estimated to be about 20,000. Paul mentions this in Romans 9:27-28. *"Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved. For the Lord will carry out his sentence on earth with speed and finality."*

Although there were some Messianic Jews throughout history up until World War II, the growth has really taken off since 1948. The year 1948 corresponds to the close of Daniel's final seven, and we are told in Daniel after the distress; *"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness"*. Thus many Jews have accepted God's atoning sacrifice after the final seven and the end of the distress (the Holocaust). Since 1948, and particularly since the liberation of Jerusalem in 1967, hundreds of thousands of Jewish people around the world have accepted Jesus as the Messiah.



Rev 7:9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language.” We have just had the picture of the sealing of a Jewish group which could be numbered as a symbolic 144,000 and now we have the picture of a countless group.

Some think the 144,000 and “great multitude” are the same peoples. This is not the case. How can the numbered of the one vision be the same as the numberless of the next? They are numbered in the first vision because the remnant of Jewish survivors of the holocaust that accept Christ is a finite number.

This is the same four group classification as the song in Revelation 5:9-10. (*“And with your blood you purchased for God persons from every **tribe and language and people and nation.**”*) This group is a mixture of Gentiles from every place on the earth.

Revelation 5:9-10 (NIV)

And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

The redeemed believers are clothed with white robes, and carry palm branches in their hands. It has been suggested that these are the signs of victory; they demonstrate of a triumph. It is the sacred rejoicing of the Israel of God. The white robes are signs of their righteous acts (Revelation 19:14). This image is also drawn from Palm Sunday in John 12.

John 12:13-14 (NIV)

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”



Rev 7:10 And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

Rev 7: 11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

Rev 7:12 saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” The first fruits of Christ having led the way, the Gentiles converted later follow, and attribute their salvation to God and the Lamb, with triumph. In both here and Revelation 5:12, the worship is described as occurring in heaven; and the use of the language shows that God and the Lamb are regarded in heaven as entitled to equal praise. This again proves the Deity of Christ.

Such a glorious appearance will the faithful servants of God make at last, when they have fought the good fight of faith, and finished their course. With a loud voice they gave to God and the Lamb the praise of the great salvation. Those who enjoy eternal happiness must and will bless both the Father and the Son; they will do it publicly, and with vigor.

“Saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!” Those who wash their robes in the blood of the Lamb will enjoy eternal happiness. They will bless both the Father and the Son, and they will do it with great emotion. We too, here on earth, should give praise to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit every day.



Rev 7:13 Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

Rev 7:14 I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

“I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” They are those who come, but not all at once, not in a three and one-half year time period imagined by John Darby. The saints of God are continually passing into the unseen world, and taking their place among the spirits of just men made perfect by the Blood of the Lamb. They come out of the great tribulation. Are we to limit the phrase and idea to a special and peculiar afflictions of a last great trial? Jesus told us that we would have tribulation in the world.

John 16:33 (NASB)

“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

What is *“the great tribulation?”* There is no doubt about the prophetic end-times emphasis which the definite article “THE” gives--it is the great tribulation. Even if “THE” great tribulation refers to a specific event, how do we know it has not already occurred? Was it the time of Nero burning live Christians like candles? Was it the time of wide spread apostasy as the Four Horsemen (Mohammad, Abu Bakr, Umar and Uthman) spread through the Middle East and caused tens of millions to lose their faith? Is it the time of ISIS crucifying and beheading thousands of people in Syria and Iraq?



ISIS MEMBERS DISPLAY COPTIC CHRISTIANS BEFORE BEHEADING THEM

It seems unlikely to limit the phrase to some special short season of trial. Is not the great tribulation the testing most of those must encounter who are on the side of Christ and righteousness? There may yet a future time for the Church of Christ to face trials so great that they may be called, in comparison with those which went before, the great tribulation. Yet a single three and one-half year future event, so popular in prophecy books, seems out of harmony with the greater message John is telling us about Islam and its false Gospel of Jesus (running 1,400 years in length now).

The church has and will go through tribulation. The prophecy books warn of a terrible three and one half year time period of the great tribulation, but then “promise” Christians will not go through it because they will be raptured before it happens. They equate the tribulation from Satan and Baal with the wrath of God. The Church goes through the tribulation—this is where all of these people John sees come from. We clearly saved from the wrath of God, as Paul tells us many times.

Romans 5:9 (NIV)

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

1 Thessalonians 1:8-10 (NIV)

The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

THEY WILL HAVE AUTHORITY OVER ONE QUARTER OF THE WORLD THEY DO NOT KILL ONE QUARTER OF THE WORLD

Probably no Scripture is more misquoted and misinterpreted by dozens of prophecy writers than Revelation 6:8. All Bible translations say; “*They were given power over a fourth of the earth*”, or “*Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth.*” The phrase about controlling one quarter of the world is then followed by a second phrase explanation of how they will control one quarter of the world. They control one quarter of the world using specific methods “*to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.*” Prophecy writers then conclude one quarter of the world (nearly 2 billion people) will be killed in THE three and one-half year great tribulation. And people wonder today why most churches do not teach Revelation prophecy!

Revelation 6:8 (NIV) I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Revelation 6:8 (NASB) I looked, and behold, an ashen [pale green] horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

It is worth reviewing the warnings from Revelation chapter 6 again. Of these, Revelation 6:8 is the most misinterpreted verse of Bible prophecy. All Bible translations say; *“They were given power over a fourth of the earth”,* or *“Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth.”* The Four Horsemen control one quarter of the world using specific methods *“to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.”* The Four Horsemen were Mohammad, Abu Bakr, Umar and Uthman. They set up the Umayyad Caliphate.

Revelation 6:8 DOES NOT teach one quarter of the world dies from actions of the Four Horsemen in the great tribulation. This is why most churches today do not teach, nor believe, Revelation prophecy!

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years will stretch from the rebuilding of the Temple (following the Babylonian captivity) to the coming of the Messiah. He states this will be followed by the destruction of the Temple once again (Dan. 9:26). He then says that the final week of years will begin when “the prince who is to come” (a reference to the Antichrist) makes a covenant with Israel that will allow them to rebuild their Temple (Dan. 9:27).

The Seal Judgments

As chapter 6 opens, the Tribulation period begins, and we get a foretaste of what it's going to be like — a terrible, terrible period. In verse 2 a rider on a white horse goes forth to conquer. This is the Antichrist riding on a white horse as an imitator of Jesus who will return at the end of the Tribulation, also riding on a white horse (Rev. 19:11). He goes forth to conquer the world. Jesus does not conquer by war. Jesus conquers by the power of the Word of God. So this is definitely the Antichrist.

The result is war, famine, and death. **One-fourth** of the earth dies in this initial pouring out of the seal judgments (Rev. 6:3–8). That's **one** and a half billion people in today's terms!



The Umayyad Caliphate was the second of four Islamic caliphates and was founded in Arabia after the Prophet Mohammad's death. The Umayyads ruled the Islamic world from 661 to 750 AD. Their capital was in the city of Damascus; the founder of the caliphate, Muawiya ibn Abi Sufyan, had long been the governor of Syria. At its greatest extent^{1,2}, the Umayyad Caliphate covered 5.8 million sq miles and included 62 million people (29% of the world's population at that time), making it one of the largest empires in history in both area and proportion of the world's population.

¹Blankinship, Khalid Yahya (1994), *The End of the Jihad State, the Reign of Hisham Ibn 'Abd-al Malik and the collapse of the Umayyads*, State University of New York Press, p. 37, ISBN 978-0-7914-1827-7

² <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-hccc-worldcivilization/chapter/expansion-under-the-umayyad-caliphates/>

THE DIDACHE SAYS “ALL CREATED MANKIND SHALL COME TO THE FIRE OF TESTING”

The Didache is also known as “*The Lord's Teaching Through the Twelve Apostles to the Nations*” is a brief anonymous early Christian treatise written in Koine Greek, dated by most modern scholars to the first century. The first line of this treatise is “The teaching of the Lord to the Gentiles (or Nations) by the twelve apostles”. Didache Chapter 16 deals with the end times. In 16:8 it makes clear “*the world-deceiver shall appear as a son of God*”; (meaning the beast Baal is a spirit, not a human) and all Christians will be tested in 16:11; “*Then all created mankind shall come to the fire of testing, and many shall be offended and perish.*”

DIDACHE CHAPTER 16

16:1 Be watchful for your life; 16:2 let your lamps not be quenched and your loins not ungirded, but be ready; 16:3 for you do not know the hour in which our Lord comes. 16:4 And you shall gather yourselves together frequently, seeking what is fitting for your souls; 16:5 for the whole time of your faith shall be of no use to you, if you are not perfected at the last. 16:6 For in the last days the false prophets and destroyers shall be multiplied, and the sheep shall be turned into wolves, and love shall be turned into hate. 16:7 For as lawlessness increases, they shall hate one another and shall persecute and betray.

16:8 And then the world-deceiver shall appear as a son of God; 16:9 and shall work signs and wonders, and the earth shall be delivered into his hands; 16:10 and he shall do unholy things, which have never been since the world began.

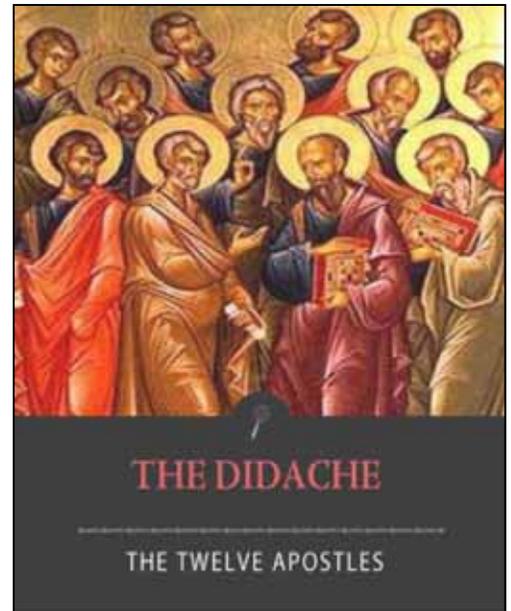
16:11 Then all created mankind shall come to the fire of testing, and many shall be offended and perish; 16:12 but those who endure in their faith shall be saved through the Curse itself. 16:13 And then the signs of the truth shall appear; 16:14 first a sign of a rift in the heaven, then a sign of a voice of a trumpet, and thirdly a resurrection of the dead; 16:15 yet not of all, but as it was said: 16:16 The Lord shall come and all His saints with Him. 16:17 Then the world will see the Lord coming upon the clouds of heaven.

Revelation 13:9-10 makes clear many Christians will face the great tribulation coming from the dragon and the beast.

Revelation 13:9-10 (NIV)

Whoever has ears, let them hear. “If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed.” This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people.

Those who come out of great tribulation know that they are forgiven, and rejoice in the knowledge that our salvation is of God.



Rev 7:15 Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

Rev 7:16 ‘Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,’ nor any scorching heat.

Rev 7:17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’” Here we have the promise of Revelation 21:3-4, the new heavens and the new earth. These are the ones that washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 21:3-4 (NIV)

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”



“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”

Revelation 22:14 NIV

Ezekiel saw the future stream of ever increasing water issuing forth from the Temple (Ezekiel 48:1), but in the new Jerusalem where there is no temple we are carried to the very throne of God, to find the living water that only comes from Jesus. Here the Lamb, who is also the High Priest, leads His people to the springs of the water of life. Joy, too, is theirs; for God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes (Isaiah 25:8; Revelation 21:4).