

Chosen and Sealed – The 144,000

Introduction:

From the Korean Unification Church to Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, many Protestants and even to Muslims, there is a *sacred intrigue* about the number "144,000." To Christians, the key Bible texts that begin the narrative:



*"Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the **seal of the living God**" (Revelation 7:2 – NKJV).*

*"Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have **sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads**" (Revelation 7:3 – NKJV).*

*"And I heard **the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand** of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed" (Revelation 7:4 – NKJV).*

These Verses are loaded with details about this special group of individuals.

1. **Owner of the seal:** *"The living God"* – that means it is sacred/holy.
2. **Angel ascending from the east:** Christ – He is doing the sealing – symbolically on earth for a mission.
3. **Those sealed:** Servants or followers of God – they despise sin (cf. Ezekiel 9:4-6).
4. **Location of the Seal:** The forehead – meaning the person has cognitively become totally His. It is a sign that they have become a citizen of the kingdom of God. **Note:** The mark of Satan's kingdom is also on the forehead (Revelation 13:16 – "mark of the beast"; 17:5 – name of the antichrist – Babylon). They have irrevocably decided to follow the beast.
5. **Number sealed:** 144,000 – 12 is a kingdom number. This is how it is used: If the Jewish people wanted to emphasize a number they made a square root of it, in this case, 144. If they wanted to emphasize it further, they multiplied it by 1000 – thus, 144,000. ***This is a Hebraic extreme emphasis that God's kingdom has been made up from the number 12.*** These people make up God's kingdom! The number is "complete."



6. **12 Tribes of Israel:** There are many who believe this is literal Israel. A study of the Jewish people in relation to Biblical thought is important. The identity of Christ's followers in Galatians 3:28-29 and Romans 2:2 interpret what this means. Those tribes reflect a cross-section of individuals who will be saved.
7. The word "**sealed**" is *sphragizo* in the Greek and means a *sign of ownership*. When sealed these people then belong to God. Clearly, the symbols reflect Christ's burden: "I have others yet to join my kingdom. Hold back on those judicial events!"

John the revelator later noted in beautiful imagery:



"Lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion [representing the administrative center of heaven], and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads [they are not only citizens but now in God's kingdom] "And they sung as it were a new song before the throne... [they are a special choir that can sing a certain

song] *These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth [they are part of the retinue that follow Jesus, even in heaven]. These were redeemed from among men ... the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb" [they are the 'first' of some group to be saved] and "without fault before the throne of God [they are uniquely placed before God's throne – perfect in character]" (Revelation 14:1, 3-5).*

That's quite a list of additional clues to begin our study of the 144,000:

- They will become citizens of God's heavenly kingdom.
- They will be part of a special choir.
- They will know a special "theme" song.
- They will have special privileges in *following Jesus*.
- They are perfect – holy.
- They will be positioned before God's throne.
- God's name is to be on their foreheads.

BUT – how do we identify them today? Might I become part of that group?

There are many ways to approach this question. To develop a Biblical understanding is important because it is then that we can easily share it with others. Let's begin.

Important key!: The 144,000 are usually associated with another group of people! In Revelation 7 (our key chapter) they are associated with a "*great multitude*."

*"After these things I looked, and **behold, a great multitude** which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and*

before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands.”
(Revelation 7:9 – NKJV).

A Study of that “Two” Association. This may seem elementary but watch how it unfolds:

In many Biblical stories and in apocalyptic prophecy a twosome is frequently used to illustrate God’s people.

1. God called Moses: *“Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt”* (Exodus 3:10).

- Moses didn’t want that responsibility: *“Who am I?”* he asked God (Exodus 3:11).
- God then gave Moses wonderful promises that we can also claim!

“Certainly I will be with thee” “Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say” (Exodus 3:12, 4:12).

- God even permitted Aaron, Moses’ elder brother, to initially be his spokesman because he had become inefficient in the Egyptian language.

These ***two men*** were called to lead – “deliver” – a great multitude (2–3 million people) out of Egypt. (Egypt in end-time prophecy represents the “wicked world.”)

- They were special representatives of God (small group).
- Leading *“Israel”* out of a wicked area (large group).



The purpose? To bring out – to call out – a chosen people.

2. Once the Israelites entered Canaan, they were to be a *small group* to reach the world (a large group).

Again, the **Pattern of Two**:

“You are My witnesses,” says the LORD, ‘And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me’” (Isaiah 43:10 – NKJV; cf. Deuteronomy 7:6-8).

*“Now the LORD had said unto Abram...” “I will make of thee a **great nation [Israel]**, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing” “And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and **in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed**”* (Genesis 12:1-3 – KJV).

- Messenger (2–3 million people) – the Israelites (small group) (twelve tribes)

- Witnessing to the whole world – a great multitude (large group)

The purpose? To expand the number of God’s chosen people – His body.

3. The return from Babylon to Canaan:

- In 539 B.C. the prophet Daniel began reviewing the book of Jeremiah (Daniel 9:1). He knew that the 70-year Babylonian captivity of the Jews was about ended (Jeremiah 25:11, 29:10). They had been there because of apostasy.
- The first captives had been taken in **605 B.C.** (Daniel was in that group).
- Solomon’s Temple was destroyed in the third and final attack in 586 B.C. They lost their temple! God’s presence left Jerusalem, and formally, the Jewish nation.
- The release of those captives, by Jeremiah’s prophecy, **must then occur in 536 –535 B.C.**

In a wonderful fulfillment (originally given in Isaiah 44 and 45), King Cyrus, new leader of the Medo-Persian Empire, issued a decree for the captives to be set free! (Ezra 1:2-3). The year? 536 B.C.! **Prophecy was fulfilled!**



Cyrus made that *royal decree*, resulting in prophecy *being fulfilled!* He also gave a mass of wealth and supplies to accompany God’s people back to Jerusalem and their God! (Ezra 5:13, 17; 6:3).

- To rebuild the temple
- To rebuild Jerusalem (Isaiah 44–45)
- Upon **Zerubbabel**, a descendant of King David, Cyrus placed the responsibility of acting as governor of the company returning to Judea; and with him was associated **Joshua** the high priest.



It was a **“beginning again”** for God’s people, just like it had previously been when leaving Egypt.

The **Pattern of Two** once again emerges:

1. Messengers (two men – Zerubbabel and Joshua) (small group)
2. The called (the great multitude – ~ 50,000). Those Hebrew people who wanted to return (sadly many stayed behind), became the nucleus for rebuilding their/God’s nation. (large group)

The purpose? To redefine the meaning of God’s chosen people. To develop another body of believers.

Those Jewish returnees were put on probation, however! God gave, through Daniel, a 490-year window of time to “prove” their loyalties! (Daniel 9:24-27). **But – they failed again!** Mercy then ended for the Jewish nation.



Jesus gave a “final curse” to those people shortly before the Cross!

“Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God **shall be taken from you**, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.” “Behold, your house is left unto you **desolate**” (Matthew 21:43, 23:38).

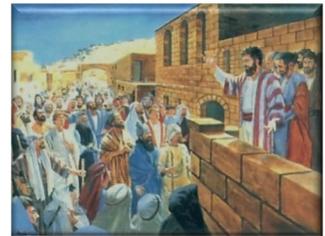
- The nation Israel was cursed – was to be desolate.
- Another “nation” would be chosen.

He would now have to begin all over again!

Anticipating fully that failure, Jesus, early in His ministry, chose twelve disciples (there’s that kingdom number again). Just before He ascended to His Father, He commissioned them:



- “Go ye therefore, and teach **all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:19-20).



Once again, the **Pattern of Two!**

1. Messengers (12 individuals – now called the 12 Apostles)
2. The called (great multitude) – converts from all nations – from the uttermost parts of the earth. JUST like it says in Revelation 7:9!

The purpose? To develop a covenant body for God’s kingdom (the New Testament church).

The **Pattern of “Two”** – one representing a smaller group, the other a larger – continues **right up through the end of time**. It’s part of God’s administrative plan to complete His redemptive work.

This points out an important principle: Though there will be the “sheep” and the “goats” (Matthew 25:32-33), the “unjust” and the “righteous” (Revelation 22:11) and the “wheat” and the “tares” (Matthew 13:30), that is not our apocalyptic focus in this study!

This unique pattern of “twos” refers to two distinct groups of **righteous** people **who will be saved** at the end of time as “one”!!! (to be discussed later).

Again, here are the divisions that Revelation 7 portrays:

144,000

Formed first

Formed before the final work begins

Great Multitude

Byproduct of the 144,000’s witnessing

After the final work has begun and finally ended

This has now become a solemn timing issue for the 144,000!

The 144,000 versus the Great Multitude

Question: At the end of time, do those “two” really become “one?” This is where this study becomes special!

As early as 1846 expositor Ellen Harmon knew but didn’t elaborate:

- “The living saints, 144,000, in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. When God spake the time, he poured on us the Holy Ghost, and our faces began to light up and shine with the glory of God as Moses’ did when he came down from Mount Sinai.”¹ (cf. Revelation 6 – sixth seal (I Corinthians 15:52).
- This is associated with the ***night of deliverance*** (cf. Daniel 12:1).
 1. Probation has closed. Michael stands up – a “transitional phrase” in prophecy.
 2. This is when the cry rings through the universe: “It is done” (Revelation 16:17).
 3. This is when chaos strikes the earth and the heavens. The stars fall, the sun turns black, the moon becomes like blood, the islands disappear and the sky rolls back and forth (Revelation 6:12-14).
 4. Then Christ appears as “King of Kings and Lord of Lords” (Revelation 19:16).

How many *living saints* are translated? How many *saints* go through the “*great tribulation*”?

“I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.... These are they which came

¹ Harmon, Ellen; *The Review and Herald*, July 21, 1851. *Early Writings*, pp. 14-15. *Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 59.

out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Revelation 7:9, 14).

The “*translated*” have become “one.” They are made up of the witnesses (144,000) and the “*multitude*” that they bring in. That “*great tribulation*” is called Jacob’s Trouble (Jeremiah 30:7). Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 tell us when that occurs.

God is now looking for that smaller group of “messengers.” In fact, He is calling with a loud voice. ***Will you say “yes” and be among the 144,000?***

There will be tens of thousands willing to accept that call; willing to go through any “process” to purify their souls and be ready. And – that brings us to a very important question: “What does the Bible say, really say, about those people who will fulfill God’s last mandate?”

They must be very special!

- They are called “saints” (*hagion*).
- They’re holy people (Revelation 14:12).
- They are called “witnesses” (*martysin*).
- They represent truth/heaven (Revelation 11:3).

They prepared their hearts, joined God’s end-time forces, witnessed and patiently waited! ***What does it mean to be among the 144,000?***

What does prophecy say regarding this group of people?

There are two key responsibilities that Christ laid on the apostles and, in turn, are placed on us:

1. Their personal relationship to heaven – using the apostolic “little group”:
 - “*And he said: ‘Truly I tell you, **unless you change and become like little children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven’* (Matthew 18:3 – NIV) (humility and submission).
 - “*And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell’* (Mark 9:47 – NIV) (nothing, even a body part, is worth “saving” if it risks heaven).
 - “*Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit”* (John 3:5 – NIV) (baptism with water and the Holy Spirit go “together”).

- Then there is the “let’s pass over that verse” for many: *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven (Matthew 7:21 – NIV).* (There is a unique relationship with God that one must establish. *“Does” is poieo (G), meaning: “To undertake and commit to God’s moral standards to bring about His purpose,” To “please God through obedience.”*²
2. Be His witnesses. It is amazing that when Christ *“breathed on them”* the Spirit, they became skilled to represent Him.
- “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19 – NIV).*

There are two key responsibilities that Christ laid on the 144,000 – the saints in Revelation:

1. Personal
 - a. Be overcomers and hear what the Spirit says:
 - Repent, remember the spiritual heights of the past (Ephesus – 2:5)
 - No corrective advice (Smyrna – 2:8-11)
 - Repent (Pergamos – 2:16)
 - Repent (she didn’t) (Thyatira – 2:23)
 - Repent (Sardis – 3:3)
 - No corrective advice (Philadelphia – 3:7-13)
 - Repent, be zealous (Laodicea – 3:19)
 - Do your first works, have the same excitement you had when you first gave your heart to me (Ephesus – 2:5)
 - Fear not poverty, trials, prison or persecution (Smyrna – 2:10)
 - No special message (Pergamos – 2:12-17)
 - Hold fast till I come, keepeth my works (Thyatira – 2:25-26)
 - Be watchful, strengthen the things which remain that are about to die, remember what you have had in the past and hold onto it (Sardis – 3:2-3)
 - No special message (Philadelphia – 3:7-13)
 - Buy gold, white raiment and eyesalve (Laodicea – 3:18)
 - b. *“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17).*
 - c. *“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12).*
2. Witness preparation:

² Bower-Danker Greek and English Lexicon – Summary (adapted).

- a. *“And I took the little book out of the angel’s hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy **again** before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings”* (Revelation 10:10-11) (dual prophecy).
- b. Clearly, understand the concepts of this “little book” of Revelation 14:6-11 so Revelation 18:1-5 can be fulfilled.

When do the 144,000 make their debut?

*“And I saw another mighty angel **come down from heaven**, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire”* (Revelation 10:1).

This is Christ because of the similarity to His description in Revelation 1:12-16 and the association with the cloud.



- This is a *point in time* that God **comes symbolically down** to help those who will be His final witnesses, the 144,000.
- It is likely when the early rain experience comes to the 144,000.
- In this preparation chapter He comes with a rainbow of promise, authority over the whole world (feet on earth and sea), filled with heaven’s glory (face as sun), ready to begin judicial work (feet/legs like fire) and with judicial power (feet and legs like fire).

The key preparation here in Revelation 10 is to **eat a little book** He has opened (Revelation 10:10-11) **so they can witness**. That is the unsealed portion of Daniel.

When does Jesus “come down” with that little open book?

Before two very important events recorded in Revelation 10 and 11. The preparation occurs right after Jesus comes down. Then these occur:

1. Judgment of the living – of those who claim to be Christians:

*“Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, ‘Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and **those who worship there**”* (Revelation 11:1 – NKJV).

2. The 1260 days of witnessing in earth’s final call:

*“And I will give **power unto my two witnesses**, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth”* (Revelation 11:3 – KJV).

Their witnessing then brings in the great multitude (Revelation 11:4-7a).

- Two witnesses represent the 144,000 – just like our illustration of Moses and Aaron, and Joshua and Zerubbabel. They are to finish taking the gospel to the world.

Again – a small group is implied and the “world” is their field of witnessing.

John notes that they “*finish their task*” (Revelation 11:7).

1. We learn from this that there is a knowledge base needed to be among the 144,000. Added to this are the “Angel Messages” in Revelation 14 and 19.
2. Though another study, there is a personal spiritual preparation outlined in the seven churches of Revelation.
3. This represents the 144,000 going out to finish the gospel work. Are they successful? The crown is of victory **and** the bow without an arrow means that it *hit the mark*. The mission was successful.

The Revelation Account Revisited

Four angels in Revelation 7 are holding the four winds of strife and destruction (world’s final chaos ending with Armageddon) (cf. Jeremiah 49:36, Daniel 7:2). Those winds are a symbol of judgement (the vial judgments) that God permits right at the end (Revelation 15–16).³

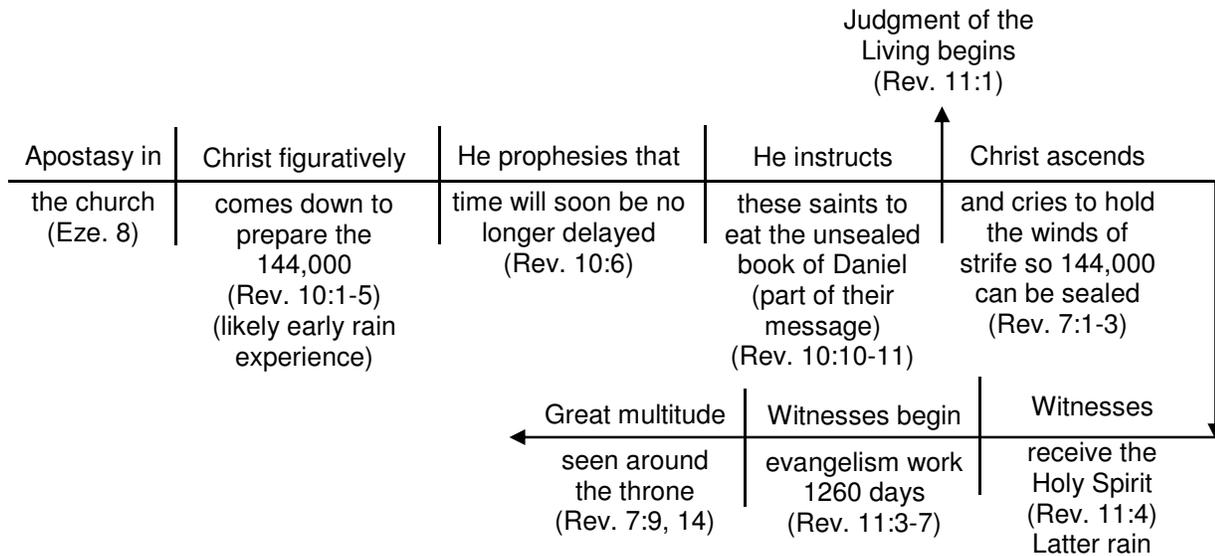
- They are located on the four points of the compass (Ezekiel 7:2).
- The angels are “*standing*” and “*holding*” the winds. God is in sovereign control.
- Then: “*And I saw another angel **ascending from the east**, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads” (Revelation 7:2-3).*

There is to be a “delay” in earth’s final events until the sealing task is completed. This **ascending** angel is Christ the sealing agent we met in Ezekiel.

- Something profound has just been exposed!
- Christ ascends from the east – not descends.
 - East means deliverance.
 - Ascends means that He is already on earth (symbolically). That’s what we just saw in 10:1, when he descended.

³ Osborne, *op. cit.*, p. 306.

When the 144,000 will be chosen can be ascertained from the sequence of these events.



This information is profound! **Before** the last three and a half years, the 144,000 who will be commissioned to cry, **“Behold, the bridegroom comes!”** will be filled with the Holy Spirit!

- Will they also be sealed also before the great multitude figuratively comes on the scene? We aren't told.
- Expositor White made a provocative statement:

“Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand. And let us do all that we can to help others to gain heaven.”⁴

1. The 144,000 are recognized as a special group.
2. They are identified by their key role of witnessing.

“Those whom the Lamb shall lead by the fountains of living waters, and from whose eyes he shall wipe away all tears, will be those now receiving the knowledge and understanding revealed in the Bible, the Word of God. To us has been given the privilege of receiving the wisdom that cometh from God, of seeing the beauty and the glories of that Word which lies at the foundation of all true knowledge. The Bible teaches us what a Christian ought to be, and what he ought to do.”⁵

3. They will be students of the Bible.
4. They will be obedient to God's Word.

⁴ *The Review and Herald*, March 9, 1905.

⁵ *The Review and Herald*, March 9, 1905.

5. They will have a special experience with Jesus Christ and all that he means.

Besides the three angels' messages (Revelation 14), what must the 144,000 know to finish the work?

"A great work will be done in a short time. A message will soon be given by God's appointment that will swell into a loud cry. ***Then Daniel will stand in his lot, to give his testimony.***"⁶

That's Daniel 8 through 12. That's that open little book!

And – this may come as a surprise:

"The fifth chapter of Revelation needs to be closely studied. ***It is of great importance to those who shall act a part in the work of God for these last days.*** There are some who are deceived. They do not realize what is coming on the earth. Those who have permitted their minds to become beclouded in regard to what constitutes sin are fearfully deceived. Unless they make a decided change they will be found wanting when God pronounces judgment upon the children of men."⁷

What is that saying?

- Revelation 5 is of major significance for those finishing the work.
- It is related to those whom God will pronounce judgment on who have transgressed His law and broken the everlasting covenant.

Scholars and expositors have also concluded that:

1. The 144,000 represent the group that finishes the gospel work at the end.
2. They are distinct and identified as receiving the seal of the "Living God."
3. Their work brings in so many that they can't be counted.
4. The sealing means that they are rooted deeply in Christ and His teachings.
5. They have repented of all sins.
6. They have put on the "*robe of Christ's righteousness*" – His perfection.
7. **And** – the context of Revelation 7 suggests that the "*great multitude*" merges into the 144,000," and they all become "one."
8. They are translated without seeing death. They are called "*firstfruits.*"
9. They keep the commandments of God and have the testimony and faith of Jesus (Revelation 12:17, 14:12).

⁶ *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 2, p. 20.

⁷ *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 267.

The **two witnesses** and/or the **white horse** must be prepared to witness before the call to the great multitude. This means that an important understanding of last-day readiness is twofold: (1) for the 144,000 and (2) for the great multitude.

- They must be spiritually ready.
- They must have a message.

Here is the call that is to go around the world from Revelation with a note regarding the 144,000:

“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth – to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people – saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water’” (Revelation 14:7 – NKJV – then verses 8-11 follow).

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12 – KJV).

“And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, ‘Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!’ ‘For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury’” (Revelation 18:2-3 – NKJV).

“And I heard another voice from heaven saying, ‘Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues’” (Revelation 18:4 – NKJV).

“Angel”: 144,000

“Midst of heaven”: whole world will hear
Everlasting gospel: story of salvation
Earth dwellers: the whole world will receive

With solemn honor give glory to God
God’s final decisions who will be sealed
Worship Him – the Creator
This is seventh-day Sabbath language

The 144,000 giving this message will be obeying God’s commandments (contextually the Decalogue) and have not only the faith like Jesus had but will have a special testimony.

The call will be urgent.
Babylon, the apostate Christian churches, have become the “cage” or dwelling of Satanic doctrines and practices.

These *satanic worship beliefs and practices* will become worldwide.

In ways not known, the leaders of this apostasy will become rich through her evils.

Another call immediately follows:
Get out of those churches, get away from any influence that teaches evil or worships false gods.
OR – you will receive God’s wrath.

Sealing Prophecy of God's People in the Old Testament

Ezekiel revealed four abominations that would infiltrate the Christian Church at the end of time (Ezekiel 8).

- God followed this drama with a sequel: a divine judicial edict (Ezekiel 9).
- The charge:
 1. *“Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem [representing God’s church], and **set a mark upon the foreheads** of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof”* (Ezekiel 9:4).
 2. *“To the others, ... Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity”* (Ezekiel 9:5). The wicked are destroyed.

Apostasy in the church	Sealing of saints who abhor sin & rebellion	Destruction of the wicked
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The “*man*” who did the sealing was totally clothed in linen (vss 2, 11). The word for “*linen*” in Hebrew is *bad*, meaning the fine linen like the High Priest wore, especially on the Day of Atonement, a judgment day. It is Christ (cf. Daniel 12:6-7).

Those sealed are the same individuals who are called “*the 144,000*” in the book of Revelation.

Another area noting the 144,000 is extensive and amazing:

1. Horns

“I looked up, and there before me was a ram with two horns, standing beside the canal, and the horns were long. One of the horns was longer than the other but grew up later. I watched the ram as it charged toward the west and the north and the south. No animal could stand against it, and none could rescue from its power. It did as it pleased and became great” (Daniel 8:3-4 – NIV).

- This is Ram Jesus.
- The horns provide symbolic power.
- The smaller one represents the 144,000, the larger the great multitude.
- The mission is very similar to the description of the two witnesses in Revelation 11.

2. The “canal” is that of the Ulai River. It, too, represents the 144,000. The Tigris or Hiddekel noted in Daniel 11 is the great multitude. The Euphrates, not observed in Daniel but Revelation represent the people of Babylon.
3. Elijah is a major symbol of the 144,000.
4. John the Baptist is another.
5. The wise (*maskilim*) noted in numerous areas in prophecy who “understand” are the 144,000, e.g.:
 - *“For the king of the north shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches”* (Daniel 11:33).
 - *“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand)”* (Matthew 24:15).

“Many are called, but few are chosen.’ Many hear the invitation of mercy, are tested and proved; but few are sealed with the seal of the living God. Few will humble themselves as a little child, that they may enter the kingdom of heaven.”⁸

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⁸ Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 50.