

God's Plan for the Future

Study Sheet

(Content herein based on the work of David Jeremiah, *The Book of Signs*; and from personal study notes)

The Tribulation: The 144,000

Rev 7:1-14; Rev 14:1-5

Even during the Tribulation, God will not forget His promise to care for His people.

Rom 11:2-5 – *God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah [1 Kings 19:14-18], how he appeals to God against Israel? (3) "Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life." (4) But what is God's reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." (5) So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace.*

God's care will come by way of a group of 144,000 specially-chosen Jewish evangelists.

Who are these 144,000 servants of God? And what role will they fulfill in service to Him? To answer these questions, the Bible reveals at least nine different features of the 144,000. They will be—

1. _____ from Israel's twelve tribes (7:4-8)

And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: (5) 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad, (6) 12,000 from the tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh, (7) 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar, (8) 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed. [12,000 per tribe x 12 tribes = 144,000]

The Bible often connects "12" with the nation of Israel:

The Jewish high priest had "12" precious stones embedded on his breastplate.

The tabernacle table of showbread displayed "12" loaves.

The twelve memorial stones set up by Joshua on the other side of the Jordan River.

The city of God (New Jerusalem) will have "12" gates.

In each of these cases, the number "12" symbolizes Israel's twelve tribes.

2. _____ servants of God (7:2-3; 14:1)

Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, (3) saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

What is the seal?

Rev 7:2 – "...the seal of the living God"

Rev 14:1 – *Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.*

Jn 6:27 – "...on (the Son of Man) God the Father has set his seal."

Present-day believers are guaranteed salvation by the Holy Spirit's seal.

2Cor 1:21-22 – *And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, (22) and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.*

Eph 1:13 – *In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.*

Eph 4:30 – *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

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3. _____ unto God (14:4)

It is these [144,000] who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins...

May mean they will not be guilty of spiritual adultery (worshipping false gods).

2Cor 11:2-3 – *For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. (3) But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*

Jms 4:4 – *You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

Another meaning might be that these witnesses will be celibates.

David Jeremiah writes, "The unprecedented terrors and pressures of the Tribulation period will make it extremely difficult for a dedicated preacher to maintain a marriage while always on the run from the Antichrist's authorities."

In 1 Corinthians, the apostle Paul endorsed singleness.

1Cor 7:29-35 – *This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none ... (32) I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. (33) But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife ... (35) I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to...secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.*

Preaching the gospel during the Tribulation will necessitate total concentration and devotion to God.

4. _____ in their faith (14:4-5)

...It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes... (5) and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

Living a pure life establishes a solid platform for spiritual power, power to ignite a turning to God.

5. _____ from coming judgment (6:15-17; 7:1-3)

Rev 6:15-17 – *Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, (16) calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, (17) for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"*

Rev 7:1-3 – *After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. (2) Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, (3) saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."*

6. _____ during the Tribulation (14:1)

Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

7. _____ in their ministry (7:9)

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.

These evangelists [gospel preachers] will fulfill a prophecy of Jesus.

Matt 24:14 – *And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

8. _____ for the kingdom (7:13-14)

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" (14) I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

The 144,000 will survive the Tribulation and be alive when the Millennium begins.

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9. _____ a new song in heaven (14:2-3)

And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, (3) and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

So, the Tribulation ends. The 144, 000 are standing victoriously with the Lamb on Mount Zion.
What's next...?

—*Singing!* The 144,000 will stand and *sing!*

Who else in the Bible *sang* after God gave them a great victory or saved them from disaster?

_____ after the Red Sea victory (**Ex 15**)

_____, the Judge, and Barak after defeating the Canaanites (**Jud 5**)

_____ after God miraculously gave her a son (**1Sam 2**)

_____ wrote psalms of victory (**2Sam 22; Ps 18**)

If we trust the Lord and do His will, then in our darkest hours we can sing praises to Him with great joy! ...and someday we will sing to Him in His presence!