



THE FINAL COUNTDOWN: 144,000 WHO ARE THEY?

WEEK #17 OF A LIVE BIBLE STUDY SERIES

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Revelation 7:1-4: “And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the **four winds** of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 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**. And **I heard the number of them which were sealed**: and there were sealed **an hundred and forty and four thousand** of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”

Revelation 14:1, 4-5: “And **I looked**, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him **an hundred forty and four thousand**, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were **redeemed from among men**, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found **no guile**: for they are without fault before the throne of God.”

Review and Herald, March 9, 1905: “Let us **strive with all the power that God has given us** to be **among the hundred and forty-four thousand**.”

The Great Controversy, page 439: “**Winds** are a symbol of **strife**. The **four winds** of heaven striving upon the great sea represent the **terrible scenes of conquest** and **revolution** by which kingdoms have attained to power.”

Selected Messages, Volume 3, page 409 par. 1: “Angels are holding the **four winds**, represented as an **angry horse** seeking to **break loose**, and **rush over the face of the whole earth**, bearing destruction and **death** in its path.”

Daniel 12:1: “And at that time shall **Michael stand up**, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a **time of trouble**, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time **thy people shall be delivered**, every one that shall be **found written in the book**.”

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 7, page 141: “The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the **exaltation**, by merely human authority, **of Sunday** in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the **last act in the drama**. When **this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself**. He will arise in His majesty to **shake terribly the earth**. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity, and the earth shall disclose her blood and shall no more cover her slain.”

Revelation 7:2-4: “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**. And **I heard the number of them which were sealed**: and there were sealed **an hundred and forty and four thousand** of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 9, page 164: “In order to be purified and to remain pure, **Seventh-Day Adventists** must have the Holy Spirit in their hearts and in their homes. The Lord has given me light that when the **Israel of today** humble themselves before Him, and cleanse the soul-temple from all defilement, He will hear their prayers in behalf of the sick and will bless in the use of His remedies for disease.”

Manuscript Releases, Volume 15, page 15: “The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided. This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. All who prove their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin, and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast.”

Review and Herald, January 30, 1900, Art. A, par. 4: “There can be only **two classes**. Each party is distinctly stamped, either with the **seal of the living God**, or with the **mark of the beast** or his image.”

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3, page 266: “The true people of God, who have the spirit of the work of the Lord and the salvation of souls at heart, **will ever view sin in its real, sinful character**. They will always be on the side of faithful and plain dealing with sins which easily beset the people of God. Especially in the **closing work for the church, in the sealing time of the one hundred and forty-four thousand** who are to stand without fault before the throne of God, will they feel most deeply the wrongs

of God's professed people."

Christian Experience and Teachings, page 189: "Not all who profess to keep the Sabbath will be sealed.

There are many even among those who teach the truth to others who will not receive the seal of God in their foreheads. They had the light of truth, they knew their Master's will, they understood every point of our faith, but **they had not corresponding works**. These who were so familiar with prophecy and the treasures of divine wisdom, should have acted their faith. They should have commanded their households after them, that by a well-ordered family they might present to the world the influence of the truth upon the human heart."

"Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul-temple of every defilement. **Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost.**

We are too easily satisfied with our attainments. We feel **rich and increased with goods**, and know not that we are "**wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.**" Revelation 3:17. Now is the time to heed the admonition of the True Witness: "I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see." Verse 18."

Maranatha, page 200 par. 2: "**Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads**—it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a **settling into the truth**, both **intellectually and spiritually**, so **they cannot be moved**—just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already; the judgments of God are now upon the land, to give us warning, that we may know what is coming."

Christian Experience and Teachings, page 177: "**The number of this company had lessened.** Some had been **shaken out** and left by the way. The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized **victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness**, and their places were immediately filled by the others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks. **Evil angels still pressed around them, but could have no power over them.**"

I heard those clothed with the armor speak forth the truth with great power. It had effect. Many had been bound; some wives by their husbands, and some children by their parents. The honest who had been prevented from hearing the truth **now eagerly laid hold upon it. All fear of their relatives was gone, and the truth alone was exalted to them.** They had been hungering and thirsting for truth; it was dearer and more precious than life. I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, "It is the

latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the **third angel**.”

Deuteronomy 32:2: “My **doctrine** shall drop **as the rain**, my **speech** shall distil **as the dew**, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the **showers upon the grass**.”

Maranatha, page 200 par. 2: “**Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads**—it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a **settling into the truth**, both **intellectually and spiritually**, so **they cannot be moved**—just as soon as God’s people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already; the judgments of God are now upon the land, to give us warning, that we may know what is coming.”

The Upward Look, page 218: “Self is the most difficult thing we have to manage. In laying off burdens, let us not forget to lay self at the feet of Christ. Hand yourself over to Jesus, to be molded and fashioned by Him, that you may be made vessels unto honor. **Your temptations, your ideas, your feelings, must all be laid at the foot of the cross. Then the soul is ready to listen to words of divine instruction.** Jesus will give you to drink of the water which flows from the river of God. **Under the softening and subduing influence of His Spirit your coldness and listlessness will disappear.** Christ will be in you a well of water, springing up into everlasting life....

Now unto **him that is able to keep you from falling**, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. Jude 24.”

Revelation 7:4: “And **I heard** the **number of them** which **were sealed**: and there were sealed **an hundred and forty and four thousand** of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”

Early Writings, page 15: “The living saints, **144,000 in number**, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. When God spoke the time, He poured upon 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.

The **144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united**. On their foreheads was written, God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus’ new name.”

Christian Experience and Teachings, page 13: “During this time they had the joy of seeing their children, **eight in number**, all converted and gathered into the fold of Christ.”

Christian Experience and Teachings, page 20: “Finally the time was appointed for us to receive this solemn ordinance. It was a windy day when we, **twelve in number**, went down into the sea to be

baptized.”

Early Writings, page 14: “I turned to look for the Advent people in the world, but could not find them, when a voice said to me, “look again, and look a little higher.” At this I raised my eyes, and saw a straight and narrow path, cast up high above the world. On this path the **advent people were traveling** to the city, which was at the farther end of the path. **They had bright light set up behind them at the beginning of the path**, which an angel told me was the **midnight cry**. This light **shone all along the path and gave light for their feet so that they might not stumble**. If they kept their eyes fixed on Jesus, who was just before them, leading them to the city, they were safe.”

But soon some grew weary, and said the city was a great way off, and they expected to have entered it before. Then Jesus would encourage them by raising His glorious right arm, and from His arm came a light which waved over the Advent band, and they shouted, “Alleluia!” **Others rashly denied the light behind them** and said that it was not God that had led them out so far. **The light behind them went out, leaving their feet in perfect darkness, and they stumbled and lost sight of the mark and of Jesus, and fell off the path down into the dark and wicked world below**. Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus coming. The **living saints, 144,000 in number**, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake.”

Early Writings, page 284: “God would not suffer the wicked to destroy those who were expecting translation, and who would not bow to the decree of the beast or receive his mark. I saw that if the wicked were permitted to slay the saints, **Satan and all his evil host, and all who hate God, would be gratified**. And oh, what a triumph it would be for his satanic majesty, to have power, in the last closing struggle, over those who had so long waited to behold Him whom they loved! Those who have mocked at the idea of the saints’ going up will witness the care of God for His people, and behold their glorious deliverance.”

Revelation 14:4: “These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were **redeemed from among men**, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.”

Uriah Smith, “Thoughts on Daniel and The Revelation,” [1897 edition] page 583 par. 4: “They are “**redeemed from among men**” (verse 4), an expression which can be applicable only to those who are translated from among the living. Paul labored, if by any means he might attain to a **resurrection out from among the dead**. Philippians 3:11. This is the hope of those who **sleep in Jesus**, — a resurrection from the dead. **A redemption from among men, from among the living**, must mean a different thing, and can mean only one thing, and **that is translation. Hence the 144,000 are the living saints, who will be translated at the second coming of Christ.**”

“From Eternity Past,” page 49 par. 4: “By faith Enoch **“was translated that he should not see death, ... for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”** Hebrews 11:5. **The godly character of this prophet represents the state of holiness which must be attained by those who shall be “redeemed from the earth”** (Revelation 14:3) **at Christ's second advent.** Then, as before the Flood, iniquity will prevail. Men will rebel against the authority of Heaven. But like Enoch, God's people will seek for purity of heart and conformity to His will, until they shall reflect the likeness of Christ. Like Enoch they will warn the world of the Lord's second coming and by their holy example will condemn the sins of the ungodly. **As Enoch was translated to heaven, so the living righteous will be translated from the earth before its destruction by fire.** See 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.”

