A SCRIPTURAL STUDY NARRATIVE (KING JAMES VERSION)

THE SAINTS AND THE 144,000: One Faithful Remnant Ruling in the Kingdom of God

Tracing the Golden Thread of Covenant Loyalty, the Firstfruits of the Lamb, the First Resurrection, and the Millennial Reign from Genesis to Revelation

> *"But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever."*
> **— Daniel 7:18 (KJV)**
>
> *"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)**

INTRODUCTION

A Mystery Hidden in Plain Sight

If you ask ten people on the street what a "saint" is, you will likely hear ten different answers. Some imagine marble statues standing silently in old cathedrals. Others picture rare, extraordinary figures from centuries past who performed dramatic miracles. Still others assume the word simply applies to anyone who has ever walked through a church door or whispered a passing prayer. Yet when we open the pages of the Holy Bible and read what God Himself says, a vastly clearer, deeper, and far more compelling picture emerges.

From the opening books of the Old Testament to the final vision of the Revelation, God traces one unbroken, golden thread through human history. He speaks repeatedly of a specific, tested, and deeply loyal people whom He calls His "saints." These are not mythical heroes living in clouds, nor are they a casual crowd who drifted effortlessly into heaven. According to the plain words of Scripture, the saints are those rare individuals across every generation who truly love God, guard His commandments with fierce loyalty, refuse to bow to the corruptions of the world, and follow the Lamb wherever He leads.

Even more astonishing is what happens when we place the descriptions of the saints alongside the mysterious group introduced in the Book of Revelation known as the 144,000. For generations, readers have puzzled over who the 144,000 are, why they are sealed by the living God, and what role they play when Jesus Christ returns to earth. When we lay Scripture beside Scripture—comparing the original Hebrew and Greek meanings, the prophecies of Daniel, the teachings of Jesus Christ, the letters of the apostles, and the visions of John—the puzzle pieces lock together with breathtaking precision. The saints of the Most High and the 144,000 firstfruits of the Lamb are not two separate stories. They are one and the same people: the faithful little flock chosen out of time to be changed into the likeness of Christ and to rule with Him in the Kingdom of God.

> **Luke 12:32 (KJV) —** *"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."*

In the pages that follow, we will walk step by step through this remarkable biblical narrative. Using the timeless text of the King James Version, we will discover what makes a saint in God's eyes, why only a small remnant maintains those characteristics across the centuries, how the 144,000 represent that exact company of overcomers, how they are distinguished from the physical nations who survive the Great Tribulation, and what glorious authority awaits them when the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ.

CHAPTER ONE

What Does God Mean by a "Saint"? The Language of Separation and Loyalty

To understand why the saints and the 144,000 share the exact same identity, we must first clear away centuries of human tradition and look at the words God originally inspired. In the Bible, the English word "saint" does not mean someone who never made a mistake in their youth, nor does it refer to a title voted on by a human committee after someone dies. Rather, it is built upon two powerful pillars found in the original languages of Scripture: separation unto God and steadfast covenant loyalty.

Set Apart for Sacred Use: Qadosh and Hagios

In the Old Testament Hebrew, the primary word behind "holy" and "saints" is qadosh, drawn from a root meaning to cut off, separate, or set apart from common, everyday use for an exclusively sacred purpose. In the New Testament Greek, the exact equivalent is hagios, which carries the identical meaning: something or someone removed from the ordinary, defiled ways of the world and dedicated entirely to the living God. Whether Scripture is speaking of the golden vessels inside Solomon's temple, the seventh-day Sabbath, or a human being walking with God, the core idea is the same—God has claimed it as His own private treasure.

> **1 Peter 1:15–16 (KJV) —** *"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."*

Notice how direct that command is. God does not merely declare people holy while leaving them unchanged in how they live. When God sets a person apart, that separation shows up in "all manner of conversation"—an older English phrase meaning every detail of one's daily conduct, speech, choices, and habits. A saint is someone whose life visibly belongs to God rather than to the shifting fashions and compromises of human society.

Steadfast Covenant Loyalty: Chasid

Alongside qadosh, the Hebrew Scriptures use a second rich word that is frequently translated "saints" in the King James Version, especially throughout the Book of Psalms. That word is chasid, which comes from chesed—God's unfailing, covenant-keeping love and mercy. A chasid is a "faithful one" or "godly one" who answers God's covenant love with unwavering loyalty, obedience, and devotion, even when surrounded by wickedness or threatened with death.

> **1 Samuel 2:9 (KJV) —** *"He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail."*

> **Psalm 116:15 (KJV) —** *"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."*

> **Psalm 50:5 (KJV) —** *"Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice."*

Look closely at Psalm 50:5. Who does God command to be gathered unto Him? "Those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice." A true saint is not a casual admirer of religion. A saint has entered into a binding covenant with the Creator—laying down their own will, pride, and worldly ambitions upon the altar of sacrifice to walk in complete obedience to Him. When you combine the Hebrew ideas of qadosh (set apart from worldly defilement) and chasid (fiercely loyal to God's covenant), you arrive at the exact biblical definition of a saint. And remarkably, those two exact traits form the unmistakable signature of the 144,000 in the Book of Revelation.

CHAPTER TWO

The Unmistakable Profile of the Saints Across Scripture

If sainthood is defined by being set apart and remaining loyal to God's covenant, how does that look in real life? Scripture never leaves us guessing. Throughout both Testaments, God provides a crystal-clear checklist of the characteristics that mark His true saints. Every single trait points toward an active, enduring, commandment-keeping walk with God.

1. Keeping the Commandments of God and the Faith of Jesus

In modern religious culture, many people separate faith from obedience, suggesting that believing in Jesus removes the need to obey God's commandments. Scripture teaches the exact opposite. In the eyes of God, genuine faith always produces loyal obedience. Nowhere is this stated more plainly than in the Apostle John's description of the saints in the end times:

> **Revelation 14:12 (KJV) —** *"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."*

Read those words again. God does not define the saints as those who merely profess religion or attend occasional services. He defines them by two inseparable pillars: they "keep the commandments of God," and they hold fast to "the faith of Jesus." Earlier in the same book, John describes how Satan vents his fury against this exact group:

> **Revelation 12:17 (KJV) —** *"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."*

And at the very close of the Bible, as John looks upon the gates of the New Jerusalem, the same standard stands firm:

> **Revelation 22:14 (KJV) —** *"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."*

This aligns seamlessly with John's first epistle, where he writes with uncompromising clarity:

> **1 John 2:3–4 (KJV) —** *"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."*

2. Patient Endurance Under Fire

Keeping God's commandments in a world governed by human pride and spiritual rebellion has never been easy. Across every century, God's loyal covenant people have faced ridicule, exclusion, imprisonment, and martyrdom. Consequently, Scripture repeatedly links the saints with "patience"—a Greek word (hypomone) that means steadfast, heroic endurance under heavy pressure.

> **Revelation 13:7–10 (KJV) —** *"And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."*

Even when earthly powers appear to triumph over them, the saints refuse to surrender their loyalty. As Revelation 12:11 testifies, “they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”

3. Moral Purity, Hatred of Evil, and Truthfulness

Because the saints are set apart for a holy God, they cannot make peace with sin. The Psalmist captures their inner moral compass in a single line:

> **Psalm 97:10 (KJV) —** *“Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.”*

Similarly, the Apostle Paul reminds believers that behaviors celebrated by the surrounding world have no place among those who bear the name of saints:

> **Ephesians 5:3–5 (KJV) —** *“But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.”*

Instead of worldliness, the saints clothe themselves in righteous deeds. When John sees the Bride of Christ prepared for the marriage supper of the Lamb, he explains the symbolic meaning of her radiant garment:

> **Revelation 19:7–8 (KJV) —** *“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”*

4. Devotion to Prayer, Love for the Brethren, and Contending for the Truth

Finally, the saints are recognizable by their deep spiritual bond with God and one another. Jude urges believers to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 1:3), guarding the pure truth of Scripture against counterfeit doctrines. They pour out their hearts in constant prayer—so much so that in Revelation 5:8 and 8:3–4, the prayers of the saints rise like sweet golden incense directly before the throne of God. And they demonstrate genuine, sacrificial love by serving and supporting fellow believers in need (Romans 15:25–26; Hebrews 6:10).

CHAPTER THREE

The Narrow Gate and the Little Flock: Why Only a Remnant Qualifies

At this point in the story, an honest reader must pause and ask a sobering question: If these are the exact characteristics of the saints—uncompromising obedience to God's commandments, unspotted moral purity, unwavering truthfulness, and endurance unto death—how many people throughout human history actually maintain all of these qualities?

Jesus Christ Himself answered that question during His earthly ministry, and His words cut straight across popular assumptions:

> **Matthew 7:13–14 (KJV) —** *"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."*

Jesus did not describe the path to the Kingdom of God as a wide superhighway crowded with billions of casual travelers. He called it a "strait gate" and a "narrow way," explicitly stating that "few there be that find it." Later, when crowds followed Him for free bread and miracles, Jesus turned and spoke plainly about the high cost of true discipleship:

> **Luke 14:26–27 (KJV) —** *"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."*

In Matthew 22:14, Jesus summed up this spiritual reality in nine unforgettable words: "For many are called, but few are chosen." Throughout every era of history, countless millions have heard the call of God. Many started down the road with enthusiasm, only to turn back when trials came, when worldly wealth seduced them, or when keeping God's commandments conflicted with human traditions. Look at ancient Israel: an entire nation walked through the parted waters of the Red Sea, yet only two adults of that generation—Joshua and Caleb—maintained the faith and obedience required to enter the Promised Land. Look at the days of Elijah: when the prophet felt utterly alone, God revealed that out of an entire nation, He had reserved a faithful remnant of seven thousand who had not bowed the knee to Baal (1 Kings 19:18; Romans 11:4–5).

> **Romans 9:27 (KJV) —** *"Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved."*

This pattern repeats across the entire span of human history. Across six thousand years of fallen human civilization, only a comparatively small, deeply tested remnant maintains all the characteristics of true sainthood from beginning to end. They are the "little flock" to whom the Father delights to give the Kingdom (Luke 12:32). And when the Book of Revelation unveils the final count of this consecrated remnant standing in triumph with the Lamb, it gives them a specific name and number: the 144,000.

CHAPTER FOUR

Unveiling the 144,000: Why Revelation's Portrait Matches the Saints

Twice in the Book of Revelation—first in chapter 7 and then in chapter 14—the curtain of prophecy pulls back to reveal a remarkable assembly of 144,000 redeemed individuals. When we examine both passages carefully in the King James Version, we discover that every single detail spoken about the 144,000 mirrors the exact traits of the saints we have just traced throughout Scripture.

Sealed as Servants of the Living God (Revelation 7)

In Revelation chapter 7, just before the four winds of catastrophic judgment are unleashed upon the earth, a mighty angel ascends from the east holding the seal of the living God:

> **Revelation 7:2–4 (KJV) —** *"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."*

Notice how God identifies them before a single number is mentioned: they are "the servants of our God." Placing God's seal upon their foreheads signifies divine ownership, covenant protection, and complete consecration—the exact meaning of qadosh and hagios. Furthermore, they are organized under the twelve tribes of Israel (12,000 from each tribe listed in verses 5–8), reflecting God's eternal covenant family into which all faithful believers—both physical descendants of Abraham and Gentiles grafted into the olive tree of Israel by faith—are united (Romans 11:17; Galatians 3:29).

Standing on Mount Sion with the Lamb (Revelation 14)

Seven chapters later, John sees this exact same group standing in glory upon Mount Sion with Jesus Christ. Read the breathtaking portrait recorded in Revelation 14:1–5:

> **Revelation 14:1–5 (KJV) —** *"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. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. 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."*

Look closely at the five defining characteristics listed in Revelation 14:1–5, and notice how they apply exclusively to those who have maintained full covenant faithfulness across time:

First, they have "his Father's name written in their foreheads." In Scripture, a name represents character, authority, and ownership. The 144,000 bear the very character and mind of God the Father stamped upon them.

Second, "they were not defiled with women; for they are virgins." Throughout prophetic Scripture, spiritual compromise and false religion are symbolized by harlotry and fornication (such as "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots" in Revelation 17:5), while pure devotion to Christ is symbolized by a chaste virgin (2 Corinthians 11:2). Unlike the multitudes who compromised with the counterfeit religious systems of the world, the 144,000 kept themselves completely unspotted from spiritual idolatry and worldly corruption.

Third, "these are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth." They did not follow Christ only when it was popular, convenient, or safe. Wherever the Lamb led—through self-denial, obedience to God's law, persecution, or the cross—they followed Him without hesitation.

Fourth, "in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God." Guile means deceit, hypocrisy, or double-mindedness. While others claimed to know God with their lips while denying Him by their disobedience (Titus 1:16), the 144,000 lived with transparent integrity, cleansed by the blood of the Lamb and walking in truth.

Fifth—and most revealing of all—they are called "the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb." And just seven verses later, summarizing the endurance of this very people, John writes:

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12). The characteristics in Revelation 14 belong solely to this tested, uncompromised company—the true saints gathered out of time.

CHAPTER FIVE

“Firstfruits” vs. The Great Multitude: Two Distinct Groups in God’s Plan

To appreciate why the 144,000 are the saints who rule in the Kingdom of God, we must understand the biblical meaning of the word “firstfruits” and how it distinguishes the 144,000 from the “great multitude” introduced right after them in Revelation 7.

The Meaning of Firstfruits

In ancient Israel’s agricultural calendar, God established three annual harvest seasons (Exodus 23:14–17; Leviticus 23). Before the main harvest was gathered in, the Israelites brought the very first, ripest sheaves of grain to the temple as a sacred offering to God—the “firstfruits.” In the New Testament, Scripture uses this exact harvest imagery to explain the order in which God saves humanity:

> **1 Corinthians 15:20, 23 (KJV) —** *“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept… But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.”*

> **James 1:18 (KJV) —** *“Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”*

Jesus Christ was the very first of the firstfruits when He rose from the dead. Next in order are “they that are Christ’s at his coming”—the saints across history who have been called, tested, and perfected ahead of the rest of humanity to serve as God’s “firstfruits” (Revelation 14:4). Calling the 144,000 “firstfruits” proves two vital truths: first, they are harvested at Christ’s return ahead of the general harvest of mankind; and second, their harvest implies a much larger harvest of humanity yet to come during the thousand-year reign of Christ!

Who Is the Great Multitude of Revelation 7:9?

Immediately after sealing the 144,000 in Revelation 7:4–8, John looks again and sees a second, vastly larger group:

> **Revelation 7:9, 13–17 (KJV) —** *"After this 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… And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."*

Look at the striking contrast between the 144,000 and the Great Multitude:

• The 144,000 are a specific, numbered remnant—the faithful saints across time who kept God's commandments and endured without spiritual defilement. At Christ's return, they are resurrected or instantaneously changed into immortal spirit beings to rule as kings and priests.

• The Great Multitude, by contrast, is an unnumbered throng from every nation who come "out of great tribulation." They were not part of the faithful little flock throughout history; rather, witnessing the catastrophic judgments of the Great Tribulation, they finally repent, turn to God, and wash their robes in the blood of the Lamb. Because they turn to God during that darkest hour, God shields them through His wrath so that they survive physically into the beginning of the Millennium.

Notice the physical, earthly blessings promised to the Great Multitude in verses 16–17: "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat." Immortal spirit beings do not experience physical hunger, thirst, or sunstroke—mortal human beings do! Having survived the horrors of the Great Tribulation, this protected multitude forms the physical, mortal population on earth at the dawn of the Millennium—rebuilding cities, raising families, and learning God's ways under the righteous government of Jesus Christ and the 144,000 glorified saints.

CHAPTER SIX

Changed in a Moment: The First Resurrection and the Likeness of Christ

How do the 144,000 saints transition from mortal human beings—whether sleeping in their graves across past centuries or still alive on earth at the end of the age—into immortal rulers

in the Kingdom of God? Scripture reveals that this transformation takes place at one monumental event: the First Resurrection at the seventh, final trumpet when Jesus Christ returns.

> **1 Corinthians 15:50–54 (KJV) —** *"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."*

Read verse 50 with care: "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." As long as human beings remain mortal flesh and blood, they can enter the physical territory of the earth during the Millennium as mortal subjects (like the Great Multitude), but they cannot inherit the spiritual, immortal nature of the Kingdom of God itself. To inherit the Kingdom and rule with Christ, the saints must undergo a complete transformation of nature.

The Apostle Paul describes this exact moment again in his letter to the Thessalonians, showing both the dead saints rising first and the living saints being changed to meet the descending Lord in the air:

> **1 Thessalonians 4:15–17 (KJV) —** *"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."*

What will these resurrected and changed saints look like? Scripture gives an astonishing answer: they will be fashioned in the exact glorious likeness of God and Jesus Christ Himself!

> **1 John 3:2 (KJV) —** *"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."*

> **Philippians 3:20–21 (KJV) —** *"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be*

> *fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."*

When Jesus appeared to John in Revelation 1:14–16, His eyes were as a flame of fire, His feet like fine brass burning in a furnace, and His countenance shone "as the sun shineth in his strength." At the last trump, every single member of the 144,000 saints—whether raised from the dust of centuries past or changed in a fraction of a second while alive on earth—puts on that same radiant, incorruptible, spirit-born glory. As Daniel foretold centuries earlier, "they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).

> **Revelation 20:6 (KJV) —** *"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."*

CHAPTER SEVEN

Descending with Ten Thousands of Saints to Possess the Kingdom

Once the saints are resurrected and changed to meet Christ in the air, they do not float away into distant space to play harps on clouds forever. Instead, Scripture reveals that they immediately accompany Jesus Christ back down to this earth to overthrow rebellious human governments and establish the literal Kingdom of God over all nations.

This breathtaking descent was prophesied as far back as Enoch, the seventh from Adam, and preserved in the Book of Jude:

> **Jude 1:14–15 (KJV) —** *"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him."*

The Old Testament prophet Zechariah saw the exact same scene—the Lord's feet standing upon the Mount of Olives east of Jerusalem, accompanied by all His glorified saints:

> **Zechariah 14:4–5, 9 (KJV) —** *"And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east... and the Lord my God shall come, and all the*

> *saints with thee… And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one."*

Paul echoes this exact promise in 1 Thessalonians 3:13, praying that God would establish believers' hearts unblameable in holiness "at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints." And in the Book of Daniel, we see the grand transfer of world power from beastly human empires to the King of Kings and His saints:

> **Daniel 7:18, 21–22, 27 (KJV) —** *"But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever… I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom… And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him."*

Look at the precision of Daniel 7:27: "the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High." Notice the phrase "under the whole heaven"—that means right here on earth! Every continent, every nation, every capital city under the sky is placed under the righteous administration of Christ and His saints.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Kings, Priests, and Judges: What the Saints Will Do in the Millennium

What will the 144,000 glorified saints actually do during the thousand-year reign of Christ? Scripture gives us a vivid, practical picture of their responsibilities as kings, priests, teachers, and judges over the physical nations on earth.

1. Ruling Over the Physical Nations with Christ

In the Book of Revelation, Jesus Christ makes explicit promises to those who overcome worldly temptation and keep His works faithfully to the end:

> **Revelation 2:26–27 (KJV) —** *"And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father."*

> **Revelation 3:21 (KJV) —** *"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."*

> **Revelation 5:9–10 (KJV) —** *"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."*

Notice again how this confirms the two-group structure of the Millennium. For the resurrected saints to have "power over the nations" and to "reign on the earth," there must be physical nations living on the earth to govern! Those physical nations begin with the surviving remnant of humanity they are made up of the Great Multitude who came out of the Great Tribulation—who repopulate the earth in peace under Christ's rule (Isaiah 2:2–4; Zechariah 14:16). Just as Jesus illustrated in the Parable of the Pounds (Luke 19:17–19), faithful servants who proved their loyalty in this life are given real administrative authority over cities and nations in the world to come.

2. Teaching God's Law as a Royal Priesthood

The saints are not merely kings exercising authority; they are also "priests of God and of Christ" (Revelation 20:6). In the Bible, the primary duty of a priest is to teach people the difference between the holy and the unholy, and to guide them into a right relationship with God (Malachi 2:7). During the Millennium, the glorified saints will serve as immortal teachers and shepherds to the mortal populations of the earth—showing them how to keep God's commandments, live in peace, and walk in truth. Isaiah describes this glorious era of spiritual education:

> **Isaiah 30:20–21 (KJV) —** *"And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."*

> **Isaiah 11:9 (KJV) —** *"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."*

3. Judging the World and Angels

Finally, Scripture reveals that the saints—having been thoroughly tested through human trials and having demonstrated unwavering loyalty to God's law—are entrusted with the solemn office of judgment:

> **Revelation 20:4 (KJV) —** *"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."*

> **1 Corinthians 6:2–3 (KJV) —** *"Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?"*

Because the 144,000 saints proved their integrity in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation—refusing to bow to the beast, keeping the commandments of God, and holding fast the faith of Jesus—God can safely entrust them with eternal power, priesthood, and judgment forever.

CONCLUSION

The Calling Before Us Today

When we step back and view the entire sweep of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation, the mystery of the saints and the 144,000 shines with crystal clarity. God has never lowered His standard, nor has He ever contradicted Himself across the pages of His Word. From the beginning, He has been calling out a dedicated, covenant-keeping people—set apart from the corruptions of this world (qadosh / hagios) and fiercely loyal to His commandments and His Son (chasid).

Because the gate is strait and the way is narrow, only a comparatively small remnant across the centuries maintains every one of those characteristics through trial, temptation, and persecution. In the Book of Revelation, God unveils that completed company of overcomers as the 144,000 firstfruits—sealed with the Father's name, unspotted by spiritual harlotry, devoid of deceit, and following the Lamb wherever He goes. While a Great Multitude repents during the Tribulation to survive physically and repopulate the earth during the Millennium, the 144,000 saints rise in the First Resurrection—changed in the twinkling of

an eye into the glorious likeness of God and Christ—to descend with Him to the Mount of Olives and possess the Kingdom forever.

> **Daniel 12:13 (KJV) —** *"But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days."*

> **Revelation 22:12 (KJV) —** *"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."*

That great reward is not reserved for mythical figures locked behind stained-glass windows. It is the living invitation held out today to every believer willing to count the cost, walk the narrow way, guard the commandments of God, and remain faithful unto the end.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE SUMMARY

Key KJV Passages Linking the Saints, the 144,000, and the Kingdom

The table below summarizes the core King James Version passages woven throughout this narrative, showing how the identity, characteristics, transformation, and millennial reign of the saints and the 144,000 unite across both Testaments.

Theme / Stage	Key KJV Scriptures	Core Truth Revealed
Biblical Definition of a Saint	1 Samuel 2:9; Psalm 50:5; Psalm 116:15; 1 Peter 1:15–16	Saints are set apart (qadosh / hagios) from the world and bound to God in loyal covenant sacrifice (chasid).
Commandment-Keeping & Loyalty	Revelation 12:17; Revelation 14:12; Revelation 22:14; 1 John 2:3–4	True saints keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, refusing spiritual compromise.
The Narrow Gate & Little Flock	Matthew 7:13–14; Matthew 22:14; Luke 12:32; Romans 9:27	Only a small, tested remnant across history maintains full faithfulness and inherits the Kingdom.
Identity of the 144,000	Revelation 7:2–4; Revelation 14:1–5; James 1:18	Sealed servants and firstfruits of the Lamb—undefiled, truthful, and loyal—matching the exact profile of the saints.
The Great Multitude Contrast	Revelation 7:9, 13–17; Zechariah 14:16; Isaiah 2:2–4	Mortal survivors who repent during the Great Tribulation and are protected to form the physical nations of the Millennium.
Resurrection & Transformation	1 Corinthians 15:50–54; 1 Thessalonians 4:15–17; 1 John 3:2; Philippians 3:20–21	At the last trump, dead and living saints are changed into immortal spirit beings in the likeness of Christ.
Descending to Possess the Kingdom	Jude 1:14–15; Zechariah 14:4–5, 9; Daniel 7:18, 21–22, 27	The Lord descends with all His glorified saints to take the kingdoms under the whole heaven forever.
Ruling, Teaching & Judging	Revelation 2:26–27; Revelation 5:9–10; Revelation 20:4, 6; 1 Corinthians 6:2–3	The 144,000 saints reign as kings, priests, teachers, and judges over the physical nations for 1,000 years.