



Lesson 29

Who are the 144,000?

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 - The Priests' line

The longest line in our time is the line of the 144,000. Under it, we line up the Priests', Levites', and Nethinims' line. Even though it seems like four, there are really only three groups. The Priests (us) are the 144,000; we have two lines. In order to understand this, in this lesson we will show the reasons why this movement says we, the Priests, are the 144,000.

The Two Groups

2300 Days

In every reform line a message is given. The message first goes to God's people; then it is given to the rest of the world. An example of that is the 2300 day prophecy from Daniel 8:14. According to Daniel 9:24-27 the first 490 years were for the Jews- God's people- exclusively. In that time God worked with them, and the Gospel was given. The 490 years ended in AD 34. After that the Gospel was to be given to the Gentiles.

Ellen G. White's time

"In February 1845, E. G. Harmon received another vision in which the Midnight Cry again was symbolized as a great light from Christ. It pictured a throne in the first apartment of the heavenly sanctuary with two groups of people before it. One group was bowed down and represented the Adventist; the other stood uninterested and careless, symbolizing the church and the world." FSDA 133.1. "The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to "the principalities and powers in heavenly places," the final and full display of the love of God. Ephesians 3:10." AA 9.1. Ellen White believed in to groups of people- the church and the world.

The Movement first believed that there were only two groups of people- the church and the world. From the 2300 day prophecy, we understood that the message was first given to the Jews (the church) and then they took it to the Gentiles (the world). From the time of Ellen White, we saw that she and those that lived in her time understood that there were two groups of people- the Seventh-day Adventist (the church) and the rest of the world (the world). She also said that the church was to take the message to the world.

The Church is the 144,000

Revelation 7

We have seen that there are two groups; the church and the world. The church is the 144,000 and the world is everyone else. To prove that the church is the 144,000, we can go to Revelation 7. In Revelation 7:4, John hears the number of the people that were sealed out of Israel- 144,000. Israel was God's church so in our time it represents the SDA church. Revelation says there were 144,000 people sealed out of the church, so therefore they would become God's new people, since the rest of the church wasn't sealed. We can say that God's new people are a church, because if God had a church in the past, he has one now. Therefore, we know that the 144,000 are God's church.

Ellen G. White

Ellen G. White didn't really know who the 144,000 were, but she said that a time would come when God's people would know. She did say, though, that the closing work for the church was the time that the 144,000 were sealed (3T 266.2). Here we see that the 144,000 are from the church (or are the church) because the time when they are sealed is the time of the closing work that God does for His church.

So we can see that the 144,000 are part of God's church. In the model first the church then the world you can substitute the church for the 144,000. The 144,000 live at the time of the Second Advent or the end of the world (because they are translated). And they are from the church; so they are the group that represents the church in our time.

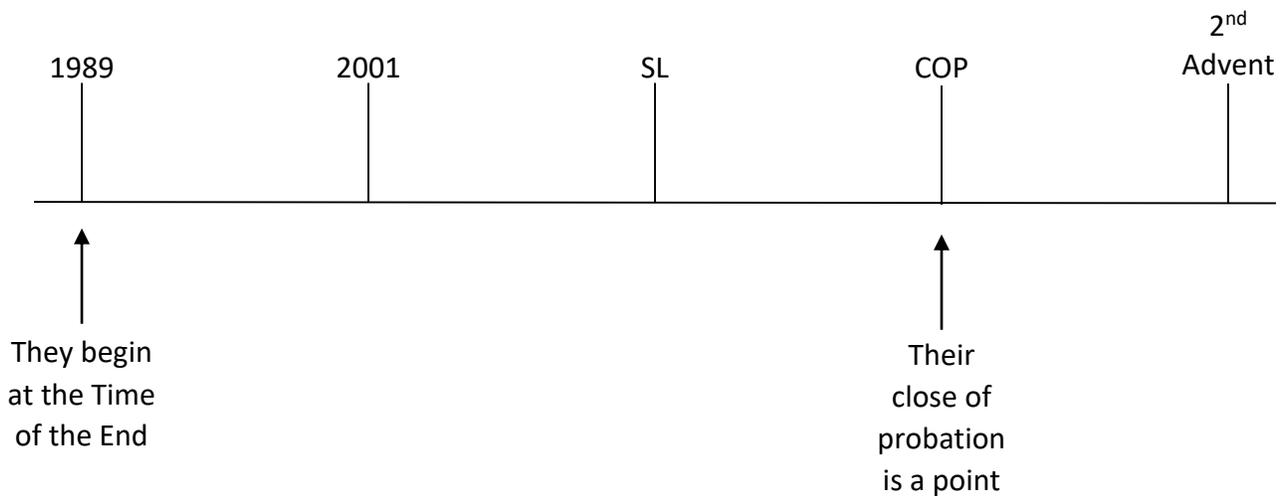
The 144,000

Teachers

The 144,000 are teachers. We were given the message in the beginning of our reform line and are to thereafter teach it to the two other groups of people and then to those in heaven. We, the 144,000, are living at the end of the world which will culminate in the Second Advent of Christ. The 144,000 are the only people that will be living when Christ comes again.

The 144,000's line

The 144,000 also have their own reform line. We know that the 144,000 are teachers, but this movement also discovered that they have a reform line. The 144,000's reform line begins in 1989, which is their Time of the End. The next waymark on their reform line is 2001. The line of the 144,000 has five primary waymarks; we mark the middle one as the Sunday Law. The last two waymarks are the Close of Probation and 2nd Advent. The Close of Probation on this line will be a point in time- Daniel 12:1, this will begin the Time of Trouble which will end at the last waymark on the line which is the 2nd advent.



The Three Groups

Ezra's time

In the book of Ezra, you can see three groups; that is where this movement discovered them. There were three different groups of people connected to the Sanctuary service that left Babylon with Ezra: Priests, Levites, and Nethinims (Ezra 7:7). We used those three groups to demonstrate that there are three groups in our line. The first group, from Israel or God's church, were the Priests, and the Nethinims (the last group) represented the world. We also noticed that the Levites were Israelites like the Priests and so they parallel a second group from the church. This makes three groups, not just two, at the end of the world.

Christ's time

This movement understands that there were three groups of people in the Omega history of Ancient Israel. The first group was the disciples. The message was given directly to them from Christ. They were the smallest group- it was only twelve of them, then eleven. The second group was the Jewish church. When the disciples finished their training and were empowered at Pentecost, they took the message back to the Jewish church. The final group was the Gentiles. The disciples took the message to every other nation (in the then known world) in AD 34 after the stoning of Stephen. The three groups in the time of the First Advent were the twelve apostles, the Jewish church (those who came out after hearing the teaching of the apostles), and the Gentiles. We are in the time of Second Advent (the Omega history of Modern Israel) so there will be three groups in our history.

Noah's time

Another witness to proving that there are three groups is from the story of Noah. In Genesis 7:1, God tells Noah to get in the ark He had told him to build. The ark is a symbol of the movement and Noah and his family are the first group that constructs it. God also tells Noah to bring each species of clean animals onto the ark by sevens; this was the second group. Lastly, God told Noah to take two of each species of unclean animals; this was the third and largest group because there are far more unclean animals than clean. So in the story of Noah, we see the movement is made of three groups.

Based on these three witnesses, there are 3 groups. The first group is the Priests, Disciples, or Noah and his family; this group comes from the church, and joins (really creates) the movement first. The second group is the Levites, Jews, or clean animals. The Levites are from the church but they are called into the movement by the Priests. The final group is the Nethinims, Gentiles, or unclean animals. They are also called into the movement by the Priests and they come from the world.

So as we have seen, there are two groups that make up the movement; one from the church (the 144,000) and one from the world, there are also three groups, two from the church (Priests and Levites) and one from the world (Nethinims). Having two groups, and three groups, are 2 different perspectives. When the two groups perspective was opened up, we didn't know that Levites existed, so they weren't included, that does not make this perspective wrong though. When the Levites were discovered, we came up with a different perspective, which was also right. The last group of both the two groups and three groups is the same, the world. We have to be consistent so if the last groups are the same, the first groups must be the same. Therefore, the Priests (the first group from the three groups perspective) and the 144,000 (the first group from the two groups perspective) are the same. Another witness to the Priests being the 144,00 is that Revelation 14:3, 4 says that the 144,00 are firstfruits; 1st Corinthians 15:20, 23 says Christ was a firstfruit and we know Christ was a Priest. Therefore, the Priests are the 144,000 because both groups are firstfruits. These witnesses prove that the 144,000 are the Priests.

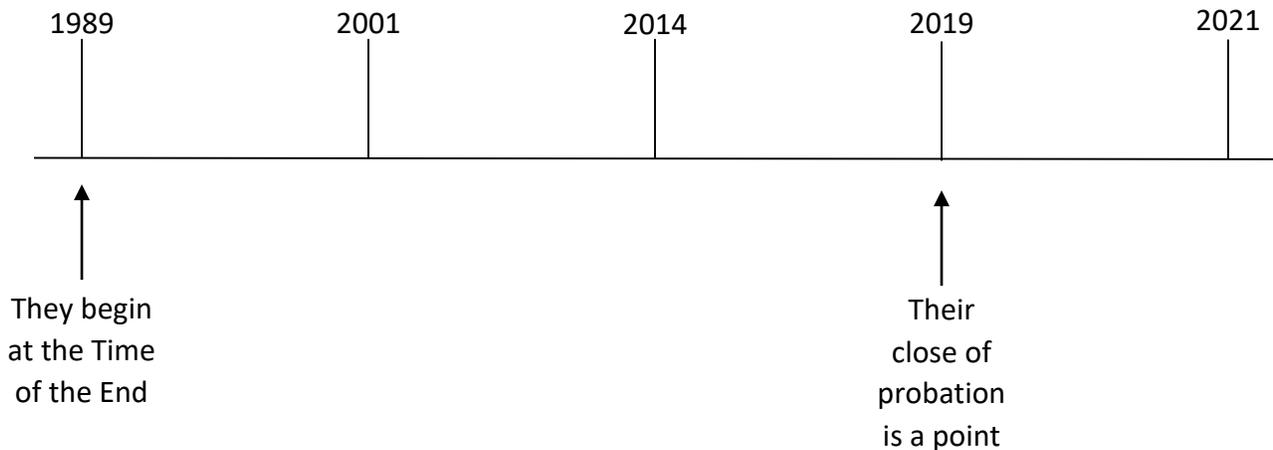
The Priests

Teachers

The Priests are the first group; they were the ones in charge of the Sanctuary/Temple. They were teachers; they were supposed to teach God's people. They were also to teach the Gentiles because the Jewish nation was to share its light with everyone. The 144,000 are teachers, as we have learned. The job of the 144,000 and the Priests are the same: they are to teach the message to the groups who come after them.

The Priests' line

The Priests' line began at the Time of the End- November 9, 1989. The next major waymark was September 11, 2001 (9/11). The Sunday law for the Priests was 2014. The close of probation was on November 9, 2019. It was not a period of time (2019-2021), it was a point. All the Priests' probation closed at a point in time- just like the 144,000 (COP). The last waymark on the reform line of the Priests is 2021- the Second Coming.



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