

Team144K
(Understanding The 144,000)
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The topic of who and/or what the 144,000 is/are has perplexed mankind throughout the centuries. An explanation has been formulated and (for the most part) accepted over the years but did not answer all of the pressing questions and contained room for improvement. Some of the issues that need additional clarification include:

- What does the Bible say about the 144,000?
- Will Ellen White be a member of the 144,000?
- Do the 144,000 have special privileges?
- How does the group develop at the end of time?
- When are the 144,000 sealed?
- Are there multiple parts or pieces of the 144,000?
- Do the 144,000 have protection during the seven last plagues?
- Where do the martyrs come from?
- What group(s) will be saved at the end of time?
- Is the 144,000 is a spiritual or an exact number?

The following is offered as a more complete understanding of the 144,000 and the sealing process as a whole.

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Definitions:

144,000 = God's firstfruit saints brought to heaven from earth.

Team144K = Initial group of sealed believers that assist in forming the great multitude that are sealed just prior to the seven last plagues that begin immediately following the close of probation.

The Great Multitude = Believers that become members of God's church and are sealed at the close of probation.

Seal of God = Exemption from judgment [has already occurred], entitled to protection from death and other assistance...

Close of Probation = The point in time that all cases have been decided for life or death. This also marks the beginning of the seven last plagues also called the time of trouble.

General Timeline:

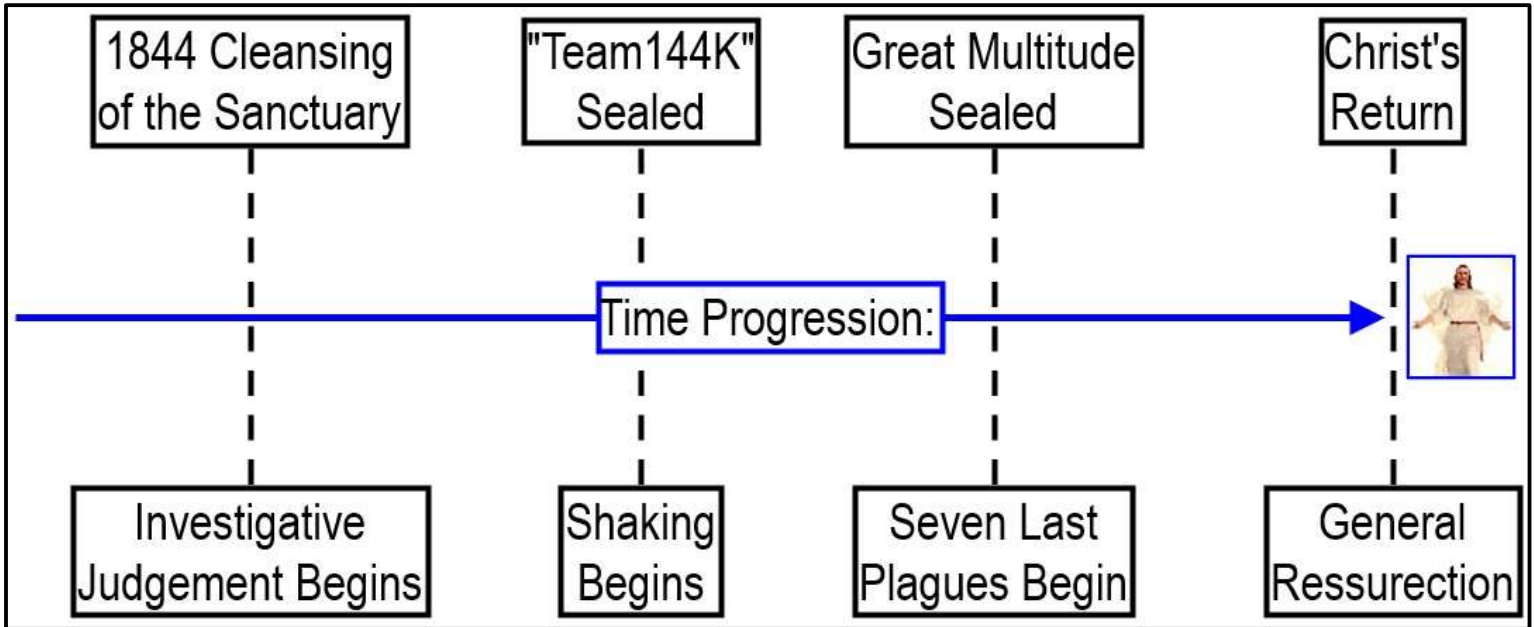


Figure 1: Sealing Timeline

The holy Bible describes the 144,000:

"1And after this, I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth and holding back the four winds, so that the wind would not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2And I saw another angel who came up from the rising of the sun and he had the seal of the living God. And he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea. 3And he said, 'Do not hurt the earth nor the sea, not even the trees, until we seal the servants of God on their foreheads.' 4And I heard the number of the sealed ones, one hundred and forty-four thousand from all the tribes of Israel, 5from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Reuben, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad, twelve thousand, 6from the tribe of Asher, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh, twelve thousand, 7from the tribe of Simeon, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi, twelve thousand, 8from the tribe of Zebulun, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand sealed ones." Revelation 7:1-8 (Peshitta)

Facts about the 144,000 (interpretation and/or spiritual meaning):

- 1) They are servants of God (cooperate with the will of God),
- 2) Some of the 144,000 are sealed which occurs before harm is done to the earth (there are two sealing periods),

- 3) They are sealed in their foreheads (their minds are immovably set in alignment with the heavenly community),
- 4) They come from the tribes of Israel as listed in Revelation (members can come from all nations and religions),
- 5) The total number of members of the group is $12,000_{\text{people}} \times 12_{\text{tribes}} = 144,000$ (this is a non-literal purely spiritual number).

Before any conclusions can be made, we must look at another verse that describes some other characteristics of the 144,000.

"1And I saw, and behold, a lamb was standing on the mountain of Zion and with him were one hundred and forty-four thousand who had his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads. 2And I heard a sound from heaven as the sound of many waters and as the sound of great thunder. The sound that I heard was as a harpist who strikes on his harps. 3And they were praising as a new praise song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. And no one was able to learn the praise song, except the one hundred and forty-four thousand purchased ones from the earth. 4These are they who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins, they who followed the Lamb everywhere he would go. These were purchased from mankind, the first fruit to God and to the Lamb, 5in whose mouth falsehood was not found, for they are without blemish." Revelation 14:1-5 (Peshitta)

- 6) They have Father's name written in their forehead (their minds are immovably set in alignment with the heavenly community),
- 7) They play their harps in heaven and are "redeemed from among men" (they are all saved/taken to heaven from the earth),
- 8) They sing a song that no one else can sing (they have a different experience than the others that are saved),
- 9) They did not defile themselves with women (did not engage in anti Christ activities with false churches/false belief systems),
- 10) They follow the Lamb wherever He leads them (their focus is on Jesus),
- 11) They are the firstfruits of God and Jesus (they are God's first choice),
- 12) They are without fault (their sins have been expunged).

The pen of inspiration gives us a description of the firstfruits; " As Christ ascends while in the act of blessing his disciples, an army of angels encircle him as a cloud. Christ takes with him the multitude of captives. He will himself bring to the Father the **first-fruits** of them that slept, as an

evidence that he is conqueror of death and the grave.[emphasis added]"-*The Youth's Instructor*, August 11, 1898 paragraph 7

In the past, the Bible describes some of the firstfruits; who are now in heaven. Also notice that not all of the sleeping saints were resurrected indicating that the ones that were resurrected, are among a special group:

"51And immediately the curtains of the temple were torn in two from the top to the bottom and the earth was shaken and the rocks were split. 52And the tombs were opened and many bodies of the holy ones who were asleep rose up 53and went out. And after his resurrection they entered the holy city and were seen by many."
Matthew 27:51-53 (Peshitta)

Even though some of the firstfruit are torn away by death they will still be brought back to life and be counted among the holy.

"15For if their rejection was reconciliation to the world, then how much more their return, but life that is from the dead? 16 Now if the original part is holy, the thing formed is holy also. And if the root is holy, the branches are also. 17And if some branches were broken off and you who are a wild olive tree were grafted into their places and became a sharer of the root and of the fatness of the olive tree,"
Romans 11:15-17 (Peshitta)

Since the firstfruits described here is another attribute of the 144,000. Some believers were resurrected at the time of the death of Jesus and were brought to heaven being "firstfruits". The 144,000 are formed throughout history and not just during the final generation on earth and/or are alive when Jesus returns.

Evidence that Ellen White may be a member of the 144,000:

"As we were traveling along, we met a company who also were gazing at the glories of the place. I noticed red as a border on their garments; their crowns were brilliant; their robes were pure white. As we greeted them, I asked Jesus who they were. He said they were martyrs that had been slain for Him. With them was an innumerable company of little ones; they also had a hem of red on their garments. Mount Zion was just before us, and on the mount was a glorious temple, and about it were seven other mountains, on which grew roses and lilies. And I saw the little ones climb, or, if they chose, use their little wings and fly, to the top of the mountains and pluck the never-fading flowers. There were all kinds of trees around the temple to beautify the place: the box, the pine, the fir, the oil, the myrtle, the pomegranate, and the fig tree bowed down with the weight of its timely figs--these made the place all over glorious. And as we were about to enter the holy temple, Jesus raised His lovely voice and said, '**Only the 144,000 enter this place,**' and we shouted, 'Alleluia.'

This temple was supported by seven pillars, all of transparent gold, set with pearls most glorious. The wonderful things I there saw I cannot describe. Oh, that I could talk in the language of Canaan, then could I tell a little of the glory of the better world. I saw there tables of stone in which the names of the 144,000 were engraved in letters of gold. **After we beheld the glory of the**

temple, we went out, and Jesus left us and went to the city. Soon we heard His lovely voice again, saying, 'Come, My people, you have come out of great tribulation, and done My will; suffered for Me; come in to supper, for I will gird Myself, and serve you.' We shouted, 'Alleluia! glory!' and entered into the city. And I saw a table of pure silver; it was many miles in length, yet our eyes could extend over it. I saw the fruit of the tree of life, the manna, almonds, figs, pomegranates, grapes, and many other kinds of fruit. I asked Jesus to let me eat of the fruit. He said, 'Not now. Those who eat of the fruit of this land go back to earth no more. But in a little while, if faithful, you shall both eat of the fruit of the tree of life and drink of the water of the fountain.' And He said, 'You must go back to the earth again and relate to others what I have revealed to you.' Then an angel bore me gently down to this dark world.[emphasis added]"-*Early Writings*, pages 18-20¹

At the end of time, before Jesus returns, there will be a special resurrection. Some of these will be among the chosen and others will be marked for damnation.

"Behold, he comes with clouds and all eyes will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn concerning him. Yes and amen."
Revelation 1:7 (Peshitta)

The above discussion suggests that Ellen White will be brought back to life at the special resurrection and not only be a part of the 144,000 but be a witness to Jesus Christ's second coming.

"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...Soon our eyes were drawn to the east, for a small black cloud had appeared, about half as large as a man's hand, which we all knew was the sign of the Son of man. We all in solemn silence gazed on the cloud as it drew nearer and became lighter, glorious, and still more glorious, till it was a great white cloud. The bottom appeared like fire; a rainbow was over the cloud, while around it were ten thousand angels, singing a most lovely song; and upon it sat the Son of man."-*Early Writings*, 1882, pages 15 and 16

The 144,000 have special privileges:

Much of our discussion thus far, indicates that there will be a system in heaven where the saints are recognized for their efforts. The 144,000 are the only ones that are allowed to enter the heavenly temple and it will become, for all intents and purposes, a museum. Let's look at evidence from the Bible and then look at an example from the writings of a recent prophet regarding the differences in the ranks of the heavenly occupants.

"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over little. I will place you over much. Enter into the joy of your lord.'" Matthew 25:23 (Peshitta)

¹ As an interesting side note; Ellen White describes this as well as many other visions in the first person narrative. Does this imply that she will actually be participating in the events she is describing? The answer to this is No, not in all cases. The fact is that many prophets and inspired writers of the Bible relay their prophecies (John in the book of Revelation for example...) in first person narrative mode.

The crowns of the saints had varying degrees of brightness;

"We all entered the cloud together, and were seven days ascending to the sea of glass, when Jesus brought the crowns, and with His own right hand placed them on our heads. He gave us harps of gold and palms of victory. Here on the sea of glass the 144,000 stood in a perfect square. Some of them had very bright crowns, others not so bright. Some crowns appeared heavy with stars, while others had but few. All were perfectly satisfied with their crowns."-*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, 1915, page 66

The saints crowns are made of gold and have stars on them;

"The crowns of the saints were of the most pure gold, decked with stars."-*Early Writings*, 1882, page 54

The stars on the crowns are given based on the assistance given to saving others and bringing them into the heavenly community.

"Their earthly treasure is then swept away, and they have lost all. And the crowns they might have worn, had they been faithful, are put upon the heads of those saved by the faithful servants whose means were constantly in use for God. And every one they have been the means of saving, adds stars to their crowns in glory, and increases their eternal reward."-*Spiritual Gifts Volume 4b*, 1864, page 39

While in vision, EGW was told that she needs to remain faithful and she will be able to visit other worlds with the rest of the 144,000. "I begged of my attending angel to let me remain in that place. I could not bear the thought of coming back to this dark world again. Then the angel said, "You must go back, and if you are faithful, you, with the 144,000, shall have the privilege of visiting all the worlds and viewing the handiwork of God."-*The Adventist Home*, 1952, Page 543²

Descriptive material explains how the 144,000 develops and what they do at the end of time:

Many times in prophetic writings, a smaller group than the entire 144,000 will be described. This group is described by the tasks that they perform, but are not specifically mentioned by any name. The original plan was that a small remnant would be formed and the other saints would not have protection from death through the plagues. Jesus successfully pleaded for permission from Father for special protection of the remaining (remnant) saints, not just the small faithful group (specifically Team144K) that will be alive just prior to the commencement of the seven last plagues:

"I saw four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and were on their way to accomplish it. Jesus was clothed with priestly garments. **He gazed in pity on the remnant**, then raised His hands, and with a voice of deep pity cried, 'My blood, Father, My blood, My blood, My blood!' Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from God, who sat upon the great white throne, and was shed all about Jesus. Then I saw an angel with a commission from Jesus, swiftly flying to the four angels

² It makes logical sense for this to be talking about fully committed true believers (firstfruit) throughout history that will be redeemed from the earth as opposed to only the few that will remain and still be alive at the second coming.

who had a work to do on the earth, and **waving something up and down in his hand**, and crying with a loud voice, 'Hold! Hold! Hold! Hold! until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.[emphasis added]"-*Early Writings*, (1882), page 38

Let's take a look at a few other accounts:

"The days are fast approaching when there will be great perplexity and confusion. Satan, clothed in angel robes, will deceive, if possible, the very elect. There will be gods many and lords many. Every wind of doctrine will be blowing. Those who have rendered supreme homage to 'science falsely so-called,' will not be the leaders then. Those who have trusted to intellect, genius, or talent, will not then stand at the head of rank and file. They did not keep pace with the light. Those who have proved themselves unfaithful will not then be entrusted with the flock. **In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged**. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and he cannot use them. The Lord has faithful servants, who **in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view**.[emphasis added]"-*Testimony for the Battle Creek Church*, 1882, page 63

From the quote above the group that goes out and forms the great multitude that combines with the efforts of the first group is separate and distinct. This group exists before the rest of the 144,000 are sealed before the seven last plagues begin. We can call this group "Team144K".

Just before the seven last plagues fall upon the earth the events that transpired were described; "And I heard **the number of the sealed ones, one hundred and forty-four thousand** from all the tribes of Israel.[emphasis added]" Revelation 7:4 (Peshitta).

After the saints are in heaven, these events are described; "9And afterwards, I saw **a large crowd, which no one was able to number**, from every nation and tribe and peoples and languages, that stood before the throne and before the Lamb and were clothed with white robes and with palm branches in their hands. 10And they were crying out with a loud voice and saying, "Deliverance to our God and to him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb." 11And all the angels were standing around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures. And they fell down before the throne on their faces, 12saying, 'Amen. Glory and blessing and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength be to our God, forever and ever. Amen.' 13And one of the elders answered and said to me, "Who are those who are clothed with white robes and from where did they come?" 14And I said to him, 'My Lord, you know.' And he said to me, 'They are those who came from great torment and have washed their robes and whitened them in the blood of the Lamb. 15Because of this, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple. And he who sits on the throne will dwell with them. 16They will not hunger and not thirst and the sun will not fall on them and not any heat, 17because the Lamb who is in the middle of the throne will feed them and will guide them to life and to the fountains of water and will wipe away all the tears from their eyes.[emphasis added]" Revelation 7:9-17 (Peshitta)

The 144,000 are taught by the Holy Spirit. "In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged... God will work a work in our day that but few³ anticipate. **He will raise up and exalt among us** those who are taught rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the outward training of scientific institutions.[emphasis added]"-*Testimonies for the Church; Volume Five*, pages 80 and 82

³ ...so some will...

This quote is in reference to the swelling of the message into the loud cry. "To souls that are earnestly seeking for light and that accept with gladness every ray of divine illumination from His holy Word, to such alone light will be given. **It is through these souls that God will reveal that light and power which will lighten the whole earth with His glory.**[emphasis added]"- *Testimonies for the Church; Volume Five*, page 729

Team144K are sealed before the shaking begins:

Since we know that the shaking occurs before probation closes, then the sealing described in the following quote describes the first sealing period. "There is a spirit of desperation, of war and bloodshed, and that spirit will increase until the very close of time. 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.**[emphasis added]"-*Manuscript Releases Volume Ten*, 1990 [#173 written in 1902], page 252

Satan is well of what the Bible says and the sequence of events that are described therein. He knows that once probation closes; all the saints will have received the seal of God, and that the first plague will immediately be poured out upon the land. He will know that this has occurred by the manifestation of soars on the wicked. The fact that Satan needs to make an educated guess as to who are saved clearly indicates the timing of the following quote and that some of the end time saints are sealed prior to probation closing.

"As Satan influenced Esau to march against Jacob, so he will stir up the wicked to destroy God's people in the time of trouble. And as he accused Jacob, he will urge his accusations against the people of God. He numbers the world as his subjects; but the little company who keep the commandments of God are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. He sees that holy angels are guarding them, and he infers that their sins have been pardoned; but he does not know that **their cases have been decided in the sanctuary above[indicating two sealing events!]**[emphasis added]"-*The Great Controversy (1888)*, 1888, page 618

The remaining saints / "great multitude" are sealed just prior to the seven last plagues:

Once the third angel's message has swelled into the loud cry, the balance of God's church / the rest of the 144,000 are sealed. The seal is needed for (among other things) protection from death; the martyrs of the end time will come from the great multitude (before the close of probation). The following quote describes the second sealing event. "And he said, 'Do not hurt the earth nor the sea, not even the trees, **until we seal** the servants of God on their foreheads.[emphasis added]" Revelation 7:3 (Peshitta) The text is, of course, referring to spiritual Israel.

The 144,000 have protection during the plagues:

"I saw a covering that God was drawing over His people to protect them in the time of trouble; and every soul that was decided on the truth and was pure in heart was to be covered with the covering of the Almighty."-*Early Writings*, 1882, page 43

"Satan has no power to pluck them out of the hand of Christ. Not one soul that in penitence and faith has claimed his protection, will Christ permit to pass under the enemy's power. His word is pledged: 'Let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me.' The promise given to Joshua is made to all: 'If thou wilt keep my charge, . . . I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.' Angels of God will walk on either side of them, even in this world, and they will stand at last among the angels that surround the throne of God."-*The Review and Herald*, January 2, 1908, paragraph 10

"Satan is now using every device in this sealing time [reference to the first sealing event of Team144K] to keep the minds of God's people from the present truth and to cause them to waver. **I saw a covering that God was drawing over His people to protect them in the time of trouble;** and every soul that was decided on the truth and was pure in heart was to be covered with the covering of the Almighty.

Satan knew this, and he was at work in mighty power to keep the minds of as many people as he possibly could wavering and unsettled on the truth.[emphasis added]"-*Early Writings*, 1882, page 43

"I also saw that many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary through the time of trouble. **Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble** must reflect the image of Jesus fully.

I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of 'refreshing' and the 'latter rain' to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God. Those who refuse to be hewed by the prophets and fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father. Before this time the awfully solemn declaration has gone forth, 'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.' I saw that none could share the 'refreshing' unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action.[emphasis added]"-*Early Writings*, 1882, page 71

"They shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.' [Malachi 3:17.] If the blood of Christ's faithful witnesses were shed at this time, it would not, like the blood of the martyrs, be as seed sown to yield a harvest for God. Their fidelity would not be a testimony to convince others of

the truth; for the obdurate heart has beaten back the waves of mercy until they return no more. **If the righteous were now left to fall a prey to their enemies, it would be a triumph for the prince of darkness.** But Christ has spoken: 'Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee; hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity.' [Isaiah 26:20, 21.] Glorious will be the deliverance of those who have patiently waited for him, and whose names are written in the book of life.[emphasis added]"-*The Spirit of Prophecy Volume Four*, 1884, page 451

Once formed, the members of Team144K never die:

We have just learned that the people of God that are sealed at the close of probation do not see death. If evidence can be brought to view that Team144K lived before the seven last plagues, then we have positive proof that they will never die and therefore must be sealed and given special protection prior to the sealing of the great multitude.

When someone is described as, washing their robes and making them white in the blood of the Lamb, this is describing someone who lived **before** probation closes and purifies himself. "And they sing 'a new song' before the throne, a song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand. It is the song of Moses and the Lamb,—a song of deliverance. None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song; for it is the song of their experience,—an experience such as no other company have ever had. 'These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.' These, having been translated from the earth, from among the living, are counted as 'the first-fruits unto God and to the Lamb.' 'These are they which came out of great tribulation;' they have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation; they have endured the anguish of the time of Jacob's trouble; they have stood without an intercessor through the final outpouring of God's judgments. But they have been delivered, for **they have 'washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'** 'In their mouth was found no guile; for they are without fault' before God. '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 have seen the earth wasted with **famine and pestilence**, the sun having power to scorch men with great heat, and they themselves have endured suffering, hunger, and thirst. But '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.[emphasis added]"-*The Great Controversy (1888)*, 1888, page 649

Ellen White also gives a testimony explaining that we should not waste time trying to figure out which ones of us are part of Team144K. Although not giving this special group a specific name, she simply states that soon we will know the answer to this without question. "It is not His will that they shall get into controversy over questions which will not help them spiritually, such as, Who is to compose the hundred and forty-four thousand. **This those who are the elect of God will in a short time know without question.**[emphasis added]"-*Notebook Leaflets from the Elmshaven Library Vol. 2*, (1985) manuscript 26 written in 1901, page 164

A special distinction can be seen between the two groups showing that Team144K will exist before the close of probation. One reason that we will know who the members of this special group are is that their faces will glow during the Loud Cry. "**As the third angel's message swells into a loud cry [before probation closes]**, great power and glory will attend its proclamation. **The faces of God's people will shine [mark of divine sanctioning]** with the light of heaven.[emphasis added]"-*Testimonies for the Church Volume Seven*, 1902, page 17 Here is another account; "Angels were sent to aid the mighty angel from heaven, and I heard voices which seemed to sound every where, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues; for her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. This message seemed to be an addition to the third message, and joined it, as the midnight cry joined the second angel's message in 1844. The glory of God rested upon the patient, waiting saints, and they fearlessly gave the last solemn warning, proclaiming the fall of Babylon, and calling upon God's people to come out of her; that they might escape her fearful doom...I saw that the third message would close with power and strength far exceeding the midnight cry. Servants of God, endowed with power from on high, with **their faces lighted up, and shining with holy consecration**, went forth fulfilling their work, and proclaiming the message from heaven.[emphasis added]"-*Spiritual Gifts Volume 1*, (1858), pages 194-196

The faces of Team144K glowing is different than the glow exhibited by the entire 144,000 at their deliverance at the end of time. Sister White describes the countenances of the people of God as being lighted up at the time of their deliverance after probation has closed. "The Israel of God stood with their eyes fixed upward, listening to the words as they came from the mouth of Jehovah, and rolled through the earth like peals of loudest thunder. It was awfully solemn. And at the end of every sentence the saints shouted, 'Glory! Alleluia!' Their **countenances were lighted up** with the glory of God; and they shone with the glory, as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked could not look on them for the glory.[emphasis added]"-*Early Writings*, 1882, page 34

Some may be confused that do not know and understand the truth about Team144K after reading Revelation chapter nine with regard to the fifth trumpet. It has been independently determined that all of the trumpets sound (in sequence) giving warning judgments (diluted with mercy), then probation closes followed by the seven last plagues where the bowls of God's wrath are poured out without mixture (full strength). Here is the account of the fifth trumpet:

"1And the fifth angel sounded and I saw a star that fell from heaven on the earth and the key of the pits of the abyss was given to him. 2And smoke went up from the pits, as the smoke of a large furnace that was heated up. And the sun was darkened and the air also from the smoke of the pits. 3And from the smoke, locusts went out on the earth and the authority that belongs to the scorpions of the earth was given to them. 4And it was told to them that they should not harm the grass of the earth or any herb, not even the trees, **but only** the men who **did not have** the seal of God on their **foreheads**. [at this time, before probation closes, only Team144K has the seal of God]. 5And it was given to them that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented for five months. And their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it falls on a man. 6And in those days, men will seek death and will not find it. And they will earnestly desire to die and death will flee from them. 7And the form of the locusts was like horses that are prepared

for battle. And on their heads it was like a crown with the form of gold and their faces were like the face of a man. **8And they had** hair like the hair of women and their teeth were like those of lions. **9And they had** a breastplate like a breastplate of iron and the sound of their wings was like the sound of the chariots of many horses that are running to battle. **10And they had** tails like a scorpion and stings in their tails and their authority was to hurt men for five months. **11**And there was a king over them, the angel of the abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Aramaic, his name is 'Breaker.' **12**One woe is past. Behold, there are still two woes." Revelation 9:1-12 (Peshitta)

Revelation 9 fits with perfect harmony into the truth about God's specially chosen end time people (Team144K) that already have the seal of God in their forehead) and are instrumental in swelling the repeat and expansion of the third angel's message into the loud cry before probation closes.

In summary; they never died during, and went through the seven last plagues, therefore they existed before the seven last plagues while they were undergoing the purification/refinement process. Since the group is formed before the seven last plagues and go out to spread the third angel's message (their faces glow) that swells into the loud cry during the hour of temptation; and since they are kept from the hour of temptation (Revelation 3:10) they must be sealed before to receive this protection. Therefore there are two times of sealing: 1) a sealing period for Team144K, and 2) the sealing event for the great multitude just before probation closes and the seven last plagues begin.

There will be martyrs at the end of time:

Revelation 17:6 describes martyrdom that will occur again at the end of time by the anti-Christ beast power that again rises to power in Revelation 13:3 and 4. These martyrs do not come from Team144K but rather the great multitude that is being created/gathered as the third angel's message swells to the loud cry at the end of probation. Consider the following quote from the pen of inspiration. It describes literal millions who are martyred at the end of time while Satan is on the earth after presenting to the world his new and more exalted system of religious faith that the vast majority accepts as truth and falls under the great delusion of. "Satan exulted over the fall of so many, and then he stirred up the fallen church to force those who would preserve the purity of their religion, to either yield to their ceremonies and image worship, or to put them to death. The fires of persecution were **again kindled** against the true church of Jesus Christ, and **millions were slain without mercy**.[emphasis added]"-*Spiritual Gifts Volume 1*, 1858, page 105

Team144K and others will be saved:

"But it is not always safe to ask for unconditional healing. Let your prayer include this thought: 'Lord, Thou knowest every secret of the soul. Thou art acquainted with these persons; for Jesus, their advocate, gave His life for them. He loves them better than we possibly can. If, therefore, it is for Thy glory and the good of these afflicted ones to raise them up to health, we ask Thee in the name of Jesus, that health may be given them at this time.' In a petition of this kind, no lack of faith is manifested.

The Lord 'doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.' Lamentations 3:33. 'Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust.' Psalm 103:13, 14. He knows our heart, for He reads every secret of the soul. He knows whether or not those for whom petitions are offered would be able to endure the trial and test that would come upon them if they lived. He knows the end from the beginning. Many will be laid away to sleep before the fiery ordeal of the time of trouble shall come upon our world. This is another reason why we should say after our earnest petition; 'Nevertheless not my will, but Thine, be done.' Luke 22:42. Such a petition will never be registered in heaven as a faithless prayer.

The apostle was bidden to write, 'Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.' Revelation 14:13. From this we can see that all are not to be raised up; and if they are not raised to health **they should not be judged as unworthy of eternal life**. If Jesus, the world's Redeemer, prayed, 'O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me,' and added, 'nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt' (Matthew 26:39), how very appropriate it is for finite mortals to make the same surrender to the wisdom and will of God.[emphasis added]"-*Councils on Health*, page 375 and 376

"The Lord has often instructed me that many little ones are to be **laid away before the time of trouble**. We shall see our children again. We shall meet them and know them in the heavenly courts.[emphasis added]"-*Selected Messages Book Two*, page 259

From the following quote, we are presented with further evidence that **some friends of Team144K will die and then be re-united with their friends at the resurrection**. "The graves opened, and the dead came up clothed with immortality. The 144,000 shouted, Hallelujah! as they recognized their friends who had been torn from them by death, and in the same moment we were changed and caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air. We all entered the cloud together, and were seven days ascending to the sea of glass, when Jesus brought along the crowns and with his own right hand placed them on our heads.[emphasis added]"-*A Sketch of the Christian Experience and Views of Ellen G. White*, 1851, page 12

EGW states that some may be only capable of keeping their souls ready for eternity and thus not able to help others find salvation. This is exactly what Team144K does, so these are not included with Team144K but will be part of the 144,000(great multitude). "I also saw that God had messengers that He would use in His cause, but they were not ready. They were too light and trifling to exert a good influence over the flock and did not feel the weight of the cause and the worth of souls as God's messengers must feel in order to effect good. Said the angel, 'Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord. Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord.' They can accomplish but little good unless they are wholly given up to God and feel the importance and solemnity of the last message of mercy that is now being given to the scattered flock. ... **Not all who proclaimed the first and the second angel's message are to give the third**, even after they fully embrace it, for some have been in so many errors and delusions that they can but just save their own souls, and if they undertake to guide others, they will be the means of overthrowing them.[emphasis added]" *Early Writings*, (1882), page 62. Of note is that we know for a fact that this

quote is referring to the last generation because she describes the preaching of the third angel's message.

The 144,000 is a spiritual and not an exact number:

How can a number that is made up of spiritual pieces / parts sum to equal a real (physical) / exact number? The 144,000 is made up of 12,000 from each "tribe"; this is described in Revelation 7:5-8 (Juda, Reuben, Gad, Aser, Nephtalim, Manasses, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zabulon, Joseph, and Benjamin). The fact that the 144,000 is a spiritual number is further illustrated that the **list of tribes is slightly different than those of Genesis 49**.

Genesis 49 lists twelve tribes: Reuben, Judah, Levi, Benjamin, Joseph, Zebulun, Issachar, Gad, Dan, Naphtali, Asher and Simeon. In a specific example; since the tribe of Dan fell away from God by worshiping graven images and no longer had a place in God's church it is not listed in Revelation. See one account of the tribe of Dan's transgressions against God in Judges 18:14-26. Numbers 10:11-28 lists the twelve tribes as Reuben, Simeon, Issachar, Judah, Zebulun, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Ephraim and Manasseh. Levi ministered to the twelve tribes, and so was treated separately. When the twelve tribes encamped, they always camped three tribes to a side, surrounding the Levites and the temple. You'll notice that Ephraim, in Revelation, is also removed from this list of tribes in Numbers.

Why were Dan and Ephraim removed from the list of tribes that were part of the 144,000 in Revelation? The answer is found in the book of Deuteronomy 29:16-20.

"16(For ye know how we have dwelt in the land of Egypt; and how we came through the nations which ye passed by; 17And ye have seen their abominations, and their idols, wood and stone, silver and gold, which were among them:) 18Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood; 19And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst: 20The Lord will not spare him, but then the anger of the Lord and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and **the Lord shall blot out his name from under heaven.**[emphasis added]" Deuteronomy 29:16-20 (KJV)

The curse of idolatry (or spiritual fornication) was to have your name blotted out. Now, let's see how this applied to the tribe of Dan.

"25Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel. 26And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: 27If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah. 28Whereupon the king took counsel, and made

two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. **29And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. 30And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.**[emphasis added]" 1 Kings 12:25-30 (KJV)

For the tribe of Ephraim: "Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone." Hosea 4:17 (KJV) Remembering what Jesus said: "Heaven and earth will pass away, yet my words will not pass away." Matthew 24:35 (Peshitta) God remembered His Word in Deuteronomy by removing Dan and Ephraim from the final list of the tribes sealed in the 144,000 of Revelation. Looking at the list of items described in our discussion:

Literal / Symbolic	Symbolic Meaning
Lamb on mount Sion	Jesus as the head of the church
Sealed in forehead	Minds are immovably set
Tribes of Israel	All nations and peoples
Not defiled by women	Heed true church doctrines
Without fault/have not committed sins	Sins have been forgiven
Literal Israel (Jews only)	Spiritual Israel (Jews and Gentiles)
144,000 Literal	?

Notice that each item is symbolic in nature for our discussion of the 144,000. Has there been a pattern established? Do we have enough evidence to decide if this is a symbolic or a literal number? The Bible is not a grocery store, we can't pick and choose what items we want and leave the rest on the shelves. We need to follow the consistent and logical pattern of this story that is being shown to using symbolism. We can thus be confident in knowing that the 144,000 represents a symbolic number.

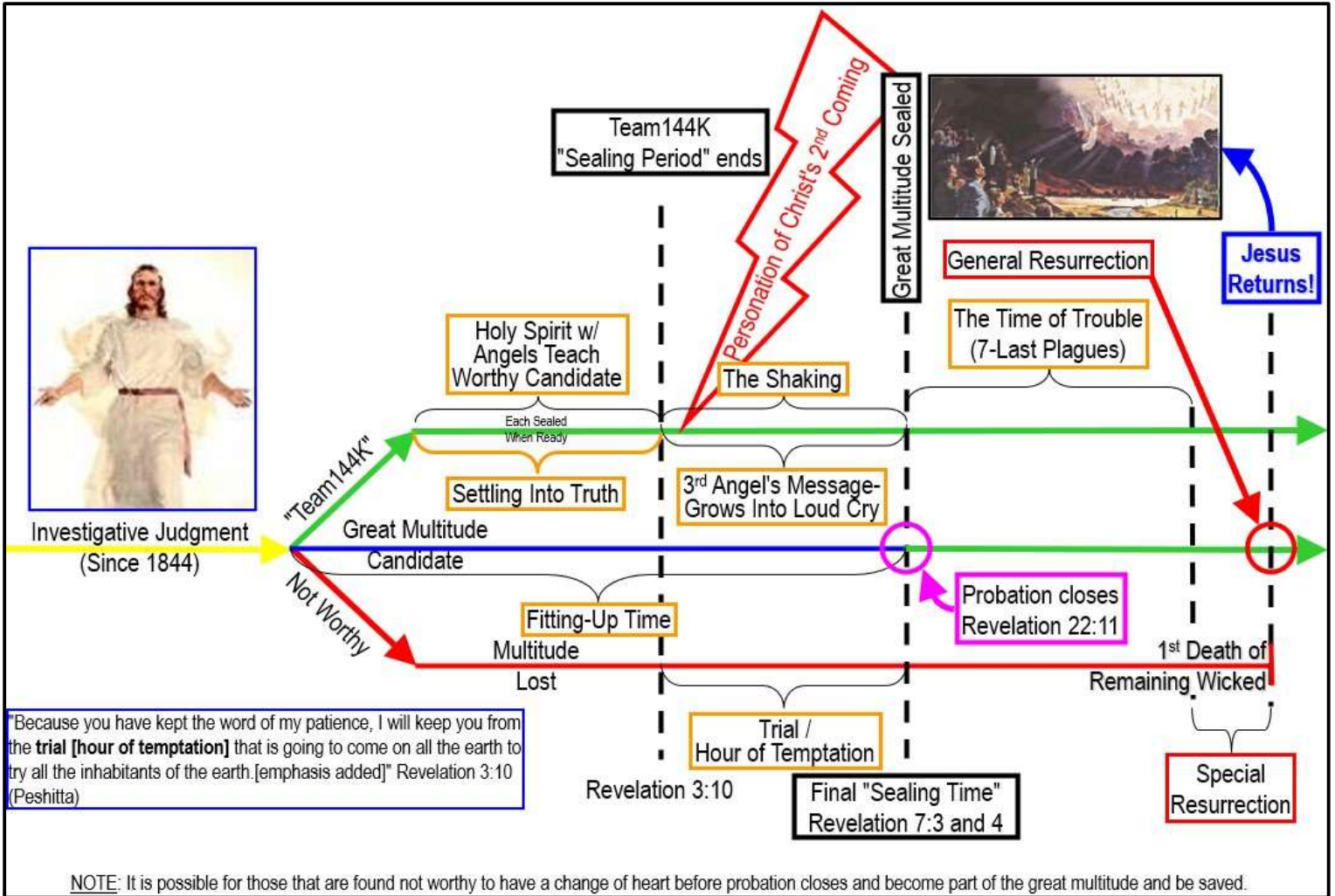


Figure 2: Sealing Sequence of Events

SUMMARY:

- 1) "Team144K" is sometimes described by itself or grouped with all of the 144,000,
- 2) Ellen White will be a member of the 144,000,
- 3) God's chosen elect/firstfruits are the 144,000,
- 4) "Team144K" are sealed before the shaking begins,
- 5) The "great multitude" are sealed just prior to the seven last plagues beginning,
- 6) The 144,000 have protection during the plagues,
- 7) Once formed, "Team144K" never die,
- 8) End time martyrs come from the great multitude,
- 9) The 144,000 and others will be saved at the end of time,
- 10) 144,000 is a spiritual number.

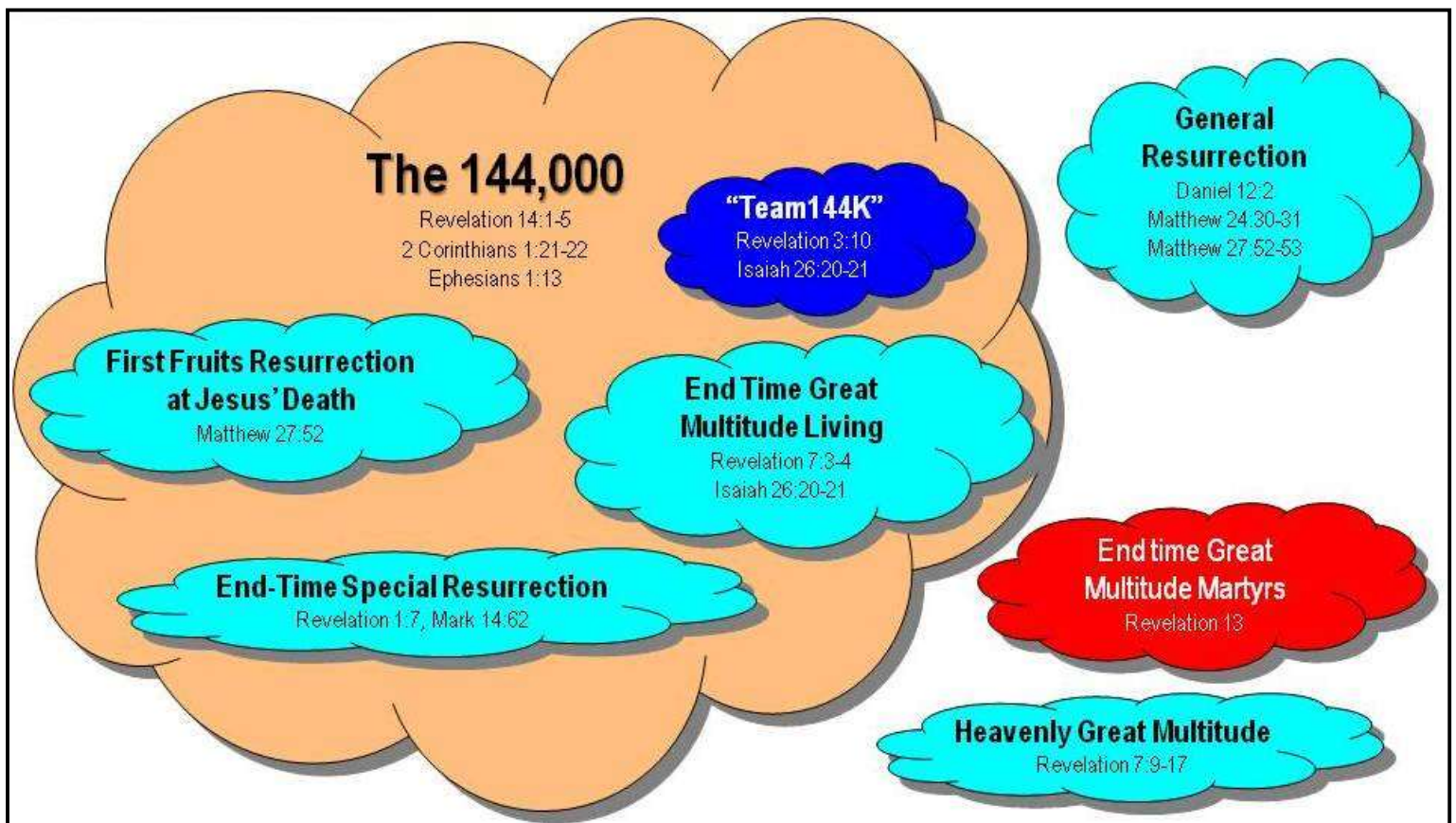


Figure 3: The 144,000