

# THE 144,000 of REVELATION and the PHILADELPHIA CHURCH



## **The female gender mirrors priesthood; the male gender mirrors national leadership**

God created mankind male and female, both are created in the image of God. God is both KING and LORD. This simple statement is rich in meaning as God specifically created two mortals with two unique bodies that fulfill two key roles. It was not by accident; it was intentional.

## **Repentant mankind forms the temple of God, a kingdom of holy, royal priests**

The Apostle Paul taught the Christians that “**you** are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you” and “**if anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him**. For the temple of God is holy which temple you are” (I Corinthians 3:16-17).

This scripture is often interpreted from a physical perspective. Many religiously scrutinize what they eat and how they live in order to keep their physical body pure. Healthy living is important and should never be understated, however, the wonderful news the Apostle Paul was teaching lies in the spiritual meaning. Mankind has the Saviour who paid the price for the sins of all of

mankind. Because the penalty of sin is paid an intimate relationship with our Creator is possible upon receiving His Holy Spirit. Mankind collectively, men and women from all nations become the body of Jesus Christ when they repent and receive God's Holy Spirit. They become a body, a group of people, who have been washed clean—purified of sin and now bind with God in oneness—in unity, in submission to His laws and His ways. They are seen by God as a spiritual virgin. **The use of the female gender in this case identifies a religious body of people—a church** in contrast to a nation of people, of whom God uses the male gender.

“But the **one being joined to the Lord is one spirit**” (I Corinthians 6:17). This is a spiritual teaching by mirroring the physical body to the spiritual body, which is comprised of many members fulfilling many different critical responsibilities. “Just as a body, **though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.** For in **one Spirit** we were all baptized into **one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free, and we were all given one Spirit to drink. For also the body is not one member, but many” (I Corinthians 12:12-14). Each spiritual member in God's kingdom, once male or female, will be awarded an honoured title of equal value under the kingship of Jesus Christ. No one will be made to feel superior or inferior, more or less worthy; their value is equal before God.

A global body of people is forming the temple of God. Every man and woman on earth who repents, accepts Christ as their Saviour and receives God's Holy Spirit will become part of a global body of priests, members of a royal and holy God family. This body must remain pure and undefiled. This means they **must remain faithful and loyal embracing only the Creator's theology, His laws and ways.** People who buy into the theology and the practices of Satan and the rogue gods who ruled over the nations become defiled and as the Apostle Paul warned, “**God will destroy them**” (I Corinthians 3:17). God warned ancient Israel many times to refrain from the practices of the rogue gods ruling over the nations. These practices of the rogue gods are in direct opposition to and are full of vile defiance against the Almighty God. Obeying God, keeping His laws and living His ways is purifying and symbolic of being a virgin. These people, God describes as being blameless. They may not be perfect in righteousness, but they will not bend their knee to Satan and his rogue beastly coalition.

### **The meaning of being blameless**

Noah was described by God as being both righteous and blameless. “This is the account of Noah and his family. **Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God**” (Genesis 6:9).

Noah was blameless among the people of his time; he was faithful to God. Noah was NOT worshipping Satan like everyone else on earth. He was worshipping the Creator—the Almighty God. Noah was keeping God's law, His ordinances and His ways.

Jesus revealed the Satanic worship of the masses when he said, “**As it was in the days of Noah,** so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. And

**they were oblivious, until the flood came and swept them all away. So will it be at the coming of the Son of Man” (Matthew 24:36-38).**

- The people did not believe Noah’s warning of a coming flood. They were oblivious because **they were living in darkness, wicked people following Satan’s rule.**

**Only the wicked will not be able to identify the signs of God’s wrath and the coming of Christ.** “But you, brothers, are not in the **darkness so that this day should overtake you like a thief.** For **you are all sons of the light and sons of the day;** we do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not sleep as the others do, but **let us remain awake and sober” (I Thessalonians 5:4-6).**

- Those obeying God are the children of light and **they will recognize the signs prior to the return of Christ.** The most significant of these signs is the repentance of the 21<sup>st</sup> century nations of Israel. Jesus said, “Now **learn the lesson from the fig tree” (Matthew 24:32).** **The fig tree is symbolic of God’s people.** It will be during the time of Jacob’s trouble, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will awaken the asleep among the 12 tribes of 21<sup>st</sup> century Israel. It will be during a time of great distress and they will start returning to their God, as “new twigs”—new growth, then you will know that summer is near and Jesus excitedly added, “Even so, when you see all these things, you know that **it is near, right at the door” (Matthew 24:32-33).**

### **The saints are purified and made spotless**

During the Great Tribulation, all of the nations of earth will surrender to the supernatural and overwhelming strength of Satan who also give power to his coalition—the beast of Revelation. The whole world, that is all the nations except God’s people, will be astonished at the beast and will follow the beast (Revelation 13:3b). They will witness his power and destruction on God’s repenting people and the people in the nations will say, “Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?” (Revelation 13:4b).

The beast will make war against the saints and God will allow the beast to conquer them (Revelation 13:7) and in Daniel, “this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgement in favor of the saints of the Most High” (Daniel 7:21-22a). God is allowing this attack because He is purifying and strengthening the saints. “Those who are wise will instruct many, though **for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered.** When they fall, they will receive a little help... **Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless** until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time” (Daniel 11:33-35).

### **A different group of people: the 144,000 of Revelation**

There is a special group of people who are immediately characterized by God as blameless. These are the 144,000 people from twelve tribes of Israel. “These are those who did not defile themselves with women [false religion], for they kept themselves pure” (Revelation 14:4). Jesus used God’s imagery of “women” for churches because he speaks exactly as God speaks and

assumes Christians, like the Apostle Paul, understand God's penmanship that uses imagery, parallels, parables, mirroring, numbers and stories to reveal the spiritual picture. The 144,000 "follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among mankind and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. **No lie** was found in their mouths; they are **blameless**" (Revelation 14:4b-5).

### Characteristics of the 144,000 of Revelation

God's use of describing Jesus Christ as "the Lamb" in Revelation emphasizes the importance and value of the sacrifice of His Son. The multiple crowns worn by Christ (Revelation 19:12) reveals multiple victories both in heaven and on earth. His sacrifice is core to God's saving plan and His future plans for creation both in heaven and on earth. The 144,000 people of Revelation have a significant role in God's new government. The number 12 symbolizes perfect government nationally and religiously and 1,000 symbolizes eternity. 144,000 symbolizes the two different types of leadership: national [12] and religious [12] bound together into an eternal perfect government and all coming from the kingdom of Israel. The characteristics of these people are:

- They are undefiled by the false theology of Satan and the rogue gods (Revelation 14:4).
- They all come from the 12 sons of Jacob, except for Dan, likely due to his involvement with false religion. God will choose Jacob again (Isaiah 14:1).
- They are honest. They do not deceive, compromise or whitewash wickedness that leads to the perversion of justice (Revelation 14:5).
- They follow, not lead, the Lamb – they speak the pure word of God—no self-interpretations of scripture taught as doctrine (Revelation 14:4). Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. They follow his example without changing anything he did or taught.
- They are servants of God—humble, not self-elevating (Revelation 7:3).
- They are sealed/protected from the wrath of the Lamb and God (Revelation 7:3).
- They have the name of the Son and God, the Father on their foreheads [pledged allegiance to Jesus Christ and Almighty God] in contrast to the "inhabitants on the earth" who have the name and number of the beast on their foreheads (Revelation 14:1).
- They are offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb—possibly meaning that they are the first to be resurrected upon Christ's return (Revelation 14:4b), right when the sixth seal is opened.
- They are standing with "the Lamb" on Mount Zion (Revelation 14:1).
- They are the "called, chosen and faithful followers" with Christ when he battles the beast (Revelation 17:14).

- They sing a new song that only they know. A song may be the joy released from victory. [Moses recorded a song in Deuteronomy 32, Deborah sang a song in Judges 5, the four living creatures and the 24 elders sing a new song in Revelation 5:9-10) (Revelation 14:3).

### The 144,000 of Revelation appear to be similar to the Philadelphia church

The record of the churches of Revelation appears to describe seven different groups of people within the kingdom of Israel from ancient times all the way to the end of this evil age. The church of Philadelphia shares similar characteristics to the 144,000 people of Revelation.

- They “keep my word and have not denied my name” is similar to not being defiled by false religion.
- They “will be kept from the hour of trial” is similar to being sealed and protected from the wrath of the God and the Lamb.
- They are promised leadership in God’s temple on Mount Zion. “He who **overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God**” is similar to the numerical value of 144,000 =  $12 \times 12 \times 1,000$  = leaders in God’s new perfect government/temple.
- They will have God’s name and Jesus’ new name on their foreheads. “I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God, and I will also write on him my new name” is similar to having the name of God and the Lamb written on their forehead.
- They are the new Jerusalem. “I will write on him... **the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem**” supports the idea that Christ will have his **resurrected Bride** with him when he overpowers the beast and he shows Satan, the beast and the false prophet who tried to overpower God’s heavenly government comprised the Son and beings from the first creation that the **NEW and eternal government has the victory and it is comprised of Christ and his resurrected Bride—the new Jerusalem who will stand with him together on Zion** [God’s holy mountain/temple].
- They already have their crown. “Hold on to what you have, **so no one will take your crown**” [they already have rulership—priestly authority not necessarily within a structured church but as a scattered body of people]. They are like the 144,000 who are servants of God, men and women with a level of authority, serving Him.

“I know that you have little strength.” Jesus promises this body of men and women an open door that no man can shut. They are spiritually strong, but a scattered group with little structural support, yet they remain strong during times of great distress.

Throughout time, the large and highly structured religious bodies persecute individuals who will not adhere to their teachings. The great harlot will do the same. Jesus said that the road towards God’s kingdom is narrow and few find it. “But small is the gate and

narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it" (Matthew 7:14). The road where the bulk of mankind travel is not leading them to life.

God has preselected men and women from 12 tribes of Israel who He knew ahead of time would remain blameless. They may not add up physically to exactly 144,000, but the use of that number reveals a spiritually strong group of men and women from God's people who will never leave Him or forsake Him. These people will not defile themselves, nor deny the name of Christ because they will follow him wherever he goes. They are totally devoted to God and Christ. The 144,000 of Revelation like the people that make up the Philadelphia church will not fall away or be swept into deception. They will stand strong scattered among twelve tribes of Israel. These people will be among the first to be resurrected and stand with their Saviour, their Groom under the glorious flag of Almighty God in unwavering support for God's gracious ways and His loving law. Humbly, they will eternally stand grateful for the completed work through the miraculous touch of the Great Potter's hands.

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