

WHOM ARE THE 144,000?

They are descendants of Jacob 12,000 from each tribe. In the passage it actually identifies them as innocents none of whom had known a woman. I believe they are innocent little ones. descendants of the 12 tribes who will be living at the time of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. So God will redeem a remnant who will then form the core population that will go into the millennium as citizens of the 1000 years Jesus ruled Kingdom on earth.

In Revelation we are told about 144,000 people. This concerns a physical, living group of people. They will be of the bloodline of their respective Israelite tribes. We are given detailed explanation in Revelation: *"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, 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, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who 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"* (Revelation 14:1-4).

Revelation 14:5 says they are without fault before the throne of God. Which is a symbolic representation: everything is before the throne of God.

We are given a reference to when this will happen. Right before the "Day of the Lord." Joel 2:31, 32 *"The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call."* See also: Matt. 24:29; Amos 8:9; Acts 2:20.

The 144,000 of Israel Sealed

Rev. 7:1-4 *"And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel."*

These are children or young adults, because they are virgins. It wouldn't make sense to stop the seals unless God were saving flesh and blood humans. God could let them just

die, like the rest of the saints; and let them become spirits upon Christ's return. These are younger people that God will allow to start the millennial rule. They seem to have the Holy Spirit. That makes them exceptions of being changed into spirits at Christ's coming. They are to be planted into their tribes' original lands for the start of the millennial rule. Remember, Ezekiel wrote after the ten northern tribes were long gone.

We see their inheritance being defined for a future time: *"Now these are the names of the tribes. From the north end to the coast of the way of Hethlon, as one goeth to Hamath, Hazarenan, the border of Damascus northward, to the coast of Hamath; for these are his sides east and west; a portion for Dan. And by the border of Dan, from the east side unto the west side, a portion for Asher. And by the border of Asher, from the east side even unto the west side, a portion for Naphtali. And by the border of Naphtali, from the east side unto the west side, a portion for Manasseh. And by the border of Manasseh, from the east side unto the west side, a portion for Ephraim. And by the border of Ephraim, from the east side even unto the west side, a portion for Reuben. And by the border of Reuben, from the east side unto the west side, a portion for Judah. And by the border of Judah, from the east side unto the west side, shall be the offering which ye shall offer of five and twenty thousand reeds in breadth, and in length as one of the other parts, from the east side unto the west side: and the sanctuary shall be in the midst of it"* (Ezekiel 48:1-8). God then explains the land set aside for the priests (sons of Zadok) in verses 9-22.

Next, it lists the rest of the tribes' inheritance: *"As for the rest of the tribes, from the east side unto the west side, Benjamin shall have a portion. And by the border of Benjamin, from the east side unto the west side, Simeon shall have a portion. And by the border of Simeon, from the east side unto the west side, Issachar a portion. And by the border of Issachar, from the east side unto the west side, Zebulun a portion. And by the border of Zebulun, from the east side unto the west side, Gad a portion. And by the border of Gad, at the south side southward, the border shall be even from Tamar unto the waters of strife in Kadesh, and to the river toward the great sea. This is the land which ye shall divide by lot unto the tribes of Israel for inheritance, and these are their portions, saith the Lord God. And these are the goings out of the city on the north side, four thousand and five hundred measures"* (Ezekiel 48:23-30). The time reference for this, is after the healing waters flow from God's temple in Jerusalem (see Ezekiel chapter 47). This, of course, is after the Day of the Lord and Jesus' return. With all the detail, it must be very important to God for us to get this right.