

144,000 **A Remnant**

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Revelation

For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Revelation 6:17

Only those ordained by God himself will be able to stand in such a day. Scripture is clear that there will be those, who will be able to stand, and they are numbered as 144,000.

This 144,000 has been debated about quite a bit among Christendom as well as the cults. For a time, The Jehovah Witnesses were taught by Charles Taze Russell that they were the 144,000 and that they were bound for heaven. Obviously this caused problems down the road for the cult and its leaders.

There are many commentaries that teach that this is not a literal numeric value, but rather some interweaved symbolism. I believe however that the exactness of scripture here highlights not only the importance of these people, but also their obvious literal number and mission.

In every age, God has chosen a remnant to carry out his work, and I believe that this remnant is one made up of sealed and protected Jews. Specifically, the remnant consists of Jewish males (Rev. 14:1-5) who “were not defiled with women; for they are virgins”.

Because of their having been sealed, they will be guaranteed to pass through the Tribulation period, even amidst the plagues and devastation, thus enabling them to carry out their mission.

Their mission, to carry the “gospel of the kingdom” and preach its truth in all the world and to be witnesses unto all nations (Mathew 24:14). Simply put, they are called to be the missionaries of the Tribulation period.

Some would argue that the 144,000 are the total number to be saved during this time, however as a result of the preaching of these men, many who have never heard a clear presentation of the Gospel prior to the rapture, will be saved during this time.

Once again, we see God's mercy and grace revealed and the truth that "God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." He is indeed long suffering, but the end shall come.

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