

Fulfilled Prophecies

Home

>

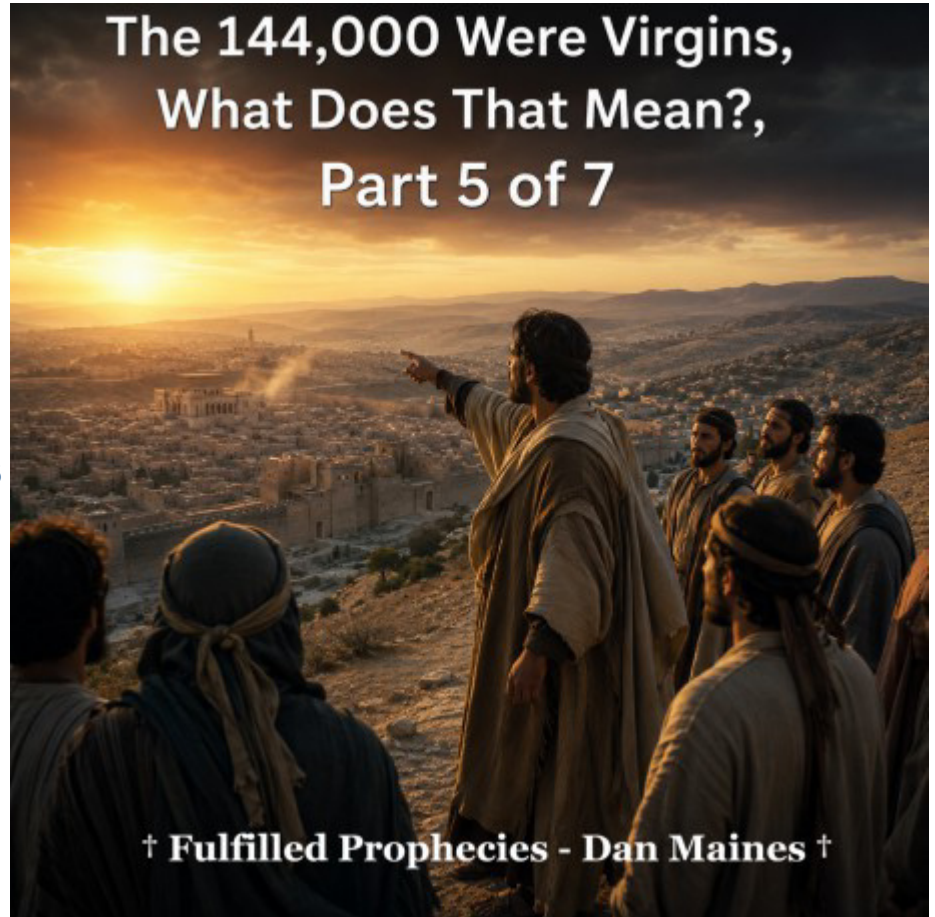
0..9

>

Share on Facebook

FACEBOOK LINK

**144,000 Series -
The 144,000 Were
Virgins, What Does
That Mean?, Part 5
of 7**



By Dan Maines

The 144,000 Were Virgins, What Does That Mean?, Part 5 of 7

Part 1 of 7 - <https://fulfilledprophecies.com/topics/1431.html>

Part 2 of 7 - <https://fulfilledprophecies.com/topics/1432.html>

Part 3 of 7 - <https://fulfilledprophecies.com/topics/1433.html>

Part 4 of 7 - <https://fulfilledprophecies.com/topics/1434.html>

Part 5 of 7 - <https://fulfilledprophecies.com/topics/1435.html>

Part 6 of 7 - <https://fulfilledprophecies.com/topics/1436.html>

Part 7 of 7 - <https://fulfilledprophecies.com/topics/1437.html>

Introduction

† Many people read Revelation 14:4 and assume the 144,000 were literal celibate Jewish men. But Revelation is filled with symbols, signs, and covenant imagery. The word virgins in this passage points to spiritual purity and covenant faithfulness, not physical celibacy.

† Throughout scripture, God described His faithful people as a pure bride, while apostate Israel and Jerusalem were described as harlots and adulteresses because they broke covenant with Him. The 144,000 were separated from the corruption of apostate Jerusalem and remained faithful to Christ during the last days of the Old Covenant age.

† Revelation contrasts two groups, the pure bride of Christ and the harlot Babylon. The 144,000 were spiritually clean because they followed the Lamb instead of following the corrupt temple system that rejected and killed the Messiah. (Revelation 17:1-6, Revelation 18:2-5)

Revelation 14:4

4 These are the ones who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are celibate. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from mankind as first fruits to God and to the Lamb.

† The language of not being defiled with women is symbolic covenant language. It points to spiritual corruption and idolatry, not marriage or physical relationships. Scripture repeatedly uses adultery and fornication as symbols of covenant unfaithfulness. (Ezekiel 16:15-32, Hosea 1:2, James 4:4)

† The 144,000 were spiritually pure because they did not join themselves to the corrupt harlot system centered in apostate Jerusalem. They followed Christ while the unbelieving nation

rejected Him and became guilty of spiritual fornication.
(Matthew 23:37-38, Revelation 17:18)

† The phrase firstfruits unto God and unto the Lamb shows these were the early faithful Jewish believers who came out of Israel during the transition into the New Covenant kingdom.
(James 1:1, Romans 11:5)

2 Corinthians 11:2

2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

† Paul called the church a pure virgin to Christ. He was not talking about literal virginity but spiritual faithfulness and covenant purity.

† The church was viewed as the bride of Christ, untouched by the corruption of false religion and idolatry. This is the exact same imagery used in Revelation 14 concerning the 144,000.

† Paul warned believers not to be corrupted from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. Spiritual purity was about remaining faithful to the gospel. (2 Corinthians 11:3-4)

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

† Christ was preparing a spotless bride under the New Covenant. The church was being cleansed and separated from the defilement of the Old Covenant system that was passing

away. (Hebrews 8:13)

† The contrast in Revelation is between the pure bride and the great harlot Babylon. One was faithful to the Lamb, the other committed spiritual fornication with the kings of the earth.
(Revelation 17:1-5)

† The 144,000 represented the faithful remnant that belonged to Christ before the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

James 4:4

4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

† James used adultery language spiritually, not physically. Covenant unfaithfulness toward God was called adultery throughout scripture.

† The unbelieving leadership of Jerusalem had joined themselves to the world system and rejected the Messiah. They became the harlot city that was judged in Revelation.
(Revelation 11:8, Matthew 23:29-37)

† The faithful believers were the true virgin bride because they stayed loyal to Christ during the coming judgment upon apostate Israel.

Revelation 17:5

5 and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery:
"BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

† Revelation contrasts the pure virgins with the mother of harlots. One group belonged to the Lamb, the other belonged to

the corrupt covenant city under judgment.

† Jerusalem had become spiritually corrupt through rejecting Christ and persecuting His saints. Jesus Himself said Jerusalem was guilty of the blood of the prophets. (Matthew 23:35-37)

† The 144,000 were separated from that corruption and sealed by God for protection during the judgment coming upon the land. (Revelation 7:1-4)

Historical References

† Eusebius wrote that the believers fled Jerusalem before its destruction because they followed Christ's warnings concerning the coming judgment upon the city. Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapter 5.

† Josephus described the extreme corruption, bloodshed, false prophets, and abominations that filled Jerusalem before its fall in AD 70. Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 5, Chapter 10.

† Irenaeus spoke of the church as the pure bride of Christ separated unto Him in holiness and truth. Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book 4, Chapter 33.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Believers today are still called to spiritual purity and faithfulness to Christ.

† The world constantly tries to pull believers into compromise, corruption, and spiritual adultery.

† We are called to follow the Lamb wherever He leads and remain faithful to His truth.

† The church is still described as the bride of Christ and should live separate from spiritual corruption and false worship.

† Revelation reminds us that Christ knows those who belong to Him and seals His faithful people.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Were the 144,000 literal celibate men?

A: No. The language is symbolic of spiritual purity and covenant faithfulness. Scripture often uses adultery and virginity symbolically regarding faithfulness to God. (2 Corinthians 11:2, James 4:4)

Q: Who was the harlot in Revelation?

A: The harlot represented apostate Jerusalem that rejected Christ and persecuted the saints. (Revelation 11:8, Matthew 23:37-38)

Q: Why are the 144,000 called firstfruits?

A: They were the faithful remnant coming out of Israel during the transition from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant kingdom. (Romans 11:5, James 1:1)

Q: Does this passage forbid marriage?

A: No. Scripture honors marriage. The virgin imagery in Revelation is symbolic of covenant purity and devotion to Christ. (Ephesians 5:25-27, Hebrews 13:4)

Q: Why does Revelation contrast virgins and harlots?

A: It shows the difference between covenant faithfulness and covenant unfaithfulness. The faithful followed Christ while

apostate Jerusalem became spiritually corrupt. (Revelation 17:1-5)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

Source Index

† Revelation 14:4; 2 Corinthians 11:2-3; Ephesians 5:25-27; James 4:4; Revelation 17:1-6; Revelation 11:8; Revelation 7:1-4; Matthew 23:35-38; Romans 11:5; Hebrews 8:13; James 1:1; Ezekiel 16:15-32; Hosea 1:2

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapter 5; Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 5, Chapter 10; Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book 4, Chapter 33

Share on Facebook

Links

Facebook Link

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/2022130538675077/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.

