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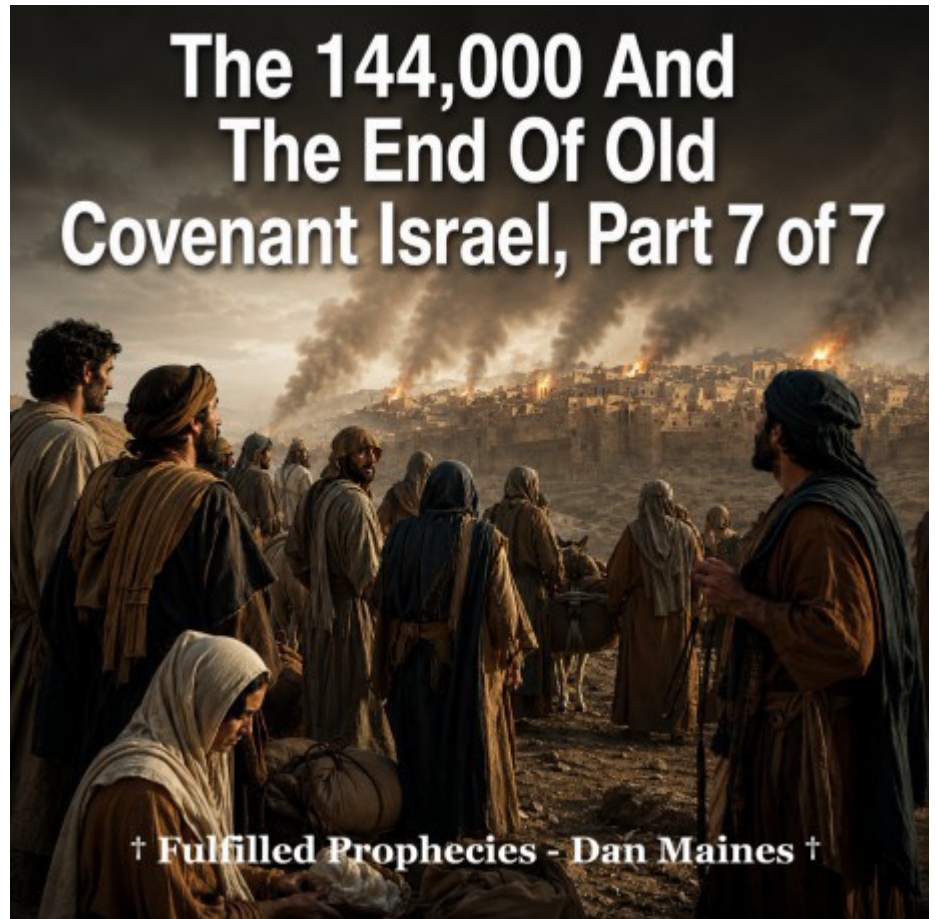
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**144,000 Series -  
The 144,000 And  
The End Of Old  
Covenant Israel,  
Part 7 of 7**



By Dan Maines

**The 144,000 And The End Of Old Covenant Israel, Part 7 of 7**

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## Introduction

† Throughout this entire series we've seen that the 144,000 were not future Jews waiting thousands of years after the cross. They were the sealed remnant of Israel living in the first century before the destruction of Jerusalem.

† Revelation was written about things that were "shortly to come to pass" and events that were "at hand" (Revelation 1:1-3). The judgment was near upon Old Covenant Israel.

† The 144,000 stand as proof that God preserved a remnant out of Israel before the nation fell in AD 70. They were protected spiritually while covenant judgment came upon Jerusalem.

### Revelation 7:2-4

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, holding the seal of the living God; and he called out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, or the sea, or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

† The sealing happened before judgment fell. This matches Ezekiel 9 where the righteous were marked before Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians. Revelation is using the same covenant judgment imagery. (Ezekiel 9:4-6)

† The forehead imagery wasn't about a physical mark. It represented ownership, protection, and covenant identity. The righteous belonged to God while apostate Israel followed the Beast. (Revelation 13:16-17)

† The tribes listed in Revelation 7 are symbolic covenant language. The church is repeatedly called the true Israel of God under the New Covenant. (Galatians 6:15-16)

### **Ezekiel 9:4**

4 And the LORD said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and make a mark on the foreheads of the people who groan and sigh over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst."

† Ezekiel 9 is the background behind Revelation 7. In both passages God marks His faithful people before Jerusalem faces destruction.

† The judgment in Ezekiel was local and covenantal, not global. The same is true in Revelation.

† God has always preserved a remnant before bringing covenant judgment. Noah was preserved before the flood, Lot before Sodom, and the Jewish remnant before AD 70. (Romans 11:5)

### **Revelation 14:1-3**

1 Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps. 3 And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one was able to learn the song except the 144,000 who had been purchased from the earth.

† Mount Zion here is New Covenant Zion, not earthly Jerusalem. Hebrews says believers had already come to Mount

Zion. (Hebrews 12:22-24)

† The 144,000 were purchased out of the land of Israel before its destruction. The focus remains covenantal and first century.

† They stand with the Lamb because they followed Christ while apostate Israel rejected Him.

### **Revelation 14:4-5**

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. 5 And no lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

† Their virginity was spiritual purity, not celibacy. Israel was often called a harlot when she committed covenant unfaithfulness. (Hosea 1:2)

† The 144,000 were undefiled because they rejected the spiritual adultery of apostate Jerusalem.

† They are called firstfruits because they represented the beginning of the New Covenant harvest before the Old Covenant system completely ended in AD 70. (James 1:18)

### **Matthew 24:15-16**

15 "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place-let the reader understand- 16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

† Jesus warned the believers living in Judea to flee before Jerusalem's destruction.

† Early Christians obeyed this warning and escaped the city before the Roman armies destroyed it.

† This perfectly fits the sealing imagery of Revelation. God's people were preserved while covenant wrath came upon Old Covenant Israel.

### **Revelation 7:9-10**

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all the tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; 10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

† The great multitude follows the sealing of the 144,000 because the gospel was going beyond Israel into all nations.

† The 144,000 were the sealed Jewish remnant, while the great multitude represented the worldwide harvest of Gentiles and Jews united in Christ.

† Revelation shows transition. Old Covenant Israel was ending while the New Covenant people of God expanded into all nations.

### **Romans 11:5**

5 In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice.

† Paul said the remnant existed in his own present time, not thousands of years later.

† The 144,000 were part of this elect remnant preserved by grace before national Israel fell.

† God did not fail His promises. He fulfilled them through Christ and the New Covenant remnant.

## **Historical References**

† Eusebius wrote that the Christians in Jerusalem fled the city before its destruction after receiving divine warning. Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapter 5.

† Josephus recorded the horrors surrounding Jerusalem's destruction in AD 70 and described the devastation that came upon the nation. Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6.

† Irenaeus connected Revelation with events surrounding the Roman Empire and the judgment era of the first century. Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book 5, Chapter 30.

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† We aren't waiting for another group of 144,000 Jews to appear in modern Israel because Christ already fulfilled His covenant promises in that generation.

† Believers today are part of the great multitude from all nations standing before the Lamb in the New Covenant kingdom.

† The destruction of Jerusalem proved that the Old Covenant system ended exactly as Jesus predicted.

† Christ reigns now, His kingdom stands now, and His people live in the New Jerusalem now. (Hebrews 12:22-28)

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** Were the 144,000 literal Jews?

**A:** They represented the faithful remnant of Israel in the first century. The tribal listing is symbolic covenant language connected to the preservation of God's remnant before Jerusalem fell. (Romans 11:5, Revelation 7:4-8)

**Q:** Why were they sealed?

**A:** They were sealed for spiritual protection before covenant judgment came upon Jerusalem. This mirrors Ezekiel 9 where the righteous were marked before the city's destruction. (Ezekiel 9:4-6, Revelation 7:2-3)

**Q:** Are the 144,000 and the great multitude the same group?

**A:** They are connected but described differently. The 144,000 represent the sealed Jewish remnant, while the great multitude represents the worldwide New Covenant people of God from all nations. (Revelation 7:4-10)

**Q:** Did Jesus predict this judgment in His generation?

**A:** Yes. Jesus repeatedly said these things would happen before that generation passed away. (Matthew 24:34)

**Q:** Why does this matter today?

**A:** It proves Jesus fulfilled His prophetic promises, ended the Old Covenant age, and established His everlasting kingdom exactly when He said He would. (Hebrews 8:13)

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

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## Source Index

† Revelation 7:2-10; Revelation 14:1-5; Ezekiel 9:4-6; Matthew 24:15-16; Romans 11:5; Hebrews 12:22-28; Galatians 6:15-16; Hosea 1:2; James 1:18; Hebrews 8:13

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapter 5; Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6; Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book 5, Chapter 30

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