



PROPHECY AGAIN

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A BRIEF STUDY OF THE 144,000_ PART ONE

1. Our objective is to reveal from God's words that every faithful person who died since October 22, 1844 (specifically after 1847 when the Lord revealed to Ellen White the Sabbath truth - see Early Writings, page 32), in the faith of the third angel's message and kept the Sabbath, will be reckoned among the 144,000 in these last days.

2a. What does Revelation 14:1-5 say regarding the 144,000? _____

3. What does Daniel say will happen during the Time of Trouble? Daniel 12:1,2 _____

4. Note: During the Time of Trouble, a special resurrection takes place; it happens before Jesus actually returns and even before the First Resurrection. The special resurrection takes place just before the Seventh Plague is poured out when Jesus says "It is done," Revelation 16:17. There are two groups of people in this special resurrection: the righteous and the wicked.

"It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying: **'It is done.' Revelation 16:17.** {GC 636.2} **'Graves are opened, and 'many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth. . . awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.'** Daniel 12:2. **All who have died in the faith of the third angel's message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God's covenant of peace with those who have kept His law.** 'They also which pierced Him' (Revelation 1:7), **those that mocked and derided Christ's dying agonies, and the most violent opposers of His truth and His people, are raised to behold Him in His glory and to see the honor placed upon the loyal and obedient.**" {GC 637.1}

5. Who are the wicked that will be raised in this special resurrection? Matthew 26:64-66; Revelation 1:7 _____

6. Who are the righteous that will be raised in this special resurrection? _____

"It was at midnight that God chose to deliver His people [Daniel 12:1]. As the wicked were mocking around them, suddenly the sun appeared, shining in his strength, and the moon stood still...But there was one clear place of settled glory, whence came **the voice of God like many waters,** shaking the heavens and the earth. There was a mighty earthquake. **The graves were opened, and those who had died in faith under the third angel's message, keeping the Sabbath, came forth from their dusty beds, glorified, to hear the covenant of peace that God was to make with those who had kept His law.**" {EW 285.1}

7. The righteous dead who are raised in the special resurrection come up and are glorified, they also hear the covenant of peace. What else do they hear? _____

"The sky opened and shut and was in commotion. The mountains shook like a reed in the wind and cast out ragged rocks all around. The sea boiled like a pot and cast out stones upon the land. **And as God spoke the day and the hour of Jesus' coming and delivered the everlasting covenant to His people, He spoke one sentence, and then paused, while the words were rolling through the earth. The Israel of God** stood with their eyes fixed upward, listening to the words as they came from the mouth of Jehovah and rolled through the earth like peals of loudest thunder. It was awfully solemn. At the end of every sentence the saints shouted, "Glory! Hallelujah!" **Their countenances were lighted up with the glory of God, and they shone with glory as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai.**" {EW 285.2}

8. What are the righteous saints called that hear the day and hour of Jesus' coming, who are glorified, and whose faces shine like the face of Moses? _____

"Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus' coming. The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. **When God spake the time, He poured upon us the Holy Spirit, and our faces began to light up and shine with the glory of God, as Moses' did when he came down from Mount Sinai.**" {1T 59.1}

9. What will the synagogue of Satan do?

"The 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united. On their foreheads were the words God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus' new name. At our happy, holy state **the wicked were enraged, and would rush violently up to lay hands on us to thrust us into prison, when we would stretch forth the hand in the name of the Lord, and they would fall helpless to the ground. Then it was that the synagogue of Satan knew that God had loved us, who could wash one another's feet, and salute the brethren with a holy kiss, and they worshiped at our feet."** {1T 59.2}

10. To which of the seven churches in Revelation does Jesus promise that the synagogue of Satan will bow and worship at their feet? Revelation 3:7-10

11. Note: The church of Philadelphia began October 22, 1844. God's faithful people who lived, proclaimed the third angel's message, and kept God's Sabbath from October 22, 1844, must be raised in the special resurrection so that God's promise to them may be fulfilled. Therefore God's faithful Sabbath-keepers who proclaimed the third angel's message after October 22, 1844 will be numbered among the 144,000.

12. Note: Many people still refuse to accept the previous conclusions regarding the 144,000, because they were taught that the 144,000 will not see death. Let us study the context of the 144,000 being translated without seeing death, which is in harmony with all the previous conclusions.

13. Let us read firstly one of the quotations that many people have misunderstood.

"None but **the hundred and forty-four thousand** can learn that song; for it is the song of their experience--an experience such as no other company have ever had. 'These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.' **These, having been translated from the earth, from among the living,** are counted as 'the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb.' Revelation 15:2, 3; 14:1-5." {GC 648.3}

14. Which death are the 144,000 delivered from?

"I saw a writing, copies of which were scattered in different parts of the land, giving orders that unless the saints should yield their peculiar faith, give up the Sabbath, and observe the first day of the week, the people were **at liberty after a certain time to put them to death**... Satan wished to have the privilege of destroying the saints of the Most High; but Jesus bade His angels watch over them. **God would be honored by making a covenant with those who had kept His law,** in **the sight of the heathen round about them;** and **Jesus would be honored by translating, without their seeing death, the faithful, waiting ones** who had so long expected Him." {EW 282.2}

15. Who are the faithful, waiting ones, that the Lord will be honored to make a covenant with, and translate them without their seeing death by the heathens around them in the time of trouble?

"It was at midnight that God chose to deliver His people [Daniel 12:1]. As the wicked were mocking around them, suddenly the sun appeared, shining in his strength, and the moon stood still...But there was one clear place of settled glory, whence came **the voice of God like many waters,** shaking the heavens and the earth. There was a mighty earthquake. **The graves were opened, and those who had died in faith under the third angel's message, keeping the Sabbath, came forth from their dusty beds, glorified, to hear the covenant of peace that God was to make with those who had kept His law."** {EW 285.1}

16. Note: The Lord will give His covenant of peace with the righteous who are raised in the special resurrection along with the righteous who are alive; this group is called the 144,000 and will be translated without seeing death by the heathens.

17a. According to the following quotations it is apparent that Ellen White will be reckoned among the 144,000.

"Mount Zion was just before us, and on the mount was a glorious temple, and about it were seven other mountains, on which grew roses and lilies. And I saw the little ones climb, or, if they chose, use their little wings and fly, to the top of the mountains and pluck the never-fading flowers. There were all kinds of trees around the temple to beautify the place: the box, the pine, the fir, the oil, the myrtle, the pomegranate, and the fig tree bowed down with the weight of its timely figs--these made the place all over glorious. **And as we were about to enter the holy temple, Jesus raised His lovely voice and said, 'Only the 144,000 enter this place,' and we shouted, 'Alleluia.'**" {EW 18.2}

17b. [Note: Sister White now reveals what she saw in the temple; she entered it.]

"This temple was supported by seven pillars, all of transparent gold, set with pearls most glorious. The wonderful things I there saw I cannot describe. Oh, that I could talk in the language of Canaan, then could I tell a little of the glory of the better world. I saw there tables of stone in which the names of the 144,000 were engraved in letters of gold. After we beheld the glory of the temple, we went out, and Jesus left us and went to the city."

"I begged of my attending angel to let me remain in that place. I could not bear the thought of coming back to this dark world again. Then the angel said, **'You must go back, and if you are faithful, you, with the 144,000, shall have the privilege of visiting all the worlds and viewing the handiwork of God.'**" {EW 39.3}

18. Read carefully the following quotation and discover why the 144,000 are called "firstfruits unto God and unto the Lamb." Revelation 14:1-4.

"Soon appeared the great white cloud, upon which sat the Son of man. When it first appeared in the distance, this cloud looked very small. The angel said that it was the sign of the Son of man. As it drew nearer the earth, we could behold the excellent glory and majesty of Jesus as He rode forth to conquer. . . . His countenance was as bright as the noonday sun, His eyes were as a flame of fire, and His feet had the appearance of fine brass. His voice sounded like many musical instruments. The earth trembled before Him, the heavens departed as a scroll when it is rolled together, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. . . . **Those who a short time before would have destroyed God's faithful children from the earth, now witness the glory of God which rested upon them.** And amid all their terror they heard the voices of the saints in joyful strains, saying, 'Lo, this is our God, we have waited for Him, and He will save us.' **The earth mightily shook as the voice of the Son of God called forth the sleeping saints.** They responded to the call, and came forth clothed with glorious immortality, crying, Victory, victory, over death and the grave! O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? **Then the living saints and the resurrected ones raised their voices in a long, transporting shout of victory.** Those bodies that had gone down into the grave bearing the marks of disease and death, came up in immortal health and vigor. **The living saints are changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and caught up with the resurrected ones.**" {EW 286.2} and {EW 287.1}

19. Revelation 7:9 speaks about the great multitude, a separate group from the 144,000. All the faithful who are raised in the first resurrection comprise the great multitude.

"But He waves them back. Not yet; He cannot now receive the coronet of glory and the royal robe. He enters into the presence of His Father. He points to His wounded head, the pierced side, the marred feet; He lifts His hands, bearing the print of nails. **He points to the tokens of His triumph; He presents to God the wave sheaf, those raised with Him as representatives of that great multitude who shall come forth from the grave at His second coming.**" {DA 834.2}

The questions proposed by one of the elders to John, "What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?" taken in connection with John's answer, "Sir, thou knowest," implying that John did not know, would seem to be devoid of all point, if they had reference to the whole of the great multitude now before him. For John did know who they were, and from whence they came; inasmuch as he had just said that they were people - redeemed of course - out of all nations, kindreds, people, and tongues; and John could have answered. These are the redeemed ones from all the nations of the earth. But if a special company in this vast throng were referred to, distinguished by some special mark or position, then it might not be so evident who they were, and what had given them their peculiarity; and the questions, as applied to them, would be appropriate and pertinent. We therefore incline to the view that attention is called to a special company by the questions which were proposed by one of the elders: and no company is brought to view to which special allusion would more naturally be made than to the company spoken of in the first part of the chapter; namely, the 144,000. John had indeed seen this company in their mortal state, as they were receiving the seal of the living God amid the troublous scenes of the last days; but as they here stand among the redeemed throng, the transition is so great, and the condition in which they now appear so different, that he does not recognize them as the special company which he saw sealed upon the earth. And to this company, the specifications that follow seem to be specially applicable. {1897 UrS, DAR 472.2}

20. Since the 144,000 will have special privileges in heaven, what are we counseled to do?

"Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand (RH March 9, 1905)." {7BC 970.10}