

Revelation's HOPE

Lesson 7: The Lamb and 144,000

I. From Horsemen to . . .

“After his I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that no wind should blow on the earth, or on the sea, or upon any tree. ² And I saw another angel ascend from the sunrising, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a great voice to the four angels to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, ³ saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we shall have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads” (Rev. 7:1-3).

II. Scene 1: Four Winds

- Four winds – winds = war (**Amos 1:14**). Period of great human disaster coming.
- Four winds are also the four points of the earth that God gathers ALL of His people from (**Zechariah 2:6**). God is holding back destruction for the sake of those who are choosing Him!
- Seal – we will look at this some more later. For now it is a mark that identifies God's people as TRUE worshippers of Him. It involves the Holy Spirit guiding US into ALL truth (**Ephesians 1:13**)
- We turn from the scene of the four winds to . . .

III. Scene 2: 144,000

⁴ And I heard the number of them that were sealed, a hundred and forty and four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the children of Israel: ⁵ Of the tribe of Judah *were sealed twelve thousand. . . Reuben. . . Gad. . . Asher. . . Naphtali. . . Manasseh. . . Simeon. . . Levi. . . Issachar . . . Zebulun. . . Joseph. . . Benjamin. . .*⁹ After these things I saw, and behold, a great multitude, which no man could number, out of every nation and of all tribes and peoples and tongues. . . (Rev 7:4-9, ASV emphasis mine) . . . standing before the throne and before the Lamb, arrayed in white robes, and palms in their hands; ¹⁰ and they cry with a great voice, saying, Salvation unto our God who sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb. ¹¹ And all the angels were standing round about the throne, and about the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, ¹² saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power . . . and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. ¹³ And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, These that are arrayed in white robes, who are they, and whence came they? ¹⁴ And I say unto him, My lord, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they that come of the great tribulation, and they washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore are they before the throne of God; and they serve him day and night in his temple . . . and he that sitteth on the throne shall spread his tabernacle over them. ¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun strike upon them, nor any heat: ¹⁷ for the Lamb that is in the midst of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them unto fountains of waters of life: and God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes. (Rev 7:9-17 ASV).

IV. Key points about 144,000 & Helpful Texts

- Lots of speculation on 144,000. Let's list the characteristics here and add them to **Revelation 14**.
- Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb,
- The Lamb is a symbol for Jesus (**John 1:29**).
- Another place where the 144,000 appear

"Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads (**Rev. 14:1**)"

- A text that helps us some:

"To the church ... I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name" (**Rev. 3:12**).

V. Further on in Revelation

"I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake... every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth... called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?" (**Revelation 6:12-17**).

WHO CAN STAND? ANSWER COMES→

"Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea. . ." (**Revelation 7:2-4**).

"After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes" (**Rev 7:9**).

"These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?"

And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (**Revelation 7:13-14**).

- Notice the number is heard, but a multitude is seen.

VI. 144,000 a Fulfillment of a Promise

"The LORD said to Abram... 'I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. (Genesis 13:14-16).

- The 144,000 are the final fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham.
- They are the final gathering of God's people to himself in Christ.

"When I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself" (**John 12:32**).

Jesus will rule His nation again on earth.

144000

- Who can stand on the great day of The wrath of God and the Lamb? **Rev 6:17**

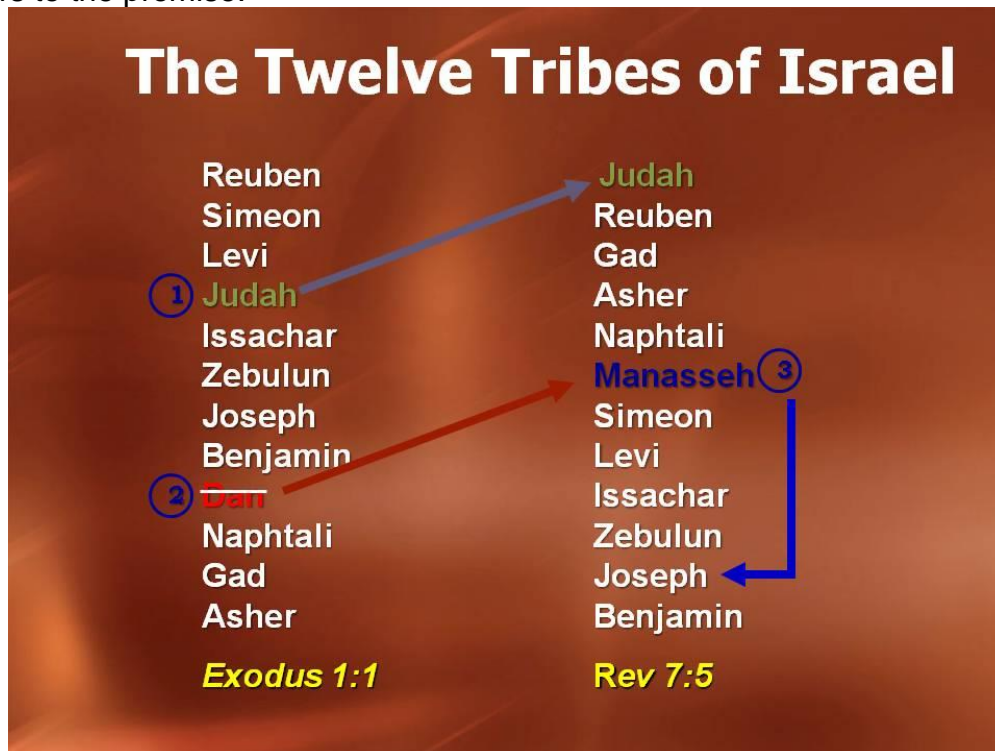
- The 144000 who have been sealed! (**Rev 7**)

VI. Progression in Revelation 13-14

- Who is like the beast?
Who can make war against him? (**Rev 13:4**)
- And I looked and there before me was the lamb standing on Mt Zion, and with him 144000 who had his name on their foreheads. (**Rev 14:1**)
- These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure (**Rev. 14:4**)
- “I promised you [church] to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him” (**2 Cor 11:2**).
- “I saw a woman clothed with the sun... They obey God’s commands and have testimony of Jesus” (**Rev. 12**).

VII. Israel Symbolizes the Church & Shows the Promise Fulfilled

- The Beginning of the Promise: **Gen 3:15**
- Abraham: Genesis **12:2,3**
“Through you, all nations will be blessed.”
- Gathering and Scattering Promises: **Deuteronomy 28 and 30**
- Fulfilled in Christ: **Galatians 3:7,8, 16, 29**
The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed The Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,”_meaning one person, who is Christ. “If you are in Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed and heirs to the promise.



VIII. Examples of New Testament Fulfillment of Israel’s Prophecies

- Jerusalem Symbolizes the Church

Amos 9: 11, 12 “In that day I will restore David’s fallen tent. I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be, So that they may possess the remnant of Edom”

- **Acts 15:15-17** “The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written: After this I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, as it used to be that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name”
- The New Testament applies an Old Testament prophecy of the restoration and expansion of Israel to the expansion of the church by receiving Gentiles into the church.
- The New Testament totally disregards any ethnic or geographic limitations, and interprets Israel as the church, the body of believers in Jesus Christ.
- Double Fulfillment of Israel:

Double Fulfillment of Israel

<u>Israel</u>	<u>The Church</u>	<u>New Earth</u>
<p>Exodus 19:6 You will be for me a <u>kingdom of priests and a holy nation.</u> These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”</p>	<p>1Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a <u>royal priesthood, a holy nation,</u> a people belonging to God...Once you were not a people, but now you are <u>the people of God.</u></p>	<p>Rev. 5:10 You [the Lamb] have made them to be a <u>kingdom and priests</u> to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”</p>

IX. Even the Land is a Symbol

- “The LORD appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your offspring I will give this land’” (**Gen 12:7**).
- “It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith” (**Rom 4:13**).
- “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5).
- “The LORD appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your offspring I will give this land’ ” (**Gen 12:7**).
- “All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever” (**Genesis 13:15**).

- “He gave him [Abraham] no inheritance here, not even a foot of ground. But God promised him that he and his descendants after him would possess the land” (**Acts 7:5**).
- “By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went.. he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God” (**Heb 11:8-10**).
- “Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world” (**Rom 4:13**).

X. All Promises Fulfilled in Christ – Including Mt. Zion

- “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ” (**2 Cor 1:20**).
- In Old Testament times Mt. Zion was the temple mountain in Jerusalem. It contained the Ark of the Covenant. It was the focal point of Israel’s worship of her God.
- Isaiah foresaw a great revival on Mt Zion in the last days “The Law would go out from Mt. Zion.” **Isaiah 2:3**

XI. Israel’s Conditional Prophecy

“When you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today... then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you” (**Deuteronomy 30:2 , 3**).

- What must Israel do first?
- Has it happened?

XII. The 144,000

- They follow the Lamb wherever he goes.
Rev. 14:4
- They are Christians in the truest sense of the word.
- They are the ultimate gathering of the final generation of Spiritual Israel to Jesus.
- This “building” is underway!

XIII. Temple and Antichrist

- What about the rebuilding of the temple and the antichrist? Jesus is the cornerstone but of what? Read the remarkable answer in **Ephesians 2:19-22**

“You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone” (**Eph. 2:19, 20**).

- So Jesus is the cornerstone of God’s household. But what is the household of God that Paul is referring to here?

“In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a **holy temple** in the Lord. And in him **you too** are being built together to become a **dwelling** in which God lives by his Spirit” (**Eph. 2:21, 22**).

- The New Testament has transferred the meaning of the temple from a building on Mt. Zion to the church of Christ of which we are all a part. The building up of the “temple” is the addition of those who choose to believe in Jesus – you!

Hebrews 12: 22-24. “But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God... to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God... to Jesus.”

- Once again, the New Testament uses the Old Testament Mt. Zion, which was the temple mount, and Jerusalem, as a symbol for God’s Church, those who have come to Jesus. Don’t miss this; it is crucial. In the New Testament, Jerusalem, the capital city of ancient Israel, is the church.
- If the antichrist “sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God,” (**2 Thessalonians 2:4**) then we should be looking for the antichrist to establish himself in God’s church. Somehow he will put himself in God’s place, taking for himself, the prerogatives of God.
- Can you see the diversion, or the decoy? If we accept the counterfeit and are looking for the Jews to rebuild the temple and the antichrist to appear after the rapture, then we will not be prepared for the deception when antichrist appears now.

XIV. Jesus is the Temple

Jesus said, “Destroy this temple and I will raise it again in three days.” (**John 2:19**).

- They missed it so badly that when he was on the cross they said, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross.” (**Matt. 27:40**) They failed to understand that the cross was the very means by which Jesus would build his true temple, his church.
- No wonder Jesus said to them, “Look, your house is left to you desolate” (**Matt. 23:38**) when he walked away from the temple for the last time. Now we can understand what Jesus meant when he said, “I tell you that one greater than the temple is here.” (**Matt. 12:6**)

XV. The Place He is Preparing

“One of the seven angels... came and said to me, 'Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb. . .’” (**Revelation 21:9**)

- The Bride of the Lamb is of course a symbol for the church, but watch what happens next.

“He showed me the Holy city Jerusalem...It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates... on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed...and the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb” (**Rev. 21:10,14**).

- Only Israel of God can enter this city – those who have their names written in the Lamb’s book of life and follow the Lamb! GLORIUS: Don’t you want to be there?
- Follow the LAMB! Wherever He goes! He is faithful and will lead you!