

## **The 144,000 and the Seal of God**

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### **The 144,000**

#### **Revelation 6:12-17**

6 seals have open up, there is a big earthquake, the soon became black, the moon became red. The heaven was opened and the mountains were moved. Every body is hiding. They realize the world is coming to an end. Everyone asks, Who can stand? The 144,000 are given in Revelation 7 as the answer to this question.

#### **Revelation 7: 1-8**

There is this picture of God coming back. There are a lot of bad things that come and hit the earth. There is an angel that stops some bad things from hitting Earth because he wants to seal the servants of God on their forehead. The number that received the seal of God were 144,000. 144,000 = 12K from 12 tribes

#### **Revelation 14:1-5 - Characteristics of the 144,000**

1. They were with the Lamb which stood on the Mount Sion, follow lamb wherever he goes

-The Lamb is Christ (John 1:29, Rev. 5:8-10)

2. Sung a new song before the throne of God, no one else could sing

-Signing a song of victory was common after passing through an experience where God delivered them from enemies (see Ex 15, Judges 5, 2 Sam 22). The 144,000 have been delivered by God from the hands of the beast and his image and have passed through great tribulation (Matt 24:21-22).

3. These were the redeemed among men

-The 144,000 are redeemed humans, not angels. Redeemed in Greek = bought. We have been bought with a price, the blood of Christ (1 Cor 6:20)

3., not defiled with women, they were virgins

-See 2 Cor 11:2, Eph 5:22-33. Christ is coming back for his church, and when he comes back, he will come as a husband comes for his wife-to-be. This wife symbolizes the church, and a 'chaste virgin', 'pure woman', etc. is used to represent a church that has been purified by God's spirit. The 144,000 have been purified and they represent the pure church that meets Christ when he comes back.

-There is another set of women that are presented in Revelation 17 (Babylon, the great whore, and her daughters the harlots). These women are fornicating with the kings of the earth, and the inhabitants of the earth are 'made drunk with the wine of her fornication'. The 144,000 have nothing to do with these 'women'.

4. God's name written on their forehead

-They have been sealed, they have God's character (more below)

5. Mouth was found no guile

-Having victory over our words is rare (James 3). Out of our mouth comes whatever is in our heart (Matt 15:16-20), so in order to have mouth with no guile, we must have a pure heart. This is why no guile is mentioned as a character trait of Jesus right next to Him having no sin (1 Pet 2:21-23). Not retaliating against our enemies is also the other trait mentioned here, which is linked with being 'perfect as

your Father in heaven is perfect' (Matt 5:43-48). So in summary, the 144,000 have reached a point in their relationship with Christ that their hearts have been purified by the Holy Spirit to the extent where they have no guile, a rare trait that Christ had.  
6. without fault before the throne of God

-This fits with what we've seen so far – they have been sealed and have reached a point in their walk with God where they have complete victory over sin.

### **Revelation 15:2-4**

We have a picture here of those who have been victorious over the beast and his image in Revelation 13. This is another picture of the group mentioned earlier in Revelation 14, the 144,000. Here they have harps and are signing the song of Moses.

### **Question: Is the 144,000 symbolic or literal?**

Generally, not a super important question because the answer doesn't change our lives either way. But it seems like the 144,000 is a symbolic number because:

(1) if the number is literal, then most of what is mentioned along with them is literal. However, most of the 12 tribes are not around anymore, so it doesn't seem that this passage is speaking about the 12 literal tribes composed of literal Israelites.

(2) since the 144,000 are comprised of men who are virgins, then it'd make sense to take this literally too. However, then that would mean that all of the 144,000 are single men, which doesn't make as much sense.

### Seal of God

Who receives this? The group that gains victory at the end of time:

- 144000 (Rev 7, 14)
- The servants of God (Rev 7)
- Those who keep the commandments of God (Rev 12:17, 14:12)
- Those who have the testimony of Jesus (Rev 12:17)
- Those who have the faith of Jesus (Rev 14:12)
- The saints, who are patient (Rev 13:10, Rev 14:12)

### **Revelation 7:3, 14:1**

The seal will be on the 144,000's forehead = God's name written on the 144,000's forehead

### **Deuteronomy 6: 5-8, 11:18**

God commands us to Love Him with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our minds.

God's Law was to be in our heart, and as a sign of this his law was to be bound on our hands and on our forehead.

### **Jer 3:3, Ezekiel 3:7-9**

The converse of having God's name/law/seal on our forehead and his law written in our heart is also possible: having a 'whore's forehead' or a 'stiff forehead', i.e. being hard-hearted, disobedient and rebellious toward God

### **Hebrews 8: 10-12**

What is this new covenant? → God says He is going to put His Law in our minds and write them on our heart. As a result of this, He is our God and we are His people.

### **2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Eph 1:13**

God has sent the Holy Spirit to seal our hearts. The sealing is a work that the Holy Spirit does.

### **Ezekiel 9: 1-11**

There is a city that is destroyed, but some people are saved. There are 6 men that have destroying weapons. There is another person that is clothed in linen with an inkhorn (writing instrument). God shows up and starts speaking to the man with the inkhorn. The man with the ink is given the duty to go around and mark people on their foreheads who 'sigh and cry for the abominations' done in Jerusalem. Then the men with destroying weapons are given the duty to kill those who do not have the mark on their foreheads. In short, there are some people that get a mark and these people are not killed. This picture is similar to what happens at the end of time with God's servants being sealed.

### **Summary**

Before Christ comes back, his servants are sealed. This group of sealed servants is called the 144,000. This sealing process is done by the Holy Spirit, and it is a process of the new covenant: the writing of God's law in our hearts. When God's laws are written in our hearts, we desire to do his will and keep his commandments, and we do. This process of sealing is also called sanctification, and it is an ongoing process. Our hearts and characters are being changed from the inside out by the Holy Spirit. The 144,000 have gotten to a point by the Holy Spirit that they are fully sealed: God's law has been written in their hearts, and their characters are now such that they desire to keep God's law all the time. They will be without spot and blameless, a chaste virgin when Christ returns. (see also 2 Pet 3:14, Phil 2:14-15, 1 Thes 3:12-13, 5:23-34, 1 Tim 6:14)

Question: If we are told that God writes his Law on our heart, then does that mean that we could listen to our heart?

Answer: Not necessarily, for we are also told that our hearts are faulty (Jer 17:9). As our walk with God matures, we become so in tune with God that our heart naturally wants to do what God wants us to do (see Rom 7:7-8:17, John 3, Ezek 11:19-20, Ezek 36:25-27, Psalm 199:11). We must always cross check that what our heart wants is biblical (Is 8:20) and pray about it (Luke 22:42).