

144,000 Witnesses

Who Are the 144,000 Witnesses in Revelation 14 - Are There Two Groups?

144,000 Witnesses - Jewish Saints: Before the Antichrist administers his mark, God will send an angel to mark the foreheads of 144,000 Jews. 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes (Jacob's 12 sons) in Revelation chapter 7. **144,000 Witnesses** The 144,000 sealed Jews will be commissioned to be witnesses during the tribulation. Those verses go on to identify the "tribes" each of the 12,000 comes from. Most Jews alive today do not know which tribe they come from. But God does! And He purposely selects 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes.

Some scholars argue that the 144,000 evangelists of Revelation 14 v.1 aren't necessarily Jews? **144,000 with the Fathers Name Written in their Foreheads** Could those be different? Can they be Christians? Read **144,000** for a comparison of the two.

You may notice when you read Rev. 7 v.4 - 8 that 2 tribes are missing and 2 others have been substituted in their places. Why? Some scholars believe the tribe of Dan is missing because the Jewish Antichrist, known as the False Prophet, will be a descendant.

This certainly seems to be the meaning of an ancient prophecy that Jacob gave about the tribes of Israel in the last days: "Dan will be a serpent in the way, a venomous viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that his rider falls backward". (Gen. 49 v.17)

Ephraim is left out because that tribe led the way in causing the civil war which first divided the ten tribes of the North from the two in the South. The tribes of Dan and Ephraim were the first to lead Israel into idolatry. Does that mean individual members of this tribe are beyond redemption? No. But none of the tribe members are given the special honor of representing God in the hour of Tribulation.

Instead, the tribe of Levi is substituted for Dan, and Joseph (Ephraim's father) is substituted for Ephraim.

The Similarities of the Two Groups: Two basic reasons are usually advanced for considering the two groups similar:

1. Both groups total 144,000, and
2. Both groups have something written on their foreheads.

The Differences of the Two Groups: Far more important, however, are the differences between the two groups:

1. The Revelation 7 group is specifically Jewish, 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes. The Revelation 14 group comes "from the earth" or "from among men."
2. The Revelation 7 group is sealed with the Father's seal. The Revelation 14 group has the name of both the Father and the Son.
3. The scene of chapter 7 occurs on the earth. Chapter 14 takes place in heaven, but only halfway through the Tribulation. This can be explained in that the 144,000 witnesses of Revelation 7, like their converts of verse 9, are slain and under the altar by the middle of the Tribulation. Thus they are described in chapter 14 as before the throne, in their spirit or "soul" state, "away from the body and at home with
4. The 144,000 of chapter 7 are "servants of our God"; the 144,000 of chapter 14 are people "purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb." This indicates that their selection was not for the propagation of the gospel on the earth during the Tribulation, but for a special position at the throne of God before Him and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 4 tells us that "they follow the Lamb wherever he goes", which may well indicate that as a select group, they have been faithful in completely abandoning their will to the will of Christ during their lifetimes.

The importance of the number 12 is a consistent one. In Mt.10:2 Jesus picks 12 men that will be evangelists to Israel (in contradistinction, Jesus seals 12,000 men from 12 tribes to go to the world). Acts 1:21-26, the 11 apostles recognize that Judas must be replaced to keep this consistent number of 12.

Matt 19:28 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

In heaven the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles are recognized. Rev. 21:12-14: *“Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.”*

Of the New Jerusalem the number is kept as its theme:

“The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel”
(Rev. 21:16-17).

The 144,000 will be saved men that will give faithful witness to Jesus Christ- they are His Jewish witnesses in the Tribulation period.