

The 144,000 Jewish Evangelists During the Tribulation Period

The fact that there are going to be this many men evangelizing the world during the worst days on the planet, speaks of the great **grace, mercy and love** that the Triune God has for lost individuals. It displays the truth, that in every period of history, God has always had those who would bear witness to His truth.

Rev. 7:1-8 - 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried 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, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed **from every tribe of the sons of Israel: 5** from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand *were* sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, **6** from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, **7** from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, **8** from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand *were* sealed.

Major Point #1

1. The 144,000 witnesses, who will they be?

a. They are men, who will be from the 12 tribes of Israel.

When taken literally, we will conclude that the identity of the 144,000 is clearly given in the text we just read. They are Jewish men, twelve thousand from each of the tribes that are listed. We clearly see this is verse 4.

One of the **more prominent** views held today by those in the Covenant Theology camp is that the 144,000 Jewish witnesses represents the church of Jesus Christ, which is understood by them as the true, spiritual Israel. Clearly this is replacement Theology. The problem with this is that the word “Israel” is never used for the church in the New Testament. Also, if you hold to a pretribulation view of the rapture, the church, will be in heaven experiencing the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Marriage of the Lamb, while the tribulation period is taking place on earth.

To make the 144,000 witnesses the Church, and not literal Jewish men, as the text in Revelation clearly teaches, one has to do an enormous amount of spiritualizing of the text. **We also need to remember that the church is not destined for wrath, and that’s what the tribulation is all about.** Take a look sometime at 1 Thes. 1:10 and 1 Thes. 5:9.

Major Point #2

2. What will they be doing during the tribulation period?

They will evangelize the world of people. They will function as missionaries that will be spreading the gospel throughout the earth. The Two Witnesses will also be ministering during

the Tribulation Period. That's another subject, but, how will 144,000 fulfill their calling?

a. They will preach the gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation.

Rom. 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for **it is the power of God for salvation** to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Matt. 24:14 - This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached **in the whole world** as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

There will be no watering down the gospel here! No soft pedaling of the truth. 2 Tim. 4:1-5 will be their marching orders.

2 Tim. 4:1-5 - I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,... 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine;... 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

As a side note, the 144,000 preaching the gospel world wide will begin to fulfill that which God chose Israel to do in the first place. He chose them for three main reasons. There may be more, but these three rise to the surface. **1.** To be used to give the world the Bible - Rom. 3:1-2, that's been fulfilled **2.** To physically produce the Messiah - Rom. 9:3-5, that's been fulfilled **3.** To be a light to the Gentiles - Isa 42:6. One and two have been fulfilled, three will begin to be fulfilled by the ministry of the 144,000 and the two witnesses during the tribulation period and will come into full bloom during the millennium.

Zech. 8:23 - Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."

Major Point #3

3. What will the results of their ministry be?

We read about the incredible results of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists in Rev. 7.

Rev. 7:9-17 - **9** After these things I looked, and behold, **a great multitude** which no one could count, **from every nation** and **all tribes** and **peoples** and **tongues**, standing before the **throne** and before the **Lamb**, clothed in **white robes**. **13** Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" **14** ... "These are the ones who **come out of the great tribulation**, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. **16** They will **hunger** no longer, nor **thirst** anymore; nor will the **sun** beat down on them, nor any **heat**; **17** for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their **shepherd**, and will **guide** them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

Important facts that are mentioned in these verses.

- a. **A great multitude** - This multitude was so great, no one could count them all - Vs. 9
- b. **From every nation, all tribes, peoples, & tongues** - It will be a world revival - Vs. 9
- c. **They are in heaven** - Vs. 9 - Note that the Tribulation period is not yet over, but somehow they died and went to heaven. Most likely they were martyred.
- d. **Saved during the tribulation period** - That means they were not saved prior to the rapture - Vs. 14
- e. **No more suffering** - They suffered greatly during the tribulation period - Vs 16
- f. **The Lamb (Jesus)** - He will be their shepherd and He will guide them - Vs. 17

Major Point #4

4. They will be men of splendid character.

Rev. 14:1-5 - Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him **one hundred and forty-four thousand... 3** ...who had **been purchased** from the earth. **4** These are the ones who **have not been defiled** with women, for they have **kept themselves chaste**. These are the ones who **follow the Lamb** wherever He goes. These have **been purchased** from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. **5** And **no lie** was found in their mouth; **they are blameless**.

We clearly see that these will be very special people. First off, they have been **purchased**. The Biblical teaching of redemption comes from this word. Another major characteristic is that they will be **obedient** to the Lord Jesus. True believers are saved to obey. They will **follow the Lamb** wherever He goes. We also see that they will be **sacrificial**. They will give up the privilege of marriage for the sake of the unique ministry the Lord will call them to. The Apostle Paul spoke of this in 1 Cor. 7. We also see that they will be **truthful and blameless**. Their character will be above reproach.

One important thing that all believers need to remember is, don't come to the conclusion that we don't have to be busy proclaiming the gospel because of all witnessing that will be going on in the future. Lost people need to clearly hear the gospel in our day and age. Make sure, if you are a true believer, you are doing what you can to spread the truth.