

Revelation Study
Vision 1
The 144,000 & The 7th Seal
Revelation 7:1-8:1

- I. Where The Event Should Be Placed
 - A. Verses 1-8 occur during the historical events described in the first 5 seals
 - 1. The work of sin in the world does not culminate in the total or immediate destruction of the world or its inhabitants. (cf. Zech. 6:1-8)
 - 2. Only at the 6th seal, the “Day of the Lord,” does that take place.
 - B. Verses 9-17 occur at the final redemption: “The Great Day of the Lord” has occurred, and final judgment and redemption are complete
 - C. “After these things” is not a chronological designation. Its use in the OT and the NT is usually an ordering of the occurrence of visions, not necessarily the order in which the events of those visions will actually come about in real time and space
- II. The Sealing of the 144,000 (3-8)
 - A. The seal
 - 1. A mark of spiritual protection on those who in the kingdom of God (cf. Ezekiel 9; 2 Timothy 2:19)
 - 2. A mark of those bearing the name of God in the world - witnesses
 - a. Technically, an everlasting sign marked from all eternity on those that would be God’s (so

preceding even the “unleashing of the false righteousness of the white horse”

- b. Historically, occurs concurrent with the events of the first 5 seals, as people repent and believe
- B. 144,000 – Who Are They? Views
 - 1. A literal numbering of the exact remnant of national Hebrews during the Tribulation period
 - 2. A figurative number representing a literal fulfillment of the passage from Romans 11:24-26, that all ethnic Israel will be saved
 - 3. Historical remnant of 1st century Jews, which would have been a stark contrast to unbelieving Jews at the time of the temple destruction
 - 4. Figurative number (as are most, if not all numbers in Revelation) representing all of God’s redeemed people for all time
- C. View 4 is best
 - 1. $12 \times 12 = 144$ (12 tribes, 12 apostles) the act of multiplying important numbers together in apocalyptic literature shows the expansive and full nature of those numbers
 - 2. 1000 as a multiplier – 10 is a number of fullness, 3 is the number of perfection ($10 \times 10 \times 10 = 1000$).

3. This sounds like a wild game of make-it-up-as-you-go?!? Consider Revelation 21:9-22:5
 - a. 21:16 (1500 miles = 12,000 stadia (12x1000), cubed
 - b. 21:17 (seventy two yards = 144 cubits)
 - c. 12 gates = OT tribes
 - d. 12 foundation stones = NT apostles
 - e. Ephesians 2:10-22, cf. end of Revelation 21

- III. The Multitude Clothed in White Robes (9-17)
 - A. A full-redemption worship service
 1. All peoples
 2. Standing before Lamb
 3. Clothed in white
 - B. Thankful for God's full salvation
 1. They have overcome
 2. They have been redeemed
 - C. All of heaven and earth agrees – AMEN
 - D. Who are they?
 1. Those who survived the “great tribulation” (cf. Revelation 1:9; 2:9-10)
 2. Covered by the blood of the Lamb
 - E. Blessing
 1. Serve in His temple (not literal, cf. Revelation 21-22 for the absence of the temple...they are pillars of it, cf. Revelation 3:12)
 2. God spreads His “tabernacle” over them – his very residence, his living space
 3. No hunger, no thirst (cf. Matthew 5:6)

4. Redeemed from the original curse (Genesis 3 – the suffering of tending the earth)
5. Lamb is their perpetual, ever present Shepherd, guiding them to an unending stream of living water
6. No more broken-heartedness

IV. Silence In Heaven (8:1)