

Daniel 11:36-45

From this passage we learn ten facts about the Antichrist:

Fact #1 - He will do as he pleases all over the world. **11:36**

- A. Concerning himself - no restraints
- B. Concerning God - blaspheme the true God
- C. Concerning prosperity - he will take all he wants and flourish

Fact #2 - He will show no regard for any but himself . **11:37**

- A. No regard for religious heritage - probably raised to respect religion.
- B. No regard for women - will kill Jewish pregnant women (Matthew 24:19); possibly he is a homosexual.
- C. He will magnify himself - he will deify himself as God and demand to be worshipped.

Fact #3 - He will worship war . **11:38**

The Antichrist will actually worship war. This is his “god” - he loves war, worships war.

Fact #4 - He will go to war against the strongest of military powers. **11:39**

He will honor those who follow him and support him and redivide and restructure the whole world, giving them various parts of the world.

Fact #5 - He will be attacked from a king of the south and the north. **11:40**

To the south of the Promised Land is Egypt and to the north is Syria. More than likely these two will move against Israel because the Antichrist entered a peace treaty with her.

Fact #6 - He will ultimately move into the Promised Land of Israel. **11:41**

When the Antichrist learns of this movement, he will make Israel’s land his European base of operations. Because he has entered into a peace agreement with Israel, she will probably welcome him into her land as a base of operations. Last couple of weeks it has been eerie to see UN vehicles in the Middle East, trying to stop the problem between Israel and Lebanon.

Fact #7 - He will go to war against other countries but will be based in Israel . **11:42**

Fact #8 - He will gain control over the treasuries of many Arab nations. **11:43**

Such countries as Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia.

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Fact #9 - He will learn of rumors of major powers moving against him. **11:44**

Probably powers from the East.

Fact #10 - He will pitch his tents in Israel's sacred land places and eventually come to his end.
11:45

He will set himself up in Jerusalem in the Temple and demand to be worshipped as God.

Now one logical question we must ask is why would God allow this power crazed, satanic mad man to even exist? The answer to this question is found in Ezekiel 39:21-29. God has decreed that He will permit horrific things to happen to His own people because of her iniquity and specifically for acting treacherously against Him when they killed His own Son, Israel's Messiah and King. The Antichrist fulfills a role in that he is part of filling up the indignation and anger of God.

If you enjoy freedom, you will not want to be on earth when the Antichrist reigns. There is a way of escape. Those who believe on Jesus Christ never have to worry about even seeing the Antichrist. Those who believe on Jesus Christ are the freest, most secure people in the world.

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Revelation 14:1-20

As we come to the 14th chapter of the book of Revelation, we are dead center in the middle of the Tribulation when things have turned hostile against Israel, and the entire nation will be a fugitive who is on the run (Isaiah 52:12) from Satan.

In spite of the fact that there is worldwide satanic persecution, and in spite of the fact that there is worldwide Satan worship, we discover in these verses that the 144,000 Jews are still going about their business being protected by God.

Revelation 14:1-5

We may notice that **verse 1** really zeroes in on Israel and specifically Mount Zion. Mount Zion is a specific place in Jerusalem which is literally located in the western mountain ridge of Jerusalem. This very spot is the literal spot that Israel expects to become very important to her receiving God's presence, protection, and blessings. Over and over again the Bible speaks of Zion as being the spot to which Jesus Christ will eventually return and reign (Psalm 14:7; 20:2; 48:1-2; 53:6; 110:2; 128:5; 134:3; 135:21; Isaiah 2:3; 11:9-12; 24:23; Joel 2:32; 3:16; Amos 1:2). This is also the spot where Israel expects her Messiah to return (Zechariah 14:4-5).

In the middle of the Tribulation, Jesus Christ has a private meeting with the 144,000 at the very location to which He will physically return in Revelation 19. Now there are certain facts we want to observe:

Fact #1 - The Lamb was literally standing on Mount Zion with these 144,000. **14:1a**

This is a very special moment for them. There have been different views as to why this happens:

- 1) Some suggest that Jesus returns at this point to reinforce to the 144,000 the fact that they have been sealed and will be kept safe from the attacks of Satan during this time of Jacob's trouble.
- 2) Some suggest that the first sealing in chapter 7 protected them from the wrath of the Lamb but not the wrath of Satan (12:12) and, therefore, they will be martyred in Jerusalem.
- 3) Some suggest that this is the moment when Jesus Christ takes the 144,000 home to be with Him.
- 4) Some suggest that this is a personal appearance of Jesus Christ to inform them that His Kingdom take over of the world is on the way.

Fact #2 - This is the same 144,000 Jewish men that we saw earlier in Revelation 7:4-8.

If it were not the same group, the writer would have used the pronoun "another" which he so often uses in Revelation (i.e. 14:6). These 144,000 have been operating for 3½ years. They are Jews and they were sealed as God's protective property and their seal is not visible to humans but to God.

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Fact #3 - The sealing that the 144,000 received in chapter 7 protected them from God's Tribulation wrath during the first 3½ years (7:3-8), however, at this point Satan is on earth and he is pouring out his wrath (12:12). The 144,000 would fall into the category of being the rest of Israel's offspring (12:17).

Fact #4 - These 144,000 learn a new heavenly song coming from heavenly worship .
14:2-3a

The language of **verse 2** describes things related to God's judgment (thunder and sound of many waters). There is obviously a tremendous worship service taking place in heaven that is focused on the judgment of God, and these 144,000 are fully aware that the things happening on earth are the judgment of God.

The 144,000 are not at the worship service in heaven, but they are aware of it and they can hear the Son and then are able to learn the song being sung there. They are able to sing a heavenly song at this point on earth that no one else knows. This concept of singing a new song is often connected to a new song one of God's chosen can sing after He has turned things around from despair to blessing (Psalm 40:1-3).

Fact #5 - These 144,000 have been redeemed . **14:3b**

The word "redeem" or "purchase" (αγοράζω) is used 31 times in the N.T. and six of the times the word has soteriological or salvation ramifications (I Corinthians 6:20; 7:23; II Peter 2:1; Revelation 5:9; 14:3, 4). This particular word carries with it the idea of purchasing something in the marketplace and leaving it there. Another word (εξαγοράζω) means to purchase something in the market and take it out, and the third word (λυτροω) means to purchase something in the market and take it out and let it go free.

The word here would seem to suggest that Jesus Christ is leaving the 144,000 here on earth even though they have been purchased. We know the basis for their salvation is the shed blood of Jesus Christ (Revelation 5:9; 7:14). These 144,000 are very godly, but the thing that enables them to stand in the presence of Jesus Christ is the fact that they have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

Fact #6 - These 144,000 are very pure . **14:4a**

After the Rapture, immorality will break loose worse than in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah. Sexual immorality will be rampant (Rev. 9:21). These 144,000 keep themselves pure from any immorality with women during the Tribulation.

There is no question that Satan is behind sexual immorality and it is a terrible sin in God's estimation and is a different level of sin in God's estimation (I Corinthians 6:18). When Satan is confined to this earth, sexual immorality will reach a level this world has never seen. In most normal dispensations, the key to not being immoral is to get married (I Cor. 7:1-5). But the Tribulation is not a normal dispensation.

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However, during the Tribulation things will be so distressful that marriage will not be the best option (Matthew 24:19; Jeremiah 16:1-6). This text proves that it is possible to walk so close with Jesus Christ that even when you live in an immoral world you can remain sexually pure. These 144,000 will keep themselves pure and will not defile themselves with women.

Fact #7 - These 144,000 will follow Jesus Christ. **14:4b**

These 144,000 are very close to Jesus Christ through redemption and through purity, and they follow Him and His leading wherever He goes and wherever He wants them to go.

It is possible that Christ will use them to help his nation escape and will direct them to specific areas in the Jerusalem area. They will follow Him implicitly.

Fact #8 - These 144,000 are the first fruits. **14:4b**

Some have said this means that they are the first Jewish martyrs of the Tribulation. However it would seem better to me to conclude that they are the first fruits of the Jews who demonstrate a Kingdom righteousness, and the first to actually be with Jesus Christ on Mount Zion.

Fact #9 - These 144,000 are truthful. **14:5a**

No distortion of truth was ever found in any of these men. These men have always told the truth of God and they always told the truth.

During the Tribulation, especially when Satan is confined to this earth, truth setters and truth seekers will be very rare. The majority of people on earth will be liars and the Antichrist will be the most deceitful liar to ever exist (Rev. 13:3-4, 14).

Fact #10 - These 144,000 are blameless. **14:5b**

The word “blameless” is not the word “sinless,” but it means that no valid charge may be brought against these 144,000. Now this is another indication to me that these 144,000 are on earth and not martyred or raptured, because the term “blameless” is a classification of one on earth, not one in heaven. These 144,000 lived their lives free from immorality and deceit and they were blameless during the Tribulation. As a result they had special fellowship with Jesus Christ.