

This eBook consists of only a preview of Chapter 4 of *Mystery of Disunity* by Tim McHyde of www.EscapeAllTheseThings.com.

It comprehensively covers the subjects of:

- The 144,000
- The Woman
- The Two Witnesses
- The Twelve
- The Seventy(-two)
- Elijah

For more information visit the website. Thank you.

Chapter 4 – Unity of 144,000 and the Women

Who Are the 144,000 of Revelation?

Revelation chapter 7 introduces an amazing mystery of great interest to those who want to understand how today's disunity among God's servants will be resolved. It is the mystery of the "144,000" described in verses 1-8:

Revelation 7:1-8 — ¹ After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. ² Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried 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, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." ⁴ And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed: ⁵ of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand *were* sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand *were* sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand *were* sealed; ⁶ of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand *were* sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand *were* sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand *were* sealed; ⁷ of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand *were* sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand *were* sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand *were* sealed; ⁸ of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand *were* sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand *were* sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand *were* sealed.

This short passage gives us scant few details about this future unified group and leaves us with some big questions. We know for sure only that they are...:

1. 144,000 servants: But can this really be all who are left of God's servants at that point? Why such a small number? Is everyone raptured in heaven already or are there other servants of God who are not part of the 144,000 also on earth?
2. Sealed with protection: Chapters 6, 8 and 9 tell us what they need protection from: destructive global earthquakes, winds, fires and deep impacts followed by a poisoned waters and a "nuclear winter." But *where* are they sealed and *why* do they receive this special protection different from the rest of God's servants that may exist? Are they on some special mission? If so, what?
3. Israelites equally divided among all twelve tribes of Israel: This is most preposterous of all considering that ten of the tribes mentioned here are the exiled northern tribes still considered as a whole lost today, hence the name "the Lost Ten Tribes" (as opposed to the southern tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi who make up the "Jews" today in Israel and abroad.) So to see a prediction of a large gathering of all twelve of them is about like being told that the people from the lost mythical city of Atlantis will be reunited in our day¹.

Literal Or Not?

Thus, from a Christian viewpoint, this passage is nearly impossible to take at face value. With one third of the world Christian today, it's hard to imagine that only 144,000 people could ever be counted as God's servants and worthy of protection in the end times. Yet, on the other hand, it's equally hard to accept this future group as just an Israeli subdivision of all God's protected servants when most of these Israelites are considered gone or lost today. As a result,

¹ In *Quest For The Lost Tribes* (1999), researcher Simcha Jacobovici claims to have found remnants of a few of the lost tribes including Manasseh in India. However, even if his conclusions are correct they in no way fulfill the prophecy of all twelve tribes being found and gathered and believing in Jesus rather than Judaism (Rev 14:12) as those he found do.

few accept this passage to plainly mean what it says. Resulting interpretations vary, but they all have one thing in common: resorting to some degree of use of metaphorical or allegorical interpretation to resolve the contradiction between the plain meaning and the Christian paradigm. But with the confines of the plain meaning loosed, the resulting interpretation is only limited by what someone can imagine and support with any single verse taken out of its own context. This commonly includes claiming that “Israel” does not really mean *Israel* but “represents” the Christian Church which has “replaced” her. Of course, this allows any gentile Christian group to apply the prophecy to themselves. And who is not going to be tempted to believe that their group is the 144,000 who God is going to favor with protection and call "blameless?"

For example, the Jehovah’s Witnesses today believe they will be the 144,000 as did the Worldwide Church of God. The WCG even had membership numbers not far off from the prophecy’s number at one time. But for any church denomination to fit this prophecy would of course require ignoring that it speaks literally about a collection of the scattered tribes of Israel, regathered in the end times.

In contrast, the hallmark of my research is to resist the temptation to go this route of interpretation, even when my preconceived paradigms tell me otherwise. The common practice of interpreting plain passages to mean something different than what they say amounts to breaking scripture—unless the passage clearly states or requires it be interpreted that way, such as Jesus’ own parables did. Jesus stated that no Scripture can be broken or contradicted² and Revelation 7 is not presented as a parable, thus, however impossible it may seem, we must endeavor to make sense of its plain meaning.

We will see as we proceed that this passage *can* make perfect sense when taken literally and thereby give us useful insight into God’s plan to bring his servants together in unity before the Great Tribulation. In fact, instead of a pretrib rapture, this gathering to safety on Earth is the real plan of how God will save his servants through those 3½ years³. To see it all just takes bringing all the related passages together and thinking them through critically and carefully being careful not to read into things. The areas we will cover include:

1. The “other” 144,000 of Revelation 14
2. The twelve and the seventy who Jesus sent out during his ministry
3. The Woman of Revelation 12
4. Two Witnesses of Revelation 11
5. The “end times Elijah” of Malachi 4

In other words, we’ll come to understand the plain reading of the 144,000 account through connecting some other big mysteries of the Bible (which will also become plain along the way). When it’s done we’ll understand clearly how God will unify us in the end times.

Revelation 14, The *Other* 144,000 Chapter

The first related passage to look at is the only other chapter that directly talks about the 144,000: chapter 14. People often wonder if this 144,000 is not somehow a second group of 144,000 different from the one in chapter 7. As the study goes on it will be apparent that only one group of 144,000 rather than two, can fulfill the prophecies that require 144,000 firstfruits sent

2 John 10:35

3 See my book [Planet X in Bible Prophecy](#) for the escape plan from Wormwood and the Great Tribulation that immediately follows it (www.EscapeAllTheseThings.com)

on their special mission in the end times. We'll also find at least one of the questions created by chapter 7 resolved here, but not without careful consideration.

Revelation 14:1-6 — ¹ Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. ³ They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. ⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵ And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God. ⁶ Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people-- ¹² Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

While chapter 7 told us that the 144,000 sealed servants of God are made up of 100% descendants of all twelve tribes of Israel, it did not tell us anything more about where they are or for what purpose they are sealed. Now, care must be taken not to assume that if winds are held back over the entire earth that it means the 144,000 must be everywhere at the time of the sealing. That's not what it says. Instead remember that a single angel rising from the East seals the 144,000—not the four angels over the four corners of the Earth. This points to them already being gathered somewhere at the time of their sealing where one angel can easily seal them (remember, angels are not omnipresent like God and cannot be everywhere at once such as we see from the angel held up from reaching Daniel for three weeks⁴).

In contrast to this, when the rapture or gathering to heaven happens “after the tribulation of those days,” God sends *multiple* angels to gather his elect (defined as the “the Church”, not “Jews” elsewhere⁵) because they are spread all over the earth⁶. We will see this state of already being gathered at the time of their sealing confirmed as we look at further verses.

When and Where Are the 144,000 Are Sealed?

Coincidentally, chapter 14 shows us that 144,000 will all be together on Mt. Zion in Jerusalem at some point. The question is, however, which point in time is this: the start of their mission or perhaps the end of their mission at the end of the age with the reigning Messiah (pictured by the Lamb in verse 1)? Unfortunately, Revelation 14 is generally taken to be picturing the arrival of the Messiah to set up his kingdom. But this interpretation has problems, namely:

1. The Messiah is not returning with just the 144,000 he sealed alive in the end times, but all the servants of God that died in the faith and were resurrected at his return as Revelation 19 shows.
2. His return in Revelation 19 is also shown to be with his saints in the *air* against armies on the ground, rather than 144,000 saints standing on the ground with the Lamb.
3. Revelation 14:4 gives us a shrouded but explicit indication as to what day this gathering

4 Daniel 10:12-13

5 1Pet 1:1-2; Col 3:12; Tit 1:1

6 Mark 13:24,27

is taking place on, and it's not the same day that Revelation 19 indicates will be the day Messiah returns to reign (the Day of Atonement):

Rev 14:4 — ... These were purchased from among men, *to be the firstfruits* unto God and unto the Lamb.

As my book *Planet X in Bible Prophecy* explains, this passage describes the future fulfillment of the Torah's prophetic rehearsal of the waving of the two loaves on *Pentecost*⁷. All of the prophetic rehearsals commanded to be done foreshadow events in God's plan that would be fulfilled on the very same day of the biblical calendar. For example, Jesus became the Passover Lamb by being sacrificed on the day of Passover. He also was raised from the dead on the following Sunday morning to fulfill the waving towards heaven of the wave sheaf of barley commanded for the "morrow after the Sabbath"⁸. Likewise, Pentecost's command to have two loaves, representing the Two Houses of Israel, will be fulfilled on the very day of Pentecost by the 144,000 from all twelve tribes of Israel being presented to God and the Lamb.⁹ And like mentioned above, the return of the Messiah to defeat his enemies, including banishing Satan, will be the Day of the Lord to fulfill the Day of Atonement which pictures this exact event by having the scapegoat banished to a place where no one lives.

Finally, we can be sure that this scene is at the time of their sealing rather than the end of their mission when Messiah returns, because, as we will soon see, their mission is to spread out to all the Earth and preach the three successive angels' messages that are described in the very next verses of Revelation 14 starting with verse 6 quoted above. In fact, they will never return to Jerusalem in the flesh to stand together on Mt. Zion because their work ends with their rapture at the end of the Great Tribulation¹⁰.

The Mission of the 144,000 – Fulfill Matthew 24:14

What is the all important to understand mission of the 144,000 then? We have to admit that the text of Revelation does not directly state what the mission of the 144,000 is. Like much of the Book of Revelation does, Revelation 7 and 14 leave gaps that require us to look elsewhere in the Bible to fill them in. As we have seen, often these gaps are filled in by other parts of the Bible that were confusing or mysterious of themselves. By combining all the correct parts together they explain each other and give you that, "Aha! How did I miss this for so long and how could it have ever been any different" kind of experience that makes studying the Bible such a joy.

The first key passage in this regard is a profound statement of Jesus during the Olivet Discourse

This is only the first part of the eBook on the 144,000 and Elijah. You can keep reading the rest by ordering the complete eBook. Go to www.EscapeAllTheseThings.com/144000.html now to order online for immediate download. (Note: You can now pay online using either your **check** or **credit card** through **Paypal** or **SWREG**)

7 Leviticus 23:17

8 Leviticus 23:16

9 For more details see [Planet X In Bible Prophecy](#)

10 Matthew 24:29; Rev 10:7=11:15-19=1Cor 15:51-58 (mystery of resurrection, reward of eternal life at 7th trumpet after the tribulation ends that started at the 5th trumpet or 1st woe from Satan)