

#57 \*FORUM POST ON THE 144,000 OF REV CHAPTER 7

THREAD TITLE: ARE ONLY 144,000 PEOPLE SAVED? (REV 7:4 and 14:1)

Dear all,

144,000 is the number of saints or the bride of Christ. Revelation 14:1, 4 (NKJV),... “one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. ... not defiled with women, ... are virgins.... the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.” In this present life, only the saints have obediently followed Jesus.

Are the rest of mankind redeemed? Yes!

“Who (*?Jesus?*) gave himself a **ransom for all**, to be **testified in due time.**” - 1 Timothy 2:6 (KJV) A ransom is a corresponding price. It is the price paid in place of the one to be released. Hence it is of equal value to the prisoner. Recall 1 Corinthians 15:22, “As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” **Jesus was the price of equal value corresponding to Adam.**

How was Jesus considered equal to Adam?

**Adam was a perfect man** created in God's image. (See Genesis 1:27 and Deuteronomy 32:4.) None of Adam's offspring could redeem Adam because we are all imperfect - “... a sinner the moment my mother conceived me.” - Psalm 51:5 (NET) God's justice, declared in the Law, requires a life for a life. An equal payment (Exodus 21:23). In the special case of Adam, a **perfect human life** was plunged into death and required a **perfect human life to ransom him from death.** Thus, as 1 Timothy 2:6 states, **Jesus was that perfect human life.**

To further explain, Adam had a **perfect human race within his loins.** Jesus also had a perfect human race within himself. When Jesus redeemed Adam, the corresponding price for Adam's unborn, sinful race was Jesus's unborn, perfect human race. God's law of a life for a life was upheld.

1 Timothy 2:6 also states that this truth will be **made known “in due time.”** What is the due time? **Today**, the **high calling** to follow in Jesus's sacrificial footsteps is open. The purpose is to call out the church class. These are the **first fruits** (Revelation 4:4). They receive the **divine nature** (2 Peter 1:4) with the heavenly reward of **sitting with Jesus on thrones** in heaven (Revelation 20:3, Luke 22:30). These are the 144,000 of Revelation 7 and 14.

However, a great number of redeemed, spirit-begotten Christians are **not willingly faithful** to their covenant to sacrifice their wills and flesh (Romans 12:1) to do only God's will. These need tribulation to wash their robes (Revelation 7:9). While they do receive a heavenly resurrection, they do not receive the divine nature. They stand **before Christ's throne** to serve God.

The **due time for mankind** to receive redemption will be during the general **human resurrection when Christ reigns on Earth**. Then, "...I (God) will put **my law within them** (starting with Israel and spreading to all), and I will write it upon their hearts; ... I will **forgive their iniquity**, and I will remember their sin no more." - Jeremiah 31:33-34 RSV

Jesus redeemed ALL!

RR\_\_\_\_\_

Dear RR\_\_\_\_\_,

I certainly agree that Christ is the Savior of the world; meaning that Christ will save 100% of mankind.

However, the "144,000" is not a literal number as you seem to imply. It is a spiritual symbol which carries a meaning "not taught by man's wisdom":

**1Cor 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

Scripture is written in the spiritual language of Christ. The truth of its messages are concealed by "types" and "symbols". To understand the symbols, Paul says to compare "spiritual things with spiritual".

**Rev 7:4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.**

**Rev 14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.**

The number 144,000 is understood as 12x12x10x10x10. The number 12 represents the Kingdom of Heaven. The number 2 (12x12) represents the Elect who are the witnesses of Christ in this world. The number 10 represents completeness. The number 3 (10x10x10) represents a spiritual process. When all the symbols are combined into 144,000, the number means that those who are being sealed are the Elect who make up the Kingdom of Heaven and that they will be made complete by the spiritual process they are about to go through. When the process is complete, they will stand before the throne (**Rev 7:9-17**) as fully converted sons of God.

The sealing of the Elect occurs when they receive the Latter Rain (Holy Spirit of Promise):

**Eph 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of Promise (Latter Rain), 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance UNTIL the redemption of the purchased possession (immortal spiritual body), unto the praise of his glory.**

The Elect will be spiritually resurrected (**Rev 20:5-6**) when they receive Latter Rain (Baptism of the Spirit) which is what the Apostles received on the Day of Pentecost. At that time, Christ will gather the newly born child of God to dwell with Him in Heaven (spiritually speaking). In other words, the believer will no longer dwell upon the earth as mankind does but will now dwell in Heaven.

Here are the symbols which apply:

**Sea:** place where unbelievers dwell.

**Earth:** place where called out believers (the church) dwell.

**Heaven:** place where converted believers dwell.

These terms are spiritual symbols which apply "within" a person. They are not physical locations.

This scripture below teaches the moment of conversion when an Elect believer is saved and rises to dwell in Heaven:

**Mat 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: 30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**

You said:

**Adam was a perfect man, created in God's image.**

Adam was created as a spiritual being who has self-awareness (God's image). However, Adam's spirit was "marred" and subject to vanity (sin).

**Jer 18:4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.**

**Rom 8:20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.**

Adam's spirit was not the same spirit (Holy Spirit) which dwells in Christ.

The flaw in Adam's spirit was that it was "weak". Because it was weak, the physical body Adam

was given caused Adam to become "carnally minded". Rather than Adam obeying his Creator, Adam's first priority was to obey the needs of his flesh. As a result, Adam sinned (as do all of his offspring).

After God rested from the six days of creation, God said that His creation was "good"; and it was good for God's purpose of creating new children who will be like Him. To be like Him, God requires His children to have a knowledge of good and evil:

**Gen 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever:**

After God's purpose for evil has been satisfied within each person, He will "convert" them into His children. For this work of conversion, God the Father sent Christ into the world:

**1John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.**

Christ has a plan and a process to convert all mankind into children of God. It is a plan which includes great tribulation so that mankind will experience evil to the fullest. This time of great tribulation occurs between the Early and Latter Rains. That time period is symbolized by the terms "time, times and a half", 3 1/2 years, 42 months and 1260 days. It is also typed by Elijah's 3 1/2 years of drought.

During this time of drought, mankind will become "worse than the first" (**Mat 12:43-45**). The symbols for a person in this worsened spiritual condition are: Man of Sin, False Prophet, Minister of Satan, Wolves, and the Seven Headed Beast w/10 Horns & Crowns.

As a Man of Sin, the believer will walk in darkness and will be under the influence of Satan via the spirit of anti-Christ. When Christ "comes again" to one of His Elect, He will bring "sudden destruction" upon them:

**1Thes 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.**

When a believer is in this worsened spiritual state, they are utterly deceived by Satan and are in his apostate church. In Satan's church, they have accepted "another gospel" (**2Cor 11:4**) and are dwelling in darkness. They are also dwelling in "peace and safety" because they believe they are following the true Christ and are saved.

For the Elect, this will all change for them when Christ suddenly comes to them a second time (the second coming of Christ) and pours out the Latter Rain. With the Latter Rain, the Elect

believer's spiritual blindness will be healed. Now with "eyes that can see", the Man of Sin will be revealed to them and they will see that he is the one who is looking back at them in the mirror. At that time, they will also see the Abomination of Desolation which caused them to "fall away" and lose their salvation. With these events, the Elect believer's moment of conversion arrives and Christ will "appear" to them. Christ will then gather the new child of God to dwell with Him in Heaven (spiritually speaking, not literally).

What I have briefly explained above is the Pathway to Salvation which Christ causes His Elect to travel during their lifetimes.

One final point: End-time prophecy teaches the steps of this pathway, as does the book of Revelation. The prophecies are not teaching on future outward world events as is commonly believed. The events are spiritual and happen "within" a believer.

Once the Elect believer is converted, they will spiritually stand before the throne as presented in Rev 7:9-17.

Joe