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# THE MYSTERY OF THE 144,000

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## Radio Sermons



by

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# **THE MYSTERY OF THE 144,000**

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# M E S S A G E 1

We are beginning a very important series of prophetic messages today on "THE MYSTERY OF THE 144,000." This is a subject over which there has been much controversy. There are dozens of churches and denominations who claim to be the 144,000 mentioned in Revelation, chapters 7 and 14.

The Jehovah's Witnesses, who peddle a tremendous amount of literature, claim that they are the 144,000. The Seventh Day Adventists, who teach that you must keep the Sabbath in order to be saved, say that they are the 144,000. There are at least 15 different cults in America claiming to be the 144,000. Now we know that they can't all be right, so let's just take the Bible and let it say what it means and mean what it says; and we will have no trouble in understanding the ministry of the 144,000.

In Revelation, chapters 7 and 14, we read about a company of 144,000 who are going to take the message of the Gospel to the whole world during the latter days. Let's come directly to the question, "Who are these 144,000?" Turn with me to Revelation 7 and let's look at verse 4:

*"And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand"* (of Jehovah's Witnesses). Is that what it says? No, beloved! Notice it again: *"And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand"* (of the Church of God). Is that what it says? No, beloved, a thousand times, no! The Scripture says, *"there were sealed an hundred and forty and*

*four thousand OF ALL THE TRIBES OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL."*

There it is, beloved, just as simple and plain as can be! You see, the Bible doesn't need any interpretation. The Bible interprets itself. Every Scripture in the Word of God is explained by another Scripture.

Now how do we know that the 144,000 are from the tribes of Israel? How do we know that these 144,000 are Jews? Because the number 12 is Israel's number; and the Scripture says, *"There were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand"* (12,000 out of each tribe). Let's notice it in verse 5: *"Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand."* And then verses 6 through 8 go on to name all the other tribes who are going to constitute the 144,000.

So the next time you meet someone who claims to be one of the 144,000, just ask that person this question: "Which tribe do you come from?" Because, beloved, the Scripture states here that there were sealed 12,000 out of each tribe; and as I mentioned before, 12 is Israel's number in the Bible. There were 12 Apostles who came out of Israel. And Jesus told the Apostles in Matthew 19:28 that they would one day sit upon 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel. So keep in mind that 12 is Israel's number.

Now there are also those who teach that the 144,000 refer to the Church. Well, beloved, where can you find a tribe of Reuben in the Church? Where can you find such tribes as Gad, Benjamin or Manasseh in the Church? Furthermore, you won't even find the Church mentioned in the book of Revelation after chapter 4, verse 1. Listen:

*"After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, come up hither . . ."*

Beloved, here we have the rapture of the Church! John saw "a door opened in heaven" and heard a voice saying, "Come up hither." Thus the Church is raptured and it isn't mentioned again in Revelation until we get to the 19th chapter where we have the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

The reason why the Church isn't in Revelation, chapters 4 through 18, is that those chapters are devoted to the Tribulation Period. In these chapters we have a picture of the judgments of God that are going to be poured out upon this sin-cursed, God-hating, Christ-rejecting world.

They describe the horrors of the Tribulation when God's wrath is let loose on this old world. And the Church isn't referred to in any of these chapters because the Church won't be here at that time! In Revelation 3:10 Jesus said:

*"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation (or from the Tribulation), which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."*

Beloved, the Lord Jesus Christ has already taken our judgment. He has already taken our shame and our wrath. Certainly God is not going to subject us the second time to the wrath of God when Jesus has already borne the wrath of God for us at Calvary's Cross.

So I want you to see that these 144,000 are going to come from the 12 tribes of the children of Israel. That's what the Scripture says, and even a 10 year old child should be able to see it!

Now in order to understand the ministry of the 144,000, it's necessary, first of all, to understand something about God's prophetic program. The next great event on God's calendar is the rapture of the Church -- and the Lord Jesus Christ can come at any time! After the Church is raptured, the Tribulation Period (also called the 70th Week of Daniel) will begin.

This period of time is vividly described in many Bible prophecies. God is going to judge this earth, and He is going to punish the Jews because they have rejected Christ. God is going to punish this world because this world has turned it's back on the Son of God and won't admit they are sinners. The seven year Tribulation Period will be a time during which there will be nothing but hell and misery on the earth.

Christ spoke of this time in the Olivet discourse, His great sermon on prophecy. Notice:

*"Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake (for Israel's sake) those days shall be shortened."* Matt. 24:22.

In other words, if it weren't for Divine intervention, the human race would destroy itself. That's how wicked man has become!

And it will be during this time, the Tribulation Period, that the 144,000 will be raised up, but we will go into this in greater detail in our next message.

## M E S S A G E 2

Today we are bringing the second message in our prophetic series entitled "THE MYSTERY OF THE 144,000." And as we move along in our study, we will answer the question, "How are the 144,000 going to be raised up?"

Now we already learned in our last message that the 144,000 will first appear on the scene during the Tribulation Period. Just as we are God's witnesses today, the 144,000 will become God's witnesses after the Church has been raptured. God never leaves Himself without a witness; and even during the awful days of the Tribulation, God will have a witness in the world -- the 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel. These 144,000 are the remnant of Israel who will be preaching the Gospel in the last days. In Revelation 7:3 they are called "*the servants of God.*"

These servants of God will have to be preserved during the awful days of the Tribulation when God is going to punish the world for rejecting His Son. Just read Revelation, chapters 6 through 18, to see the judgments with which God is going to punish this world. So God is going to have to send an angel down from Heaven and mark the 144,000 upon their foreheads in order to protect them from the judgments of the Tribulation. Listen:

*"And 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 given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." Rev. 7:2-3.*



Notice again what it says in verse 3. God is giving this charge to the angel of the Tribulation: "*Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed (or marked) the servants of our God in their foreheads.*" Now the angel of the Tribulation will come down and mark these 144,000 in order to give them protection so they won't have to suffer like the rest of the people in the world at that time.

Let me give you another Scripture which is almost identical to what we just read in Revelation 7:2-3. Notice:

*"And the LORD said unto him (that's the angel of the Tribulation), Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. . . Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark."* Ezek. 9:4,6.

This tells us very plainly that during the awful days of the Tribulation these 144,000 Israelites are going to be sealed and protected from the wrath of God. They are going to be preserved during this time of judgment. That's why it says here in verse 6, "*But come not near any man upon whom is the mark.*"

So, beloved, we see that these 144,000 servants of God are going to be raised up in the city of Jerusalem. But how are they going to get there? This is one of the most frequently asked questions we receive. Right now the Jews are scattered all over the world, so how are all these Jews going to get back to the land of Palestine?

We are beginning to see the prophecies of God's Word fulfilled today in regard to the return of the Jews. Every 24 hours hundreds of Jews are returning to Palestine. Nearly 3,000,000 Jews are now back in the Holy Land. God prophesied in His Word in Isaiah 49:5-6 that the tribes of Israel would be restored. And you and I today are witnessing the national restoration of Israel.

Let me show you how God is going to bring all the Jews of the world back to the land of Palestine. Listen:

*“Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them (the Jews); and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.”* Jere. 16:16.

*“And they shall bring all your brethren (the Jews) for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters (stretchers), and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem . . . ”* Isa. 66:20.

God says in these two verses that He is going to gather the Jews from every hole and corner, from every valley, from every mountain peak, from every den and from every cave. Even if they are sick and afflicted or diseased, God says they will be put on stretchers, ambulances and airplanes and will be taken back to Jerusalem. It doesn't make any difference where the Jews are, God is going to send men who will entice them and bring them back to the land of their fathers. There won't be one Israelite left anywhere in the whole wide world outside of the land of Canaan.

What is going to entice the Jews to go back to the land of Palestine? Well, you know that Palestine is one of the richest countries in all of the world. There isn't a spot in all the world that is as wealthy as the land of Palestine. So if most of the wealth of the world is in Palestine, I'll give you just one guess as to where most of the Jews are going to be!

Beloved, all the signs of the times indicate that the 144,000 are just about ready to make their appearance. Israel is back in her own land for the first time in 2,500 years! The Jews are more receptive to the Gospel than ever before! Surely our Lord Jesus Christ is coming soon!

# M E S S A G E 3

We are continuing with our present series of messages on "THE MYSTERY OF THE 144,000." And today we are going to identify further the mark that will be placed in the foreheads of these 144,000 Jews and also the reason why it will be given.

On our last broadcast we learned that the mark is going to be placed upon the 144,000 Jews in order to give them protection. They will be sealed with Divine protection from the wrath of the Antichrist, and they will not have to suffer like the rest of the people on the earth at that time.

You will remember that when the Jews were in Egyptian bondage, God ordered the Jews to take the blood of a lamb and sprinkle it upon the door posts of their houses and upon their gates. And God said to the Jews, "*When I see the blood, I will pass over you.*"

Beloved, it was the blood that saved the Israelites from the wrath of God, and the 144,000 are going to be protected in like manner. When the angel of the Tribulation comes down from Heaven, God is going to protect these 144,000 by giving them a mark in their foreheads. That's what it says in Ezekiel 9:6, "*Come not near any man upon whom is the mark.*"

Let's look at another Scripture which speaks of the protection which will be given to the 144,000. Listen:

*"And it was commanded them (the scorpion like locusts) that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men who have not the mark of God in their foreheads."* Rev. 9:4.

Here again we see the marvelous protection with which God will provide the 144,000. He will preserve them through the awful judgments of the Tribulation just as He preserved the Jews through the ten plagues when they were in Egyptian bondage.

Why did God preserve the Israelites in the day of Egypt? Why did God preserve the Jews in Old Testament times, even though they were very sinful and wicked? I'll tell you why, beloved. Because God has always preserved a remnant of the Jews in order to fulfil the promise which He made to Abraham.

God gave a promise to Abraham, and you can carry this promise all the way through the Bible -- even to the time of the 144,000. Let's look at it in Genesis 17:8:

*"And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed (children) after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."*

God said to Abraham, "I'm going to give you this land." And God told Abraham in Genesis 15:18 that He was going to give him all the land "from the river of Egypt to the river Euphrates."

Abraham died and never possessed any of the land. The Jews have never enjoyed all the land which God promised to the seed of Abraham. But God has always preserved a remnant of the Jews to inherit the land He promised to Abraham and his seed. For example, in both Isaiah's and Elijah's time God preserved a Jewish remnant. Listen:

*"Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah."* Isa. 1:9.

*"Yet have I left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal . . ."* I Kings 19:18.

So all down through the ages we see that God has been preserving a remnant of the Israelites. Not that they deserve to be preserved, but God has to preserve a remnant, beloved, in order to make good His promise to Abraham:

*"I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession"*

Israel will one day dwell in the land of Canaan and possess it forever. And it is these 144,000 Jews (and the other Jews who are saved under their ministry) who will ultimately inherit the land that God promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their seed.

So we see that the two reasons why God will place a mark upon the 144,000 are:

1. To protect them from the judgments of the Tribulation Period.
2. To preserve a remnant of Jews in order to fulfill His Word.

Now we come to the question that I know many of you are asking. Just what is the mark that will be placed upon the 144,000? Turn with me to Revelation 14:1. Listen:

*"And I looked, and lo, a Lamb (that's our Lord Jesus Christ, "the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world,") stood on the Mount Sion, and with him an hundred and forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads."*

There it is, beloved. The Bible says that the 144,000 will have the Father's Name inscribed upon their foreheads. They will be a sealed people.

You and I today are also sealed. The Bible says in **Ephesians 1:13-14** that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit unto **the day of redemption**. And in **II Timothy 2:19** we are told,

*“The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his . . .”*

Yes, beloved, we are sealed by the Holy Spirit. And wherever the Gospel is preached today in the power of God’s Holy Spirit, you can detect one of God’s sealed people because you will find the love of truth in his heart.

I want you to notice one other thing about these 144,000 Jews and that is that they aren’t ashamed to be identified with the Lord Jesus Christ. Let’s look once again at Revelation 14:1:

*“And I looked, and lo, a Lamb stood on the Mount Sion, and with him an hundred and forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads.”*

Here we see that the 144,000 are standing with the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ. They aren’t standing with the world. Beloved, the world has nothing to offer but heartaches and tears. They aren’t standing with the Antichrist or the Beast -- they are standing with God and are being identified with Him. They aren’t ashamed to be identified with God.

Neither should we be ashamed to be identified with God for we will never be sorry if we stand with Him!

## M E S S A G E 4

As we continue with our prophetic series of messages entitled "THE MYSTERY OF THE 144,000," we are going to notice some other characteristics of these 144,000 believing Jews who will be the messengers of salvation during the Tribulation.

But first, turn with me again to Revelation the 7th chapter and notice something else about the 12 tribes of Israel from which the 144,000 will be selected and sealed. I am sure you have heard a lot of talk about the so-called "lost tribes of Israel." Well, beloved, let me say this -- the tribes of Israel have never been lost except spiritually. Jesus said, "*I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*" Matt. 15:24. And when He made this statement, they were right there in Palestine!

God knows where each and every one of the tribes are. And when the time comes, these 144,000 Jews (whom we read about in Revelation 7 and 14) will be taken out of the 12 tribes of Israel and will become some of the greatest preachers that this world has ever seen.

We are given the very names of the tribes from which the 144,000 are going to be taken, so how foolish and ridiculous it is for anybody to talk about the lost tribes of Israel.

Now I would like to cover one other point here before we move on in this series. A lot of people ask the question, "Why is it that we don't have the tribes of Dan and Ephraim mentioned in Revelation when God names the 12 tribes?" Well, there is a reason why the names of Dan and Ephraim are omitted and Joseph and Levi are substituted. If you will

read Deuteronomy 29:18-21, you will find that God told Israel that if any man, woman, family or tribe introduced idolatry into Israel they would have their names blotted out from under Heaven and would be separated out of the tribes of Israel.

Both of these tribes, Dan and Ephraim, introduced idolatry into Israel during the times of the Judges. If you will read Judges 18:30-31 you will see how idolatrous the tribe of Dan became. They set up a golden image. And in I Kings 12:28-31, we see how idolatrous Ephraim became. Hosea 4:17 says, "*Ephraim is joined to idols; let him alone!*"

When God gets ready to seal the 144,000, He is not going to have any time for idolators. And that is the reason why the tribes of Dan and Ephraim are omitted from the list here in Revelation 7.

Now as we move on with our message today, turn with me to Revelation 14:3. Listen:

*"And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth."*

Here we see, beloved, that the 144,000 are going to have such an experience with God that they are going to be given a special song which no one else can ever learn. The Scripture says that they are going to "*sing a new song.*" Why is this a new song? Because no one else will ever have such an experience with God as they.

The 144,000 are going to have "*the mark of God*" on their foreheads. They are going to be protected by God. They are not going to be ashamed to witness for Him. No wonder God gives them a new song to sing. They are going to sing of their experiences with the Lamb of God!

Notice again the phrase, "*and no man could learn that*



song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, WHICH WERE REDEEMED FROM THE EARTH." Here is another Scripture which clearly identifies the 144,000 as Israelites, because the Jews are God's earthly people. The Church is God's heavenly people but Israel is God's earthly people. Every promise that God made to Israel was of an earthly nature, and every promise that God has made to the Church is of a heavenly nature.

God promised Abraham in Genesis 17:8 that his seed would inherit the earth. And we read in Ephesians 1:3 that the Church has been blessed "*with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus.*"

Yes, God has promised us a place in Heaven. But the new earth will be the permanent home of redeemed Israel.

Now another characteristic of the 144,000 that I want you to look at is found in Revelation 14:4. Listen:

*"These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins . . ."*

When the Scripture says they are "virgins," it doesn't mean they are going to be crusty old bachelors -- it simply means they are going to be pure in their living. Virginity in the Bible is a symbol of purity. So the 144,000 are going to be pure witnesses for God.

The Bible says that they aren't going to be defiled by women, and in the Bible a woman is a type of either the true Church or the false church. A good woman is a type of the true Church, and an evil woman is a type of the false church. The true Church is referred to as the Bride of Christ in Ephesians 5 and Revelation 19. But the false church of the last days is pictured as "an old whore." The reason she is called a whore is that she is untrue -- she is unfaithful to the Lord Jesus Christ.

But the 144,000 are not going to be defiled by

women . . . they aren't going to be defiled by the false church . . . they aren't going to be defiled by false doctrine . . . they aren't going to join the ecumenical movement. These 144,000 will stand true to the Word of God. They are going to stand with the Lord Jesus Christ because they are going to be consecrated to God.

Further description of the characteristics of the 144,000 is found in the 5th verse. Notice:

*"And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God."* Rev. 14:5.

In the Greek this verse reads, "No lie was ever found upon their lips, for they are faultless." So you see, beloved, the 144,000 are going to be characterized by their truthfulness. During the Tribulation, when the whole world is given over to lies, these men will always tell the truth.

And then I want you to notice something else about the 144,000. Listen:

*" . . . these are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth . . . "* Rev. 14:4.

Isn't that wonderful? The 144,000 aren't going to run before the Lamb; rather, they are going to follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

Beloved, if there is anything that God desires of you and me, it's that we should follow Him. We need to learn to follow the Lord rather than run before Him. That's why Jesus said, *"Follow me."* He didn't say, *"Go before me."* He said, *"Follow me and I'll make you fishers of men."* What we need to learn is how to fit ourselves into God's program and not try to fit God into our plans. We need to be more like the 144,000, for they are going to follow the Lamb wherever He goes. May that be our earnest desire!

## M E S S A G E 5

In our message today on "THE MYSTERY OF THE 144,000," we are going to look at several additional Scriptures which further describe the 144,000 Jewish witnesses and their ministry. But first let's look once again at Revelation 14:4, and this time let's notice the latter portion of the verse. Listen:

*"... these were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb."*

Just what does this mean, beloved? It means that these 144,000 Jews are going to be the first Jews saved in the Tribulation Period. These 144,000 Jews will be the "firstfruits" of the Jewish nation who will be saved during the Tribulation.

You know, one of the questions we receive the most frequently is, "Will there be anyone saved during the Tribulation?" The Bible answer is definitely, "Yes." And this Scripture which we have just read, Revelation 14:4, is one of the verses that bears out this truth. Let me give you another Scripture that talks about the people saved during the Tribulation. Notice:

*"After this (after the sealing of the 144,000 mentioned in verses 1-8) I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." Rev. 7:9-10.*

And in verse 14 it says, "*These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*"

Here in Revelation the 7th chapter we read about one of the greatest revivals that will ever take place in the history of the world. It is going to be a time when the 144,000 go out to tell the message of salvation to the four corners of the earth. And the Word of God says that an innumerable company from all nations and people and tongues will be saved. You talk about revival, beloved. The world has never seen such a revival as that which will take place under the ministry of the 144,000. Countless multitudes will be won to the Lord by these sealed servants of God.

The 144,000 will accomplish more during the seven year Tribulation Period than the Church has accomplished in 2,000 years! During the past 2,000 years, the Church has failed to evangelize the world. The Church has been a miserable failure. Millions of dollars have been spent on elaborate buildings, beautiful sanctuaries and on denominational programs. But, beloved, let's face it -- the Church has miserably failed to give the message of the Gospel to this world. The 144,000, however, will succeed where the Church has failed as we have seen by the preceding Scripture verses.

Now I know there are some who teach that no one will be saved during the Tribulation because they say the Holy Spirit will be taken away. But, beloved, the Bible doesn't say the Holy Spirit will be taken away during the Tribulation. The Bible does say in II Thessalonians 2:7 that the Holy Spirit will "*be taken out of the way.*" Now it's one thing for the Holy Spirit to be taken away, but it's quite another thing for the Holy Spirit to "*be taken out of the way.*"

**When the Scripture says that the Holy Spirit will be taken out of the way, it simply means that the Holy Spirit will not be here in the same way that He is here today. The Holy Spirit is in the world today, as we are told in John 16:8,**

to *"reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."*

The Holy Spirit is here today to restrain lawlessness and judgment. If it weren't for the Holy Spirit indwelling members of the Body of Christ, all hell would be let loose upon the earth today. But the Lord has given us the Holy Spirit to indwell us, to comfort us and to protect us; because we, as members of the Body of Christ, are the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

But when we go at the Rapture, there will be no more light here in this world. When we are gone, there will be nothing but darkness on this earth. And then the Holy Spirit will *"be taken out of the way"* in His restraining capacity, and the judgments of God are going to fall upon this sin-cursed, God-hating, Christ-rejecting world.

This is what the Bible means when it says that the Holy Spirit will *"be taken out of the way."* It means that the Holy Spirit will be removed in His restraining capacity. However, the Holy Spirit will still come to indwell in the hearts of the 144,000 and those who are saved under their ministry.

In regard to those who will be saved during the Tribulation, I want you to notice that the Word of God tells us that no one will be saved in the Tribulation who had an opportunity to receive Christ in this day of grace. In other words, all who reject the Gospel message today will be lost when the Lord returns. Listen:

*"Even him (the Antichrist), whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."* II Thess. 2:9-12.

Now this is speaking about the people who are left behind to go into the Tribulation. They have heard the message of the Gospel in this day of grace but have rejected it. That's what verse 10 says. Let's look at it once again, "*Because they received* (notice that it is in the past tense) *not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*" And just what is God going to do with these people during the Tribulation? Listen:

*"And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie* (In the Greek it is "the lie," and it refers to the lie that the Antichrist is the true Christ.): *That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*"

So those to whom we are preaching today, who reject the Gospel message but have pleasure in unrighteousness, will become the victims of a "*strong delusion*" in the Tribulation Period. They will believe the lie that the Antichrist is the true Christ. And the Scripture says that they will be damned "*because they received not the love of the truth*" in this day of grace.

But what about the vast multitude of men and women living today who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ? What about the uncoun­ted, untouched and unreached millions of people in India, China, South America, New Zealand, Africa, the South Sea islands and other areas? They have never seen a copy of the Bible. Would it be unjust for God to open their eyes in the Tribulation Period and reach out with His mighty arm and (as the Scripture says) save a "*multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues*"?

Beloved, that is exactly what God is going to do. And it's going to be through the mighty witness of the 144,000 who are going to go out to the four corners of the earth to tell the story of Jesus. They will conduct one of the mightiest revivals of all time.

So we see there will be many people saved in the Tribulation through the witnessing of the 144,000. But just how will God save them? Listen:

*"... these are they which came out of the great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."* Rev. 7:14.

Notice how they washed their robes. Not in the baptistry . . . not in the river . . . not in the creek. Beloved, they washed their robes *"in the blood of the Lamb."*

You see, it doesn't make any difference whether it was in the day of Adam, or in the day of Noah, or in the day of Moses, or in the day of the Apostles, or in our present day or even in the Tribulation -- salvation is always by the blood of Jesus Christ! God says, *"When I see the blood, I will pass over you,"* and *"Without the shedding of blood there is no remission for sin."* God has always saved people on the basis of the shed blood of His Son, Jesus Christ.

# M E S S A G E 6

We are concluding our current series of messages on "THE MYSTERY OF THE 144,000," and today we are going to discuss Israel's hiding place during the Tribulation.

Now we know that at the first part of the Tribulation the Antichrist is going to make a covenant with the Jews and pretend to be their friend. But when the first 3-1/2 years of the Tribulation is over, the Antichrist is going to go to war against Israel. Listen:

*"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease, and for the over-spreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."* Dan. 9:27.

The Antichrist is going to actually enter the Jews' newly rebuilt Temple and demand to be worshipped as God. This is the "abomination of desolation" spoken of by Daniel in Daniel 12:11 and by our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 24:15. Further mention of this "abomination of desolation" is made in II Thessalonians 2:3-4.

When the Jews refuse to worship the Antichrist, he will turn on them and they will have to go into hiding. That's why Jesus said in Matthew 24:16, *"Let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains."* When the Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel, the Jews (including the 144,000 sealed servants of God) will have to flee into the mountains for protection. Listen:



*“And the woman (Israel) fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.” Rev. 12:6.*

This same prophecy is repeated in the 14th verse:

*“And to the woman (Israel) were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time (that’s 3-1/2 years) from the face of the serpent.”*

During the Tribulation, Israel will be tortured, afflicted and persecuted as never before; and she will need a place of refuge. God has already prepared this place, beloved, and it’s 60 miles south of Jerusalem. It’s the city of Petra -- a deserted city cut into sheer rock cliffs almost inaccessible from the outside world.

God prepared this place even before He formed the earth. He foresaw each and every need of His people even before He formed the world, so He prepared for them the city of Petra.

In Isaiah, chapter 16, God tells us that Moab will be a hiding place for the Jews during the Tribulation. By the way, the word “petra” means rock. And that’s exactly what the city of Petra is -- a city that is cut into sheer rock cliffs. This is going to be Israel’s hiding place during the Tribulation, and here they will find protection from the Antichrist.

Now before we conclude these messages, let’s look at some of the prophecies from God’s Word that show we are heading into the Tribulation when the 144,000 will make their appearance.

One Scripture which clearly describes this present Church Age in the last days is found in the Olivet discourse in Matthew, chapter 24. Listen:

*"But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Verse 37.*

Beloved, the Bible tells us exactly how this age is going to end. This Church Age is going to end in sin, violence and apostasy. Only eight souls were saved and snatched away from the flood in Noah's day -- the rest of the world perished in the flood. And our Lord Jesus said it would be the same way at His second coming.

So don't let anyone tell you that this world is going to have a revival before the coming of Christ! There is nothing in the Bible that says the world is going to get better before Christ returns. Jesus said, *"As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it also be in the days of the coming of the Son of man."*

Let me give you several other Scriptures to show you that there is not going to be any worldwide revival before the coming of Christ. In II Timothy, chapter 3, the Apostle Paul gives us 19 signs that will characterize the last days. And he begins by saying, *"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come."* Verse 1.

That doesn't sound like the world is going to get better, does it? Notice verse 13: *"Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."* That doesn't sound like there is going to be a worldwide revival, does it?

Now turn with me again to Matthew, chapter 24. Listen:

*"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Verse 12.*

*"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." Verse 21.*

Beloved, the Bible tells us that Christ is going to come in

time of war. He is going to come in days of famine. It will be in days of international intrigue. Christ is going to come at the midnight hour, and we can expect nothing but sin and apostasy until Christ comes for His Church.

Next let me invite your attention to the fact that the Jews from 86 nations of the earth have already returned to the new state of Israel. The Jews have gone back to Palestine in unbelief exactly as God said they would. Listen: "*For I will take you from among the heathen (or the nations), and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.*" Ezek. 36:24.

Now, beloved, God said He would bring the Jews back to their land. And we have seen this take place to the extent that there are now nearly 3,000,000 Jews in the land of Israel. There are more Jews in Palestine today than there were in the days of our Lord's ministry. Beloved, doesn't this indicate that we are living in the end time?

Today the Jews are even making plans for the rebuilding of their Temple at Jerusalem. Many Orthodox Jews are saying, "We must have the Temple rebuilt. We must restore our Old Testament worship."

What does it all mean? It simply means that you and I are witnessing the national restoration of Israel.

God said He would bring the Jews back to their land, but that isn't all He said. God also said He would bless the land after the Jews returned. Notice:

*"And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the Garden of Eden."* Ezek. 36:34-35.

Beloved, we see this happening before our very eyes. From the standpoint of mineral wealth, from the standpoint of oil, from the standpoint of potassium, from the standpoint

of fruit, from the standpoint of wheat . . . Palestine is one of the richest countries in all the world. God said He would bless the land after the Jews returned, and it's coming to pass exactly as foretold!

So we see that God is once more moving in behalf of His people -- Israel. If God wanted an oak tree in a certain place at a certain time, He wouldn't have to wait until the time came and then cause one to be transplanted to the spot. He could cause an acorn to be dropped hundreds of years before; and the tree would be there, strong and beautiful, when the time came for its use.

Long ago God said in His Word that the tribes of Israel would be restored. Long ago God said in His Word that Israel, in the last days, would return to the land. He said that He would bless the land when the Jews returned. And, beloved, it's all coming to pass exactly as foretold.

Today the Jews are blinded. They don't understand the Gospel . . . they can't comprehend it. But the Scripture says that one of these days the veil will be taken off of their hearts and eyes and Jesus Christ is going to shine through. A nation is going to be born in a day!

Many Jews to whom we are preaching today will have their memories shaken during the Tribulation and will remember the Gospel warnings that we have given them in this day of Grace! Possibly some of the Jews to whom we have witnessed today will be among the 144,000. Remember -- the Jews of today are going to be the evangelists of tomorrow.

*The*  
**Christian Jew Foundation**



ROM. 1:16

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**The End**