

End of Time Study

God's call to urgency

144,000 Evangelists

The relationship between God and Israel is not finished. In fact, a chosen remnant of Israel will play a very important part in the completion of prophecy and the commandments of God.

Revelation 6:12-17 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

After his vision of Seal Number Six, John has another vision described in Chapter 7. He sees a Jewish remnant converted to worship the Lamb of God, that is Jesus.

Revelation 7:2-17 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, 3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. 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. 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. 6 Of the tribe of Aser [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nepthalim [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses [were] sealed twelve thousand. 7 Of the tribe of Simeon [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar [were] sealed twelve thousand. 8 Of the tribe of Zabulon [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin [were] sealed twelve thousand

How you answer to the question “who are the 144,000?” will depend on which interpretive approach you take to the book of Revelation. Many prophecy

scholars interpret the 144,000 symbolically, as representative of the church and the number 144,000 being symbolic of the totality (that is the complete number) of the church. Yet when taken at face value: “Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel,” nothing in the passage leads to interpreting the 144,000 as anything but a literal number of Jews—12,000 taken from every tribe of the “sons of Israel.”

This is the only time in Scripture that the names of the tribes appear in this order. Reuben, the firstborn of Jacob, is listed as second while Judah, fourth in birth order, is listed as first. Do you see that Joseph and Levi are included, while Ephraim and Dan are left out. This is because [Genesis 49:17 Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward](#). In the Bible, a serpent is a symbol of Satan. The critical, backbiting nature of Dan aligned this tribe with the kingdom of Satan instead of the kingdom of God. Likewise, the tribe of Ephraim had forsaken the God of Israel and had embraced paganism. [Hosea 4:17-19 Ephraim \[is\] joined to idols: let him alone. 18 Their drink is sour: they have committed whoredom continually: her rulers \[with\] shame do love, Give ye. 19 The wind hath bound her up in her wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices](#). Because of these, we believe Ephraim and Dan are left out of the 144,000.

The Church will be raptured before the seven years of tribulation begin and the 144,000 remnant of Israel will be chosen to stay on the earth during the first part, at least, of the tribulation period. And this remnant has a God given Biblical purpose. Their mission is to evangelize the post-rapture world and proclaim the gospel during the tribulation period. As a result of their ministry, millions will come to faith in Christ. These Jews are “sealed,” which means they have the special protection of God from all of the divine judgments and from the Antichrist to perform their mission during the tribulation period

[Revelation 7:9-14 After this 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; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and \[about\] the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, \[be\] unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. 13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? 14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.](#)

The 144,000 Jews are spoken of again in Revelation Chapter 14. The mount Sion spoken of here is a heavenly place, not the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Revelation 14:1-7 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. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: 3 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. 4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, [being] **the firstfruits** unto God and to the Lamb. 5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God. 6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Notice verse 4. The 144,000 Jews are “first fruits” of a redeemed Israel which has been previously prophesied. They are young men, probably just having reached the age of accountability, based on the Bar-mitzvah, at age 13. One of the principles that a first fruit offering taught was that a future harvest was promised. The first fruits were just a taste of what lay in store at the end of the full ingathering of the harvest. Therefore, when a first fruit offering was brought before the Lord, it represented a prayer to Him to watch over the future harvest that was represented by the presentation of this offering.

Jeremiah 2:3 Israel [was] holiness unto the LORD, [and] the firstfruits of his increase: all that devour him shall offend; evil shall come upon them, saith the LORD.

Because God chose Israel as the first fruit of all the nations of the earth, He was anticipating His plan for the final harvest in which other nations would be gathered in to the Kingdom of God.

Zechariah 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for [his] only [son], and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for [his] firstborn.

Romans 11:25-27 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is

happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. 26 **And so all Israel shall be saved:** as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: 27 For this [is] my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Much of the confusion regarding the 144,000 is a result of the false doctrine of the Jehovah's Witnesses. The Jehovah's Witnesses claim that 144,000 is a limit to the number of people who will reign with Christ in heaven and spend eternity with God. The 144,000 have what the Jehovah's Witnesses call the heavenly hope. Those who are not among the 144,000 will enjoy what they call the earthly hope—a paradise on earth ruled by Christ and the 144,000. Clearly, we can see that Jehovah's Witness teaching sets up a caste society in the afterlife with a ruling class (the 144,000) and those who are ruled. The Bible teaches no such "dual class" doctrine.

Two Supernatural Witnesses

Revelation 11:3-6 And I will give [power] unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred [and] threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. 4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. 6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

Many Christians through the ages have wondered who the "two witnesses" of Revelation 11 happen to be. The two witnesses are among the most dramatic characters of Scripture. They prophesy before the world for three and a half years (1,260 days). During this time, they can strike the earth with whatever plague they desire, and cannot be harmed by their enemies. Ultimately, they are killed by the beast, but they rise to life in three and a half days. How are we to understand the two witnesses and the unusual happenings surrounding their lives?

Who are these two "Witnesses?" Moses and Elijah are seen as probabilities due to the witnesses' power to turn water into blood, which Moses is known for in Exodus Chapter 7, and their power to destroy people with fire, which Elijah is known for in 2 Kings Chapter 1. Also, Moses and Elijah represent the "Law" and the "Prophets," the two essential elements of Judaic tradition. In addition, giving strength to this view is the fact that Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus at the transfiguration.

Matthew 17:1-3 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was

white as the light. 3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

Further, Jewish tradition expected Moses and Elijah to return in the future. Malachi predicted the return of Elijah, and the Jews believed that God's promise to raise up a prophet like Moses necessitated his return.

Malachi 4:4-5 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, [with] the statutes and judgments. 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

They are clothed in sackcloth, emblematic of remorse and repentance. The two olive trees, imply an abundant supply of oil for the lamps, i.e. the Spirit. This image comes from Zech 4:2. The two witnesses are to witness in the power of the Holy Spirit, the famous phrase 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit' comes from Zech 4:6.

Zechariah 4:2-6 And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all [of] gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which [are] upon the top thereof: 3 And two olive trees by it, one upon the right [side] of the bowl, and the other upon the left [side] thereof. 4 So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What [are] these, my lord? 5 Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. 6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This [is] the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

They prophesy for 1260 days, i.e. 42 months, the same time that the Gentiles trample on the holy city and 42 months is the same as the three and a half years that Elijah prayed that it would not rain. James comments that the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective and then gives the example of Elijah.

James 5:16-17 Confess [your] faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. 17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

We have already seen the power of the prayers of the saints in the prelude to the seven trumpets.

Revelation 11:7-10 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall

overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies [shall lie] in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. 10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

Until now, Satan has controlled the Antichrist and the False Prophet by "remote control" so to speak. Now he ascends out of the pit and takes direct control. The word "overpower" suggests that it will be a fight - remember, the Two Witnesses can breath fire - but the Beast will win and the Two Witnesses will be killed. They will lay in the streets of Jerusalem while their enemies celebrate. The people will not tolerate that the bodies of the prophets be buried for at least "three and half days", or half a week, and they will be sending gifts to one another and having a world wide holiday because these prophets have been conquered by the antichrist.

The great city where the Lord was crucified, of course, was Jerusalem. When Satan rules as the Antichrist, Jerusalem – the corporate church – will be like the wicked cities of Sodom and Egypt. Sodom was known for its immorality Like Sodom, most end-time congregations will be adulterous, through their embracing of man-centered doctrines. Egypt was the great corrupter, also the land of bondage. By the time the little horn takes his seat in the temple, the church will have been thoroughly corrupted by and therefore enslaved to the world. So apparently, this city Jerusalem, spiritually, is considered by the prophets as being "Sodom and Egypt", two abominably pagan mindsets.

Revelation 11:11-13 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. 13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

The great voice from heaven belongs to Jesus. Just as Lazarus was raised when Jesus cried out to him. They will then ascend to heaven in a cloud, meaning they will ascend with the Lord in glory. Fittingly, the prophet Elijah, one of the two witnesses, also ascended to heaven in spectacular fashion the first time.

2 Kings 2:11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, [there appeared] a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

The Jewish Temple will have been rebuilt and the daily oblations and sacrifices reinstated. At the halfway point of the 7 years of tribulation, having killed the two witnesses, the antichrist will assume the position of God. The antichrist, the "man of lawlessness," was prophesied to "set himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Daniel 9:25-27 Know therefore and understand, [that] from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince [shall be] seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof [shall be] with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. **27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make [it] desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.**

This is the "abomination of desolation," spoken of by Jesus.

Matthew 24:15-22 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: 17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. 19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! 20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: 21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Immediately after the Beast kills the Two Witnesses there will be a local earthquake in Jerusalem that will kill 7000 people. The earthquake is part of the Sixth Seal we discussed before. This time is pivotal and marks the end of the first three and one half years of the Tribulation and the beginning of the Great Tribulation, marked by the seven trumpets and the seven bowls or vials. God is about to unleash His full wrath upon the earth.