

## DAY 21: THE MYSTERIOUS IDENTITY OF THE 144,000 REVEALED

Revelation 7 is broken up into two parts. In Part I, John has a vision of 144,000 (12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel) sealed before 4 angels who are holding back the judgements of God. In Part II, John has a vision of a great crowd in heaven. There are different views as to who the 144,000 are, and any viewpoint will have certain pros and cons.

### I. WHO ARE THE 144,000?

- A. 12,000 x 12 tribes
- B. “Four angels at the four corners of the Earth” ([Revelation 7:1](#))
  - 1. Figurative and symbolic language are found in the Bible, particularly within apocalyptic literature
  - 2. This verse is not meant to be literal
- C. The seal of the living God is to go on the foreheads of the servants of God ([v. 3](#))
- D. Judah mentioned first to give preeminence to the lineage of Jesus ([v. 5](#))
- E. Some might say that this number represents the church at large
  - 1. Nowhere in the New Testament is the church referred to as Israel
  - 2. This thinking often related to replacement theology
- F. Some say this number are believing Messianic Jews, seems to be the most likely position

### II. THE TWO-HOUSE DOCTRINE

- A. States that after the Assyrians invaded, 10 tribes lost their identity and essentially became Gentiles
- B. Claim that God restoring the twelve tribes refers to born-again Christians being brought together
- C. However, the idea that these 10 tribes were lost is not biblical
  - 1. Misinterpretation of vocabulary in [Genesis 48:17-20](#)
  - 2. Israel is a “unified people,” does not mean Gentile ([Jeremiah 31:36](#))
  - 3. Israel referred to as a holy nation ([Exodus 19:6](#))
- D. The ten tribes were dispersed, but they have always been Israel
  - 1. [Jeremiah 31](#), [Ezra 2:7](#), [Nehemiah 8:13](#), [Luke 2:36](#), [Acts 4:8-10](#), [Galatians 2:9](#), [Romans 11:7-14](#)
- E. Gentiles are never referred to as Ephraim in the Bible

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**III. BLACK, HEBREW ISRAELITES**

- A. A cultic group that use the scriptures to teach that if you are black and from certain areas that you are one of the lost tribes of Israel
- B. If you are white, salvation is impossible
- C. The United States is Israel, the Jews that live in Israel today are fake Jews
  - 1. Antisemitic replacement theology
- D. Scripture to refute this ideology: [Joel 3:1-3](#)
  - 1. “When I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem...” (v. 1)
    - a) Clarifies that this occurs in Jerusalem, not the United States
  - 2. The people who live in Israel today represent all the tribes of Israel
  - 3. The Lord calls them His people, Israel (not Judah)
  - 4. Referring to the armies of the Antichrist attacking the people

**IV. THE PARADOX OF GOD’S PEOPLE**

- A. It can be easy for one who hates the Jews to take scripture and use it against them
- B. It is only appropriate for God, who knows the current state of the Jews and still calls them His people, to discipline His people
  - 1. Scripture shows us the Lord’s heart for his people ([Joel 3](#))
  - 2. Like a good father disciplining his child
- C. So, the 144,000 seem to be, according to scripture, faithful Jewish believers who are alive when the sealing takes place
  - 1. Protected and sealed from God’s wrath and judgement, not necessarily from death or from Satan’s persecution
- D. The 144,000 are the first fruits among the Jewish Messianic believers ([Revelation 14:1-5](#))