

THE POINT OF THE 144,000

Revelation 7:4-8

The point of the numbers

- A. Facts to note:
1. People from e_____ tribe are sealed.
 2. Each tribe has the s_____ number of people who are sealed (12,000)
- B. The above facts show the i_____ of God in saving people. This is a teaching of both the Old and New Testaments.
1. Old Testament – Deut 10:17 – G_____ declared it.
 2. New Testament
 - a. Acts 10:34,35 – P_____ finally understood this.
 - b. Rom 2:11; Gal 2:6; Eph 5:9 – P_____ taught this.
 - c. Rev 5:9 – Jesus is pictured as purchasing with his blood people from every t_____, tongue, people, and nation.
- C. In conclusion – the point of the numbers are to show the impartiality of God in saving people.

The point of the nationality

- A. The term, *sons of Israel*, can only be understood in one of two ways. Let's look at it from a physical viewpoint.
1. The sons of Jacob (whose name was changed to Israel) are listed for us in Gen 35:22-26.
 - a. The sons from L_____ numbered 6: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun
 - b. The sons from R_____ numbered 2: Joseph and Benjamin.
 - c. The sons from Bilhah (Rachel's m_____) numbered 2: Dan and Naphtali.
 - d. The sons from Zilpah (Leah's m_____) numbered 2: Gad and Asher.
 2. Compare the above list to the tribes named in Rev 7.
 - a. The tribe of D_____ is not listed which would make John's statement false – *and I heard the number of them who were sealed, 144,000 from E_____ tribe of the sons of Israel.*

- b. Manasseh is listed as a tribe in verse 6 but in actuality it was a h_____ tribe which it is called over 30 times in the Old Testament (e.g Num 32:33; Deut 3:13; Josh 1:2; 1Chr 5:18).
- c. The tribe of Joseph was made up of two half tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim, which were the names of his two s_____. The tribe of Joseph is in the list instead of Ephraim (v. 8).

B. Let's look at it from a spiritual viewpoint.

1. Jesus has already referred to Jewishness in a spiritual sense in Rev 2:9 and 3:9 – *those who say they are Jews but are not but are a synagogue of S_____.*
2. Gal 3:7,29 – it was a Christian teaching that all people regardless of their race are sons of A_____ by faith.
3. Rev 14 gives us a further description of the 144,000 that pictures them standing with the Lamb on Mt. Zion.
 - a. Those purchased from the earth as f_____ fruits from among mankind (vv. 3,4)
 - 1) 1Thess 4:16,17 – when Jesus descends from h_____ all believers will be gathered together in the air and be f_____ with the Lord.
 - 2) Jms 1:18 calls all believers, *the first fruits among His c_____*
 - 3) Rev 14:15-19 mentions two harvests:
 - i. The harvest of b_____ (15,16) – these are the first to be harvested or the first fruits.
 - ii. The harvest of unbelievers who experience the w_____ of God (vv. 18,19)
 - b. Men who have not been d_____ by women but follow the Lamb wherever He goes (v. 4)
 - 1) Often times idolatry was spoken of in s_____ terms (e.g. Jdg 2:17 – the people of Israel were *playing the h_____* by going after other gods).
 - 2) Rev 14:4 explains being sexually undefiled as *f_____ the Lamb wherever He goes.*

C. Which makes sense to you?

Conclusion:

A. Putting Rev 7:1-8 together with the sixth seal

1. Before God unleashes His w_____ on the unbelieving world, He must finish saying He is going to save (*Do not harm the earth, sea, and trees, until we have sealed the bondservants of God on their foreheads*).
2. These bondservants are called s_____ of Israel in verse 4 and then later called first fruits purchased from mankind and virgin men who faithfully follow the Lamb, thus painting a picture of faith.
3. God's saving work among mankind will be an impartial work in that He will save people from e_____ tribe (which corresponds to Rev 5:9)

B. Do you believe that God is impartial when it comes to saving people?.

1. How do you respond to Jehovah's Witnesses or Mormon missionaries that knock on your door? – God saves people from every r_____ (even Christian ones).
2. How do you respond to people who are so entrenched in sin that they seem hopelessly lost? – God saves s_____ (which is what you were).
3. How do we respond to the people groups that have yet to hear the gospel?
 - a. Pray!
 - b. Give!
 - c. Go if called (Project 3000 – imb.org)