

# Introduction to the 144,000

By

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&

Friends

# Introduction to the 144,000

When we last spoke, we talked about the **Investigative Judgment** and the **Two Bloods** that were necessary for a favorable outcome. We must keep in mind that the whole service demonstrated in the sanctuary was for the cleansing of the “sanctuary” of its blood defilement, i.e. the cleansing of sin from our “body temple.”

**EXPLAIN 1<sup>st</sup> Blood** – Forgiveness of sins and a record of sins made. (Blood applied to the **Altar of Incense** in the **Holy Place**)

**Question:** Why a record of sins?

**Answer:** Because not everyone who says “Lord, Lord shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven;...” **Matt. 7:21.**

# Introduction to the 144,000

**EXPLAIN 2<sup>nd</sup> Blood** – To blot out their sins-to erase!  
(Applied to the **Mercy Seat** on the **Day of Atonement**)

But before this can be accomplished there must be an investigation of their life's record. This is to determine who are worthy candidates to receive the final atoning blood of Christ offered on the **Day of Atonement**.

However, to have their sins blotted out, their life's record must reveal that had time and opportunity been afforded to them, they would have gone on to achieve Christ-likeness. Now remember, that service was to make the comers **perfect** as pertaining to the **conscience**.

This judgment is based on the assumption that they would have gone on to victory. That assumption is based...

# Introduction to the 144,000

...on their life's record, but this is only part of the proof. The rest of the proof lies with the 144,000 themselves (the living).

**PLEASE NOTE: SC 57,58:** “The character is revealed, not by occasional good deeds and occasional misdeeds, but by the tendency of the habitual words and acts.”

**2 Cor. 8:12:** “For if there be first a **willing** mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.”

Who are the 144,000?

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**Question:** Would you like to be translated?

**God's ultimate Goal** is to take an individual from outside the sanctuary and place him in the **Most Holy Compartment**, but to get in there, you must have a character worthy to stand in the presence of God. **God promises that He will accomplish that in you.**

**Isa. 13:12**, [God] says, "I will make a man more precious than fine gold;..."

**Isa. 55:11** says, "...it [God's Word] will not return unto Me [Him] void."

**RH 3/9/1905** says, "let us strive with all the power God has given us, to be among the 144,000."

# Who are the 144,000?

**Question:** What do we know about the 144,000?

**Rev. 7:4,** We know that they are sealed.

**Rev. 14:1,** They have the Father's name written in their foreheads.

**Rev. 3:12:** "Him that overcometh [sin]...I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, which is New Jerusalem...and I will write upon him My new name."

**Rev. 14:3, GC 649,** They sing a new song.

**Rev. 14:4,** They are virgins – not defiled with women (a **pure faith** not contaminated with false doctrine).

**Matt. 25:1-10,** The ten virgins (five trim their lamps)

**GC 402:** "Trimmed their lamps" is a symbol = "they [the wise virgins] studied the Word of God with an **intensity** of interest before unknown" ... 7

# Who are the 144,000?

**GC 427**, in speaking of the five wise virgins says, “If *guests*, they cannot be represented also as the *bride*.”  
(The 144,000 are the bride.)

**Rev. 14:4**, They follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

**Rev. 14:4**, They are the “**firstfruits**” [victorious].  
**firstfruit**=burst from the womb (Strong’s **Hb. 1069**)

**Rev. 14:5**, They are without fault before the throne.

**Rev. 21:9**, They are [as New Jerusalem] Christ’s bride.

**Rev. 3:12**: “Him that overcometh...I will write upon him the name...New Jerusalem...”

The four groups that actually make up the kingdom of God:

## **GC 665:**

1. Brands plucked from the fire
2. 144,000
3. Martyrs
4. Great multitude which no man can number

# Who are the 144,000?

## **Question: Why strive to be among the 144,000?**

To understand the answer to this question, we must look to the sleeping saints of all ages. It cannot be denied, that the vast majority of the righteous dead will, in fact, be resurrected to a level of sinlessness that they did not achieve in their lifetime.

It cannot be assumed for example, that the thief on the cross was perfect at the moment of conversion. **Total victory** over sin never comes instantly. Yet **assurance** of salvation does. Sanctification, though, is the work of a lifetime.

# Who are the 144,000?

**Question: Why strive to be among the 144,000? (cont)**

Those who **die** with this **assurance**, though without total victory will be resurrected to a level of sinlessness that in their lifetime, they did not have opportunity to attain. This would account for the majority (could it be 99.9% or more?) of all the redeemed. Their perfection comes to pass, through miraculous re-creation, rather than through personal struggle.

# Who are the 144,000?

**Question: Why strive to be among the 144,000? (cont)**

This is the only possible explanation for **Heb.11:38-40**, which speaks of the dead being MADE perfect. **DA 388**: "And Jesus said, 'I will raise him up at the last day'. Christ became one flesh with us, in order that we might become one spirit with Him. It is by virtue of this union that we are to come forth from the grave,-- not merely as a manifestation of the power of Christ, **but because, through faith, His life has become ours.**"

# Who are the 144,000?

**Question #1:** Why must the **last generation** reach a higher attainment than did its fathers?

**Question #2:** What gives God the **legal right to resurrect the dead short of their perfection?**

**Question #3:** If God, in the past, could save His people short of their perfection, why could He not save the last generation, short of their perfection?

**Question #4:** What evidentiary proof do we have that sin will not rise the second time?

**Question #5:** Why the need for total purification of the last generation [obedience, keeping God's Law], when it was not essential before?

**Question #6:** But is man capable of overcoming as Christ overcame?

# Who are the 144,000?

**Question #1:** Why must the **last generation** reach a higher attainment than did its fathers?

**COL 69** says, “Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. **When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.**” In other words, when the gospel accomplishes what it is intended to do, then He will come. **But the question remains the same, WHY?** Why must the last generation reach a higher attainment than did it’s fathers?

**Answer #1:** One simple and certainly true answer is that previous generations never had to face the final crisis on earth without an intercessor, which occurs after the close of probation during the time of Jacob’s trouble.

# Who are the 144,000?

**Answer #1:** (cont)

**Question:** What does it mean to stand without an intercessor?

**DA 302** says, “The **Holy Spirit never leaves unassisted** the soul who is looking unto Jesus. He takes of the things of Christ and shows them unto him. If the eye is kept fixed on Christ, the work of the Spirit ceases **not** until the soul is conformed to His image.”

The Holy Spirit has many functions, one of which is to impart the character of Christ to us. It is this aspect of the Holy Spirit that ceases (when Christ’s character is completely imparted).

**1T 130** says, “Such realize not how they would feel should the sustaining hand of God be withdrawn, and they pass through anguish of soul.”<sup>14</sup>

# Who are the 144,000?

**Answer #1:** (cont)

**Question:** What does it mean to stand without an intercessor? (cont)

**Answer:** The work of the Holy Spirit imparting Christ's character to you has come to an end.

**Answer:** Christ steps out from between man and the Father. In other words, **substitution has ceased, the Veil is removed.** Without the Veil, we would become suicidal in a very short time. Our sins would rise up, our own guilt would crush us.

**MB 116:** "We should not try to lessen our guilt by excusing sin. **We must accept God's estimate of sin,** and that is heavy indeed. **Calvary alone** can reveal the terrible **enormity of sin.** **If we had to bear our own guilt, it would crush us."**

# Who are the 144,000?

**Question #2:** What gives God the **legal right to resurrect the dead short of their perfection?**

**Answer #2:** Sin, unlike a physical disease or defect, is at all times and in all forms a matter of **will**. Sin is something that exists by **choice**. Since this disposition to yield to temptation is a matter of **free choice**, then perfection through miraculous re-creation runs the risk of violating one's **freedom of choice**.

The only way then, that God can miraculously perfect an imperfect person without violating his freedom, is through the assumption that, that person would have **freely chosen** such perfection had the opportunity offered itself. This is precisely what God is doing for the dead in Christ....

# Who are the 144,000?

## **Answer #2:** (cont)

...That assumption, however, must be proven true through the process of the Investigative Judgment, which will determine who are worthy candidates for the final atoning blood of Christ. That judgment is based on their life's record, but their record is only part of the proof. The rest of the proof lies with the 144,000 themselves.

**Question:** What would be the purpose of having every thought and intent enter into the judgment if there was an excuse for sin?

**Answer:** No purpose.

**Question:** What is the Gospel?

**Answer: Rom. 1:16:** "It is the power of God unto salvation..."

# Who are the 144,000?

**Answer #2:** (cont)

**Question:** Salvation from what?

**Answer:** Sin!

**Question:** Was the Gospel designed to save us **in** our sins or **from** our sins?

**Make sure you understand the difference.** We want to be clear, that people who come forth from their graves were **not saved in their sins**, but **from their sins**.

# Who are the 144,000?

**Answer #2:** (cont) – **Heb.11:40** states, “God having provided some better thing for us [the living], that they [the dead] without us [the living – 144,000] should not be made perfect.” This verse indicates that God is making the dead perfect on the assumption that had time and opportunity been afforded to the faithful dead, they would have gone on to surrender, completely and entirely, their **will** to Christ. Thus, enabling Him to do of His good will and pleasure in them, to make an end to sin in each of their lives. And remember, for God to re-create on that assumption, that assumption must obviously be proven true. The 144,000 will vindicate that assumption.

**Note: Whether we realize it or not, there are several legalities involved with the perfection of God’s sleeping saints.**

# Who are the 144,000?

**Answer #2:** (cont)

**Illustration:** The **physical teaches the spiritual**. In the illustration of a corn field, you came to buy corn early in the harvest, you would taste the firstfruit of that harvest, and on the basis of that perfect taste, you would purchase the entire field. God is purchasing the entire field (dead in Christ) on the assumption that they would have eventually gone on to be like the firstfruit. The 144,000 are the first fruit, vindicating God's method of saving the dead, giving God the **legal right** to resurrect anyone whose record reveals their **willingness** to overcome. Of course, this assumption is predicated on the fact that the 144,000 will materialize.

# Who are the 144,000?

## **Answer #2:** (cont)

Christ needs His bride to validate His method of saving the dead, on the assumption that they would have allowed Christ to achieve the same victory in their life.

**Note:** It is therefore to be expected that Satan would concentrate his greatest effort of all time toward preventing the perfection of God's remnant people. At the end, it matters not to him if they have but **partially achieved**, as have previous generations of the faithful. **All that ultimately matters to Satan**, is that the remnant's complete perfection be prevented, for this is all that is necessary to destroy the entire length of the process of redemption and defeat all that God has ever done on behalf of mankind.

# Who are the 144,000?

**NOTE:** This is why Satan has his eye on this church. **We are the only ones who threaten his very existence.**

**NOTE:** Beautifully, that God is willing to entrust us with helping Him to vindicate a plan that was so masterly contrived, is beyond our comprehension. **He will do so through the very people who Satan deems unworthy.**

# Who are the 144,000?

**Question #3:** If God, in the past, could save His people short of their perfection, why could He not save the last generation short of their perfection?

**Answer #3:** Perfection through physical re-creation, without a perfect last generation poses yet another hazard, one quite distinct from that of violating freedom. If through physical re-creation, we can be assured that the evils of sin will be miraculously averted, even apart from full personal victory, then **the enormity of sin becomes a moot issue.**

**Physical re-creation** as a solution to sin inescapably **minimizes the evil** of sin, and to **minimize the enormity of sin is to make its power absolutely unbreakable.** (He can do it for the dead in Christ, but **not** for those living in the last generation)....

# Who are the 144,000?

**Answer #3:** (cont)

... If then, the last generation, as never before, is to be convicted of the enormity of sin, the last generation, as never before, must be denied the option of perfection through the miracle of physical re-creation.

**Question #4:** What proof do we have that sin will not rise the second time?

**Answer #4:** If the last generation were able to be miraculously re-created into a sinless state, **apart from total victory** they would not have been overcomers, **thus running the risk** that sin would rise a second time. In other words, sin would never be eradicated. Satan would then say to God, "I told you they couldn't do it."

**Consider:** If that is the best God could do for us (saving us in our sins), He would have ended it 6,000 years ago.

# Who are the 144,000?

**Question #5:** Why the need for total purification of the last generation [obedience, keeping God's Law], when it was not essential before?

**Answer #5:** This and perhaps the most obvious, has to do with Satan's accusation that man cannot keep the law of God. If God is not able to achieve this by man's **willingness** to surrender (dying to self and being born again), then Satan's accusation is true and he wins the controversy.

In other words, unless the gospel accomplishes what it was intended to do (cleanse us from sin), **no one** would be saved! And if God is going to finish the sanctification of the dead based on what the 144,000 achieve through Christ's victory, then God needs this group to silence Satan's accusations. Satan failed the first time at the cross; he wants to make sure he doesn't fail again with us.

# Who are the 144,000?

**Question #6:** But is man capable of overcoming as Christ overcame?

**Answer #6:** The book of **Hebrews** affirms that Christ died not only as God, but also as man. Paul in this epistle goes out of his way to stress that **this conflict occurred within the human domain**, the domain of flesh and blood, the domain of weakness, of infirmity, of temptation. **This was the arena in which His struggle took place. His divinity accorded Him no advantage.**

**Note:** Some might say that because Christ was God, it was easier for Him. But not so. Christ's temptations were greater than ours. It was as hard for Christ to veil His divinity as it is for us to suppress our old nature.

# Who are the 144,000?

## Answer #6: (cont)

**Heb. 2:17:** “Wherefore, in all things it behooved Him to be made like His brethren,...” This is how Hebrews would have us understand the cross. (Please bear in mind, there is no way the finite mind can fully understand the nature of Christ completely as it relates to His divinity and humanity. Study the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy on this.) The **cross** declares that man can engage the enemy in this worst of all conflicts, and so triumph over him as to be forever free from sin. The **cross** on which a Man died, proves that it is possible. **Were this not the case**, were the **cross** instead a display of a victory that no man could attain, then, to that extent, man would have to be saved in his sins and in the deception of sin....

# Who are the 144,000?

**Answer #6:** (cont)

**...And to affirm this possibility is to affirm what the cross totally denies.**

**NOTE:** If it is impossible to be saved “from” sin, then the plan of salvation, to that extent, would necessarily declare that it is possible to be saved “in” sin. To deny the possibility of victory, is to affirm the possibility of salvation within at least a measure of defeat. And to affirm this possibility is to affirm what the cross totally denies. **The Cross proves: there is no excuse for sin.**

Without the final victory it would appear to sinners and the universe that sin and life are not mutually exclusive. Without the final victory, sin would rise a second time.

# Who are the 144,000?

**Conclusion:** The 144,000 will be as perfect as Christ was humanly perfect, because by faith Christ's life has become their life as it relates to character only. They will be beyond substitutionary atonement in their experience. That perfection, promised by substitutionary atonement, was based on their future obedience. Now, their perfection is reality. (Christ, our High Priest will say, "**It is done.**")

Indeed they will have taken on the fullness of the character of Christ.

**Question:** What is this statement, "**It is done!**" in reference to?

**Answer:** God has made an **end of sin in His people.**

**GC 613:** "Christ has made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins."

# Who are the 144,000?

**Conclusion:** (cont)

**NOTE:** From all of this it is evident how absolutely crucial is a perfect last generation to the entire 6,000 year process of redemption.

The entire 6,000 year road is no better than its last bridge. Knock out this last bridge and the entire 6,000 year length of the roadway becomes a useless hoax.

Unless the sanctuary is at last cleansed, none, who have been redeemed during the period of its defilement, can at last be saved.

The fate of the entire 6,000 year effort thus hinges upon its final hour and final victory. **(That hour is given to us).**

# Who are the 144,000?

## **Conclusion:** (cont)

The entire process, from the very first sacrifice offered by Adam and Eve, has been predicated upon a final victory.

**Heb. 11:40** states, hence "...they [the dead] without us [the living – 144,000] should not be made perfect."

**Question:** Why would God stop interceding for His people if they still needed it?

**Answer:** He does so



***BECAUSE, "IT IS DONE!"***

# Who are the 144,000?

## Special Consideration:

**DA. 123** says, “He [Christ] did not consent to sin. Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us. Christ's humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And He came to make us partakers of the divine nature. So long as we are united to Him by faith, sin has no more dominion over us.”

**Note:** The Christian who ceases to sin, even by a thought, is still a human being, his character may be perfect, but as a child of sinful Adam, he is imperfect. Things such as poor

# Who are the 144,000?

## **Special Consideration:** (cont)

grammar, unpleasant personality traits or habits of personal hygiene. These things remain until “the last trump, ... when we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

## **I COR. 15:52, 53**

Not until they receive the finishing touches of immortality will they be truly free. Though they have achieved the victory over sin by partaking of the divine nature and have no propensities toward sin there is still this matter of earthliness such as unbelief.

# Who are the 144,000?

**Special Consideration:** (cont)

**PROPENSITIES:** = An intense and often urgent natural inclination (toward sin) Web. Dic.

**GC. 621** say's in reference to the time of trouble (Jacob's trouble) “but it is needful for them to be placed in the furnace of fire; their earthliness must be consumed, that the image of Christ may be perfectly reflected.” Then and only then are they ready for translation.

# Who are the 144,000?

## **Additional subjects for study:**

My hour has come.

Garments.

Joseph's Story.

Refer to the Audio for these additional subjects.