



“Who are the 144,000”

Revelation 7:4-8

July 19, 2026

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: [Rev 7:4-8 NASB95]

INTRODUCTION:

Are the 144,000 the literal descendants of the 12 tribes or are they allegorically, the Israel of God, the Church?

Main point: God is not finished with Israel and the tribulation will be a time when the nation is brought under chastisement and called to national repentance with the fulfillment of the Covenants, the Abrahamic, the Land Covenant, and the New Covenant, and Christ's return to establish God's kingdom on earth.

Contextual point: There is a pause between the Seal #6 judgment and Seal #7 in order to redeem and call 144,000 young men of the 12 tribes of Israel to gather tribulation saints and to be the first fruits of a national repentance of Israel to bring the return of Christ and the kingdom of God to earth.

Reason for the pause: An angel with the seal of God comes...”3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."” [Rev 7:3]

1. How do we interpret a prophetic passage?

4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: [Rev 7:4 NASB95]

1. USE THE GOLDEN RULE OF _____ by David L. Cooper

“When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise.”

1. Take the plain sense of God's word _____.

"2 in the hope of eternal life, which **God**, who **cannot lie**, promised long ages ago," [Tit 1:2 NASB95]

2. God's unconditional covenants are not determined by _____ but accomplished by God.

"27 "THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS." 28 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of [God's] choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; 29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." [Rom 11:27-29]

3. Interpret prophetic symbols as _____ in it's context or in other prophetic passages.

"20 "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and **the seven lampstands are the seven churches.**" [Rev 1:20 NASB95]

4. Pray that the Holy Spirit teaches us the things freely _____ by God.

"13 (the things freely given to us by God)... we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual [thoughts] with spiritual [words.] 14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised." [1Co 2:13-14 NASB95]

2. Interpret the text _____ the answers for six questions.

Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?

1. Who? Redeemed from 12 tribes of Israel they are _____ of God and the Lamb's kingdom.

"4 It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been **redeemed** from mankind as **firstfruits for God and the Lamb,**" [Rev 14:4 ESV]

1) **Sexual abstinence and ritual purity were required for God's _____ in OT Holy War.**

"4 The priest answered David and said, "There is no ordinary bread on hand, but there is consecrated bread; if only the young men have kept themselves from women." 5 David answered the priest and said to him, "Surely women have been kept from us as previously when I set out and the vessels of the young men were holy, though it was an ordinary journey; how much more then today will their vessels [be holy?]" [1Sa 21:4-5 NASB95]

2) **Are Christ's Israeli soldiers _____ with the gospel, miracles, and/or infliction of harm?**

2. **What? The seal designates the conflict of Christ's kingdom with the Antichrist's _____.**

"3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have **sealed** the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads." [Rev 7:3 NASB95]

1) **The Antichrist's mark is being given his _____ and his number.**

"16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given **a mark on their right hand or on their forehead**, 17 and [he provides] that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has **the mark**, [either] **the name of the beast or the number of his name**." [Rev 13:16-17 NASB95]

2) **The seal is being given the _____ of the Lamb and Father God.**

"1 Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb [was] standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having **His name and the name of His Father** written on their foreheads." [Rev 14:1 NASB95]

3) **They are sealed from divine _____ and the Antichrist's _____.**

3. **Where? The sealed are seen on Mt Zion with Christ but may proclaim the gospel in the world.**

1) **Christ is seen in the vision _____ the elect of Israel.**

"1 Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb [was] standing **on Mount Zion**, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads." [Rev 14:1]

2) **The _____ Jewish people are certainly able to evangelize every continent as well.**

4. **When? They are sealed before the _____ tribulation of the second half occurs**

1) **The 144,000 sealed are contrasted with the martyred _____ from every nation.**

"14 I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." [Rev 7:14]

2) **The indication is that the sealed are protected both from God's _____ and Satan's _____.**

5. **Why? They are sealed for the _____ of the sovereign prophetic will of Almighty God.**

1) **The repetition of the word _____ suggests a royal proclamation of a Sovereign's will.**

σφραγίς **sphragís**, sfrag-ece'; probably strengthened from G5420; a signet (as fencing in or protecting from misappropriation); by implication, the stamp impressed (as a mark of privacy, or genuineness), literally or figuratively: — seal.

2) **The near context tells us the seal represents the _____ of the Father.**

"1 I saw in **the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book** written inside and on the back, **sealed up with seven seals**." [Rev 5:1 NASB95]

3) **Jesus takes the sealed scroll and takes _____.**

The Lamb, the Lion of the tribe of Judah..."7 And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne." [Rev 5:7 NASB95]

4) **The _____ of Abrahamic, Land, and David covenants are beginning fulfillment.**

"28 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of [God's] choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; 29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." [Rom 11:28-29 NASB95]

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6. How? They are sealed with _____ and given a divine calling including special protection.

1) They are the first fruits of a _____ repentance of Israel.

4 These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These [are] the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been **purchased** from among men as **first fruits to God and to the Lamb.**" [Rev 14:4 NASB95]

2) Representatives from all twelve tribes indicates a national move to _____.

"34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [the city] that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen [gathers] her brood under her wings, and you would not [have it!] 35 "Behold, your house is left to you [desolate;] and I say to you, you will not see Me until [the time] comes when you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'" [Luk 13:34-35 NASB95]

3) The sealing could possibly mean that they are sealed to enter the _____.

"13 "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved." [Mat 24:13 NASB95]

2. What can we learn about the 12 tribes represented in Chapter 7?

"1 Then Jacob summoned his sons and said, "Assemble yourselves that **I may tell you what will befall you in the days to come.**" [Gen 49:1 NASB95]

1. Jesus' tribe is given _____ and are listed first.

"5 from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand [were] sealed,..." [Rev 7:5 NASB95]

1) Jacob _____ about what would befall his sons in the days to come.

"1 Then Jacob summoned his sons and said, "Assemble yourselves that I may tell you what will befall you in the days to come." [Gen 49:1 NASB95]

2) Judah = “_____” 4th son of Jacob by Leah

"8 "Judah, your brothers shall praise you; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's sons shall bow down to you. 9 "Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches, he lies down as a lion, And as a lion, who dares rouse him up? 10 "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him [shall be] the obedience of the peoples." [Gen 49:8-10 NASB95]

2. The sins of father's effect the future _____ to the end of time and even into eternity.

"5 we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances. ... 20 Now while I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God," [Dan 9:5, 20 NASB95]

3. God turns our _____ into the means by which we _____ His grace and mercy to others.

1) Simeon & Levi were _____ for massacring inhabitants at Shechem. (Gen 34).

2) The temple priesthood was later given to Levi.

"1 Then Jacob summoned his sons and said, "Assemble yourselves that I may tell you what will befall you in the days to come." [Gen 49:1 NASB95]

4. Dan and Ephraim are excluded from tribulation _____.

1) Both tribes were the seat of _____ for the 10 northern tribes

"28 So the king (Jeroboam) consulted, and made two golden calves, and he said to them, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt." 29 He set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. 30 Now this thing became a sin, for the people went [to worship] before the one as far as Dan." [1Ki 12:28-30 NASB95]

2) Both tribes are allotted land in the _____.

"1 "Now these are the names of the tribes: from the northern extremity, beside the way of Hethlon to Lebo-hamath, [as far as] Hazar-enan [at] the border of Damascus, toward the north beside Hamath, running from east to west, Dan, one [portion.] ... 5 "Beside the border of Manasseh, from the east side to the west side, Ephraim, one [portion.]" [Eze 48:1, 5 NASB95]

5. The 12 tribes are the first fruits of _____.

1) The 12 tribes identify Israel with their promised _____ covenant.

"40 'If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their forefathers, in their unfaithfulness which they committed against Me, and also in their acting with hostility against Me-- ... 44 'Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them, nor will I so abhor them as to destroy them, breaking My covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God. 45 'But I will remember for them the covenant with their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God. I am the LORD.'" [Lev 26:40, 44-45 NASB95]

2) At the 2nd coming the Lord will _____ the holy land and _____ Jerusalem again.

"6 "Ho there! Flee from the land of the north," declares the LORD, "for I have dispersed you as the four winds of the heavens," declares the LORD. 7 "Ho, Zion! Escape, you who are living with the daughter of Babylon." 8 For thus says the LORD of hosts, "After glory He has sent me against the nations which plunder you, for **he who touches you, touches the apple of His eye.** 9 "For behold, I will wave My hand over them so that they will be plunder for their slaves. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me. 10 "Sing for joy and be glad, O daughter of Zion; for behold I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," declares the LORD. 11 "Many nations will join themselves to the LORD in that day and will become My people. Then I will dwell in your midst, and you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. 12 **"The LORD will possess Judah as His portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.** 13 "Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD; for He is aroused from His holy habitation.'" [Zec 2:6-13 NASB95]

CONCLUSION:

"21 So it will happen in that day, That the LORD will punish the host of heaven on high, And the kings of the earth on earth." [Isa 24:21 NASB95]