

The People of the Apocalypse
“The 144 Thousand:
Overview of Their End of the Age Ministry”

In Revelation 7:1-8 the New Testament introduces a most significant group of “*servants of our God*” (*Revelation 7:3*) also known as the 144 Thousand sons of Israel. They are from the twelve tribes of Israel and are sealed by the name of the Father and the name of the Lamb which are written on their foreheads (*Revelation 7:3-8, 14:1*).

These choice servants are somewhat of a mystery, especially concerning their end of the age purpose and spiritual condition at the time of their sealing. However, the actual time of their sealing is clearly fixed for it immediately follows the sign of the second coming of Christ and the Day of the Lord (*Revelation 6:12-17; Matthew 24:29-31*).

Therefore, they are sealed by God’s signature as His “*servants*” just before Christ’s coming occurs (*Revelation 7:9-17; Matthew 24:30,31*) and the Day of the Lord begins (*Revelation 8:1,2*) for the church saints that have been “*sealed [by the Holy Spirit] unto the day of redemption*” (*Ephesians 4:30*) will be raptured when He comes.

The day of redemption refers to the day the rapture occurs, for the church saints will not experience the great and dreadful Day of the Lord’s wrath. (*I Thessalonians 1:9, 5:10*). But, the 144 Thousand, who are sealed by the ‘signature of God’ (*Revelation 14:1*) will be protected and remain active on earth serving the Lord after the rapture during the Day of the Lord. (*Revelation 9:4, 14:1-5, 17:14*).

Just before the church saints are raptured, they will “Pass the Torch” as it were, to these 144 Thousand servants of God in order that the priesthood and testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ continue throughout the coming Day of the Lord.

This in effect will be their primary charge during the Day of the Lord when they will evangelize those Jews (*Daniel 11:32-35,12:3*) and Gentiles (*Isaiah 19:16-25; Micah 7:15-17*) whom God will redeem during that time.

The important question concerning the 144 Thousand is their spiritual condition at the time they are sealed, and there are only two options, are they saved or unsaved when they are sealed? This significant group of “The People of the Apocalypse”, the 144 Thousand “*of all the tribes of the children [sons] of Israel*” (*Revelation 7:4*), are marked by the Lord.

Although there are others upon whom the Lord puts His mark described in the pages of Scripture, this group, appearing numerous times in the Word of God, is the most notable. They are called “*servants of our God*” before they are sealed and as the end of the age is studied they also appear a number of other places supplying indicators of their spiritual condition at the time they are sealed in *Revelation 7:1-8*.

However, determining the exact point in time that they are sealed is also important to note in order to discern just exactly what it is that the Lord has for them to accomplish. The text isolates their sealing by utilizing time indicating phrases to set off this major event: “*And after these things*” (*Revelation 7:1*), “*After this*” (*Revelation 7:9*), demonstrating the uniqueness and importance of what takes place between these two phrases.

Their sealing occurs immediately after the sign of the second coming of Christ and the Day of the Lord (*Revelation 6:12-6:17*) and just before the rapture of the saints (*Revelation 7:9-7*).

Both of these events occur on the same day as taught by the Lord in (*Luke 17:22-37*) for the Lord will surely

deliver the saints before He initiates His wrath-filled judgment just as He has done in the past and just as He promised to do in the future (I Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9).

Therefore, the 144 Thousand are sealed just before the Day of the Lord begins as they appear with the Lord Jesus Christ later, during the Day of the Lord in Revelation 14:1-5, 17:14. They also are referred to in Revelation 9:4 and 12:17 with all of these texts supplying additional information concerning this key end of the age group of servants.

However, their background prior to their sealing must be considered for they most certainly will have paths similar to those other servants listed throughout the Old and New Testaments. Therefore, this question must be answered: Are they saved before or after they are sealed? Although it surely is possible that they are not saved before they are sealed, it is highly unlikely for a number of reasons.

First of all they are called “*servants of our God*” (Revelation 7:3) which is a title reserved for those who have attained a certain level of spiritual maturity and dedication to the Lord:

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave unto Him to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass.” (Revelation 1:1)

This opening verse designates a group of people to whom the Lord Jesus Christ would “*show*” His vital end of the age truths contained in the Apocalypse, and that group of people are called “*His servants*”. (Revelation 1:1) His servants include select men and women who were and are willing to “*spend and be spent*” (II Corinthians 12:15) for the cause and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This word translated servant is the Greek word “*doulos*” meaning bondservant or slave, indicating one who is totally given over to the will of his master. It is found in the New Testament over 120 times.

Although there are a number of different Greek words translated servant in the KJV, with various meanings such as attendant, minister, household worker, hired employee and under rower, the Greek word “*doulos*” is the one that refers to the ultimate servant with respect to the total giving of oneself to the service of their master.

This is the word chosen by the Apostle Paul to describe his own position in relationship to his Lord a number of times (Romans 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:1). The epistles reveal the “*doulos*” or “*servants of the Lord Jesus Christ*” also include Timothy, Epaphras, Peter, James, John, and Jude.

And, in the book of the Revelation the same word also describes Moses and the prophets as servants of God (Revelation 10:7, 15:3). But, the most significant occurrences of this word describe the Lord Jesus Christ:

“Behold, My Servant Whom I have chosen, My Beloved in Whom My soul is well pleased, I will put My Spirit upon Him and He will show judgment to the Gentiles.” (Matthew 12:18)

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men.” (Philippians 2:5-7)

Therefore, those “*servants of our God*” or bond slaves of God in Revelation 7:3 must also be considered to be of this same Biblically defined caliber:

“Hurt not the earth till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.” (Revelation 7:3,4).

These 144 Thousand sons of Israel, therefore, are definitely classified as “*doulos*” or bondservants along with

the Lord, those Apostles and other saints used mightily of the Lord. This specific word was chosen by the Holy Spirit to describe this select group of men in order to indicate their advanced spiritual condition and relationship to God at the time they are sealed, for they are called “*the servants of our God*” by the angel before they are sealed.

This unique group of God’s servants are key end times saints and some of the most thoroughly described in the word of God for they are seen or referred to numerous times in the book of Daniel the prophet: 11:32-35, 12:3,10 and the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ: 7:1-8, 9:4, 12:17, 14:1-5, 17:14, 19:19.

Secondly, their decision to be “*undefiled by women*” (*Revelation 14:4*) reveals their level of dedication to the Lord early in manhood, prior to their sealing. This major decision indicates that they are men of God who have set themselves apart having discerned a certain calling of God upon their lives prior to making this important decision.

They literally will give up the natural desire to marry and have a wife and children in order to give themselves totally to the Lord. By doing this they will greatly limit the effect sexual temptation can have upon their lives and thereby remove the ever increasing pressure from the world, the flesh and the devil to fall into sex sin. Also, remaining unmarried will give them additional opportunity for focused service to the Lord as clearly recommended and practiced by the Apostle Paul (I Corinthians 7:8, 26, 32).

Number three, and definitely one of the most compelling affirmations concerning their spiritual condition at their sealing is revealed by asking this question: Would God literally put His name and the name of His Son, The Lamb (*Revelation 14:1*) upon someone who is an unbelieving depraved sinner, not having the true knowledge of Bible salvation by grace through faith in the blood of Christ?

The answer to this question must be a definite NO! In addition to these three facts indicating their spiritual condition at the time they are sealed, there are three other Bible examples of the Lord putting His identification or mark upon men:

“Him that overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from My God: and I will write upon him My new name.”
(*Revelation 3:12*)

These overcomers of the church of Philadelphia are given a number of blessed promises by the Lord Jesus Christ reserved only for those who attain an overcoming level of victory during their time on earth:

1. *“I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God*
2. *He shall go no more out [remains in the temple]*
3. *I will write upon him the name of My God*
4. *I will write upon him the name of the city of My God,*
Which is new Jerusalem
4. *I will write upon him My new name.”*

These saints are promised some of the most valuable and privileged rewards ever spoken of in the Scripture. Being a pillar in the heavenly temple of Jehovah rings of a highly exalted heavenly position, however, this reward is given the added blessing of being eternal.

So, these overcomers will have three different inscriptions upon them and not one of them is trivial! But, all three are truly to be cherished for the incomparable recognition given to those who overcome during their days upon earth, for these names are the three most honorable identities in all of heaven!

The next example is found in the last chapter of the book of Revelation:

“And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him: And they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads.”

(Revelation 22:3,4)

Notice, these glorified servants of God have the honored privilege of seeing the face of the Lord Jesus Christ, and they also will have the Lamb’s name in their foreheads, similar to the 144 Thousand. However, the 144 Thousand have both the Father’s name and the name of the Lamb in their foreheads (Revelation 14:1) showing their dual branches of service, being “*servants of our God*” (Revelation 7:3) while also physically serving on earth “*with*” the Lamb during the Day of the Lord! (Revelation 14:1-5, 17:14, 19:19).

In these two instances, the overcomers of the church of Philadelphia and the servants in glory, both having God’s identification, are clearly believers, fully redeemed, belonging to the Lord. Therefore, in order for the Lord to put His name on men, it is evident by these passages that they are definitely children of God when they receive this glorious inscription upon them.

Now, this sets a high standard by which to measure these 144 Thousand sons of Israel, for they will be given God’s identification when they are still mere mortals. This underlines the significance of the Lord’s bestowal of His signature upon those whom He knows will be worthy of His name during their subsequent earthly service in the Day of the Lord!

In Ezekiel’s vision of chapter nine the third example is recorded:

“And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.”

(Ezekiel 9:4)

These men who are marked by God are those who openly express their disgust and sorrow over the sinful condition of Jerusalem demonstrating their allegiance to the Lord. They are given God’s saving protection from the impending slaughter of His coming judgment (Ezekiel 9:1-11).

These marked saints in Ezekiel are similar to the 144 Thousand for those who have His seal in their foreheads in that day will also be spared from God’s judgment during the Day of the Lord:

“And it was commanded them [locusts] that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.” (Revelation 9:4)

The information above indicates the 144 Thousand are surrendered saints who have duly earned their title as “*servants of our God*” before they are sealed. They have willingly surrendered themselves to the Lord to be sealed just prior to the Day of the Lord having become mature believers before that time, being worthy to have the holy name of the Father and the Lamb written in their foreheads.

This seal not only provides protection, but, the seal can also indicate ownership, for these have unconditionally and sacrificially given themselves to their Master for His service! Approximately when they are redeemed is indicated in Revelation 14:3,4:

“The hundred and forty four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth” (Revelation 14:3).

The Greek participle translated “*which were redeemed*” is in the perfect tense indicating their redemption has already taken place at a given point in the past with continuing effect into the present. The act of redemption is not continuing, but the results of this past action of redemption are continuing.

Therefore, the 144 Thousand are shown to be “*redeemed from the earth...redeemed from among men*” the two

phrases indicating:

1. Where they are from: The earth
2. What they are: Men, from among men

They are not heavenly angelic beings, no, they are in fact men of like passions as we are whom God will raise up from across the planet just as He has raised up His faithful servants throughout the history of mankind!

The second time the word “*redeemed*” appears (Revelation 14:4) in this passage it is a verb in the aorist tense, which indicates a completed action at one point in past time. The mood of this verb is passive indicating the act of redemption was not accomplished by those who were redeemed but by someone else, namely the Lord.

They are also entitled “*the firstfruits*” showing they are the first of an additional “More of the same” [Jews from the twelve tribes] future harvest who also will be “*redeemed from the earth...redeemed from among men*”. This oft-quoted verse specifies those Jews of this future harvest:

“When all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer [Redeemer], and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob” (Romans 11:26).

This future national redemption is the very event being celebrated in Revelation 14:1-3 at the end of the 70th Week of Daniel (Revelation 11:15)! In addition, there are other Jews who are saved and remain on earth after the rapture, namely “*the two witnesses*” of Revelation 11 and “*the woman*” [faithful Israel] of Revelation 12.

For these saints will also continue on earth throughout the last 3-1/2 years of Daniel’s 70th Week as the rapture occurs some time after the mid-point of this seven year period, but before the beginning of God’s wrath which is the Day of the Lord.

This prophetic timeline follows the Lord Jesus Christ’s end of the age chronology found in Matthew 24:3-31, which shows the rapture (Matthew 24:30,31) shortening the great tribulation (Matthew 24:29a) followed by the sign of the second coming of Christ and the impending Day of the Lord (Matthew 24:29b).

“*The woman*” also is supernaturally protected during this time:

“And the woman fled into the wilderness where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.”

(Revelation 12:6,14)

“*The two witnesses*” are eventually killed by the beast [the Antichrist] and ascend up to heaven after “*they shall have finished their testimony*” (Revelation 11:7). They also will continue on earth after the rapture to fulfill God’s designated purpose during their supernatural 3-1/2 year ministry as mighty instruments of the judgment of God (Revelation 11:3-14).

However, the Lord rejoices in showing His mercy, and these 144 Thousand “*servants of our God*” will be His instruments of mercy during the end of the age as foretold in Daniel 11:32-35,12:3,10 where they are seen as those who have insight and understanding instructing the many, being purged and purified.

This notable time of the end group of saints in Daniel 11 also appear after the mid-point of Daniel’s 70th Week when the abomination of desolation is set up:

“And arms [forces] shall stand on his [the Antichrist] part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that makes desolate. And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries; but the people that do know their God shall be

strong and do exploits. And they that understand among the people [Jews] shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days. And some of them understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.” (Daniel 11:31-33, 35)

At the beginning of the 70th Week “[the] many” Jews (Daniel 9:27) will “confirm the covenant” with the Antichrist. These Jews will be thoroughly deceived, not knowing they are in fact consenting to “a covenant with death” (Isaiah 28:15) which will eventually bring about their destruction.

There will be those who are instructed by the 144 Thousand, those “that understand among the people” (Daniel 11:33) and they will “turn many to righteousness” receiving the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ:
“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.” (Daniel 12:3)

However, those Jews who continue on in darkness will eventually “forsake the holy covenant” (Daniel 11:30) taking “the mark... of the beast” (Revelation 13:17) during the time of Satan’s “great wrath” (Revelation 12:12), which is also referred to as “great tribulation” (Matthew 24:21). They will subsequently die during the Day of the Lord’s wrath:

“And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die.” (Zechariah 13:8a).

The prophet continues:

“But the third part shall be left therein.

And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on My name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is My people: and they shall say, The LORD is My God.” (Zechariah 13:8b,9)

These of Zechariah’s “third part” are those of Daniel’s “many” who will be instructed by the 144 Thousand:

“The people that do know their God...they that understand among the people...they that be wise...they that turn many to righteousness...the wise shall understand.” (Daniel 11:32,33,12:3,10)

After the abomination of desolation, at the mid-point of Daniel’s 70th Week, the 144 Thousand are not yet sealed by God. However, they are among those in Israel referred to in the above Daniel passages, and will successfully minister to the many unsaved.

This same group of Jews are evident continuing in the land after “the woman” flees into the wilderness:

“And the dragon [Satan] was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant [rest] of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” (Revelation 12:17b)

The “remnant of her seed” indicated here refers to the rest of her physical seed, the Jews, who remain in the land after the faithful (most likely: women, children, and men too old to go to war) flee into the wilderness. Their spiritual credentials are given in the last part of the verse: “Which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ”.

These Jews who remain in the land, “the rest of her seed”, will be these chosen men:

“Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power [Day of the Lord], in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: Thou hast the dew of Thy youth [young men]” (Psalm 110:3).

These are those priest/warriors of the Messiah, who will be part of the physical army of Israel who defend the land against the Antichrist when he first enters Israel and makes war with the Jews as described in Micah 5:4-9

where those who remain are called “*the remnant of Jacob*” (*Micah 5:7,8*).

Some of them will be martyred or taken captive by the Antichrist: “*many days...even to the time of the end*” (*Daniel 11:35*) which refers to the duration of the great tribulation being cut short when Christ comes to resurrect/rapture/rescue/receive the saints.(*Matthew 24:21-31; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 7:9-17*)

However, the 144 Thousand will continue into the day of the Lord being “*purged and purified*” eventually being “*made white and tried.*” (*Daniel 11:35, 12:10*) It is at this point in time that the most prophesied event in the whole of Scripture begins, “*the great and dreadful Day of the Lord*’ (*Malachi 4:5*).

This event in God’s program is also referred to as “*the end*” by the Lord (*Matthew 24:6,14*) and “*the time of the end...end of days*” by Daniel (*Daniel 11:35, 40, 12:4, 9, 13*) both indicating the same point in time. It is on this very day that God’s prophetic “*time of the end*” program takes a major turn from the Antichrist’s vicious persecution of God’s people during the great tribulation to the Lord’s second coming in glory: “*And then shall that wicked [Antichrist] be revealed whom the Lord will consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy [render powerless] with the brightness of His coming.*” (*II Thessalonians 2:8*).

It is on this same day, the sign of the second coming/great and dreadful Day of the Lord is given, (*Revelation 6:12-17*), the 144 Thousand are sealed (*Revelation 7:1-8*) and the Lord returns to rescue/receive (*John 14:3*) His saints by rapture (*I Thessalonians 4:13-18*) receiving them in heaven (*Revelation 7:9-17*).

The Lord will first seal and secure His servants, the 144 Thousand, before He rescues the saints with the sign of the Day of the Lord being given as a marvelous heavenly prelude to it all. These events will all occur the same day just as the Lord Jesus Christ taught when He emphasized “*the same day*” rescue before retribution of God’s judgment:

“*For as the lightning, that lightens out of the one part under heaven, shines unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in His day. But first He must suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation. And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.*” (*Luke 17:24-30*)

The time just prior to the Day of the Lord is described by Paul:

“*But of the times and seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they [unsaved] shall say peace and safety; then sudden destruction comes upon them and they shall not escape.*” (*I Thessalonians 5:1,2*)

Although the Antichrist will come on his “*white horse*” as the end of the age world ruler “*conquering, and to conquer...taking peace from the earth...having a pair of balances*” in the process implementing worldwide economic control (*Revelation 6:1-6*); there will be a time of “*peace and safety*” just prior to the Day of the Lord when a business as usual attitude will prevail among the lost.

However, at this same time persecution of the saints will reach the maximum level ever recorded in history! (*Matthew 24:15-28; Revelation 6:7-11*). Therefore, God will send His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to rescue/rapture the saints who have been “*sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise...unto the day of redemption*” (*Ephesians 1:13, 4:30*), and those whom He chooses to remain on earth will also be protected from His wrath just as He promised (*Revelation 3:10, 9:4*).

The 144 Thousand will be protected by having the name of the Father and the Lamb on their foreheads (Revelation 14:1), while the faithful of Israel [the woman] will be safe in “*a place prepared by God*” (Revelation 12:6) during the last 3-1/2 years of the 70th Week of Daniel.

She will “*fly into the wilderness*” (Revelation 12:14) remaining there until the end of the 70th Week and eventually become the core group, along with the 144 Thousand and those of Israel who will be saved at the end of the 70th Week, populating the promised land during Christ’s earthly 1000 year rule, called the Millennium. (Revelation 20:1-10)

This protection during judgment by God is similar to the time when He brought the plagues upon Egypt and the Israelites were given safety in the land of Goshen while Moses and Aaron were actively confronting Pharaoh as the instruments of God’s judgment.

Like Moses and Aaron, the two witnesses will serve as God’s instruments of judgment during this unparalleled period of destruction which God brings upon the earth and it’s inhabitants, the cataclysmic Day of the Lord described in Revelation 8-11, 15-19.

While Moses and Aaron were the instruments of God’s judgment to the lost and also the instruments of God’s mercy to His people, the time of the end will see these same actions performed by “*the two witnesses*” (Revelation 11:3-14) and the 144 Thousand.

God will continue to extend His eternal mercy to mankind through His 144 Thousand human servants just as He has done throughout the ages past. His primary purpose for the Day of the Lord is to purge and purify His people Israel, those referred to in Daniel 9:27, 11:33, 35, 12:3,10. This time of the end purpose of God has also been foretold and underlined in other Old Testament prophecies. (Isaiah 1:24-28, 27:9; Jeremiah 30:7; Ezekiel 7:16-27; Zechariah 13:8,9; Malachi 3:1-3).

His second purpose is the rightful judgment of planet earth and its unbelieving inhabitants who throughout all of the supernatural devastation, death and wholesale destruction repeatedly refuse to repent:

“And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood; which neither can see, nor hear nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.” (Revelation 9:20,21)

“And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give Him glory. And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain. And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.” (Revelation 16:8-11)

However, many Jews will turn to the Lord during this time, for the Lord will surely fulfill His promise:

“And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.

And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on My name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is My people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God.” (Zechariah 13:8,9)

“For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe on Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they

hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:13-15)

“And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.” (Joel 2:30-32)

“And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord.” (Isaiah 59:20)

“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is My covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.” (Romans 11:26,27)

These scriptures clearly show God’s plan of salvation in the future deliverance of His people continues to operate just as it has in the past and present. Those whom He calls respond by believing, turning and calling upon Him in order to be saved from their sin. However, the entire work of salvation is of the Lord as He alone has the ability to *“turn away ungodliness from Jacob...when I shall take away their sins.”*

God will send His time of the end preachers, the 144 Thousand sealed *“servants of our God”* to His people so that those whom He calls will be able to hear, believe, turn and call on His name and be saved when they see their Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ, come to Zion at the end of the 70th Week of Daniel.

This is when He victoriously appears with the 144 Thousand (Revelation 14:1), who are also identified by Obadiah:

“And saviors [deliverers] shall come up on Mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the Lords.” (Obadiah 21; Revelation 11:15)

These obedient servants of God will *“follow the Lamb wherever He goes” (Revelation 14:4)* both physically and spiritually. They as the merciful saviors/deliverers will in fact be the compassionate instruments of the one and only compassionate Savior, the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ, unto Jew and Gentile alike, during the Day of the Lord’s wrath.

These Day of the Lord soldiers of the Lamb are also indicated to be *“with Him”* at the battle of Armageddon: *“These [the ten horns/kings] shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful.” (Revelation 17:14).*

The 144 Thousand, as the earthly members of *“His army” (Revelation 19:19)* along with *“the armies which were in heaven” (Revelation 19:14)* indicating the angelic host of heaven (Daniel 4:35), will defeat *“the kings of the earth, and their armies” (Revelation 19:19)* when the Lord Jesus Christ comes as *“KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS” (Revelation 19:16)* to also defeat *“the beast...and...the false prophet...These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant [rest] were slain with the sword of Him that sat upon the horse which sword proceeded out of His mouth.” (Revelation 19:20,21)*

These events describe, in brief, the final and culminating battle of the great and dreadful Day of the Lord, *“the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (Revelation 16:14)*, which is the renowned battle of Armageddon!

After the Day of the Lord judgment ends at Armageddon, the 144 Thousand will continue to “*follow Him wherever He goes*” (*Revelation 14:4*) becoming a part of that great gathering of God’s people (*Genesis 49:10; Psalm 102:21,22; Hosea 1:11,3:5; Micah 5:4*) who enter and populate the promised land during the literal 1,000 year earthly reign of Christ (*Revelation 20:1-10*).