

The People of the Apocalypse
“The 144 Thousand Warriors”

Revelation 17:14 tells of the Lord’s end of the age victory:

*“These [10 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** [144 Thousand] (Revelation 14:1,4) are called, and chosen, and faithful.”*

This brief description of the 144 Thousand warriors shows them as those who are chosen from the twelve tribes and are **“with the Lamb...following Him wherever He goes”** (Revelation 14:1,4)...*“for many are called, but few are chosen.”* (Matthew 22:14)

This verse in Matthew’s gospel underlines the meaning of what is said about these choice saints for they are not only called to be the end of the age warriors but they are also chosen and faithful! While some identify those who are “called” to be with the Lord in this verse (Revelation 17:14) as the raptured saints in heaven, the only ones in Scripture on earth who are clearly shown to be “with Him” and “follow Him wherever He goes” are the 144 Thousand Jewish soldiers of Christ (Revelation 14:1-5).

The word “faithful” in Revelation 17:14 really eliminates the glorified saints for faith is no longer necessary when face to face with the Lord in heaven for to be unfaithful is not a possibility for one who is no longer able to sin.

The faithfulness of the 144 Thousand gives them the desire and ability to “follow the Lamb whithersoever He goes” putting them in the midst of the intense warfare which will be waged at the end of the age for they will become the primary targets of Satan after “the woman” [faithful Israel] flees to safety to her place in the wilderness which is prepared by God. (Revelation 12:6,14):

“And the dragon [Satan] was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant [rest] of her seed [144 Thousand], which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” (Revelation 12:17)

They definitely are the physical warriors who go with the Lord Jesus Christ to battle against the army of the 10 horns/kings (Revelation 17:12-14), the “kings of the east” (Revelation 16:12), along with “the kings...of the whole world” (Revelation 16:14) also collectively known as “the kings of the earth” (Revelation 19:19) at “the battle of the great day of God Almighty” (Revelation 16:14) which is the battle of Armageddon.

They will also be active as physical soldiers in Israel during the Antichrist’s initial assault upon Jerusalem: *“And this Man [Messiah] shall be the peace, when the Assyrian [Antichrist] shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men. And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword”* (Micah 5:5,6).

But, this is not where their ministry begins. They are present (Revelation 12:17b) during the persecution which intensifies at the mid-point of the 70th Week of Daniel when the Antichrist stops the daily sacrifice and the abomination of desolation [Antichrist’s image] is set up in the holy place. (Daniel 8:11, 9:27, 11:31, 12:11; Matthew 24:15; II Thessalonians 2:3,4)

Revelation 12, which focuses on Israel and the Hebrew people, closes with a statement telling of “the dragon” [Satan] as he makes “war with the remnant [rest] of her [The woman/faithful Israel] seed, [the ones which are keeping] the commandments of God and [the ones having] the testimony of Jesus Christ.” (Revelation 12:17b)

The phrase “of her seed” indicates the physical seed of the woman and the rest of the verse “which keep the

commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” shows them as faithful obedient brethren for there will also be those Jews who do not keep the commandments of God nor will they have the testimony of Jesus Christ (Daniel 11:30).

Therefore, this verse points out their physical relationship to “*the woman*”, they are Jews, and their faithful obedience to the Lord during the second half of the 70th Week of Daniel. That Satan’s persecution will be focused upon these saved Jews indicates there will also be unsaved Jews who will not be Satan’s target, which is clearly indicated in Daniel 11:28-31 where the unsaved Jews collaborate with the Antichrist and “*forsake the holy covenant*” along with still another group of Jews:

“They that understand [the rest of her seed (Revelation 12:17b)] among the people shall instruct many” indicating there will three different groups of Jews in the land after the abomination of desolation (Daniel 11:31).

This records the continuing assault of Satan on those saved Jews whom God chooses to continue bearing His testimony after “*the woman*”, who represents the faithful of the nation of Israel, flees:

“into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time [Last 3-1/2 years of Daniel’s 70th Week], from the face of the serpent.” (Revelation 12:14).

Satan’s personal attention will be focused upon the earthly people of God, those saved Jews [they that understand/the rest of her seed], who are in the line of fire during the last half of the 70th Week of Daniel when Satan’s wrath is at it’s peak, for “*he knows that he has but a short time.*” (Revelation 12:12)

Daniel 7:21,25 refers to the same time period assault by the Antichrist upon the church:

“I beheld, and the same horn [Antichrist] made war with the saints and prevailed against them.

And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they [the saints] shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time [Last 3-1/2 years of Daniel’s 70th Week].”

These references are definite indications of the Antichrist’s worldwide war upon the saints of the church for the global scope of his efforts are recorded:

“The fourth beast...shall be diverse from all kingdoms and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.” (Daniel 7:23).

This parallel passage underscores this future global assault upon the church saints:

“And it was given unto him [Antichrist] to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations” (Revelation 13:7)

Therefore, Satan, the dragon of Revelation 12, will zero in on the faithful Jews, “*The rest of her seed*”, primarily in the land of Israel, with his henchmen, the Antichrist and the false prophet, conducting a worldwide assault upon the church saints during the last half of the 70th Week of Daniel.

Another passage describing physical warfare at the end of the age is Micah 5:1-9. This powerful Messianic Scripture has been looked to through the ages as the renowned passage which predicts the Lord Jesus Christ’s birthplace of Bethlehem.

However, there is more prophetic truth here yet to be fulfilled involving the Messiah at the end of the age:

“Now muster yourselves in troops (Psalm 110:3), daughter of troops; he [the Antichrist] has laid siege against us; with a rod they will smite the judge of Israel on the cheek. But as for you, Bethlehem, Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands [clans/military divisions] of Judah, yet out of thee shall He [Messiah] come

forth unto Me [Jehovah] to be Ruler in Israel; whose [Messiah] goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. Therefore, He [Lord] will give them [Israel] up until the time [end of the age] that she [Israel] which travails [time of Jacob's trouble] hath brought forth [all Israel saved]. Then the remnant [rest] of His [Messiah] brethren [the woman/faithful Israel] shall return unto the children [sons] of Israel [144 Thousand]. And He [Messiah] shall stand and feed His flock [All Israel Saved/The Woman/144 Thousand] in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they [His flock] shall abide, for now [Millennium] shall He [Messiah] be great unto the ends of the earth. And, this Man [Messiah] shall be the peace, when the Assyrian [Antichrist] shall come into [invades] our land: and when he shall tread [tramples] in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight principal men. And they shall waste [tend/rule] the land of Assyria with the sword, the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof; thus shall He [Messiah] deliver us from the Assyrian [Antichrist] when he comes into [attacks] our land and when he treads [tramples] within our borders. And the remnant [144 Thousand] of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people as a dew (Psalm 110:3) from the LORD, as the showers upon the grass, that tarries not for man, nor waits for the sons of men. And the remnant [144 Thousand] of Jacob will be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people as a lion among the beasts of the forest as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treads down and tears in pieces, and none can deliver. Thine hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off.” (Micah 5:1-9)

These nine verses begin with a call for battle preparation:

“Now muster yourselves in troops...He has laid siege against us...” (Micah 5:1) because the Antichrist has come against Jerusalem.

In verse two Bethlehem is described as *“too little”* to be counted among the *“clans”* or military divisions even though she is the birthplace of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. *“He [the Lord] will give them up”* referring to the setting aside of Israel (Romans 11:8,25,26) *“until the time”* (Micah 5:3) when He will thoroughly purge, purify (Jeremiah 30:7; Zechariah 13:9) and redeem Israel at the end of the 70th Week of Daniel (Isaiah 59:20,21).

However, there is a *“return to the sons of Israel”* (Micah 5:3) by *“the remainder of His brethren”* showing that there will be an eventual gathering of Jews:

1. The Woman (Revelation 12)
2. The 144 Thousand (Revelation 14:1)
3. The Nation Saved @ End of 70th Week of Daniel (Genesis 49:10, Psalm 102:22; Isaiah 59:20; Daniel 9:24; Hosea 1:11, 3:5; Zechariah 13:8,9; Romans 11:26; Revelation 11:15, 14:1-5)

These redeemed Jews will gather and eventually populate their promised land during the glorious 1000 year reign of Christ (Revelation 20:1-6) also known as the Millennium. This passage continues describing the Messiah's actions (Micah 5:4,5a) when the Antichrist enters the land of Israel with his armies after the abomination of desolation and attacks Jerusalem as described in Ezekiel 38,39; Zechariah 12:1-14, 14:2.

There will be *“seven shepherds and eight principal men”* (Micah 5:5b, 6a) raised against the aggression of the king of Assyria [Antichrist] having great military success as they rule *“the land of Assyria with the sword”*.

The Septuagint [Greek Old Testament] translates *“principal men”* as *“attacks of men”* possibly indicating the number of assaults upon the enemy by the seven shepherds for the Hebrew word translated *“principal men”* can also mean *“poured out or libation”* per Strong's lexicon indicating the possibility of the shepherds or rulers totally giving themselves to the Lord.

The Messiah's deliverance is then recorded:

“Thus shall He deliver us from the Assyrians” (Micah 5:6b) referring to the ultimate victory of the Lord Jesus

Christ when He comes as “*King of kings and Lord of lords*” (Revelation 19:16). Then “the remnant of Jacob” [144 Thousand] are once again focused upon in (Micah 5:7) where they are a blessing “in the midst of many people as a dew from the LORD” just as in Psalm 110:3 where they are also referred to as “dew” indicating this great multitude of young servants of God.

They will truly be a blessing as they are the instruments of God’s divine mercy during the end of the age when they minister to those who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Messiah. Their ministry is also described in Daniel 11:32-35, 12:3,10.

However, the next few verses in Micah 5 illustrate their ferocious prowess as warriors thereby becoming a curse to their enemies:

“And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people as a lion among beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treads down and tears in pieces, and none can deliver. Thine hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off.” (Micah 5:8,9)

In (Micah 5:9) God ends this section with His promise of complete victory to these marvelous soldiers of Christ as they go to battle against the ultimate end of the age enemy of God, the Antichrist and all the forces he can muster in his futile attempt to defeat the great and mighty King of Glory!

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

Here, the 144 Thousand are described as the Lord’s warrior/priests during the day of His power indicating the Day of the Lord which immediately follows His second coming to resurrect, rescue, rapture and receive the saints (Revelation 7:9-17). The theme of Psalm 110 is given in (Psalm 110:1):

“Sit thou at My right hand until I make Thy enemies Thy footstool.”

The rest of the Psalm shows the LORD Jehovah progressively bringing the Lord Jesus Christ’s enemies into submission beginning with the sending of “the rod [tribe] of Thy strength” which refers to the tribe of Judah as the Lord Jesus Christ, “the Lion of the tribe of Judah” (Revelation 5:5) will lead His tribe/people in the warfare.

It is during “the day of His wrath” (Psalm 110:5) the Day of the Lord which is described in (Psalm 110:5-7), that God supernaturally intervenes with His judgment upon earth and it’s rebellious inhabitants as Satan unleashes his greatest assault upon the people of God during the last half of Daniel’s 70th Week.

But, even though Satan will battle with all his might inflicting many casualties among God’s people:

“All things work together for good to them that love God to those who are called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

The Lord will use the wickedness of men during the great tribulation to purge and purify His church saints in order:

“That He might present it to Himself a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle, nor any such thing but that it might be holy and without blemish.” (Ephesians 5:27)

And, these soldiers of the Cross, the 144 Thousand will continue on earth during the Day of the Lord, when God purges and purifies His people (Zechariah 13:9), witnessing to those Jews who will be saved at the end of the 70th Week when “their Redeemer will come to Zion” (Isaiah 59:20) and “all Israel shall be saved.” (Romans 11:25, 26)

The 144 Thousand will remain and continue to “*follow the Lamb wherever He goes*” (Revelation 14:4) taking part in the army of the Lord Jesus Christ when He comes on His white horse to execute the victory over the kings of the earth, the beast [Antichrist] and the false prophet at the climax of the Day of the Lord, “*the battle of that great day of God Almighty*” (Revelation 16:14), the battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19:15-21).