

Chapter 25

THE TRIUMPH OF THE LIVING SAINTS

The One Hundred and Forty Four Thousand In the Time of Trouble

(2000-?)

They have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation; they have endured the anguish of the time of Jacob's trouble; they have stood without an intercessor through the final outpouring of God's judgments.

The Great Controversy, page 649.

From the beginning of the Advent movement, shortly after the Great Disappointment of 1844 to the present, Seventh-day Adventists have been keenly interested in the subject of the one hundred and forty four thousand. (Rev. 7:1-17; 14:1-5). Books, pamphlets and manuscript studies have been published on the subject of the 144,000. Many questions have been raised. Often the questions were listed as follows:

- (1) Who are these special "first fruit" people of God?
- (2) Why are they so very special to God?
- (3) Are only 144,000 people going to be saved?
- (4) What about the 11,000,000 Adventists now in the Seventh-day Adventist Church?
- (5) Are the 144,000 those only who will live through the seven last plagues?
- (6) Are the 144,000 those only who will be translated without seeing death?
- (7) Is the number 144,000 a literal number?
- (8) Is it possible for you and I to be numbered "among" the 144,000?

There is not a great amount of Scripture references to the one hundred and forty four thousand. This special group is mentioned only in two chapters, Revelation 7:1-17 and chapter 14:1-5. Light on the subject of the 144,000 in the Spirit of Prophecy is also limited to a few references. There is light only on what is revealed. The Lord would be displeased if we speculate on details that are not revealed. Thus Moses stated, "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God; but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law." (Deuteronomy 29:29, emphasis supplied).

The Close of Probation

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people," Daniel prophesied, "and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a

nation even to that same time; and at that time thy people shall be delivered, everyone that shall be found written in the book.” (Daniel 12:1, emphasis supplied).

“When the third angel’s message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth,” Ellen White wrote. “The people of God have accomplished their work. They have received ‘the latter rain,’ ‘the refreshing from the presence of the Lord,’ and they are prepared for the trying hour before them.” (“The Time of Trouble,” *The Great Controversy*, page 613. (emphasis supplied).

A Vivid Description of the Close of Probation

Angels are hastening to and fro in heaven. An angel returning from the earth announces that his work is done; the final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received “the seal of the living God.” Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. He lifts His hands and with a loud voice says, “It is done;” and all the angelic host lay off their crowns as He makes the solemn announcement: “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” Revelation 22:11. Every case has been decided for life or death. Christ has made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The number of His subjects is made up; “the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven,” is about to be given to the heirs of salvation, and Jesus is to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. (*ibid.*, Ellen G. White, “The Time of Trouble,” *The Great Controversy*, pages 613, 614, emphasis supplied).

Unsealed Adventists After the Close of Probation

Adventists who have given up the truth know at the close of probation that they are lost. Indeed, those who receive the mark of the beast (Sunday) will receive the first plague of sores. Again, dear reader, not only does the shaking end at the close of probation, but probation closes for nominal (in name only) Seventh-day Adventists when the true saints are sealed in their foreheads. At that time there are only two classes of Adventists; (1) Those who are sealed, and (2), those who are not sealed. After the sealing, are not the unsealed already shaken out of God’s true remnant? We know that the Holy Spirit, in latter rain power, falls only on the sealed ones. The sealed ones then finish the work, while those in Laodicean slumber, sleep on until the close of probation.

“Those professed Christians who come up to that last fearful conflict unprepared will, in their despair, confess their sins in words of burning anguish, while the wicked exult over their distress,” Ellen White commented. “These confessions are of the same character as was that of Esau or of Judas. . . . They acknowledge their sin, through fear of punishment; but, like Pharaoh of old, they would return to their defiance of Heaven should the judgments be removed.” (*ibid.*, “The Time of Trouble,” *The Great Controversy*, pages 620, 621).

Then I was shown a company who were howling in agony. On their garments was written in large characters, “Thou art weighed in the balance, and found wanting.” I asked who this company were. The angel said, “These are they who have once kept the Sabbath and have given it up.” I heard them cry with a loud voice, “We have believed in Thy coming, and taught it with energy. . . .” (Ellen G. White, *Early Writings*, page 37, emphasis supplied).

What a sad picture. “The angel said, ‘These are they who have once kept the Sabbath and have given it up.’” Then Ellen White said, “I heard them cry with a loud voice, ‘We have believed in Thy coming, *and taught it with energy.*’” This statement makes it clear that she was speaking of Seventh-day Adventists who were not ready for the close of probation.

“And while they were speaking, their eyes would fall upon their garments and see the writing, and then they would wail aloud,” Ellen White saw in vision. “I saw that they had drunk of the deep waters, and fouled the residue with their feet -- trodden the Sabbath underfoot -- and that was why they were weighed in the balance and found wanting.” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 37, emphasis supplied).

What will these poor lost souls do now? Will they still love the false leaders and pastors that led them into perdition?

“The people see that they have been deluded,” Ellen White replies to our question. “They accuse one another of having led them to destruction; but all unite in heaping their bitterest condemnation upon the ministers. Unfaithful pastors have prophesied smooth things; they have led their hearers to make void the law of God and to persecute those who would keep it holy.” (*ibid.*, *The Great Controversy*, pages 655, 656, emphasis supplied).

“Now, in their despair, these teachers confess before the world their work of deception,” Ellen White concluded. “The multitudes are filled with fury. ‘We are lost!’ they cry, ‘and you are the cause of our ruin;’ and they turn upon the false shepherds. . . .” (*ibid.*, *The Great Controversy*, pages 655, 656, emphasis supplied).

In anger these poor souls turn on their apostate leaders that they followed so blindly. They had “stayed with the ship” when the leadership had advocated that it was necessary to keep Sunday, “the first day of the week.” Along with the apostate “ship” they had received the mark of the beast.

“The Lord has a controversy with his professed people in these last days,” Ellen White prophesied. “In this controversy men in responsible positions. . . will not only ignore and despise the Sabbath themselves, *but they will try to keep it from others by burying it beneath the rubbish of custom and tradition*. In [SDA] churches and in large gatherings in the open air [camp meetings], [SDA] ministers will urge upon the people the necessity of keeping the first day of the week.” (*Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, March 18, 1884, emphasis supplied).

Thus nominal “Laodicean” Adventists will be led to perdition by the false shepherds of the apostate Seventh-day Adventist denomination. Oh, how so very sad!

The 144,000 In the Time of Trouble

“And I heard the number of them which were sealed:” John wrote, “and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of [Spiritual] Israel.” (Revelation 7:4).

“The living saints, 144,000 in number. . . .” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 15). “The people of God have. . . received ‘the latter rain,’ ‘the refreshing from the presence of the Lord,’ and they are prepared for the trying hour before them.” (*ibid.*, *The Great Controversy*, page 613).

The Appendix Note In *Early Writings*

Pages 13-20: "My first vision." --That which is presented in this Chapter was first published by the editor of the *Day-Star* on January 24, 1846, as "A Letter From Sister Harmon" dated "Portland, Maine, Dec. 20, 1845." It appeared again in print in 1846, 1847, and 1851 under the title "To the Remnant Scattered Abroad." The present title was assigned in 1882 in the reprinting of *Experience and Views*. (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, Appendix 1, page 297).

Notice that the last date of the publication of "My First Vision" was 1882. The first edition of *The Great Controversy* was published six years later in 1888. A revised edition of *The Great Controversy* was published by the author in 1911. In her first publications the people of God during the "time of trouble" or seven last plagues are stated to be the 144,000. Both editions of the *Great Controversy*, 1888 and 1911, simply state that the living saints during the "Time of Trouble" are "the people of God," or "God's people." No mention is made of the 144,000 in these later publications. Does this mean that Ellen White changed her mind about who the living saints are during the seven last plagues? No, indeed! What is the explanation for this seemingly discrepancy?

(1) The published editions of "My First Vision" were directed at Seventh-day Adventists, i.e., "A Letter From Sister Harmon" *Day-Star*, January 24, 1846, and "To the Remnant Scattered Abroad."

(2) The book, *The Great Controversy*, was written and directed toward the general public. It was, and still is, the greatest out-reach book known to Seventh-day Adventists.

Is this simple explanation correct? Yes! Ellen White still believed what she had stated and what she had seen in her first vision. Her first vision was published again from 1882 until the present with reference to the 144,000. Ellen White died in 1915, so her first vision, as it now appears in *Early Writings*, complete with reference to the 144,000, was published 33 years of her lifetime! "The present title was assigned in 1882 in the reprinting of *Experience and Views*." (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, Appendix 1, page 297).

"From the light given her [Ellen White] in 1844 in her first vision, there were 144,000 'living saints' who would greet their Lord at His second coming (EW, p. 15)," Arthur White wrote. "The records indicate only 50,000 to 100,000 were awaiting His coming in 1844." (*EGW - The Early Years*, Vol.1, 1827-1862, page 261).

The Condition of the World After the Close of Probation

When He [Jesus] leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent. God's long-suffering has ended. The world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and trampled upon His law. The wicked have passed the boundary of their probation; the Spirit of God, persistently resisted, has been at last withdrawn. Unsheltered by divine grace, they have no protection from the wicked one. Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old. (Ellen G. White, "The Time of Trouble," *The Great Controversy*, page 614, emphasis supplied).

It is now that we must prepare to "live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor." "It is now high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." (Romans 13:11).

These plagues are not universal, or the inhabitants of the earth would be wholly cut off. Yet they will be the most awful scourges that have ever been known to mortals. All the judgments upon men, prior to the close of probation, have been mingled with mercy. The pleading blood of Christ has shielded the sinner from receiving the full measure of his guilt; but in the final judgment, wrath is poured out unmixed with mercy. (Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, pages 628, 629).

“Those who honor the law of God have been accused of bringing judgments upon the world, and they will be regarded as the cause of the fearful convulsions of nature and the strife and bloodshed among men that are filling the earth with woe,” Ellen White wrote. “The power attending the last warning has enraged the wicked; their anger is kindled against all who have received the message, and Satan will excite to still greater intensity the spirit of hatred and persecution.” (*ibid.*, “The Time of Trouble,” *The Great Controversy*, pages 614, 615).

It is then time for God’s people to leave the small villages and secluded places and flee to the mountains. Those who do not flee will be cast into prisons and dungeons. But, praise the Lord, no one after the close of probation will be killed! God will not allow Satan to instigate the death of His sealed ones at this time.

The 144,000 Come Out of Great Tribulation

“They have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation;” Ellen White stated, “they have endured the anguish of the time of Jacob’s trouble; they have stood without an intercessor through the final outpouring of God’s judgments.” (*ibid.*, *The Great Controversy*, page 649, emphasis supplied).

“They [144,000] have seen the earth wasted with famine and pestilence, the sun having power to scorch men with great heat, and they themselves have endured suffering, hunger, and thirst,” Ellen White continued. “But ‘they shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.’ Revelation 7:14-17.” (*ibid.*, *The Great Controversy*, page 649, emphasis supplied).

The 144,000 -- the Death Decree and the Time of Jacob’s Trouble

“And he (the angel) said to me, ‘These [144,000] are they which came out of great tribulation,’” John quoted the angel, “and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” (Revelation 7:14, emphasis supplied).

In the “time of trouble” (the seven last plagues) there will go forth a death decree. The saints will be blamed for the plagues falling upon great Babylon and those who have the mark of the beast. This is the great tribulation period that the 144,000 have been prepared to meet.

“When the third angel’s message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth,” Ellen White wrote. “The people of God have accomplished their work. They have received ‘the latter rain,’ ‘the refreshing from the presence of the Lord,’ and they are prepared for the trying hour before them.” (*ibid.*, “The Time of Trouble,” *The Great Controversy*, page 613. (emphasis supplied).

“They [144,000] have seen the earth wasted with famine and pestilence, the sun having power to scorch men with great heat, and they themselves have endured suffering, hunger, and thirst,” Ellen White stated. “But ‘they shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.’ Revelation 7:14-17.” (*ibid.*, GC, p. 649, emphasis supplied).

Looking back on the trials of the 144,000 during the “time of trouble” Ellen White stated: “They have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation; they have endured the anguish of the time of Jacob’s trouble; they have stood without an intercessor through the final outpouring of God’s judgments.” (*ibid.*, *The Great Controversy*, page 649, emphasis supplied).

The Time of Jacob’s Trouble

“Thus saith the Lord: We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. . . . All faces are turned into paleness. Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.” (Jeremiah 30:5-7, emphasis supplied).

Looking back in vision as the 144,000 stand victorious on the sea of glass Ellen White stated, “They have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation, they have endured the anguish of the time of Jacob’s trouble; they have stood without an intercessor through the final outpouring of God’s judgments.” (*ibid.*, *The Great Controversy*, page 649, emphasis supplied).

As Seventh-day Adventists we have heard this phrase before, “the time of Jacobs trouble.” What is this time of Jacob’s trouble, and why do the living saints, “144,000 in number,” have to go through such anguish when they are already sealed?

“As Satan influenced Esau to march against Jacob, so he will stir up the wicked to destroy God’s people in the time of trouble,” Ellen White wrote. “And as he accused Jacob, he will urge his accusations against the people of God. . . .” (*ibid.*, *The Great Controversy*, page 618, emphasis supplied).

The Death Decree

“And he [United States] had power to give life unto the image [Sunday] of the beast [papacy], that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image [Sunday law enforcement] of the beast [papacy] should be killed.” (Revelation 13:15).

We know that during the seven last plagues there will be a death decree against God’s people. What causes the nations to declare a death decree?

“I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus’ work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues,” Ellen White explained. “These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous; they thought that we had brought the judgments of God upon them, and that if they could rid the earth of us, the plagues would then be stayed.” (*Early Writings*, pages 36, 37, emphasis supplied).

Notice that the “plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous.” They blame God’s people, the 144,000, for the plagues that are falling upon the earth. They conclude that “if they could rid the earth of us, the plagues would then be stayed.” So, what is the next step to that conclusion?

“A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance,” Ellen White stated. “This was the time of Jacob’s trouble.” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, pages 36, 37, emphasis supplied).

This passage reveals, (1) the death decree brings on the “time of Jacob’s trouble,” and, (2) the death decree “caused them to cry day and night for deliverance.” Speaking of the time of the death

decree Ellen White stated, “The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress described by the prophet as the time of Jacob’s trouble.” (*The Great Controversy*, page 616, emphasis supplied).

We know that all of God’s universe is watching with great interest final events on planet earth. With this fact in mind it is most important that we understand why the people of God, the 144,000, must suffer the anguish of the “time of Jacob’s trouble.”

As Satan accuses the people of God on account of their sins, the Lord permits him to try them to the uttermost. Their confidence in God, their faith and firmness, will be severely tested. As they review the past, their hopes sink; for in their whole lives they can see little good. They are fully conscious of their weakness and unworthiness. Satan endeavors to terrify them with the thought that their cases are hopeless, that the stain of their defilement will never be washed away. He hopes so to destroy their faith that they will yield to his temptations and turn from their allegiance to God. (*ibid.*, Ellen G. White, “The Time of Trouble, *The Great Controversy*, pages 618, 619, emphasis supplied).

By this time probation has closed. The 144,000 are sealed. They will not yield to Satan’s temptations “and turn from their allegiance to God.” So what is the answer? Why are they allowed to be persecuted by Satan and his demons at this time?

“Though God’s people will be surrounded by enemies who are bent upon their destruction, yet the anguish which they suffer is not a dread of persecution for the truth’s sake; they fear that every sin has not been repented of, and that through some fault in themselves they will fail to realize the fulfillment of the Saviour’s promise: I`will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world. Revelation 3:10,” Ellen White replies to our questions. “If they could have the assurance of pardon they would not shrink from torture or death; but should they prove unworthy, and lose their lives because of their own defects of character, then God’s holy name would be reproached.” (*ibid.*, “The Time of Trouble, *The Great Controversy*, pages 618, 619.

There is our answer. The anguish which God’s people, 144,000 suffer “is not a dread of persecution for the truth’s sake.”

“They fear that every sin has not been repented of,” Ellen White stated, “and that through some fault in themselves they will fail to realize the fulfillment of the Saviour’s promise. . .” (*ibid.*). They also fear that “because of their own defects of character, then God’s holy name would be reproached” before the on-looking universe. (*ibid.*).

At the time of the death decree the saints flee to mountains and wilderness areas to hide from those who wish to take their life. The Lord will be their salvation.

“I saw the saints leaving the cities and villages, and associating together in companies, and living in the most solitary places,” Ellen White related the scenes of her vision. “Angels provided them food and water, while the wicked were suffering from hunger and thirst. . .” (*ibid.*, “The Time of Trouble,” *Early Writings*, page 282).

The death decree stated that “unless the saints should yield their peculiar faith, give up the Sabbath, and observe the first day of the week, the people were at liberty after a certain time to put them to death.” (*ibid.*, EW, p. 283). How were the saints fairing in this time of Jacob’s trouble? “But in this

hour of trial the saints were calm and composed, trusting in God and leaning upon His promise that a way of escape would be made for them.” (*ibid.*, EW, p. 283).

The Lord Moves to Protect the Saints

“In some places, before the time for the decree to be executed, the wicked rushed upon the saints to slay them; but angels in the form of men of war fought for them,” Ellen White wrote. “Satan wished to have the privilege of destroying the saints of the Most High; *but Jesus bade His angels watch over them*.” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 283, emphasis supplied).

God’s Promise to Translate the 144,000 Living Saints

“God would be honored by making a covenant with those who had kept His law, in the sight of the heathen round about them,” Ellen White stated, “and Jesus would be honored by translating, without their seeing death, the faithful, waiting ones who had so long expected Him.” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 283, emphasis supplied).

What a wonderful promise to God’s people! The greatest desire of pioneer Seventh-day Adventists was that they might live to see Jesus come and be translated without seeing death. We, who live one hundred years after the passing of these faithful Advent pioneers have that privilege, dear reader, if only we will allow the Lord to do his will in us. This work will prepare us for the trying time just ahead.

The Deliverance of the Saints and the Special Resurrection

It was at midnight that God chose to deliver His people. As the wicked were mocking around them, suddenly the sun appeared, shining in his strength, and the moon stood still. The wicked looked upon the scene with amazement, while the saints beheld with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance. Signs and wonders followed in quick succession. Everything seemed turned out of its natural course. The streams ceased to flow. Dark, heavy clouds came up and clashed against each other. (*ibid.*, Ellen G. White, “Deliverance of the Saints,” *Early Writings*, page 285).

This vivid description would frighten any Seventh-day Adventist. But think how it will be for those who have not made their calling and election sure. “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 1:10, 11). If we are alive at this fearful time we must have God’s shielding arms about us.

The Special Resurrection At the Voice of God

“But there was one clear place of settled glory, whence came the voice of God like many waters, shaking the heavens and the earth. There was a mighty earthquake,” Ellen White described the awesome scene. “The graves were opened, and those who had died in faith under the third angel’s message, keeping the Sabbath, came forth from their dusty beds, glorified, to hear the covenant of peace that God was to make with those who had kept His law.” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 285, emphasis supplied).

Notice that “those who had died in faith under the third angel’s message, keeping the Sabbath, came forth from their dusty beds, glorified.” Those faithful souls who have been part of giving the great

Advent message come forth to everlasting life. Praise the Lord! If we do not live to pass through the time of trouble to be translated, may God grant that you and I be in that group that “come forth from their dusty beds, glorified.”

The sky opened and shut and was in commotion. The mountains shook like a reed in the wind and cast out ragged rocks all around. The sea boiled like a pot and cast out stones upon the land. And as God spoke the day and the hour of Jesus’ coming and delivered the everlasting covenant to His people, He spoke one sentence, and then paused, while the words were rolling through the earth. (*ibid.*, Ellen G. White, *Early Writings*, page 286).

The Response of God’s People At the Voice of God

“The Israel of God stood with their eyes fixed upward,” Ellen White continued, “listening to the words as they came from the mouth of Jehovah and rolled through the earth like peals of loudest thunder.” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 286).

“It was awfully solemn,” Ellen White concluded. “At the end of every sentence the saints shouted, ‘Glory! Hallelujah!’ Their countenances were lighted up with the glory of God, and they shone with glory as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai.” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 286).

The Response of the Wicked At the Voice of God

“The wicked could not look upon them for the glory,” Ellen White commented. “And when the never-ending blessing was pronounced on those who had honored God in keeping His Sabbath holy, there was a mighty shout of victory over the beast and over his image.” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 286).

The Coming of Our Lord in Glory

Soon appeared the great white cloud, upon which sat the Son of man. When it first appeared in the distance, this cloud looked very small. The angel said that it was the sign of the Son of man. As it drew nearer the earth, we could behold the excellent glory and majesty of Jesus as He rode forth to conquer. A retinue of holy angels, with bright, glittering crowns upon their heads, escorted Him on His way. No language can describe the glory of the scene. The living cloud of majesty and unsurpassed glory came still nearer, and we could clearly behold the lovely person of Jesus. He did not wear a crown of thorns, but a crown of glory rested upon His holy brow. Upon His vesture and thigh was a name written, King of kings, and Lord of lords. His countenance was as bright as the noonday sun, His eyes were as a flame of fire, and His feet had the appearance of fine brass. His voice sounded like many musical instruments. The earth trembled before Him, the heavens departed as a scroll when it is rolled together, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. “And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every freeman, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” (*ibid.*, Ellen G. White, *Early Writings*, pages 286, 287).

The Wicked at the Coming of Our Lord

“Those who a short time before would have destroyed God’s faithful children from the earth, now witnessed the glory of God which rested upon them,” Ellen White stated. “And amid all their terror

they heard the voices of the saints in joyful strains, saying, `Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us.’” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 287).

The Living Saints (144,000) and the Resurrected Saints

The earth mightily shook as the voice of the Son of God called forth the sleeping saints. They responded to the call and came forth clothed with glorious immortality, crying, “Victory, victory, over death and the grave! O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” Then the living saints and the risen ones raised their voices in a long, transporting shout of victory. Those bodies that had gone down into the grave bearing the marks of disease and death came up in immortal health and vigor. The living saints are changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and caught up with the risen ones, and together they meet their Lord in the air. Oh, what a glorious meeting! Friends whom death had separated were united, never more to part. (*ibid.*, Ellen G. White, “Deliverance of the Saints,” *Early Writings*, page 287).

Only the 144,000 On the Sea of Glass

“And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.” (Revelation 15:2, emphasis supplied).

“Here on the sea of glass the 144,000 stood in a perfect square,” Ellen White stated. (*Early Writings*, page 16).

Upon the crystal sea before the throne, that sea of glass as it were mingled with fire, -- so resplendent is it with the glory of God, -- are gathered the company that have “gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name.” With the Lamb upon Mount Zion, “having the harps of God,” they stand, the hundred and forty and four thousand that were redeemed from among men; and there is heard, as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of a great thunder, “the voice of harpers harping with their harps.” (*ibid.*, Ellen G. White, “God’s People Delivered,” *The Great Controversy*, pages 648, 649, emphasis supplied).

You ask, “Do you mean there will only be 144,000 people saved?” No, indeed. John saw a great multitude that no man could number standing before the throne. The 144,000 are those who are “translated” from among the living without seeing death.

The Great Multitude Beyond the Sea of Glass

“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude,” John wrote, “which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.” (Revelation 7:9, emphasis supplied).

Notice that this Scripture says nothing about the great multitude standing on the sea of glass. The great multitude stand before the throne, *but only the 144,000 stand on the sea of glass*. “Upon the crystal sea before the throne, that sea of glass as it were mingled with fire. . .they stand, the hundred and forty and four thousand that were redeemed from among men. . .” (*ibid.*, *The Great Controversy*, pages 648, 649, emphasis supplied).

Only the 144,000 Sing the Song of Moses

“And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.” (Revelation 15:3).

And they sing “a new song” before the throne, a song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand,” Ellen White wrote. “It is the song of Moses and the Lamb -- a song of deliverance. None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song; for it is the song of their experience -- an experience such as no other company have ever had. (*ibid.*, Ellen G. White, “God’s People Delivered,” *The Great Controversy*, pages 648, 649, emphasis supplied).

“The living saints are changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and caught up with the risen ones, and together they meet their Lord in the air,” Ellen White expresses joy at the sight. “Oh, what a glorious meeting! Friends whom death had separated were united, never more to part.” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 287).

“Never more to part!” Oh, dear reader, may we be among that throng. This is our goal -- to be among the 144,000 who stand on the sea of glass (Revelation 15:2), or to be with that great multitude that no man could number standing before the throne (Revelation 7:9), and to bring others our Lord will help us to snatch from the enemy of all mankind.

. . .and, lo, I am with you alway,
even unto the end of the world
Matthew 28:20

THE END

POSTSCRIPT

The 144,000 and Final Events In Chronological Order

[The following quotations are found in *Early Writings*, pages 14-20, 36-40, also, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, pages 59-69.]

(1) Angel's Hold the Four Winds

"I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds *until Jesus' work was done in the sanctuary. . .*" (*Early Writings*, page 14, emphasis supplied).

"I saw that the anger of the nations, the wrath of God, and the time to judge the dead were separate and distinct, one following the other," Ellen White wrote, "also that Michael had not stood up, and that the time of trouble, such as never was, had not yet commenced." (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 36, emphasis supplied).

(2) When Michael Stands Up, Human Probation Will Close

"And at that time shall Michael [Christ] stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people:" Daniel prophesied, "and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." (Daniel 12:1).

"The nations are now getting angry, but when our High Priest has finished His work in the sanctuary, He will stand up, put on the garments of vengeance, and then the seven last plagues will be poured out." (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 36, emphasis supplied).

(3) The Seven Last Plagues (time of trouble) Comes After the Close of Probation

"I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus' work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues." (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 14, emphasis supplied).

(4) The 144,000 at the Close of Probation

"The 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united. On their foreheads was written, God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus' new name." (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 15, emphasis supplied).

(5) Nominal Adventists (in name only) at the Close of Probation

Then I was shown a company who were howling in agony. On their garments was written in large characters, "Thou art weighed in the balance, and found wanting." I asked who this company were. The angel said, "These are they who have once kept the Sabbath and have given it up." I heard them cry with a loud voice, "We have believed in Thy coming, and taught it with energy." And while they were speaking, their eyes would fall upon their garments and see the writing, and then they would wail aloud. I saw that they had drunk of the deep waters, and fouled the residue with their feet--trodden the Sabbath underfoot-- and that was why they were weighed in the balance and found wanting. (*ibid.*, Ellen G. White, *Early Writings*, page 37, emphasis supplied).

(6) The Death Decree After the Close of Probation and During the Time of Trouble

“These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous; they thought that we had brought the judgments of God upon them, and that if they could rid the earth of us, the plagues would then be stayed.” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 36, emphasis supplied).

(7) Death Decree Causes the Time of Jacob’s Trouble

“A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance.” (Revelation 13:15).

“This was the time of Jacob’s trouble.” (*The Great Controversy*, page 616, emphasis supplied).

(8) Saints Delivered By the Voice of God -- 144,000 Triumph

“Then all the saints cried out with anguish of spirit, and were delivered by the Voice of God.” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, pages 36, 37, emphasis supplied).

“Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus’ coming,” Ellen White stated. “*The living saints, 144,000 in number*, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake.” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 15, emphasis supplied).

“When God spoke the time, He poured upon us the Holy Ghost, and our faces began to light up and shine with the glory of God, as Moses’ did when he came down from Mount Sinai.” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 15).

“The 144,000 triumphed,” Ellen White stated. “Their faces were lighted up with the glory of God.” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 36, emphasis supplied).

(9) Special Resurrection At the Voice of God

“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,” Daniel prophesied, “some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” (Daniel 12:2).

I saw that she was sealed and would come up at the voice of God and stand upon the earth, and would be with the 144,000. I saw we need not mourn for her; *she would rest in the time of trouble*, and all that we could mourn for was our loss in being deprived of her company. I saw her death would result in good.--*Letter 10, 1850.* (Ellen G. White, *The Faith I Live By*, page 173, emphasis supplied).

“The graves opened, and the dead came up clothed with immortality,” Ellen White wrote. “The 144,000 shouted, ‘Alleluia!’ as they recognized their friends who had been torn from them by death. . . .” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 16, emphasis supplied).

But there was one clear place of settled glory, whence came the voice of God like many waters, shaking the heavens and the earth. There was a mighty earthquake. The graves were opened, and those who had died in faith under the third angel’s message, keeping the Sabbath, came forth from their dusty beds, glorified, to hear the covenant of peace that God was to make with those who had kept His law. (*ibid.*, Ellen G. White, “Deliverance of the Saints,” *Early Writings*, page 285, emphasis supplied).

(10) Only 144,000 Stand On the Sea of Glass

“And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.” (Revelation 15:2, emphasis supplied).

“Here on the sea of glass the 144,000 stood in a perfect square.” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 36, emphasis supplied).

Upon the crystal sea before the throne, that sea of glass as it were mingled with fire, -- so resplendent is it with the glory of God, -- are gathered the company that have “gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name.” With the Lamb upon Mount Zion, “having the harps of God,” they stand, the hundred and forty and four thousand that were redeemed from among men; and there is heard, as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of a great thunder, “the voice of harpers harping with their harps.” (*ibid.*, Ellen G. White, “God’s People Delivered,” *The Great Controversy*, pages 648, 649, emphasis supplied).

(11) A Great Multitude Before the Throne

“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.” (Revelation 7:9, emphasis supplied).

(12) Only 144,000 to Enter the Heavenly Temple

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb [Jesus] stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, *having his Father's name written in their foreheads.*” (Revelation 14:1, emphasis supplied).

“Mount Zion was just before us, and on the mount was a glorious temple, and about it were seven other mountains, on which grew roses and lilies. . . .” “And as we were about to enter the holy temple, Jesus raised His lovely voice and said, ‘Only the 144,000 enter this place.’ and we shouted, ‘Alleluia.’” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, pages 18, 19: See also, *Life Sketches* of James White and Ellen G. White, 1888 edition, page 217, emphasis supplied).

(13) Names of 144,000 Written in Gold on Tables of Stone

“I saw there tables of stone in which the names of the 144,000 were engraved in letters of gold.” (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 19; See also, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, page 69, emphasis supplied).

(14) Advent People to Travel the Universe With the 144,000

I saw that she was sealed and would come up at the voice of God and stand upon the earth, and would be with the 144,000. I saw we need not mourn for her; she would rest in the time of trouble, and all that we could mourn for was our loss in being deprived of her company. I saw her death would result in good.--*Letter 10*, 1850. (Ellen G. White, *The Faith I Live By*, page 173. (emphasis supplied).

I begged of my attending angel to let me remain in that place. I could not bear the thought of coming back to this dark world again. Then the angel said, "You must go back, and if you are faithful, you, with the 144,000, shall have the privilege of visiting all the worlds and viewing the handiwork of God." (*ibid.*, Ellen G. White, *Early Writings*, page 4, emphasis supplied).

(15) Glorious Reward of All the Redeemed

"After we beheld the glory of the temple, we went out, and Jesus left us and went to the city. Soon we heard His lovely voice again, saying, `Come, My people, you have come out of great tribulation, and done My will; suffered for Me; come in to supper, for I will gird Myself, and serve you.'" (*ibid.*, *Early Writings*, page 20).

What glory waits thy children true,
well-springs of joy forever new,
in heaven above God waits for me,
how blessed will be His face to see.

Sin will be gone, forever gone,
no more to stain God's sinless throng,
may you be there that glorious day,
forever more with Him to stay.
(Ivan Albertson)

THE BEGINNING OF ETERNITY