

The Identity of the “144,000”

Chaps. 7 and 14/15 describe the same group (i.e., the Church).

144,000 of Rev 7	144,000 of Rev 14
<p>³"Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, till we have <i>sealed the servants of our God upon their foreheads.</i>"</p> <p>⁴And I heard the number of the sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand sealed, out of every tribe of the sons of Israel [12,000 x 12 tribes]</p>	<p>¹Then I looked, and lo, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand who had <i>his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.</i> ... ³and they sing a new song <i>before the throne</i> and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins; it is <i>these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes</i>; these have been redeemed from mankind ... ⁵and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are spotless.</p>
Martyred Multitude of Rev 7	Martyred Saints of Rev 15
<p>⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, <i>standing before the throne</i> and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands ... ¹⁴"These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night within his temple; and he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat [Isa 49:10]. ¹⁷For <i>the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will lead them</i> to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes [Isa 25:8]."</p>	<p>²And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who had overcome the beast and its image and the number of its name, <i>standing</i> beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. ³And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb</p>

The Identity of the 144,000

Chap. 7 and 14 describe the same 144,000.

Both times the 144,000 are further described as **overcomers**

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The Identity of the 144,000

Chap. 7 and 14 describe the same 144,000.

The **seal** on the forehead = **God's name** on the forehead.

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<p>³"Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God upon their foreheads."</p> <p>⁴And I heard the number of the sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand sealed, out of every tribe of the sons of Israel [12,000 x 12 tribes]</p>	<p>¹Then I looked, and lo, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ... ³and they sing a new song <i>before the throne</i> and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins; it is <i>these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes</i>; these have been redeemed from mankind ... ⁵and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are spotless.</p>
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The Identity of the 144,000

The 144,000 & the Great Multitude of chap. 7 are a “double take”=two ways of describing the same **priestly** group:
once as Spiritual Israel and once literally. All God’s people are his servants (= priestly/temple service).

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<p>³"Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God upon their foreheads."</p> <p>⁴And I heard the number of the sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand sealed, out of every tribe of the sons of Israel [12,000 x 12 tribes]</p>	<p>¹Then I looked, and lo, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ... ³and they sing a new song <i>before the throne</i> and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins; it is <i>these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes</i>; these have been redeemed from mankind ... ⁵and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are spotless.</p>
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The Identity of the 144,000

The 144,000 of chap. 14 are NOT literal Jews.

They are **taken from every nation on earth** just like the Great Multitude of chap. 7 because they are the Great Multitude of chap. 7.

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The Identity of the 144,000

The **location** of the Great Multitude and the 144,000 equate the two groups.

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<p>⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, <i>standing before the throne</i> and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands ... ¹⁴"These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night within his temple; and he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷For <u><i>the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will lead them</i></u> to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."</p>	<p>²And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who had overcome the beast and its image and the number of its name, <i>standing</i> beside the sea <i>of glass</i> [= <i>before the throne</i>] with harps of God in their hands. ³And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb</p>

The Identity of the 144,000

The **purity** of the Great Multitude and the 144,000 equate the two groups.

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The Identity of the 144,000

The description of the Great Multitude and the 144,000 as **the Lamb's sheep** equates the two groups.

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The Identity of the 144,000

Just as the 144,000 of chap. 7 is further described as a Great Multitude;
so also the 144,000 of chap. 14 is further described in chap. 15 via a “double take” or second look.

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<p>³"Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, till we have <i>sealed the servants of our God upon their foreheads.</i>"</p> <p>⁴And I heard the number of the sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand sealed, out of every tribe of the sons of Israel [12,000 x 12 tribes]</p>	<p>¹Then I looked, and lo, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand who had <i>his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.</i> ... ³and they sing a new song <i>before the throne</i> and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins; it is <i>these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes</i>; these have been redeemed from mankind ... ⁵and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are spotless.</p>
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The Identity of the 144,000

The Great Multitude of chap. 7 is the Great Multitude of chap. 15.

They are in each case **the same OVERCOMERS** who come through the same tribulation.

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The Identity of the 144,000

All four groups are “**Spiritual Israel**” that has come out victoriously in a **New eschatological Exodus**.

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The Identity of the 144,000

As **Spiritual Israel** the Church (=144,000) inherits the eschatological blessings and promises to literal Israel in the OT.

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The Identity of the 144,000

Everything said of ALL FOUR GROUPS applies to ALL CHRISTIANS
because ALL FOUR GROUPS are ALL CHRISTIANS.

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