



# The Shepherd's Rod<sup>®</sup>

*Bible and Spirit of Prophecy*  
**The 144,000: Who are they?**

## **Introduction**

The subject of the 144,000 is one of the most challenging, mysterious, and mooted of Bible subjects. Many have avoided its study and those that have studied it have not been able to unlock its mysteries. The mysteries herein treated have been unlocked by the sure word of truth and will lead its reader to a better understanding as to who are the 144,000.

## **Prayer Thoughts**

***“There is yet much precious truth to be revealed...”***

“There is yet much precious truth to be revealed to the people in this time of peril and darkness, but it is Satan’s determined purpose to prevent the light of truth from shining into the hearts of men. If we would have the light that has been provided for us, we should show our desire for it by diligently searching the word of God. Precious truths that have long been in obscurity are to be revealed in a light that will make manifest their sacred worth; for God will glorify His word, that it may appear in a light in which we have never before beheld it.”—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 25

***“Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light...”***

“Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall nor discern or receive it.”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 507

***“We have many lessons to learn, and many, many to unlearn.”***

“We have many lessons to learn, and many, many to unlearn. God and heaven alone are infallible. Those who think that they will never have to give up a cherished view, never have occasion to change an opinion, will be disappointed. As long as we hold to our own ideas and opinions with determined persistency, we cannot have the unity for which Christ prayed.”—*The Review and Herald*, July 26, 1892, par. 7

## The 144,000: Who are they?

### What does Ellen White say about this company?

“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.’ [Revelation 15:2.] 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.’ [Revelation 14:1-5; 15:3; 7:14-17] And they sing ‘a new song’ before the throne, a song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand. 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. ‘These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.’ These, having been translated from the earth, from among the living, are counted as ‘the first-fruits unto God and to the Lamb.’ ‘These are they which came out of great tribulation;’ [Revelation 14:1-5; 15:3; Revelation 7:14-17.] 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. But they have been delivered, for they have ‘washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’ ‘In their mouth was found no guile; for they are without fault’ before God. ‘Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.’ [Revelation 14:1-5; 15:3; Revelation 7:14-17.] They 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. But ‘they shall hunger no more; neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.’”—*The Great Controversy (1888 ed.)*, p. 685

### Answer:

#### List of their victories, rewards, and experience:

- They received victory over the beast, his image, his mark, and the number of his name
- They stand with the lamb on Mt. Zion.
- They have harps in their hands
- They are those that were redeemed from among men
- They have a song that no one can learn—a song of deliverance
- They have an experience that no one else has ever had
- They follow the lamb wherever he goes
- They were translated from the earth from among the living
- They are the first-fruits unto God and unto the Lamb

- They came out of great tribulation
- They have passed through the Time of Trouble
- They have endured that anguish of Jacob's Trouble
- They have stood without an intercessor through the outpouring of God's Final Judgments
- They have been delivered (Daniel 12:1)
- They have washed their robes and made them white with the blood of the lamb
- In their mouth was found no guile; for they are without fault before God
- They are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple
- They have seen the earth wasted with famine and pestilence
- They have endured suffering, hunger, and thirst
- The sun will not light on them, nor any heat (fourth plague)
- God shall lead them unto living fountains of waters
- God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes

### **Do the 144,000 have a special place in Heaven reserved for them?**

“Mount Zion was just before us, and on the mount was a building which looked to me like a temple. About it were seven other mountains, on which grew roses and lilies. I saw the little ones climb, or if they chose, use their little wings and fly to the top of the mountains, and pluck the never-fading flowers. There were all kinds of trees to beautify the place; the box, pine, fir, olive, myrtle and pomegranate, and the fig tree, bowed down with the weight of its timely figs, made the place all over glorious. As we were about to enter the temple, Jesus raised his lovely eyes and said, Only the one hundred and forty-four thousand enter this place, and we shouted Alleluia. The temple was supported by seven pillars, all of transparent gold, set with pearls most glorious. The things I saw there I can but faintly describe. Oh! that I could talk in the language of Canaan, then could I tell something of the glory of the better world. I saw there tables of stone in which the names of the one hundred and forty-four thousand were engraved in letters of gold.”—*Life Sketches of James White and Ellen G. White (1880 ed.)*, p. 217

**Answer:**

### **What does Ellen White tell us to do?**

“Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand.”—*The Review and Herald*, March 9, 1905

**Answer:**

### **Where does the subject of the 144,000 find its origin?**

**Revelation 7:1-4**

“<sup>1</sup> And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. <sup>2</sup> And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, <sup>3</sup> Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. <sup>4</sup> And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”—Revelation 7:1-4

**Answer:**

**What do “winds” generally represent in the Bible according to the *Spirit of Prophecy*?**

“Winds are a symbol of strife.”—*The Great Controversy (1911)*, p. 440

“Angels are now restraining the winds of strife, until the world shall be warned of its coming doom; but a storm is gathering, ready to burst upon the earth, and when God shall bid his angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.”—*The Review and Herald (1851)*, November 23, 1905

**Answer:**

**What strife do the “four winds” in Revelation 7 specifically represent?**

“The time is coming when we cannot sell at any price. The decree will soon go forth prohibiting men to buy or sell of any man save him that hath the mark of the beast. We came near having this realized in California a short time since; but this was only the threatening of the blowing of the four winds. As yet they are held by the four angels.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, pg. 152

**Answer:**

**What do the blowing of these “Four Winds” or “Mark of the Beast” bring about?**

“We are not just ready. There is a work yet to be done, and then the angels will be bidden to let go, that the four winds may blow upon the earth. That will be a decisive time for God's children, a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation. Now is our opportunity to work.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, pg. 152

“The time is right upon us when there will be sorrow that no human balm can heal. Sentinel angels are now restraining the four winds, that they shall not blow till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads; but when God shall bid his angels loose the winds, there will be a scene of strife such as no pen can picture. The ‘time of trouble, such as never was,’ is soon to open upon us; and we shall need an experience which many are too indolent to obtain.”—*The Review and Herald*, March 14, 1912, paragraph 6

**Answer:**

**When will the “Four Winds” blow?**

“Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the four winds that they may not blow until the servants of God are sealed; but when God shall bid his angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of his avenging wrath as no pen can picture. We are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecy is fast fulfilling. The Lord is at the door. There is soon to open before us a period of overwhelming interest to all living. The controversies of the past are to be revived. New controversies will arise. The scenes to be enacted in our world are not even dreamed of. Satan is at work through human agencies. Those who are making so great efforts to change the Constitution and secure a law enforcing the first day of the week little realize what will be the result. A crisis is just upon us.”—*The Review and Herald*, January 11, 1887, paragraphs 14, 15

**Answer:**

**What is the result of the “four winds” being let loosed?**

“Soon the four winds of heaven will be loosed, and in every part of the globe there will be dissension, strife, war, bloodshed. Satan is stirred with intensity from beneath. The power of God will be the defense of His people until their warning message will have been proclaimed to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.”—*Letters and Manuscripts — Volume 17 (1902), Ms 165, 1902*, paragraph 14

**Answer:**

**What else does the Bible say about the 144,000?**

#### **Revelation 14:1-5**

“<sup>1</sup> And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. <sup>2</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: <sup>3</sup> And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. <sup>4</sup> These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. <sup>5</sup> And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.”

**Answer:**

**What does it mean by the phrase “...not defiled with women; for they are virgins.”?**

*A women is likened to a church*

“I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman.” Jeremiah 6:2

*A virtuous woman representing a pure church, a vile woman an apostate church*

“In Revelation 17 Babylon is represented as a woman—a figure which is used in the Bible as the symbol of a church, a virtuous woman representing a pure church, a vile woman an apostate church.”—*The Great Controversy (1911 ed.)*, p. 381

*They profess a pure faith*

“They are called virgins because they profess a pure faith.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 406

**Answer:**

**What does it mean by the phrase “...in their mouth was found no guile...”?**

“In speaking foolish words, you have dishonored the name of Christ; for you have misrepresented him in character. No word of guile was found in his lips, no word of prevarication or falsehood. The people that are described as making up the one hundred and forty-four thousand, have the Father's name written in their foreheads, and of them it is said: ‘In their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.’ If they had been speaking foolish, senseless, false words, they would not have been found without guile, and without fault before the throne of God.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, June 27, 1895, paragraph 4

**Answer:**

**Is the 144,000 literal or symbolic number?**

*John heard the number*

“And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.” Revelation 7:4

*John compares them to a Great Multitude that no man can number*

“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

*Ellen White saw the 144,000 in number*

“While I was praying at the family altar, the Holy Ghost fell upon me, and I seemed to be rising higher and higher, far above the dark world. I turned to look for the Advent people in the world,

but could not find them, when a voice said to me, ‘Look again, and look a little higher.’ At this I raised my eyes, and saw a straight and narrow path, cast up high above the world. On this path the Advent people were traveling to the city, which was at the farther end of the path. They had a bright light set up behind them at the beginning of the path, which an angel told me was the midnight cry. This light shone all along the path and gave light for their feet so that they might not stumble. If they kept their eyes fixed on Jesus, who was just before them, leading them to the city, they were safe. But soon some grew weary, and said the city was a great way off, and they expected to have entered it before. Then Jesus would encourage them by raising His glorious right arm, and from His arm came a light which waved over the Advent band, and they shouted, ‘Alleluia!’ Others rashly denied the light behind them and said that it was not God that had led them out so far. The light behind them went out, leaving their feet in perfect darkness, and they stumbled and lost sight of the mark and of Jesus, and fell off the path down into the dark and wicked world below. Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus’ coming. The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake.”—*Early Writings*, pp. 14, 15

**Answer:**

**Are the 144,000 resurrected from the dead or are they to be translated from among the living?**

“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. ‘These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.’ These, having been translated from the earth, from among the living, are counted as ‘the first-fruits unto God and to the Lamb.’”—*The Great Controversy (1888 ed.)*, p. 685

**Answer:**

**In Revelation 7, the 144,000 are said to be “...of all the tribes of the children of Israel.” Does this mean they are of the indefinable Jews who occupy Israel today?**

### **Seventh-day Adventists – Israel of today**

“In order to be purified and to remain pure, Seventh-day Adventists must have the Holy Spirit in their hearts and in their homes. The Lord has given me light that when the Israel of today humble themselves before Him, and cleanse the soul-temple from all defilement, He will hear their prayers in behalf of the sick and will bless in the use of His remedies for disease.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 9, p. 164

**Answer:**

**Who is this sealing angel?**

“This mightiest of angels has in his hand the seal of the living God, or of Him who alone can give life, who can inscribe upon the foreheads the mark or inscription, to whom shall be granted immortality, eternal life. It is the voice of this highest angel that had authority to command the four angels to keep in check the four winds until this work was performed, and until he should give the summons to let them loose.”—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 444

**Answer:**

**When will they be sealed?**

“About four months since, I had a vision of events, all in the future. And I saw the time of trouble, such as never was,—Jesus told me it was the time of Jacob's trouble, and that we should be delivered out of it by the voice of God. Just before we entered it, we all received the seal of the living God. Then I saw the four Angels cease to hold the four winds. And I saw famine, pestilence and sword, nation rose against nation, and the whole world was in confusion.”—*The Daystar*, March 14, 1846, par. 2

**Answer:**

**How are they to be sealed?**

“This sealing of the servants of God is the same that was shown to Ezekiel in vision. John also had been a witness of this most startling revelation.”—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 445

**Answer:**

**What's the only chapter in Ezekiel that talks about a “marking” or “sealing”?**

### **Ezekiel 9:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand. <sup>2</sup> And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar. <sup>3</sup> And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side; <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: <sup>6</sup> Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house. <sup>7</sup> And he said unto



them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city. <sup>8</sup> And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem? <sup>9</sup> Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not. <sup>10</sup> And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will recompense their way upon their head. <sup>11</sup> And, behold, the man clothed with linen, which had the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as thou hast commanded me.”

**Answer:**

**What is the seal of Revelation Chapter 7 and Ezekiel 9: Is it the Sabbath seal or some other seal?**

### **“Mark of Redemption”**

“What is the seal of the living God, which is placed in the foreheads of His people? It is a mark which angels, but not human eyes, can read; for the destroying angel must see this mark of redemption.”—*Letters and Manuscripts — Volume 13 (1898), Lt 126, 1898*, paragraph 4

### **“Settling into the Truth”**

“Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads—it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved—just as soon as God’s people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already; the judgments of God are now upon the land to give us warning, that we may know what is coming.”—*Letters and Manuscripts — Volume 17 (1902), Ms 173, 1902*, paragraph 25

**Answer:**

**Who will receive the seal of the living God?**

### ***Our own course of action will determine...***

“Our own course of action will determine whether we shall receive the seal of the living God or be cut down by the destroying weapons.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 212

### ***Those that overcome the world***

“Those that overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, will be the favored ones who shall receive the seal of the living God.”—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 444

### ***Sigh and Cry***

“Mark this point with care: Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those ‘that sigh and cry for all the abominations that are done’ in the church. Their love for purity and the honor and glory of God is such, and they have so clear a view of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, that they are represented as being in an agony, even sighing and crying.”—*The Review and Herald*, June 8, 1873, paragraph 5

**Answer:**

**Who will not receive the seal of the living God?**

“Those whose hands are not clean, whose hearts are not pure, will not have the seal of the living God. Those who are planning sin and acting it will be passed by.”—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 444

**Answer:**

**What will happen to those who do not receive the seal of God?**

“Who are standing in the counsel of God at this time? Is it those who virtually excuse wrongs among the professed people of God, and murmur in their hearts, if not openly, against those who would reprove sin? Is it those who take their stand against them, and sympathize with those who commit wrong? No, indeed! These, unless they repent, and leave the work of Satan in oppressing those who have the burden of the work, and holding up the hands of sinners in Zion, will never receive the mark of God's sealing approval. They will fall in the general destruction of all the wicked, represented by the five men bearing slaughter weapons. ... Read Ezekiel, chapter nine. But the general slaughter of all those who do not thus see the wide contrast between sin and righteousness, and do not feel as those do who stand in the counsel of God and receive the mark, is described in the order to the five men with slaughter weapons: ‘Go ye after him through the city, and smite; let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity; slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women; but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary.’”—*The Review and Herald*, June 8, 1873, paragraphs 5, 6

**Answer:**

**Is this judgment for the church or the world?**

*Judgment begins at the House of God*

“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” 1 Peter 4:17

*The church—the Lord's sanctuary—was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God*

“The Lord commissions His messengers, the men with slaughtering weapons in their hands: ‘Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.’ Here we see that the church—the Lord's sanctuary—was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 211

**Answer:**

### **What is our condition as a church?**

“Many who call themselves Christians are mere human moralists. They have refused the gift which alone could enable them to honor Christ by representing Him to the world. The work of the Holy Spirit is to them a strange work. They are not doers of the word. The heavenly principles that distinguish those who are one with Christ from those who are one with the world have become almost indistinguishable. The professed followers of Christ are no longer a separate and peculiar people. The line of demarcation is indistinct. The people are subordinating themselves to the world, to its practices, its customs, its selfishness. The church has gone over to the world in transgression of the law, when the world should have come over to the church in obedience to the law. Daily the church is being converted to the world. All these expect to be saved by Christ's death, while they refuse to live His self-sacrificing life. They extol the riches of free grace, and attempt to cover themselves with an appearance of righteousness, hoping to screen their defects of character; but their efforts will be of no avail in the day of God. The righteousness of Christ will not cover one cherished sin. A man may be a law-breaker in heart; yet if he commits no outward act of transgression, he may be regarded by the world as possessing great integrity. But God's law looks into the secrets of the heart. Every act is judged by the motives that prompt it. Only that which is in accord with the principles of God's law will stand in the judgment.”—*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 315, 316

**Answer:**

### **What is the result of the church's condition?**

“The Lord does not now work to bring many souls into the truth, because of the church members who have never been converted and those who were once converted but who have backslidden. What influence would these unconsecrated members have on new converts? Would they not make of no effect the God-given message which His people are to bear?”—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 372

**Answer:** The Lord does not now work to bring many souls into the truth.

### **Is the Slaughter of Ezekiel 9 literal or symbolic?**

“Study the ninth chapter of Ezekiel. These words will be literally fulfilled; yet the time is passing, and the people are asleep. They refuse to humble their souls and to be converted. Not a great while longer will the Lord bear with the people who have such great and important truths revealed to them, but who refuse to bring these truths into their individual experience. The time is short. God is calling. Will you hear? Will you receive His message? Will you be converted before it is too late? Soon, very soon, every case will be decided for eternity.”—*Letters and Manuscripts — Volume 24 (1909), Lt 106, 1909, paragraph 17*

**Answer:**

**Is the sealing of the 144,000 the closing work for the church or for the world?**

“The spirit of hatred which has existed with some because the wrongs among God's people have been reprov'd, has brought blindness and a fearful deception upon their own souls, making it impossible for them to discriminate between right and wrong. They have put out their own spiritual eyesight. They may witness wrongs, but they do not feel as did Joshua, and humble their souls in humiliation because the burden of souls is felt by them. The true people of God, who have the spirit of the work of the Lord and the salvation of souls at heart, will ever view sin in its real, sinful character. They will always be on the side of faithful and plain dealing with sins which easily beset the people of God. Especially in the closing work for the church, in the sealing time of the one hundred and forty-four thousand, who are to stand without fault before the throne of God, will they feel most deeply the wrongs of God's professed people. This is forcibly set forth by the prophet's illustration of the last work under the figure of the men, each having a slaughter weapon in his hand. One man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side. ‘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 the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.’”—*The Review and Herald, June 8, 1873, paragraphs 3, 4*

**Answer:**

**Are the 144,000 the remnant?**

“As the people of God afflict their souls before Him, pleading for purity of heart, the command is given, ‘Take away the filthy garments’ from them, and the encouraging words are spoken, ‘Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.’ The spotless robe of Christ's righteousness is placed upon the tried, tempted, yet faithful children of God. The despised remnant are clothed in glorious apparel, nevermore to be defiled by the corruptions of the world. Their names are retained in the Lamb's book of life, enrolled among the faithful of all ages. They have resisted the wiles of the deceiver; they have not been turned from their loyalty by the dragon's roar. Now they are eternally secure from the tempter's devices. Their sins are transferred to the originator of sin. And the remnant are not only

pardoned and accepted, but honored. 'A fair miter' is set upon their heads. They are to be as kings and priests unto God. While Satan was urging his accusations and seeking to destroy this company, holy angels, unseen, were passing to and fro, placing upon them the seal of the living God. These are they that stand upon Mount Zion with the Lamb, having the Father's name written in their foreheads. They sing the new song before the throne, that song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. "These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, pp. 475, 476

**Answer:**

**Who is responsible for not warning the church about this judgment and what will happen to them?**

"The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God. The Lord commissions His messengers, the men with slaughtering weapons in their hands: 'Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.' Here we see that the church—the Lord's sanctuary—was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God. The ancient men, those to whom God had given great light and who had stood as guardians of the spiritual interests of the people, had betrayed their trust. They had taken the position that we need not look for miracles and the marked manifestation of God's power as in former days. Times have changed. These words strengthen their unbelief, and they say: The Lord will not do good, neither will He do evil. He is too merciful to visit His people in judgment. Thus 'Peace and safety' is the cry from men who will never again lift up their voice like a trumpet to show God's people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins. These dumb dogs that would not bark are the ones who feel the just vengeance of an offended God. Men, maidens, and little children all perish together.'—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 211

**Answer:**

**What will happen to the church as a body if men in responsible positions pass over the sins of the people?**

"I have been shown that God here illustrates how He regards sin among those who profess to be His commandment-keeping people. Those whom He has specially honored with witnessing the remarkable exhibitions of His power, as did ancient Israel, and who will even then venture to disregard His express directions, will be subjects of His wrath. He would teach His people that disobedience and sin are exceedingly offensive to Him and are not to be lightly regarded. He shows us that when His people are found in sin they should at once take decided measures to put

that sin from them, that His frown may not rest upon them all. But if the sins of the people are passed over by those in responsible positions, His frown will be upon them, and the people of God, as a body, will be held responsible for those sins. In His dealings with His people in the past the Lord shows the necessity of purifying the church from wrongs. One sinner may diffuse darkness that will exclude the light of God from the entire congregation. When the people realize that darkness is settling upon them, and they do not know the cause, they should seek God earnestly, in great humility and self-abasement, until the wrongs which grieve His Spirit are searched out and put away.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 3, p. 265

**Answer:**

**What is the result of the purification of the church?**

***Pure and True***

“The days of purification of the church are hastening on apace. God will have a people pure and true. In the mighty sifting soon to take place, we shall be better able to measure the strength of Israel. The signs reveal that the time is near when the Lord will manifest that his fan is in his hand, and that he soon will thoroughly purge his floor.”—*The Review and Herald*, January 11, 1887, paragraph 3

***The church at His coming will be a “glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.”***

“While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God’s people upon earth. . . . Then the church which our Lord at His coming is to receive to Himself will be a ‘glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.’ Ephesians 5:27.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 425

***Only those who have withstood and overcome temptation will be permitted to act a part during the Loud Cry***

"Only those who have withstood and overcome temptation in the strength of the Mighty One will be permitted to act a part in proclaiming this message when it shall have swelled into the Loud Cry."—*The Review and Herald*, Nov. 19, 1908

***The church is to go forth into all the world conquering and to conquer***

“Clad in the armor of Christ’s righteousness, the church is to enter upon her final conflict. ‘Fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners’ (Song of Solomon 6:10), she is to go forth into all the world, conquering and to conquer.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 725

***Signs and wonders followed the believers***

“Mighty miracles were wrought, the sick were healed, and signs and wonders followed the believers.”—*Early Writings*, p. 278

### Summary

- The “Four Winds” symbolize the “Mark of the Beast” decree – Rev. 13:11-18
- The “Four Winds” bring about the “Time of Trouble” such as never was since there was a nation
- The “Four Winds” (“Mark of the Beast”) will blow after the 144,000 are sealed—not before.
- As a result of the “Four Winds” being let loosed, there will be dissension, strife, war, and bloodshed in every part of the world
- The 144,000 are not “defiled with women” (false religion) for they are “virgins” professing a pure faith
- The 144,000 are found without “guile in their mouths” (falsehoods)
- The 144,000 is a literal number
- The 144,000 will be translated from the earth from among the living
- The Seventh-day Adventist Church is the “Israel of Today”
- The mightiest of angels has in his hand the seal of the living God
- The Sealing that John saw was the same that was shown to Ezekiel in vision
- The seal is a mark of redemption
- Those that receive the seal will be “sighing and crying” for the abominations done in the church
- Those who do not receive the seal will be slaughtered by the angels with the slaughtering weapons in their hands
- The church was first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God
- The church is in a deplorable spiritual condition and is following the world
- The Lord does not now work to bring many souls into the truth, because of unconverted church members
- The Slaughter of Ezekiel 9 is literal not symbolic
- The sealing of the 144,000 is the closing work for the church not the world
- The 144,000 are the remnant
- God will have a people pure and true
- The church at His coming will be a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing
- Only those who have withstood and overcome temptation will be permitted to act a part during the Loud Cry
- The church will go into all the world, conquering and to conquer
- Mighty miracles were wrought, the sick were healed, and signs and wonders followed the believers