



The Shepherd's Rod[®]

The Great Multitude: *Resurrected or Living Saints*

Introduction

The Great Multitude of Rev. 7 has been a much debated topic in recent years. Many believe this group are the resurrected of all ages at the coming of Christ whereas others believe they are living saints that will be translated at His return. *The Spirit of Prophecy*, through the ministry of Ellen G. White, has provided key information for us to determine if they are living saints or the resurrected dead of all ages. The Bible will provide the majority of the details that will facilitate a clear understanding through the use of Biblical typology that the Great Multitude are living saints that will not taste death and will be translated at the second return of the Lord in the clouds of glory.

Prayer Thoughts

“Daniel and Revelation must be studied, as well as the other prophecies of the Old and New Testament. Let there be light, yes, light in your dwellings. For this we need to pray. The Holy Spirit, shining upon the sacred page, will open our understanding, that we may know what is truth.”—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 112

“There is need of a much closer study of the Word of God; especially should Daniel and the Revelation have attention as never before in the history of our work.”—*Letters and Manuscripts — Volume 16 (1901), Ms 142, 1901*, par. 4

This Bible and *Spirit of Prophecy* study is divided into five parts:

- **Biblical Typology:** *Types and Anti-Types*
- **Elijah Typology:** *The 144,000*
- **The Great Multitude:** *Who are they?*
- **Enoch Typology:** *The Great Multitude*
- **The Great Multitude:** *As seen during the Plan of Redemption*

Biblical Typology: *Types and Antitypes*

How has God spoken to the world?

“Through nature, through types and symbols, through patriarchs and prophets, God had spoken to the world. Lessons must be given to humanity in the language of humanity.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 34

Answer:

In what way were spiritual and heavenly things foreshadowed in the Jewish system of worship?

“Christ himself was the originator of the Jewish system of worship, in which, by types and symbols, were shadowed forth spiritual and heavenly things.”—*The Signs of the Times*, January 2, 1893, par. 6

Answer:

In what were bound up the promises of redemption?

“The whole system of types and symbols was a compacted prophecy of the gospel, a presentation in which were bound up the promises of redemption.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 14

Answer:

In what were the great truths of redemption veiled?

“In types and symbols the great truths of redemption were veiled.”—*Christ Objects Lessons*, p. 104

Answer:

How does Ellen White define the meanings of *type* and *anti-type*? By whom were the types instituted?

“Do you see Christ as the anti-type of all the types, the precious, glorious substance of all the shadows, the full signification of all the symbols? The types and shadows were instituted by Christ himself, to transmit to man an idea of the plan devised for his redemption.”—*The Signs of the Times*, August 24, 1891, par. 3

Answer: “Do you see Christ as the anti-type [substance] of all the types [shadows], the precious, glorious substance [Anti-type] of all the shadows [types]...” Brackets added.

- **Type:** Shadow
- **Anti-type:** Substance

How does *Webster’s Dictionary of 1828* define *type*?

Webster’s Dictionary of 1828:

TYPE, *noun* [Latin *typus*; Gr. from the root of *tap*; to beat, strike, impress.]

1. The mark of something; an emblem; that which represents something else.

Thy emblem, gracious queen, the British rose,

TYPE of sweet rule and gentle majesty.

2. *A sign; a symbol; a figure of something to come; as, Abraham's sacrifice and the paschal lamb, were types of Christ. To this word is opposed antitype. Christ, in this case, is the antitype.* [Emphasis added].

How does Webster's Dictionary of 1828 define anti-type?

Webster's Dictionary of 1828:

AN'TITYPE, *noun* [Gr. against, and a type, or pattern.]

A figure corresponding to another figure; that of which the type is the pattern or representation. Thus the paschal lamb, in scripture, is the type of which Christ is the antitype. An antitype then, is something which is formed according to a model or pattern, and bearing strong features of resemblance to it. [Emphasis added].

Answer:

What should a type do?

"...type should meet anti-type."—*The Signs of the Times*, April 22, 1880, Art. A, par. 13

Answer: A type should meet its anti-type.

Elijah Typology: The 144,000

Who is Elijah a type?

"Elijah was a type of the saints who will be living on the earth at the time of the second advent of Christ and who will be 'changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump,' without tasting of death. 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52."—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 227

Answer:

Was Elijah translated without tasting death?

"And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven." 2 Kings 2:11

Answer:

Will the 144,000 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:

Is Elijah an Israelite?

“And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.” 1 Kings 17:1

“Elijah was not called from a high station in life or from a city of renown to take his place in the work of God. He was born among the mountains of Gilead, on the other side of the Jordan, and came from among a nation that was overspread with the idolatry and the abominations of the Amorites.”—*The Review and Herald*, January 25, 1912, par. 7

Answer:

Are the 144,000 Israelites?

“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

Answer:

What does the Bible say Elijah wore?

“And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.” 2 Kings 2:8

“And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.” 2 Kings 2:14

Answer:

Do the 144,000 wear mantles?

“Here on the sea of glass the 144,000 stood in a perfect square. Some of them had very bright crowns, others not so bright. Some crowns appeared heavy with stars, while others had but few. All were perfectly satisfied with their crowns. And they were all clothed with a glorious white mantle from their shoulders to their feet.”—*Early Writings*, pg. 16

Answer:

Summary of Elijah Typology: *The 144,000*

Elijah is a type of saints that will be living on earth at Christ's second advent.	
Typological Comparison: <i>Elijah vs. The 144,000</i>	
Elijah	The 144,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elijah was translated while living 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 144,000 will be translated from among the living
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elijah was an Israelite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 144,000 are Israelites
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elijah wore a Mantle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 144,000 wear Mantles
<i>"...type should meet anti-type."—Signs of the Times, April 22, 1880, Art. A, par. 13</i>	

The Great Multitude: *Who are they?*

Where is the Great Multitude mentioned in scripture?

Revelation 7:9-17

“⁹After 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; ¹⁰And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. ¹¹And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, ¹²Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. ¹³And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? ¹⁴And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and 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 in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. ¹⁷For 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.”

Answer:

Are the Great Multitude a separate and distinct group of the redeemed?

“Nearest the throne are those who were once zealous in the cause of Satan, but who, plucked as brands from the burning, have followed their Saviour with deep, intense devotion. Next are those who perfected Christian characters in the midst of falsehood and infidelity, those who honored the law of God when the Christian world declared it void, and the millions, of all ages, who were martyred for their faith. And beyond is the ‘great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues ... before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.’ Revelation 7:9.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 665

Four groups of the redeemed are brought to here view:

Group 1: “Nearest the throne are those who were once zealous in the cause of Satan, but who, plucked as brands from the burning, have followed their Saviour with deep, intense devotion.”

Group 2: “Next are those who perfected Christian characters in the midst of falsehood and infidelity, those who honored the law of God when the Christian world declared it void.”

Group 3: “And the millions, of all ages, who were martyred for their faith.”

Group 4: “And beyond is the ‘great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues ... before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.’”

Answer: “*And beyond* is the ‘great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues ... before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.’ Emphasis added.

Enoch Typology: *The Great Multitude*

Who is Enoch and what did he prophesy?

“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” Jude 1:14, 15

Answer: He was the seventh from Adam and prophesied of the second coming of Christ and his judgment of the wicked before the flood. There’s a close connection between Enoch and the Second Coming of Christ.

Was Enoch translated without tasting death?

“And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.” Genesis 5:24

“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.” Hebrews 11:5

Answer: Enoch was translated without seeing death.

Who must the character be like of those who shall be redeemed at the Lord’s coming?

“‘By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; ...for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.’ Hebrews 11:5. To such communion God is calling us. As was Enoch’s must be their holiness of character who shall be redeemed from among men at the Lord’s second coming.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, p. 331

Answer:

Who was Enoch to represent at the coming of the Lord and will they be living?

“Enoch's translation to Heaven just before the destruction of the world by a flood, represents the translation of all the living righteous from the earth previous to its destruction by fire.”—*The Signs of the Times*, February 20, 1879, paragraph 12

“He [Enoch] was a representative of the saints who live amid the perils and corruptions of the last days. For his faithful obedience to God he was translated. So, also, the faithful, who are alive and remain, will be translated. They will be removed from a sinful and corrupt world to the pure joys of heaven.” Brackets added.—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 2, p. 121

Answer: The holiness of those living before the coming of Christ must be that of Enoch's. He represents those that will be *alive and remain* that will be translated at the coming of Christ. The phrase is alluding to 1 Thessalonians 4:17: “Then we which are *alive and remain* shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” Emphasis added. 1 Thessalonians 4:17

Was Enoch sullied by the prevailing sins of his and how are we to remain?

“Enoch had temptations as well as we. He was surrounded with society no more friendly to righteousness than is that which surrounds us. The atmosphere he breathed was tainted with sin and corruption, the same as ours; yet he lived a life of holiness. He was unsullied with the prevailing sins of the age in which he lived. So may we remain pure and uncorrupted.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 2, p. 121

Answer:

Was Enoch an Israelite or Gentile?

“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” Jude 1:14, 15

Answer: Enoch was the seventh from Adam and lived before the flood, whereas, Jacob (Israel) was the 22 from Adam and lived after the flood.

Are the Great Multitude from the Gentile nations?

“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

Answer: Yes, they are not necessarily only Israelites as are the 144,000.

Where did Ellen White see Enoch and what was he holding in his hand?

“Then I was taken to a world which had seven moons. There I saw good old Enoch, who had been translated. On his right arm he bore a glorious palm, and on each leaf was written “Victory.”—*Early Writings*, p. 40

Answer:

Do the Great Multitude have palms in their hands?

“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

What did the “palm branch” in their hands symbolize?

“The palm branch in their hands is a symbol of their triumph, the white robe an emblem of the spotless righteousness of Christ which now is theirs.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 665

Answer:

Summary Chart of Enoch Typology: <i>The Great Multitude</i>	
Enoch is a representative of those that will be “alive and remain” at the coming of Christ and will be translated	
Typological Comparison: <i>Enoch vs. The Great Multitude</i>	
Enoch	Great Multitude
• Enoch was not an Israelite. Thus he’s a Gentile or any nation that is not Israel	• The Great Multitude are from all nations, kindreds, peoples, and tongues
• Palm in his Hand	• Palms in their Hands
• Enoch was translated without tasting death	• The Great Multitude <u>MUST</u> be translated without tasting death per the type.
“...type should meet anti-type.”—<i>Signs of the Times</i>, April 22, 1880, Art. A, par. 13	

The Great Multitude: *As seen during the Plan of Redemption*

Do the Great Multitude live through the *Time of Trouble* of Daniel 12:1?

“¹⁴ And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. ¹⁷ 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.” Revelation 7:14-17

Answer:

Is the *Great Tribulation* spoken of in Revelation 14:17 synonymous with the *Time of Trouble* of Daniel 12:1?

“These are they which came out of great tribulation;” [Revelation 7:14] they have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation [Daniel 12:1]...” Brackets added.—*The Great Controversy*, pg. 648

Answer: Yes, the context she was referring to here was the 144,000 but that is irrelevant as we are highlighting the synonymy of this event.

Do the Great Multitude survive the *Mark of the Beast* system during the *Time of Trouble*?

“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; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshiped God, saying, Amen, blessing and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God forever, and ever, Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, Who are these which are arrayed in white robes, and whence came they? And I answered and said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to us, these are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple, and He that sitteth in the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither shall they thirst any more, neither shall the sun light upon them nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them and shall lead them upon living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.’ Revelation 7:9-17.

They are before the throne enjoying the sunless splendors of eternal day, not as a scattered, feeble company to suffer by the Satanic passions of a rebellious world, expressing the sentiments, the doctrines, and [the] councils of demons. Strong and terrible have become the masters of iniquity in the world under the control of Satan, but strong is the Lord God who judgeth Babylon. The just have no longer any thing to fear from force or fraud as long as they are loyal and true. A mightier than the strong man armed is set for their defense. All power and greatness and excellence of character will be given to those who have believed and stood in defense of the truth, standing up and firmly defending the laws of God.

Another heavenly being exclaimed with firm and musical voice, “They have come out of great tribulation [Time of Trouble]. They have walked in the fiery furnace in the world, heated intensely by the passions and caprices of men who would enforce upon them the worship of the beast and his image, who would compel them to be disloyal to the God of heaven.

‘They have come from the mountains, from the rocks, from the dens and caves of the earth, from dungeons, from prisons, from secret councils, from the torture chamber, [from] hovels, from garrets. They have passed through sore affliction, deep self-denial, and deep disappointment. They are no longer to be the sport and ridicule of wicked men. They are no longer mean and sorrowful in the eyes of those who despise them. Remove the filthy garments from them, with which men have delighted to clothe them. Give them a change of raiment, even the white robes of righteousness, and set a fair mitre upon their heads.’

They were clothed in richer robes than earthy beings had ever worn. They were crowned with diadems of glory such as human beings had never seen. The days of suffering, of reproach, of want, of hunger, are no more; weeping is past. Then they break forth in songs loud, clear, and

musical. They wave the palm branches of victory and exclaim, ‘Salvation to our God, that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.’” Brackets added.—*Letters and Manuscripts — Volume 4 (1883 - 1886), Lt 6, 1884, par. 9*

Answer:

Does the Great Multitude live through seven last plagues?

“They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.” Revelation 7:16

The Fourth Plague: *Sun and Heat*

“⁸ And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. ⁹ And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.” Revelation 16:8, 9

Answer:

Who are these two classes or parties that Ellen White saw at the second coming of Christ?

“‘And the heaven 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 free man, 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?’ Revelation 6:12-17. ‘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; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.... These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 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. 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.’ Revelation 7:9-17.

In these scriptures two parties are brought to view. One party permitted themselves to be deceived and took sides with those with whom the Lord has a controversy. They misinterpreted the messages sent them and clothed themselves in robes of self-righteousness. Sin was not sinful in their eyes. They taught falsehood as truth, and by them many souls were led astray.”—*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, pp. 267, 268*

The two classes at the coming of the Christ:

- Those who cried for the rocks to fall on them of Revelation 6:12-17. (the wicked and disloyal)
- The Great Multitude of Rev. 7:9-17 (the righteous and the loyal)

Answer:

Summary Chart of the Great Multitude: <i>In the Span of Time During the Plan of Redemption</i>
• The Great Multitude go through the “Great Tribulation” – <i>Time of Trouble</i> of Daniel 12:1
• They do not worship the <i>Beast or his Image</i> (Sunday Laws)
• John is told that the Great Multitude is to go through the Fourth Plague: <i>Sun and Heat</i>
• Ellen White saw both the wicked of Revelation 6:12-17 and the Great Multitude of Revelation 7:9-17 alive at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Notes: The Great Multitude in the *Span of Time* conclusively proves that they must be translated from among the living at the second coming of Christ. It would be nonsensical to go through the *Mark of the Beast (Sunday laws), Time of Trouble, the plagues,* and all the way up to the second coming of Christ to be resurrected and not translated.

Enoch and Elijah

“Enoch and Elijah are the correct representatives of what the race might be through faith in Jesus Christ if they chose to be. Satan was greatly disturbed because these noble, holy men stood untainted amid the moral pollution surrounding them, perfected righteous characters, and were accounted worthy for translation to Heaven. As they had stood forth in moral power in noble uprightness, overcoming Satan's temptations, he could not bring them under the dominion of death.”—*The Review and Herald*, March 3, 1874, par. 12