

A Bible Prophecy Series

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The 144,000 and Their Character

Lesson #23

Introduction:

Who will sing the song of the 144,000? Today will take time to briefly identify the 144,000, primarily the character that they will exhibit. Today we will take the time to allow the Bible to show us how we can live a successful Christian life. Let's see how we can live for Jesus just before His return. As always let's pray before we begin.

1. **Who are the 144,000?** – Revelation 7:1-8

This is the only place you will find these tribes listed in this order. Notice, Dan and Ephraim are not mentioned. The tribes of Dan and Ephraim have apostatized against God are not listed (Genesis 49:17, Hosea 4:17). Thus, nobody that apostatizes against God will be included in this number.

2. **What does the number 12 represent?**

The number 12 is symbolic. In the Old Testament the 12 sons of Jacob would become the 12 tribes of Israel and would represent the nation of Israel. In the New Testament there were 12 apostles. It is interesting to note that God's Spirit could not be poured out at Pentecost until Judas was replaced... 3,000 were baptized that day. The number 12 is a number of leadership representing God's church.

3. **Does 144,000 apply to the Jewish nation?**

Matthew 21:43, 44, Daniel 9:24, 1 Peter 2:9, 10

No, Jesus and Daniel both predicted that the Jewish nation would reject the Salvation of Jesus. Therefore, the prophecies that once applied to literal Israel are now fulfilled in spiritual Israel. Thus the 144,000 seem to be God's people who are alive on earth when Jesus returns, not to be confused with the Great Multitude who represents the saved of all of history (Revelation 7:9).

4. **What time are we living in?** – Revelation 14:6, 7

We live in the judgment of earth's history. In previous studies we've seen this was predicted in Daniel 8:14 to begin in 1844 and is symbolized by the cleansing of the sanctuary.

5. **What did the people do on the Day of Atonement (cleansing of the sanctuary)?**

Leviticus 16:30

It was a day when people were to be cleansed of sin. The judgment hour before Jesus returns is known as the cleansing of the sanctuary, God is seeking to cleanse His people of sin before Jesus returns. The hope of Jesus soon return has a purifying

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- effect on Christians (1 John 3:2, 3). We want our character to be like His so we can see Him.
6. **What is the temple now?** – 2 Corinthians 6:16-18
The sanctuary in Heaven has its counterpart in the cleansing of us from sin. We are temples and for his cleansing to take place, we cooperate with the Spirit and come out from the unclean things.
 7. **What are the unclean things?** – 2 Corinthians 7:1
We are to be cleansed of filthy things that are of the flesh (physical things) and of the Spirit (things that are spiritually unclean).
 8. **What advice does the Bible give on what we should focus on?**
Philippians 4:8, Psalms 101:3
We should fill our minds with what is pure and lovely. This is a good way to test what we watch on T.V, movies, the recreation we participate in, and even the books and magazines we read. How often do we entertain ourselves with the very things that put Jesus on the cross...sin?
 9. **What are we at battle with?** – Galatians 5:16-25
Even though we are born again we still have two natures. The flesh and the Spirit. The spiritual nature wants to please God, while the sinful old nature (flesh) still seeks to influence our decisions. Satan is OK with Christians believing in Jesus as long as this belief doesn't change and purify our hearts and actions (James 2:19, 20)
 10. **What would Jesus do?** – 1 John 2:6, 1 Peter 2:21
T.V. – What can you imagine Jesus watching?
Dancing – can you see Jesus gyrating on the dance floor in sexually suggestive moves?
This is a great principle to apply to anything in life “WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?”
If we can imagine Jesus doing it then we are probably safe to do the same.
 11. **What does the Bible say regarding adornment?** – 1 Timothy 2:9, 10
Obviously, this also applies to men. We are to dress modestly. Immodest fashions are designed to arouse the lusts of the flesh. They do not help other to be drawn to Christ. Our faces should also reflect God's love and not be painted in an unnatural manner. The braided or broidered hair is not referring to fixing out hair. It refers to weaving jewels and gold into the hair. We should not wear gold, pearls, or costly clothing.
[Broidered Hair: “Thin plates of gold were often mixed with the hair, to make it appear more ornamental by the reflection of light and of the solar rays. Small golden buckles were also used in different parts; and among the Roman ladies, pearls and precious stones of different colors.” *Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible*]

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12. **What did Peter say regarding adornment?** - 1 Peter 3:3, 4, Isaiah 3:16-23
This instruction was commonly given to new believers. Our adorning is not to be the outward adorning, but inwardly with the ornaments God values: meek and godly in spirit.

13. **What did God have His people do before they entered the Promised Land?**
Exodus 33:1-6
Whenever God leads His people out of sin and into a new experience with Him, He always has them remove their jewelry. See also Genesis 35:1-4. Now that we are living in the judgment hour, we need to come back to the Bible. God is ready to lead us to Heaven.

14. **Should God's people meet together?** - Hebrews 10:25
The closer we get to the day of Jesus' return we should take advantage of assembling together with other believers. This will include worshipping Jesus on the Sabbath.

15. **How is our love for God expressed?** – 1 John 3:18, 22
God wants more than our words; He wants our actions. When He has our heart, He has both. We show our love for Him in our deeds and by following truth.

16. **Who are we?** – 1 Peter 2:9, 2 Corinthians 5:20
Christians are a chosen generation a royal priesthood. We are ambassadors for Christ. We are walking billboards. We represent Heaven. When people see us and our lives, they should see a reflection of a godly character.

Conclusion:

I know you love Jesus and desire His cleansing power in your life. The judgment hour really is here, is it your desire to prepare for Heaven by allowing Jesus to cleanse you of anything that defiles? Is it your desire to be a fit representative of Heaven?

Let's pray and ask God to do a work that only He can do, if we are willing.