

I. The 144,000 Sealed (1 – 8)

Verse 1

After this
I saw

four angels

standing at the four corners of the earth
holding back the four winds of the earth
to prevent any wind from blowing

- 1) on the land
- 2) on the sea
- 3) or any tree.

Verse 2

Then I saw

another angel coming up
from the East,
having the seal of the living God.

He called out in a loud voice
to the four angels

who had been given power to harm

- 1) the land
- 2) and the sea

Verse 3

“Do not harm

- 1) the land
- 2) or the sea
- 3) or the trees

until we put a seal

on the foreheads of the servants
of our God.”

Verse 4

Then I heard the number

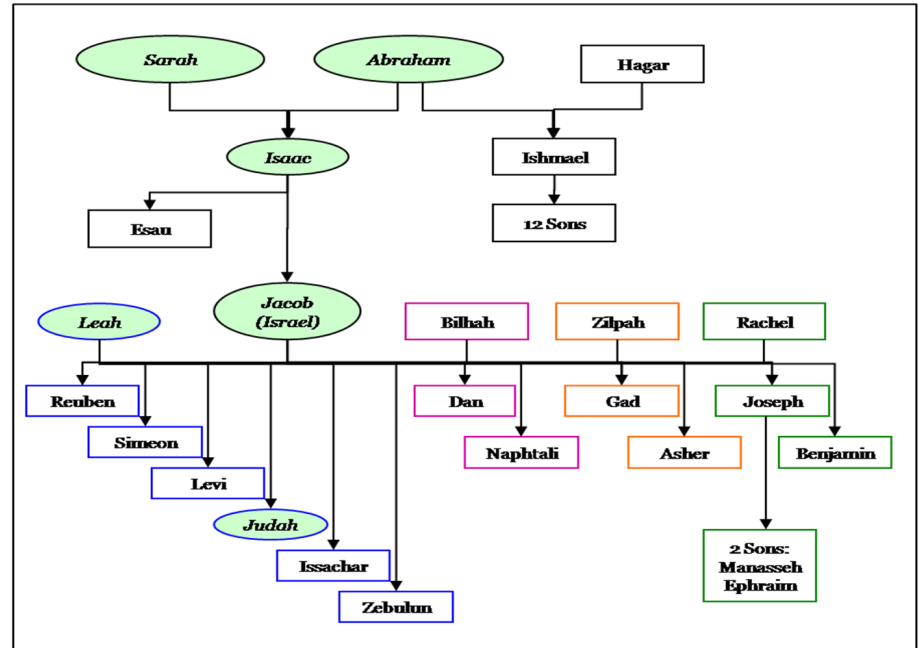
of those who were sealed:

144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

Verse 5 – 8

Judah	12,000	Simeon	12,000
Reuben	12,000	Levi	12,000
Gad	12,000	Issachar	12,000
Asher	12,000	Zebulun	12,000
Naphtali	12,000	Joseph(?)	12,000
Manasseh	12,000	Benjamin	12,000

The Parental Tree for the 12 tribes of Israel



Genesis 29-30	Numbers 1	Revelation 7
Reuben	Reuben	Reuben
Simeon	Simeon	Simeon
Levi	Judah	Levi
Judah	Dan ✖	Judah
Dan	Naphtali	Manasseh
Naphtali	Gad	Naphtali
Gad	Asher	Gad
Asher	Issachar	Asher
Issachar	Zebulun	Issachar
Zebulun	Ephraim ✖	Zebulun
Joseph	Manasseh	Joseph
Benjamin	Benjamin	Benjamin

Why are Dan and Ephraim Replaced/Eliminated?

- Dan was the tribe that introduced **idolatry** to the nation of Israel in Gen. 49:17; Judges 18:30
- The tribe of Ephraim was also associated with **idolatry** in Hosea 4:17.
- In fact there are over **20 different lists** of the names of the tribes of Israel in the Old Testament and often they have different names and orders.

What we have found in our study of scripture – when names, orders, and numbers are OBVIOUSLY symbolic we take them as symbolic. But when they are not symbolic we believe that there is a specific meaning to their usage. In this case, the lists of names and numbers appears to be purposeful.

Who are these 144,000?

- They have already been called “Servants of our God” (vs. 3)
- Jehovah Witnesses claim to be the only saved 144,000!
- Is this the church?
- Let’s look at some facts:
 - Fact – they are called “The children of Israel” (vs. 4)
 - Fact – they are connected to “tribes” (vss. 4-8)
 - Fact – seal protects them through the tribulation (Rev. 14:1)
 - Fact – they are celibate (Rev. 14:4)
 - Fact – they are called “the beginning of a greater harvest” (Rev. 14:4)
 - Fact – they are marked by integrity and faithfulness (Rev. 14:5)

They are a remnant of the original Israel who have converted to Christ sealed to bring all of future Israel to Christ (Rom. 11:1, 26)

II. The Great Multitude (9 – 17)

Verse 9

After this

I looked

and there before me

was a great multitude

1) that no one could count.

2) from every nation

3) tribe

4) people

5) and language

standing before the throne

and in front of the Lamb

- 6) They were wearing white robes
- 7) were holding palm branches
in their hands

Verse 10

And they cried out
in a loud voice

“Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and the Lamb.”

Verse 11

And all the angels
were standing around the throne
and around the elders
and the four living creatures.

They fell down on their faces
before the throne
and worshiped God,

Verse 12

saying:

“Amen!

- 1) Praise and
- 2) glory
- 3) and wisdom
- 4) and thanks
- 5) and honor
- 6) and power
- 7) and strength

be to our God
forever and ever

Amen!”

Verse 13

Then one of the elders asked me,
“These in white robes
who are they?
and where did they come from?”

Verse 14

I answered,
“Sir you know.”
And he said,
“There are they

- 1) who have come out of the great tribulation
- 2) they have washed their robes
making them white
in the blood of the Lamb

Verse 15

Therefore
“they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night
in the temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will spread his tent over them

Verse 16

Never again will they

- 1) hunger
- 2) thirst
- 3) the sun will not beat upon them
- 4) no scorching heat

Verse 17

For the Lamb at the center of the throne

- 1) will be their shepherd
- 2) will lead them to springs of living water

And God will

- 3) wipe away every tear from their eyes.”