

# Team144K

(Understanding The 144,000)

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The topic of who and/or what the 144,000 is/are has perplexed mankind throughout the centuries. An explanation has been formulated and (for the most part) accepted over the years but did not answer all of the pressing questions and contained room for improvement. Some of the issues that need additional clarification include:

- What does the Bible say about the 144,000?
- Will Ellen White be a member of the 144,000?
- Do the 144,000 have special privileges?
- How does the group develop at the end of time?
- When are the 144,000 sealed?
- Are there multiple parts or pieces of the 144,000?
- Do the 144,000 have protection during the seven last plagues?
- Where do the martyrs come from?
- What group(s) will be saved at the end of time?
- Is the 144,000 is a spiritual or an exact number?

The following is offered as a more complete understanding of the 144,000 and the sealing process as a whole.

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## Definitions:

144,000 = God's firstfruit saints brought to heaven from earth.

Team144K = Initial group of sealed believers that assist in forming the great multitude that are sealed just prior to the seven last plagues that begin immediately following the close of probation.

The Great Multitude = Believers that become members of God's church and are sealed at the close of probation.

Seal of God = Exemption from judgment [has already occurred], entitled to protection from death and other assistance...

Close of Probation = The point in time that all cases have been decided for life or death. This also marks the beginning of the seven last plagues also called the time of trouble.

## General Timeline:

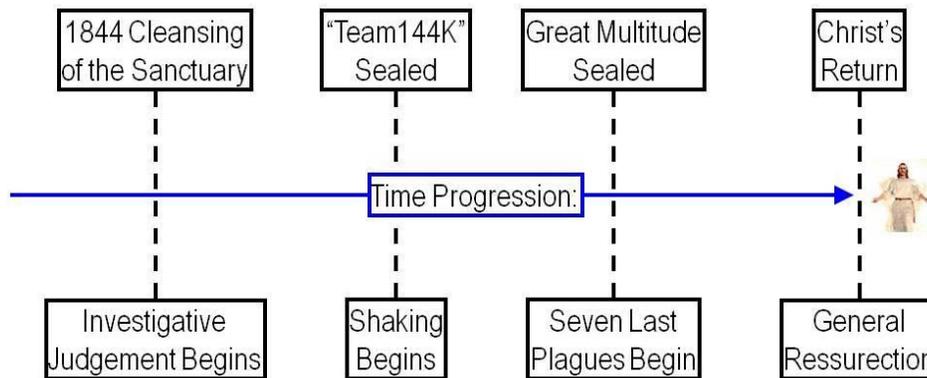


Figure 1: Sealing Timeline

## **The holy Bible describes the 144,000:**

"1And 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. 2And 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, 3Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God<sup>1</sup> in their foreheads. 4And 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. 5Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. 6Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. 7Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. 8Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand." Revelation 7:1-8 (KJV)

Facts about the 144,000 (interpretation and/or spiritual meaning):

- 1) They are servants of God (cooperate with the will of God),
- 2) Some of the 144,000 are sealed which occurs before harm is done to the earth (there are two sealing periods),
- 3) They are sealed in their foreheads (their minds are immovably set in alignment with the heavenly community),
- 4) They come from the tribes of Israel as listed in Revelation (members can come from all nations and religions),
- 5) The total number of members of the group is  $12,000_{\text{people}} \times 12_{\text{tribes}} = 144,000$  (this is a non-literal purely spiritual number).

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<sup>1</sup> Note that one of the reasons that the believers are sealed is so that the angels can identify them so that they can protect them from death. Anyone resurrected into the glory of God has the seal (settled into the truth so that they cannot be moved) is immortal already.

Before any conclusions can be made, we must look at another verse that describes some other characteristics of the 144,000.

"1And 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. 2And 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: 3And 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. 4These 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. 5And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God." Revelation 14:1-5 (KJV)

Facts about the 144,000 (interpretation and/or spiritual meaning) cont.:

- 6) They have Father's name written in their forehead (their minds are immovably set in alignment with the heavenly community),
- 7) They play their harps in heaven and are "redeemed from among men" (they are all saved/taken to heaven from the earth),
- 8) They sing a song that no one else can sing (they have a different experience than the others that are saved),
- 9) They did not defile themselves with women (did not engage in anti Christ activities with false churches/false belief systems),
- 10) They follow the Lamb wherever He leads them (their focus is on Jesus),
- 11) They are the firstfruits of God and Jesus (they are God's first choice),
- 12) They are without fault (their sins have been expunged).

The pen of inspiration gives us a description of the firstfruits; " As Christ ascends while in the act of blessing his disciples, an army of angels encircle him as a cloud. Christ takes with him the multitude of captives. He will himself bring to the Father the **first-fruits** of them that slept, as an evidence that he is conqueror of death and the grave.[emphasis added]"-*The Youth's Instructor*, August 11, 1898 paragraph 7

In the past, the Bible describes some of the firstfruits; who are now in heaven. Also notice that not all of the sleeping saints were resurrected indicating that the ones that were resurrected, are among a special group:

"51And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; 52And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many." Matthew 27:51-53 (KJV)

Even though some of the firstfruit are torn away by death they will still be brought back to life and be counted among the holy.

"15For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? 16For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. 17And if some of the branches be broken off, and

thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;" Romans 11:15-17 (KJV)

Since the firstfruits described here is another attribute of the 144,000. Some believers were resurrected at the time of the death of Jesus and were brought to heaven being "firstfruits". The 144,000 are formed throughout history and not just during the final generation on earth and/or are alive when Jesus returns.

### **Evidence that Ellen White may be a member of the 144,000:**

"As we were traveling along, we met a company who also were gazing at the glories of the place. I noticed red as a border on their garments; their crowns were brilliant; their robes were pure white. As we greeted them, I asked Jesus who they were. He said they were martyrs that had been slain for Him. With them was an innumerable company of little ones; they also had a hem of red on their garments. Mount Zion was just before us, and on the mount was a glorious temple, and about it were seven other mountains, on which grew roses and lilies. And 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 around the temple to beautify the place: the box, the pine, the fir, the oil, the myrtle, the pomegranate, and the fig tree bowed down with the weight of its timely figs--these made the place all over glorious. And as we were about to enter the holy temple, Jesus raised His lovely voice and said, '**Only the 144,000 enter this place,**' and we shouted, 'Alleluia.'

This temple was supported by seven pillars, all of transparent gold, set with pearls most glorious. The wonderful things I there saw I cannot describe. Oh, that I could talk in the language of Canaan, then could I tell a little of the glory of the better world. I saw there tables of stone in which the names of the 144,000 were engraved in letters of gold. **After we beheld the glory of the temple, we went out,** and Jesus left us and went to the city. Soon we heard His lovely voice again, saying, 'Come, My people, you have come out of great tribulation, and done My will; suffered for Me; come in to supper, for I will gird Myself, and serve you.' We shouted, 'Alleluia! glory!' and entered into the city. And I saw a table of pure silver; it was many miles in length, yet our eyes could extend over it. I saw the fruit of the tree of life, the manna, almonds, figs, pomegranates, grapes, and many other kinds of fruit. I asked Jesus to let me eat of the fruit. He said, 'Not now. Those who eat of the fruit of this land go back to earth no more. But in a little while, if faithful, you shall both eat of the fruit of the tree of life and drink of the water of the fountain.' And He said, 'You must go back to the earth again and relate to others what I have revealed to you.' Then an angel bore me gently down to this dark world.[emphasis added]"-*Early Writings*, pages 18-20<sup>2</sup>

At the end of time, before Jesus returns, there will be a special resurrection. Some of these will be among the chosen and others will be marked for damnation.

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." Revelation 1:7 (KJV)

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<sup>2</sup> As an interesting side note; Ellen White describes this as well as many other visions in the first person narrative. Does this imply that she will actually be participating in the events she is describing? The answer to this is No, not in all cases. The fact is that many prophets and inspired writers of the Bible relay their prophecies (John in the book of Revelation for example...) in first person narrative mode.

The above discussion suggests that Ellen White will be brought back to life at the special resurrection and not only be a part of the 144,000 but be a witness to Jesus Christ's second coming.

"The 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united. On their foreheads was written, God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus' new name...Soon our eyes were drawn to the east, for a small black cloud had appeared, about half as large as a man's hand, which we all knew was the sign of the Son of man. We all in solemn silence gazed on the cloud as it drew nearer and became lighter, glorious, and still more glorious, till it was a great white cloud. The bottom appeared like fire; a rainbow was over the cloud, while around it were ten thousand angels, singing a most lovely song; and upon it sat the Son of man."-*Early Writings*, 1882, pages 15 and 16

### **The 144,000 have special privileges:**

Much of our discussion thus far, indicates that there will be a system in heaven where the saints are recognized for their efforts. The 144,000 are the only ones that are allowed to enter the heavenly temple and it will become, for all intents and purposes, a museum. Let's look at evidence from the Bible and then look at an example from the writings of a recent prophet regarding the differences in the ranks of the heavenly occupants.

"His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."  
Matthew 25:23 (KJV)

The crowns of the saints had varying degrees of brightness;

"We all entered the cloud together, and were seven days ascending to the sea of glass, when Jesus brought the crowns, and with His own right hand placed them on our heads. He gave us harps of gold and palms of victory. 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."-*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, 1915, page 66

The saints crowns are made of gold and have stars on them;

"The crowns of the saints were of the most pure gold, decked with stars."-*Early Writings*, 1882, page 54

The stars on the crowns are given based on the assistance given to saving others and bringing them into the heavenly community.

"Their earthly treasure is then swept away, and they have lost all. And the crowns they might have worn, had they been faithful, are put upon the heads of those saved by the faithful servants whose means were constantly in use for God. And every one they have been the means of saving, adds stars to their crowns in glory, and increases their eternal reward."-*Spiritual Gifts Volume 4b*, 1864, page 39

While in vision, EGW was told that she needs to remain faithful and she will be able to visit other worlds with the rest of the 144,000. "I begged of my attending angel to let me remain in that place. I could not bear the thought of coming back to this dark world again. Then the angel said,

"You must go back, and if you are faithful, you, with the 144,000, shall have the privilege of visiting all the worlds and viewing the handiwork of God."-*The Adventist Home*, 1952, Page 543<sup>3</sup>

### **Descriptive material explains how the 144,000 develops and what they do at the end of time:**

Many times in prophetic writings, a smaller group than the entire 144,000 will be described. This group is described by the tasks that they perform, but are not specifically mentioned by any name. The original plan was that a small remnant would be formed and the other saints would not have protection from death through the plagues. Jesus successfully pleaded for permission from Father for special protection of the remaining (remnant) saints, not just the small faithful group (specifically Team144K) that will be alive just prior to the commencement of the seven last plagues:

"I saw four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and were on their way to accomplish it. Jesus was clothed with priestly garments. **He gazed in pity on the remnant**, then raised His hands, and with a voice of deep pity cried, 'My blood, Father, My blood, My blood, My blood!' Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from God, who sat upon the great white throne, and was shed all about Jesus. Then I saw an angel with a commission from Jesus, swiftly flying to the four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and **waving something up and down in his hand**, and crying with a loud voice, 'Hold! Hold! Hold! Hold! until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.'*[emphasis added]*"-*Early Writings*, (1882), page 38

Let's take a look at a few other accounts:

"The days are fast approaching when there will be great perplexity and confusion. Satan, clothed in angel robes, will deceive, if possible, the very elect. There will be gods many and lords many. Every wind of doctrine will be blowing. Those who have rendered supreme homage to 'science falsely so-called,' will not be the leaders then. Those who have trusted to intellect, genius, or talent, will not then stand at the head of rank and file. They did not keep pace with the light. Those who have proved themselves unfaithful will not then be entrusted with the flock. **In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged**. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and he cannot use them. The Lord has faithful servants, who **in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view**.*[emphasis added]*"-*Testimony for the Battle Creek Church*, 1882, page 63

From the quote above the group that goes out and forms the great multitude that combines with the efforts of the first group is separate and distinct. This group exists before the rest of the 144,000 are sealed before the seven last plagues begin. We can call this group "Team144K".

Just before the seven last plagues fall upon the earth the events that transpired were described; "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.*[emphasis added]*" Revelation 7:4 (KJV).

After the saints are in heaven, these events are described; "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

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<sup>3</sup> It makes logical sense for this to be talking about fully committed true believers (firstfruit) throughout history that will be redeemed from the earth as opposed to only the few that will remain and still be alive at the second coming.

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.[emphasis added]" Revelation 7:9-17 (KJV)

The 144,000 are taught by the Holy Spirit. "In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged...God will work a work in our day that but few<sup>4</sup> anticipate. **He will raise up and exalt among us** those who are taught rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the outward training of scientific institutions.[emphasis added]"-*Testimonies for the Church; Volume Five*, pages 80 and 82

This quote is in reference to the swelling of the message into the loud cry. "To souls that are earnestly seeking for light and that accept with gladness every ray of divine illumination from His holy Word, to such alone light will be given. **It is through these souls that God will reveal that light and power which will lighten the whole earth with His glory.**[emphasis added]"-*Testimonies for the Church; Volume Five*, page 729

#### **Team144K are sealed before the shaking begins:**

Since we know that the shaking occurs before probation closes, then the sealing described in the following quote describes the first sealing period. "There is a spirit of desperation, of war and bloodshed, and that spirit will increase until the very close of time. 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.**[emphasis added]"-*Manuscript Releases Volume Ten*, 1990 [#173 written in 1902], page 252

Satan is well of what the Bible says and the sequence of events that are described therein. He knows that once probation closes; all the saints will have received the seal of God, and that the first plague will immediately be poured out upon the land. He will know that this has occurred by the manifestation of soars on the wicked. The fact that Satan needs to make an educated guess as to who are saved clearly indicates the timing of the following quote and that some of the end time saints are sealed prior to probation closing.

"As Satan influenced Esau to march against Jacob, so he will stir up the wicked to destroy God's people in the time of trouble. And as he accused Jacob, he will urge his accusations against the people of God. He numbers the world as his subjects; but the little company who keep the commandments of God are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. He sees that holy angels are guarding them, and he infers that their sins have been pardoned; but he does not know that **their cases have been decided in the sanctuary above[indicating two sealing events!]**[emphasis added]"-*The Great Controversy (1888)*, 1888, page 618

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<sup>4</sup> ...so some will...

### The remaining saints / "great multitude" are sealed just prior to the seven last plagues:

Once the third angel's message has swelled into the loud cry, the balance of God's church / the rest of the 144,000 are sealed. The seal is needed for (among other things) protection from death; the martyrs of the end time will come from the great multitude (before the close of probation). The following quote describes the second sealing event. "Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, **till we have sealed** the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed a hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.[emphasis added]" Revelation 7:3 (KJV) The text is, of course, referring to spiritual Israel.

### The 144,000 have protection during the plagues:

"I saw a covering that God was drawing over His people to protect them in the time of trouble; and every soul that was decided on the truth and was pure in heart was to be covered with the covering of the Almighty."-*Early Writings*, 1882, page 43

"Satan has no power to pluck them out of the hand of Christ. Not one soul that in penitence and faith has claimed his protection, will Christ permit to pass under the enemy's power. His word is pledged: 'Let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me.' The promise given to Joshua is made to all: 'If thou wilt keep my charge, . . . I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.' Angels of God will walk on either side of them, even in this world, and they will stand at last among the angels that surround the throne of God."-*The Review and Herald*, January 2, 1908, paragraph 10

"Satan is now using every device in this sealing time [reference to the first sealing event of Team144K] to keep the minds of God's people from the present truth and to cause them to waver. **I saw a covering that God was drawing over His people to protect them in the time of trouble;** and every soul that was decided on the truth and was pure in heart was to be covered with the covering of the Almighty.

Satan knew this, and he was at work in mighty power to keep the minds of as many people as he possibly could wavering and unsettled on the truth.[emphasis added]"-*Early Writings*, 1882, page 43

"I also saw that many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary through the time of trouble. **Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble** must reflect the image of Jesus fully.

I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of 'refreshing' and the 'latter rain' to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God. Those who refuse to be hewed by the prophets and fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father. Before this time the awfully solemn declaration has gone forth, 'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.' I saw that none could

share the 'refreshing' unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action.[emphasis added]"-*Early Writings*, 1882, page 71

"They shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.' [Malachi 3:17.] If the blood of Christ's faithful witnesses were shed at this time, it would not, like the blood of the martyrs, be as seed sown to yield a harvest for God. Their fidelity would not be a testimony to convince others of the truth; for the obdurate heart has beaten back the waves of mercy until they return no more. **If the righteous were now left to fall a prey to their enemies, it would be a triumph for the prince of darkness.** But Christ has spoken: 'Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee; hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity.' [Isaiah 26:20, 21.] Glorious will be the deliverance of those who have patiently waited for him, and whose names are written in the book of life.[emphasis added]"-*The Spirit of Prophecy Volume Four*, 1884, page 451

### **Once formed, the members of Team144K never die:**

We have just learned that the people of God that are sealed at the close of probation do not see death. If evidence can be brought to view that Team144K lived before the seven last plagues, then we have positive proof that they will never die and therefore must be sealed and given special protection prior to the sealing of the great multitude.

When someone is described as, washing their robes and making them white in the blood of the Lamb, this is describing someone who lived **before** probation closes and purifies himself. "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;' 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.' 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.[emphasis added]"-*The Great Controversy (1888)*, 1888, page 649

Ellen White also gives a testimony explaining that we should not waste time trying to figure out which ones of us are part of Team144K. Although not giving this special group a specific name, she simply states that soon we will know the answer to this without question. "It is not His will that they shall get into controversy over questions which will not help them spiritually, such as, Who is

to compose the hundred and forty-four thousand. **This those who are the elect of God will in a short time know without question.**[emphasis added]"-*Notebook Leaflets from the Elmshaven Library Vol. 2*, (1985) manuscript 26 written in 1901, page 164

A special distinction can be seen between the two groups showing that Team144K will exist before the close of probation. One reason that we will know who the members of this special group are is that their faces will glow during the Loud Cry. **"As the third angel's message swells into a loud cry [before probation closes]**, great power and glory will attend its proclamation. **The faces of God's people will shine [mark of divine sanctioning]** with the light of heaven.[emphasis added]"-*Testimonies for the Church Volume Seven*, 1902, page 17 Here is another account; "Angels were sent to aid the mighty angel from heaven, and I heard voices which seemed to sound every where, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues; for her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. This message seemed to be an addition to the third message, and joined it, as the midnight cry joined the second angel's message in 1844. The glory of God rested upon the patient, waiting saints, and they fearlessly gave the last solemn warning, proclaiming the fall of Babylon, and calling upon God's people to come out of her; that they might escape her fearful doom...I saw that the third message would close with power and strength far exceeding the midnight cry. Servants of God, endowed with power from on high, with **their faces lighted up, and shining with holy consecration**, went forth fulfilling their work, and proclaiming the message from heaven.[emphasis added]"-*Spiritual Gifts Volume 1*, (1858), pages 194-196

The faces of Team144K glowing is different than the glow exhibited by the entire 144,000 at their deliverance at the end of time. Sister White describes the countenances of the people of God as being lighted up at the time of their deliverance after probation has closed. "The Israel of God stood with their eyes fixed upward, listening to the words as they came from the mouth of Jehovah, and rolled through the earth like peals of loudest thunder. It was awfully solemn. And at the end of every sentence the saints shouted, 'Glory! Alleluia!' Their **countenances were lighted up** with the glory of God; and they shone with the glory, as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked could not look on them for the glory.[emphasis added]"-*Early Writings*, 1882, page 34

Some may be confused that do not know and understand the truth about Team144K after reading Revelation chapter nine with regard to the fifth trumpet. It has been independently determined that all of the trumpets sound (in sequence) giving warning judgments (diluted with mercy), then probation closes followed by the seven last plagues where the bowls of God's wrath are poured out without mixture (full strength). Here is the account of the fifth trumpet:

"1And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. 2And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. 3And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but **only those men which have not the seal of God** in their foreheads[at this time, before probation closes, only Team144K has the seal of God]. 5And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. 6And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. 7And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. 8And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. 9And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. 10And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. 11And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the

bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon. 12One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.[emphasis added]"  
Revelation 9 (KJV)

Revelation 9 fits with perfect harmony into the truth about God's specially chosen end time people (Team144K) that already have the seal of God in their forehead) and are instrumental in swelling the repeat and expansion of the third angel's message into the loud cry before probation closes.

In summary; they never died during, and went through the seven last plagues, therefore they existed before the seven last plagues while they were undergoing the purification/refinement process. Since the group is formed before the seven last plagues and go out to spread the third angel's message (their faces glow) that swells into the loud cry during the hour of temptation; and since they are kept from the hour of temptation (Revelation 3:10) they must be sealed before to receive this protection. Therefore there are two times of sealing: 1) a sealing period for Team144K, and 2) the sealing event for the great multitude just before probation closes and the seven last plagues begin.

#### **There will be martyrs at the end of time:**

Revelation 17:6 describes martyrdom that will occur again at the end of time by the anti-Christ beast power that again rises to power in Revelation 13:3 and 4. These martyrs do not come from Team144K but rather the great multitude that is being created/gathered as the third angel's message swells to the loud cry at the end of probation. Consider the following quote from the pen of inspiration. It describes literal millions who are martyred at the end of time while Satan is on the earth after presenting to the world his new and more exalted system of religious faith that the vast majority accepts as truth and falls under the great delusion of. "Satan exulted over the fall of so many, and then he stirred up the fallen church to force those who would preserve the purity of their religion, to either yield to their ceremonies and image worship, or to put them to death. The fires of persecution were **again kindled** against the true church of Jesus Christ, and **millions were slain without mercy**.[emphasis added]"-*Spiritual Gifts Volume 1*, 1858, page 105

#### **Team144K and others will be saved:**

"But it is not always safe to ask for unconditional healing. Let your prayer include this thought: 'Lord, Thou knowest every secret of the soul. Thou art acquainted with these persons; for Jesus, their advocate, gave His life for them. He loves them better than we possibly can. If, therefore, it is for Thy glory and the good of these afflicted ones to raise them up to health, we ask Thee in the name of Jesus, that health may be given them at this time.' In a petition of this kind, no lack of faith is manifested.

The Lord 'doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.' Lamentations 3:33. 'Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust.' Psalm 103:13, 14. He knows our heart, for He reads every secret of the soul. He knows whether or not those for whom petitions are offered would be able to endure the trial and test that would come upon them if they lived. He knows the end from the beginning. Many will be laid away to sleep before the fiery ordeal of the time of trouble shall come upon our world. This is another reason why we should say after our earnest petition; 'Nevertheless not my will, but Thine, be done.' Luke 22:42. Such a petition will never be registered in heaven as a faithless prayer.

The apostle was bidden to write, 'Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.' Revelation 14:13. From this we can see that all are not to be raised up; and if they are not raised to health **they should not be judged as unworthy of eternal life**. If Jesus, the world's Redeemer, prayed, 'O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me,' and added, 'nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt' (Matthew 26:39), how very appropriate it is for finite mortals to make the same surrender to the wisdom and will of God.[emphasis added]"-*Councils on Health*, page 375 and 376

"The Lord has often instructed me that many little ones are to be **laid away before the time of trouble**. We shall see our children again. We shall meet them and know them in the heavenly courts.[emphasis added]"-*Selected Messages Book Two*, page 259

From the following quote, we are presented with further evidence that **some friends of Team144K will die and then be re-united with their friends at the resurrection**. "The graves opened, and the dead came up clothed with immortality. The 144,000 shouted, Hallelujah! as they recognized their friends who had been torn from them by death, and in the same moment we were changed and caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air. We all entered the cloud together, and were seven days ascending to the sea of glass, when Jesus brought along the crowns and with his own right hand placed them on our heads.[emphasis added]"-*A Sketch of the Christian Experience and Views of Ellen G. White*, 1851, page 12

EGW states that some may be only capable of keeping their souls ready for eternity and thus not able to help others find salvation. This is exactly what Team144K does, so these are not included with Team144K but will be part of the 144,000(great multitude). "I also saw that God had messengers that He would use in His cause, but they were not ready. They were too light and trifling to exert a good influence over the flock and did not feel the weight of the cause and the worth of souls as God's messengers must feel in order to effect good. Said the angel, 'Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord. Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord.' They can accomplish but little good unless they are wholly given up to God and feel the importance and solemnity of the last message of mercy that is now being given to the scattered flock. ... **Not all who proclaimed the first and the second angel's message are to give the third**, even after they fully embrace it, for some have been in so many errors and delusions that they can but just save their own souls, and if they undertake to guide others, they will be the means of overthrowing them.[emphasis added]" *Early Writings*, (1882), page 62. Of note is that we know for a fact that this quote is referring to the last generation because she describes the preaching of the third angel's message.

#### **The 144,000 is a spiritual and not an exact number:**

How can a number that is made up of spiritual pieces / parts sum to equal a real (physical) / exact number? The 144,000 is made up of 12,000 from each "tribe"; this is described in Revelation 7:5-8 (Juda, Reuben, Gad, Aser, Nephtalim, Manasses, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zabulon, Joseph, and Benjamin). The fact that the 144,000 is a spiritual number is further illustrated that the **list of tribes is slightly different than those of Genesis 49**.

Genesis 49 lists twelve tribes: Reuben, Judah, Levi, Benjamin, Joseph, Zebulun, Issachar, Gad, Dan, Naphtali, Asher and Simeon. In a specific example; since the tribe of Dan fell away from God by worshiping graven images and no longer had a place in God's church it is not listed in Revelation. See one account of the tribe of Dan's transgressions against God in Judges 18:14-26.

Numbers 10:11-28 lists the twelve tribes as Reuben, Simeon, Issachar, Judah, Zebulun, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Ephraim and Manasseh. Levi ministered to the twelve tribes, and so was treated separately. When the twelve tribes encamped, they always camped three tribes to a side, surrounding the Levites and the temple. You'll notice that Ephraim, in Revelation, is also removed from this list of tribes in Numbers.

Why were Dan and Ephraim removed from the list of tribes that were part of the 144,000 in Revelation? The answer is found in the book of Deuteronomy 29:16-20.

"16(For ye know how we have dwelt in the land of Egypt; and how we came through the nations which ye passed by; 17And ye have seen their abominations, and their idols, wood and stone, silver and gold, which were among them:) 18Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood; 19And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst: 20The Lord will not spare him, but then the anger of the Lord and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and **the Lord shall blot out his name from under heaven.**[emphasis added]" Deuteronomy 29:16-20 (KJV)

The curse of idolatry (or spiritual fornication) was to have your name blotted out. Now, let's see how this applied to the tribe of Dan.

"25Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel. 26And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: 27If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah. 28Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. **29And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. 30And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.**[emphasis added]" 1 Kings 12:25-30 (KJV)

For the tribe of Ephraim: "Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone." Hosea 4:17 (KJV)  
 Remembering what Jesus said: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35 (KJV) God remembered His Word in Deuteronomy by removing Dan and Ephraim from the final list of the tribes sealed in the 144,000 of Revelation. Looking at the list of items described in our discussion:

<b>Literal / Symbolic</b>	<b>Symbolic meaning</b>
Lamb on mount Sion	Jesus as the head of the church
Sealed in forehead	Minds are immovably set
Tribes of Israel	All nations and peoples
Not defiled by women	Heed true church doctrines
Without fault/have not committed sins	Sins have been forgiven
Literal Israel (Jews only)	Spiritual Israel (Jews and Gentiles)
144,000 Literal	?

Notice that each item is symbolic in nature for our discussion of the 144,000. Has there been a pattern established? Do we have enough evidence to decide if this is a symbolic or a literal number? The Bible is not a grocery store, we can't pick and choose what items we want and leave the rest on the shelves. We need to follow the consistent and logical pattern of this story that is being shown to using symbolism. We can thus be confident in knowing that the 144,000 represents a symbolic number.

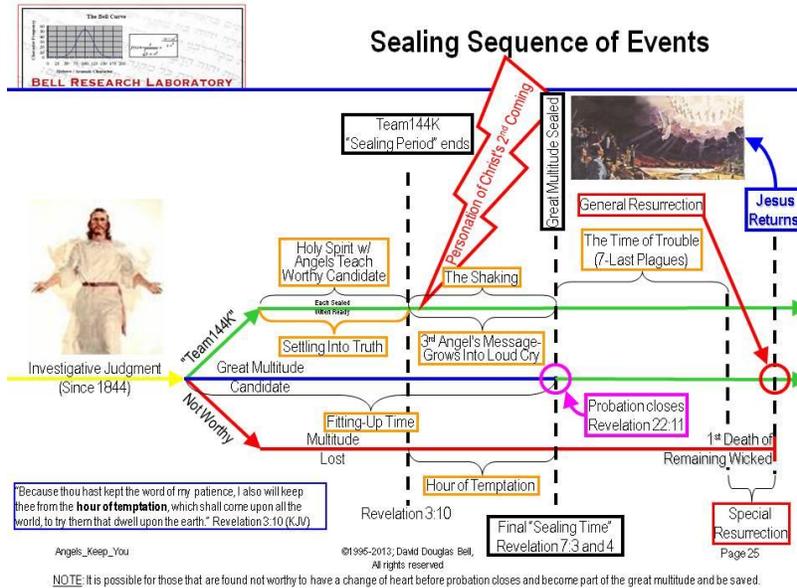


Figure 2: Sealing Sequence of Events

**SUMMARY:**

- 1) "Team144K" is sometimes described by itself or grouped with all of the 144,000,
- 2) Ellen White will be a member of the 144,000,
- 3) God's chosen elect/firstfruits are the 144,000,
- 4) "Team144K" are sealed before the shaking begins,
- 5) The "great multitude" are sealed just prior to the seven last plagues beginning,
- 6) The 144,000 have protection during the plagues,
- 7) Once formed, "Team144K" never die,
- 8) End time martyrs come from the great multitude,
- 9) The 144,000 and others will be saved at the end of time,
- 10) 144,000 is a spiritual number.

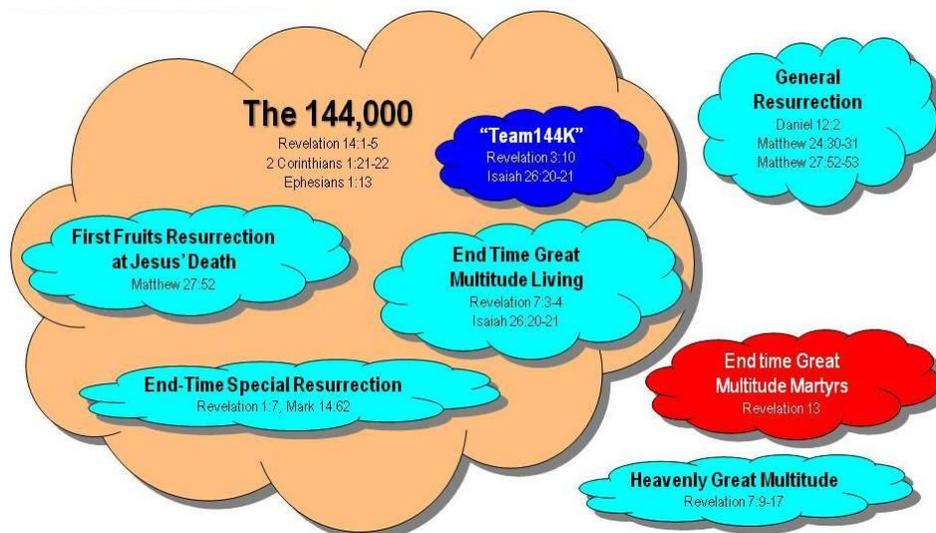


Figure 3: The 144,000