**(BSPro-33b) 144000 A SHORT SUMMARY OF WHO ARE THEY Rev 7**

**Characteristics of the 144,000 and the Great Multitude:**

They are "servants of our God" who will be sealed In their foreheads (Rev. 7:3, 4; 14:1). 12,000 of each of the tribes of Israel (Rev. 7:5-8).

They stand with the Lamb on Mount Zion (Rev. 14:1).

They sing a new song that no one else could learn (Rev. 14:3). They were redeemed from earth (Rev. 14:3).

They were not defiled with women and are virgins (Rev. 14:4). They followed the lamb "wherever He goes" (Rev. 14:4).

They were redeemed from humanity, being first fruits to God and the lamb (Rev. 14:4). No guile was found in their mouth (Rev. 14:5).

They stand before the throne of God without fault (Rev. 14:5).

The great multitude is innumerable, formed by all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues (Rev. 7:9). The great multitude is clothed with white robes and carry palm branches (Rev 7: 9).

**Possible Interpretations**:

(1) Some have interpreted the 144,000 as a literal number. They base their interpretation on the fact that although Revelation uses symbols, numbers are often understood literally: seven churches, 24 thrones/ elders; four horses; two beasts; 12 gates and 12 foundations, 12 different kinds of fruits in the New Jerusalem, etc.

(2) Some interpreters argue that the 144,000 and the great multitude form one and the same group. The number being a symbol and the great multitude the literal reality.

(3) Other interpreters see the great multitude and the 144,000 as two different groups. The 144000, though different, form part of the great multitude. The great multitude represent all the believers since the time of Adam and throughout human history. The number 144,000 is a unique number associated primarily with the people of God who bear the seal of God’s protection at the close of the cosmic conflict on earth.

Regardless of Interpretation, Most People Agree That:

(1) They appear in heaven before Jesus (the Lamb) and the throne of God, to give glory and honour to

Him.

(2) They were not part of any religious system teaching false doctrines at the time of the end

(represented by the "impure women” / spiritual Babylon).

(3) They are "virgins,” meaning they did not prostitute themselves with other theories, philosophies,

and teachings contrary to the Word of God.

(4) They were covered by the righteousness of Christ represented by the white robes they wear.

(5) They defended God's truth before the whole world despite opposition.

(6) They kept their allegiance to Jesus Christ and the Commandments of God. They proclaimed the end-

time (3 angels) messages that include the everlasting gospel, the universal judgement and the

seventh-day Sabbath as a reminder of God as Creator (see Rev. 14:6-13).

All of these points suggest that we are dealing with a symbolic number that represent the end-time people of God on earth.

Adapted from the Discipleship Bible by R Lewis. (2020)