

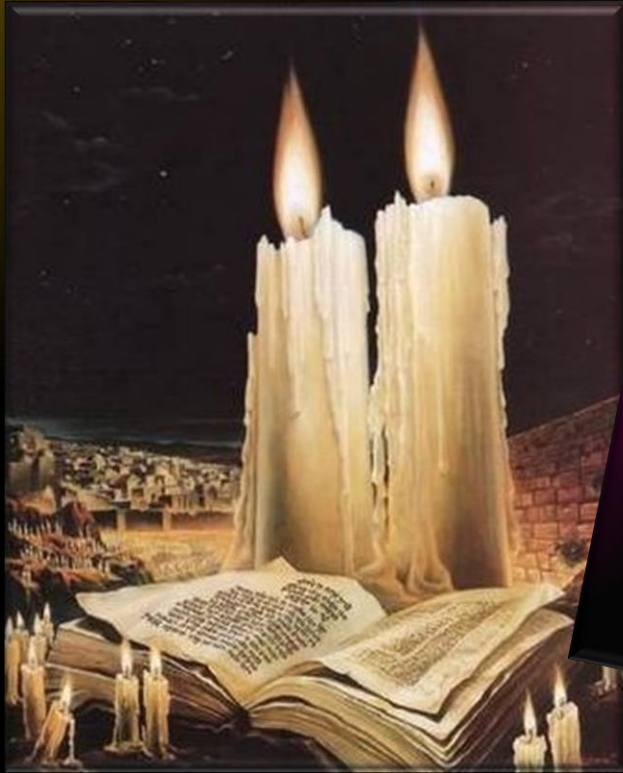


Chosen: to Finish the Task

144,000 Study



Lesson Three:



The 144,000 –
A Holy
People!

Who will be the ones, filled with the Holy Spirit, who finish God's gospel work on earth?



Those who can say with Isaiah:
“Here am I; send me.” (Isa. 6:8)



Those who urge others to prepare for Christ's return, seen as the great “harvest!”

Those who are “anointed” by God's Spirit and have an urgent convicting message!

“Servants of God [the 144,000], with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, hasten from place to place to proclaim the warning from Heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the message will be given. Miracles are wrought, the sick are healed, and signs and wonders follow the believers. Satan also works with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Thus the inhabitants of the earth [everyone] are brought to take their stand.” (4SP 429-430)



The result?

“Multitudes will receive the faith and join the armies of the Lord.” (RH, July 23, 1895)

The converts also become soldiers for Christ – His witnesses!



“God has many thousands who have not bowed the knee to Baal.... They will recognize the gospel when it is brought to them in the beauty and simplicity with which it is presented in God’s Word.”
(RH, February 21, 1907)



Training and Preparation Session

A prophecy with a “training manual” in how to be His last-day witnesses is found in Revelation 10 and 11. Some even conclude that this narrative may be the most important part of that whole Book!



Danny Hahlbohm

Most of those verses are part of an “interlude” – a prophetic “insertion” within the Seven Trumpets prophecy, that has been “front and center” (8:2-9:21), when suddenly the narrative stops. An “interlude” breaks in with a very special “celestial bulletin!”

That Trumpet prophecy will continue later.
(Rev. 11:14) What is now presented is an amazing
“classroom notice” addressed to the 144,000!
Though they are not given that title in this
interlude, we know they are that group by what
they must now study to prepare
for – their final gospel mission!



As this interlude ends – so will
history! Such breaks or insertions
are prophetically “self-contained” messages.
They are always vitally important!

Here, a preparation message to be Christ’s
ambassadors.

A significant body of prophecy has unfolded with the first six Trumpets. They revealed many final scenes in the war between good and evil. They occur when the “wine of God’s wrath” is exhibited, and Satan is permitted to express his character more fully than ever before.

God sees the need for additional “teaching” for the 144,000 Bible students! A “time out.” “This is how you prepare for that most difficult time. And this is how you will be more effective in witnessing for Me!”

That interlude now begins:

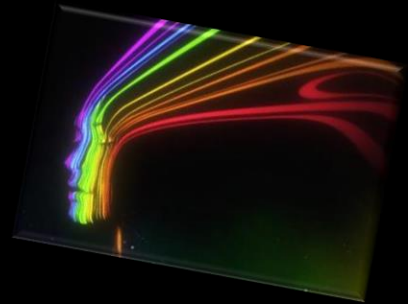
“And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:” (Rev. 10:1)



Mighty angel clothed with clouds:

We were told in 1:7 that Jesus Christ comes with **clouds**. That “references” many other such verses (i.e., Psa. 104:3, Lam. 3:42-44, Dan. 7:13, Matt. 25:31, I Thess. 4:17, Rev. 11:12). Those clouds are **angels** accompanying Jesus.

Here in chapter 10, however, it is not His Second Coming. It symbolizes a divine “mission critical” in anticipation of that event! Jesus has “*come down*” to help prepare His last “evangelists!”



Rainbow on His head:

This not only represents His glory (Eze. 1:26-28) but announces that His mercy still encircles the earth. Probation hasn't closed. “*You still have a major part to help Me in this last work! This is how.*” (ST, March 6, 1879)

Face like the sun:

This represents divinity and contextually tells us that He is the Messiah. (Psa. 84:11; Isa. 60:1-3, 20; Mal. 4:1-2)

His feet were like pillars of fire:

The “*pillar of fire*” noted with the Israelites gave both **protection** (Ex. 14:19, 24) and **guidance** (Ex. 13:21-22).



Collective imagery:

Christ is coming [through His Spirit] with heavenly angels, at a special time, to bring protection and instructional guidance to His last witnesses!

“And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth.” (Rev. 10:2)

A little open book in his hand:

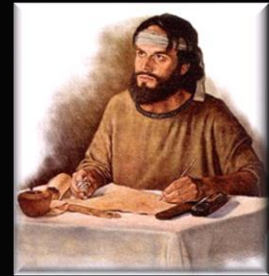
This is not the seven-sealed book of chapters 5 and 6! Here is why:



- That book/scroll could not be opened or read until the last Seal was broken.
- Jesus comes during the events of the sixth Seal. It's still not opened then!
- This open book predates that coming by at least a published 3½ years. (Rev. 11:2-3)

The only sealed book noted elsewhere that would be unsealed at “*the time of the end*” was from Daniel! That’s what is in Jesus’ hand!

“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” (Dan. 12:4) *“And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”* (Dan. 12:9)



There are two great prophetic divisions in the last part of Daniel (chapters 8–12).

Division one: The *collective visions* called the *chazown* or *hahazon* visions. These describe the final conflict between good and evil! (ram and he-goat, little horn, vile person, king of the north). *This is the focus of that “little open book” that Christ holds.*

Division two: The *collective visions* called the *mareh* visions. These describe what must occur to cleanse the record of sin, stop Satan’s work and bring in everlasting righteousness!

The *chazown* (Strong's) or *hahazon* (TWOT) visions are the only ones that were sealed! The *mareh*, which includes the 2300 years and Daniel 9, were not sealed!

The *chazown* agents are against “The Prince of Princes” and His “host of people!” (Dan. 8:25) Their leader (the little horn) finally comes to his end. (Dan. 8:25) Daniel’s prophecies are being fulfilled here in Revelation. The time for their understanding (*unsealing*) is shortly before Jesus returns! They hold evangelistic “keys.”

That “*little open book*” and the messages within Revelation 10 and 11 are vital truths the 144,000 must understand!

They describe a geopolitical intensity, with significant conflict between right and wrong, that will characterize this world during the last few years of time. Daniel’s prophecy also assures us that Satan and his agents will finally become powerless.

There, the little horn, later described as a
“*king of fierce countenance,*” “*shall be
broken without hand.*” (Dan. 8:25)

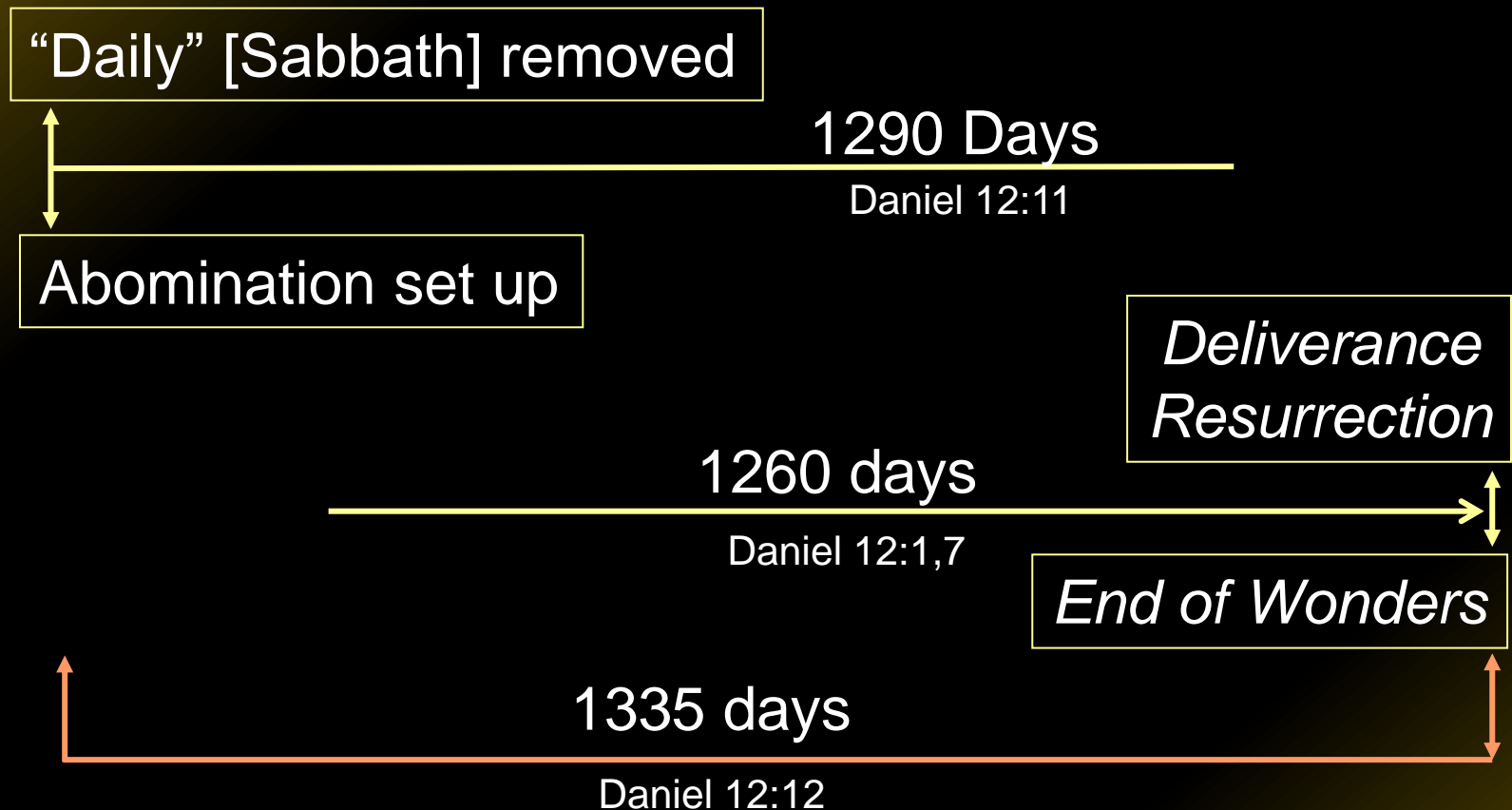
The king of the north (the same evil power)
“*shall come to his end, and none shall
help him.*” (Dan. 11:45)

Capping off the stunning characterizations of
that final war between Christ and Satan are
timing prophecies for “*the time of the end*”!
(times, time, half; 1290 days; 1335 days).
(Dan. 12) All are in that “*little open book.*”

In Hebrew, when the word “day(s)” is used with a number – it is a literal 24-hour day. This is so important, because Revelation frequently picks up on critical timelines from the Hebrew part of Daniel – especially a 3½-year or 1260-day period. Daniel was told that this block of time was called the “appointed time.” (Dan. 8:19; 11:35) It would occur at that “time of the end” just before Jesus would come.

Here is a summary of those prophecies:

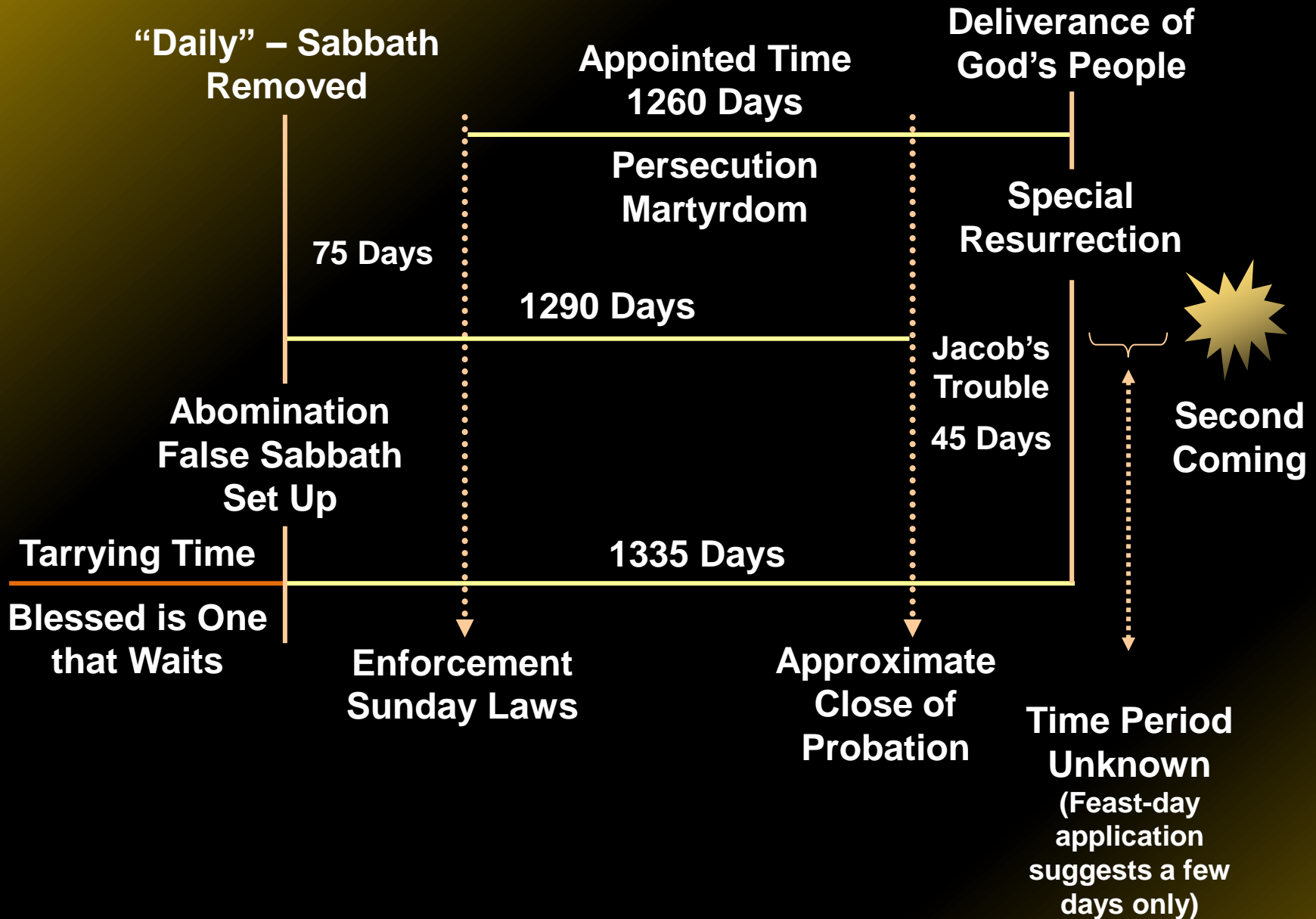
Daniel 12:7 and 11-12 portray this “network” of time periods. They intermesh as noted:



A simple outline of joining or “meshing” these periods looks like this:



Then we identify the events related to all these timing points next:



Why all this “Daniel reflection?” Ponder this:

“The book of Daniel is unsealed in the revelation to John, and carries us forward to the last scenes of this earth’s history.”
(TM 115)



“The **book of Daniel** is now unsealed, and the revelation made by Christ to John is to come to **all** the inhabitants of the earth! By the increase of knowledge **a people is to be prepared** to stand in the latter days.” (2SM 105)

If this unsealed “*little book*” is to go to all the inhabitants of the earth – then the messengers must know the *chazown* prophecies in depth to teach it! AND that is what we note also as God’s imperative:

“And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again [first heard in vs 4], and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel ... and... eat it up.” Then *“Thou must prophesy [or witness]”* to the world. (Rev. 10:8, 11)



Jesus is there standing with that book. Why didn't He just hand it to him when that command came? Man has a part in seeking out truth. John represents those who will become the 144,000. Before that final "appointed time" we are invited to receive and understand that unsealed book!

"And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey." (Rev. 10:9)

The preparation one must undergo to learn “present truth” is demanding. The prophecies of Daniel must, especially, be fully imbibed. But a “bitter experience” follows.

“And I took the little book out of the angel’s hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.”

(Rev. 10:10)



What causes that “bitterness”? Part of Daniel’s prophecy has a timing message.

Many Bible expositors and students reject all “timing prophecy” based upon this text:

“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.” (Matt. 25:13)

This is used to ignore the very command of God to imbibe part of Daniel where timed periods are given. People seem to “love” end-time prophecy, but too often relegate those time periods to the past.



This is how Jesus rivets the “when” of those Revelation 10 and 11 prophecies.

“Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever ... [that] there will be no more delay!” (Rev. 10:5-6 – NIV)



What “*delay*” ends?

The “wait” or “*tarrying time*,” anticipating the final events of Daniel’s *chazown* prophecies found in that open book!

God is saying, “Study that book, eat it, know it – because what is in its pages is about to occur!”

“They reveal what My people will soon grasp to help finish My work. Be part of that group. Eat that ‘little book’ to become effective witnesses!”

To not miss any of those points, He shortly describes the very **timing periods** that are about to begin (found in Daniel) **when** His witnesses will go forward!



*“The holy city shall they [the wicked] tread under foot forty and two month.” (Rev. 11:2)
(Persecution is part of the bitterness.)*



“And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.” (Rev. 11:3)

Daniel had noted: *“At the time of the end shall be the vision.” “At the time appointed the end shall be.” (Dan. 8:17, 19)*

What period was that?



“The people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days. [How many days? – Jesus will reveal that in the next chapter]” ... even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.” (Dan. 11:32-33, 35)

Daniel was asked to “*shut up the words and seal the book*” – the vision that we just reviewed. (Dan. 12:4) But now we can understand each verse. Here are Christ’s own words:

“It shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people [persecution], all these things shall be finished.” “Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end” (Dan. 12:7, 9) – that 3½ years.

In Revelation 10 God has come down with His holy angels to bring new timing insights from Daniel to those who anticipate becoming His final witnesses – the 144,000! He also has made it clear that knowing and using those prophecies will be difficult!

But He commissions the 144,000 to *“eat the whole book”* because:

“Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.” (Rev. 10:11)



What did all this
training mean?

Are we really
ready to answer
His call?



There is a caveat to all these messages. Before He sends anyone out on “HIS” prophetic, witnessing mission, they have to be weighed in the balances! They may have eaten that “little book,” but do they represent heaven? Are they like Jesus?

“And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.” (Rev. 11:1)

The “*temple of God*” is His last-day Church.
The “*altar*” is where the leaders officiate.
The “*worshippers*” are the living members,
out of whom that potential group of
144,000 will be chosen – His witnesses!

John’s commission symbolizes the
process of the great “setting apart” or
“judgment of the living,” using a “rod”
– a “*standard*” – to see who will soon be
given a special endowment of the Holy Spirit.
The Church with its leaders and parishioners
are all measured!



“The living saints, 144,000 in number ... were all sealed and perfectly united. On their foreheads was written, God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus’ new name.” (EW 14-15)



That “body” of witnesses will be united, be fully mission oriented, have a knowledge base representing truth in a unique way and will *have a personal experience with heaven!*

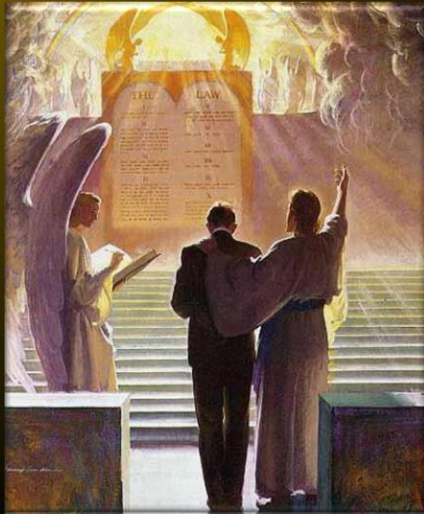
Before the great multitude hears the cry to come “out of Babylon” (Rev. 18:2-5; cf. 14:8), God does everything He can to “train” that distinct body to finish the gospel work! This culminating group is that select 144,000 we earlier saw depicted as the “white horse” of the first Seal.

These individuals must be a Spirit-filled, uniquely “**holy people**.”



There is a special Power Point series on this last judgment process entitled: *The Judgment of the Living* produced by *Prophecy Research Initiative*.

When they are
sealed with God's
eternal approval,
they are
“mission ready.”



For those chosen, God says:

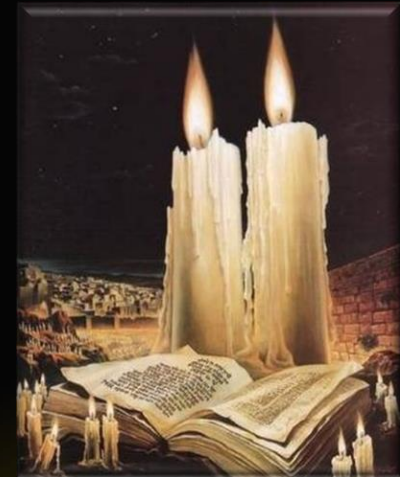
"I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy [evangelize] a thousand two hundred and threescore days." (Rev. 11:3)

Who those two witnesses are is covered in a reference book entitled: *God's Preparation Manual, A Revelation 10 and 11 study* (Prophecy Research Initiative)

That “*power*” is the Holy Spirit, depicted as coming from the two olive trees to two “*candlesticks*” or churches (Rev. 11:4). It empowers and drives these agents of heaven forward.

A mighty promise was given to John on their behalf:

“They shall finish their testimony.” (Rev. 11:7)
(paraphrased notation)



The work will be completed – and then the “*end will come*” (Matt. 24:14)!

“Why were they [the 144,000] so specially singled out? Because they had to stand with a wonderful truth right before the whole world, and receive their opposition, and while receiving this opposition they were to remember that they were sons and daughters of God, that they must have Christ formed within them the hope of glory. They were ever keeping in view the great and blessed hope that is before them. What is it? It is an eternal weight of glory. Nothing could surpass it.” (1SAT 72-73)

God uniquely
identifies that
144,000 group!



God has been a “God in waiting” for this special people – those 144,000! He even held back the winds of strife to see them purified!

The Jewish people had failed Him and they were finally rejected. (Matt. 21:43, 23:37-38)



The purpose of their ceremonial system was fulfilled in Christ. (DA 36) That’s when the ancient “Aaronic priesthood” ceased forever.

(12 MR 389). A new priestly opportunity then opened up for all Christian believers!

The priesthood was changed. (Heb. 7:12)
Any Christian could now become a priest!

“You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood”
(I Pet. 2:5)

Peter didn't stop there!



“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (I Pet. 2:9)

We can become priestly witnesses!

Even John, writing mainly to God's last-day people, noted:

“Jesus Christ ... hath made us kings and priests unto God.” (Rev. 1:5-6)

From the annals of Old Testament history, a prophetic light began to shine with new luster!

Abraham had just rescued Lot and his family from the Elamite King Chedorlaomer in northern Canaan (1770 B.C. era).

While returning home a man called the “king of Salem” met him! (Heb. 7:1)

Recall that Abraham was called to be the leader of a chosen people. (Gen. 12:1) But the Bible says that he paid tithe to this king! (Gen. 14:20) **How could this great *chosen-of-God* leader find someone above him to honor and pay tithe to?**

This man was not only a king but a very special priest!



“And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.” (Gen. 14:18)

That “order” of the priesthood would later be tied to a new order in Christ that David prophetically recognized:

“Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.” (Psa. 110:4)

Mary was instructed that her baby:

“... shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.”

(Luke 1:32)

David’s throne symbolized Christ’s eternal throne. Thus He would be a priest and king!

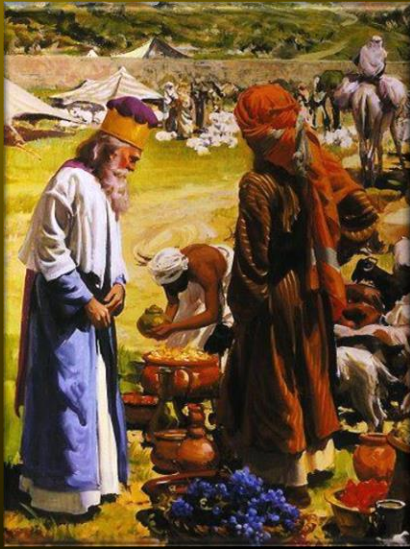
Many scholars believe that the “king of Salem” was Shem – the son of Noah. He did live long after Abraham entered Canaan!

That would link the ancient monotheistic priesthood, apparently extending back to the era of Adam through the patriarchs, to what Christ would eventually reestablish as the last Adam!

(I Cor. 15:45)

This is all referred to as the Melchisedician priesthood!





Melchizedek is made up of two Hebrew words: *malki*, meaning “king,” and *sedeq*, meaning “righteousness.”

His “kingship” and “priesthood” is of a universal significance, pointing to a higher order of relating between God and man. That design actually began at the commencement of the world, and one day is to be restored again. He was a type of God–King, the eternal High Priest Jesus Christ.

(Keil & Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament*, vol 1, p. 133)

Jesus Christ, as revealed to David under inspiration, was the King of Zion, sitting at the right hand of Jehovah God, and will be a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. (Psa. 110:4)



A “*king and priest of righteousness*” means there is a “kingdom” and a “people” who share the same holiness. That all begins with the 144,000, who will be sealed into His kingdom of righteousness! (Luke 17:21)

Even Gabriel told Daniel that when God's people gave up three evils (transgression, sin and iniquity), "everlasting righteousness" would come to them! (Dan. 9:24)



Gabriel never said they were the 144,000 or the Melchisedecian order. But they were beautifully described just that way!

At first, he told Daniel that the message was for "*his people*." But later, prophesying that they would rebel, he redefined "*his people*" as "*all those written in the book [of life]*." (Dan. 12:1)

That is all so incredible! We were told when all this would occur. Holiness would be vindicated or adjudicated (*be.nisdaq* – H) on or after 2300 years. (Dan. 8:14) All those stories and prophecies anticipated future righteousness of a group of people!



Gabriel even noted that the wiles of Satan would end at that time and there would be a purging of the sin records – all from Daniel 9.

That time is also what Paul talks about in the book of Hebrews:

“So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee ... saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.” (Psa. 110:4)

“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him. Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.” (Heb. 9-10; cf. 5:5-6)



This is amazing!

God declared Jesus:

1. His only begotten Son
2. A priest forever
3. Of the new future order, Melchisedec, related to the “*king of Salem*” – “King of Jerusalem” – “King of God’s people”

Intriguing! John notes that God’s people are also to be “kings and priests” – unquestionably of the Melchisedec order!!!

*“Jesus Christ ... hath made us kings
and priests unto God and his Father.”*

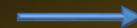
(Rev. 1:5-6)

*“The Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root
of David ... a Lamb ... hast made us
unto our God kings and priests.”*

(Rev. 5:5, 8, 10)



This group, with its leader (just like the
white horse with Christ as the rider), is
so important that Paul chides the reader
of Hebrews:



Paraphrased:

1. You are dull of hearing (5:11)
2. If you continue just drinking milk (5:13)
3. You will not be skilled in understanding righteousness (5:13)
4. You should be teachers by now (5:12)
5. Those who can handle “strong meat” belong to those who are mature and know good from evil (5:14)

Who are the mature and who are the teachers? The 144,000 who prepare – who are of that special order!

Paul is urging God's people, "Know the issues regarding this new order!" Then, God does something that is rarely recorded in the Bible. He takes an oath and swears by His own name, confirming the incredible truths about this end-time order. Paul notes:

"For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself." (Heb. 6:13)



“Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation.” (Heb. 6:17-18)



God now affirms, with strong consolation, that we are to be part of this wonderful Melchisedician priesthood.

The hope we now have, as an anchor to the soul, is Jesus, as this special High Priest, within the veil (Most Holy Place). (Heb. 6:18-20)

It is based upon a changed law. From the Levitical Aaronic Priesthood to the Priesthood of Melchisedec! (Heb. 7:12-13)

Since Calvary, the great covenants have moved from “in promise” to “everlasting,” assuring us that the “priest of righteousness” officiates! Soon – He will reign as the “king of righteousness.” We will officiate with Him!

**Another
representation
of the
144,000!**

Ezekiel describes in great detail the last “*temple*” on earth. It symbolizes God’s last church. The officiating priests are descendants of the family of Zadok – “righteous”! (Eze. 40:46, 43:19, 44:15, 48:11)



In the wonderful symbolism of those final chapters of Ezekiel, that group of priests administers the church, represented as the pure woman (Rev. 12:1). Her seed – her children – will make up the “*remnant*” noted in verse 17 – its “congregation.”

Who are its leaders, those Zadok priests?
They are the 144,000! Ezekiel describes the experience of those “priests” during the last period of earth’s history. It is a fearful time, but God’s presence comes near!

In the imagery that comes to us of this new priesthood we see this amazing change:

From a theocracy – Levitical priesthood, representing one tribe, the Levites.

To a kingdom – the Melchisedec priesthood, made up of 12 tribes! (Rev. 7:4-8)

In that “*kingdom*” the High Priest comes from the tribe of Judah, as do those Zadok priests!!! Jesus is of the Root of David (Rev. 5:5) and will sit as a king on the throne of David.



(Jer. 23:5)

“The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.... We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.” (Rev. 11:15, 17)

In anticipation of this transition from High Priest to King (which ushers in that eternal kingdom of righteousness) came these words:

“A flaming cloud came where Jesus stood and he laid off his priestly garment and put on his kingly robe, took his place on the cloud which carried him to the east where it first appeared to the saints on earth a small black cloud, which was the sign of the Son of Man.”

(Ellen G. Harmon , Day Star, March 14, 1846)

Defining who those saints were:

“The living saints, 144,000 in number, know and understand the voice [which announced the day and the hour of Christ’s coming], while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake.” Soon their eyes “were drawn to the East, for a small black cloud had appeared.... the Sign of the Son of Man” ...
“The 144,000 shouted, Hallelujah!”

(A Word to the Little Flock, p. 17)

Carefully ponder
what is now
to follow!

The “living saints” (on that night of deliverance) are those who will be translated, having been found in the Lamb’s Book of Life. (Dan. 12:1)

How many will be translated?

Please note carefully:

“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.... These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” (Rev. 7:9, 14)

The “living saints” (144,000 in “number”) who are translated are of such a number they can’t be counted!

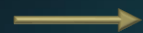
Why then is this given as a “number” that is defined and heard? Again, 12 is God’s kingdom number. In the ancient Jewish tradition, when a number is emphasized it is squared – then to be emphasized to a greater degree, it is multiplied by 1000. This is when “two” become “one.”

From the Melchisedec priesthood, representing the 12 “saved” tribes (from which Ephraim and Dan are missing) comes the wonderful message that no matter what personality type you have, no matter what your personal “story” (like the patriarchs of those 12 tribes), you can be saved.



The number 144,000, with its 12 listed tribes, is a powerful message of hope. It begins with the tribe of Judah and expands to those 12. From a small group to many!

“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’ (Revelation 15:2, 3; 14:1-5.) ‘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.” (GC 648-649 – 1911)



What will be your song when we see
this coming from the east?

The End

Next and Final Lesson:

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord



PRI Headquarters



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