

# Hope in Crisis

*The 144,000 and the Tribulation Martyrs (Rev. 6:9-11; 7:1-17)*

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“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

**Consider:** Endurance in the race of faith is the prerequisite for eternal rewards. What trials is God allowing in your life today to prepare you for eternity?

## NOTES

## I. THE IDENTITY OF THE 144,000

FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF THESE 144,000 EVANGELISTS

- 1) **They are sealed — Rev. 7:3-4**
  - The AntiChrist has his seal (“the mark of the beast”); but God sets a mark on those who are His.
  - Sealing — a picture of security and ownership
- 2) **They are Jews — Rev. 7:4-8**
  - 12,000 from each tribe of Israel (except the tribe of Dan)
- 3) **They are male virgins — Rev. 14:4**
  - They are pure—“not defiled with women”
  - They are wholly set apart unto God to fulfill His special mission during the Tribulation period.
- 4) **They are believers — Rev. 14:4**
  - “redeemed from among men”
  - “firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb” — They are the first ones saved during the Tribulation period.
- 5) **They are committed followers of the Lamb — Rev. 14:4-5**
  - They “follow the Lamb whithersoever He goes” – Rev. 14:4
  - They are not just saved, but they are committed disciples!
  - “In their mouth is no guile”
  - They are “without fault before the throne of God”

## II. THE MISSION OF THE 144,000

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” (Matthew 24:14)

### ➔ **Their Mission: To preach the gospel of the Kingdom during the Tribulation**

- The “Gospel of the Kingdom” is not just the good news of eternal life, but the good news of eternal rewards for faithful endurance in discipleship.
  - Unprecedented numbers will be saved in a short period of time.
  - The 144,000 are able to accomplish in 7 years what the church has not been able to accomplish in 2000 years!
- This mission is what we as believers are to be doing today (Matt. 28:18-20).
  - Witnessing to the lost
  - Provoking believers to love and good works

### III. THE MARTYRDOM OF THE 144,000

“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:” (Rev. 6:9)

- Not only the 144,000, but also those who respond to their message are martyred—AntiChrist kills them, possibly on the brazen altar in the temple.
- The Tribulation martyrs cry out to God for justice.
  - “And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?” (Revelation 6:10)
- The Tribulation martyrs are told to wait until God’s appointed time.
  - “...and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.” (Revelation 6:11)
    - ➔ Delays are often the greatest tests of our faith.
    - ➔ God’s timing is always best. We can endure trials through His strength—not ours—and we can be confident that He will make all things right in eternity!

### IV. ETERNAL REWARDS FOR THE TRIBULATION MARTYRS

“After 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; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.” (Revelation 7:9–10)

- They are given white robes (Rev. 6:11; 7:9).
- They serve God in His temple day and night (Rev. 7:15).
- God will dwell among them (Rev. 7:15).
- The Lamb will feed them and lead them to fountains of living water; they will never hunger nor thirst (Rev. 7:16–17).
- They will not suffer from the heat of the sun (Rev. 7:16).
- God will wipe all tears from their eyes (Rev. 7:17).

#### Conclusion

*“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:17–18)*

- *What trials are you going through today that will reap eternal rewards?*
- *The testimony of these Tribulation martyrs should spur us on in the race of faith God has called us to run today.*
- *Don’t lose heart! Lean hard on Jesus! Keep your eyes fixed on the prize!*