

The 144,000: Servants of the Living God

Presented by:
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The Context

| Before Revelation 14 | After Revelation 14 |
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| 7 Churches (Ch. 1-3) | 7 Last Plagues (Ch. 15-16) |
| 7 Seals (Ch. 4-7) | Judgment on Babylon (Ch. 17-18) |
| 7 Trumpets (Ch. 8-11) | Christ Comes on the White Horse (Ch. 19) |
| Great Controversy (Ch. 12-14) | Millennium and the New Earth (Ch. 20-22) |

Revelation 14: The Fulcrum

- ⊗ The 144,000: Rev 14:1-5
- ⊗ The 3 Angels' Messages: Rev. 14:6-12
- ⊗ The 2 Harvests: Rev. 14:15-20

The 144,000 and the 3 Angels' Messages are God's final answer against the challenge of the Dragon, the Beast, and its Image.
(Rev. 15:2-3)

Some caution...

It is not His plan that His people shall present something which they have to suppose, which is not taught in the Word. 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.
{1SM 174.3}

Introducing the 144,000

- ⦿ Revelation 7:1-4
- ⦿ Literal Jews?
 - ⦿ Irregular list of tribes.
 - ⦿ Prophecies no longer revolve around Israel after Christ. (Gal 3:29)
- ⦿ Identified as: “Servants of God”

Christ: The Servant of God

- ⦿ Philippians 2:5-8
- ⦿ Willingly humbled Himself
- ⦿ Obedient unto death
- ⦿ Entire surrender to His Father's will
- ⦿ We are to have the same mind!

Servants of God in Prophecy

- ⊗ Matthew 24-25
- ⊗ Daniel
- ⊗ Snapshots of what Servants of God look like in easy-to-remember, easy-to-picture story form.

Wise and Wicked Servants

- ⦿ Matthew 24:45-51
- ⦿ Wise and Faithful Servant
 - ⦿ Possesses Wisdom – Daniel 12:9-10
 - ⦿ Gives meat in due season

Precious vs. Present

There are many precious truths contained in the Word of God, but it is "**present truth**" that the flock needs now. I have seen the danger of the messengers running off from the important points of present truth, to dwell upon subjects that are not calculated to unite the flock and sanctify the soul. Satan will here take every possible advantage to injure the cause. {EW 63.1}

But such subjects as **the sanctuary, in connection with the 2300 days, the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus**, are perfectly calculated to explain the past Advent movement and show what our **present position** is, establish the faith of the doubting, and give certainty to the glorious future. These, I have frequently seen, were the principal subjects on which the messengers should dwell. {EW 63.2}

The Wise Servant

- ⊗ Possesses Wisdom – **Understands the prophecies**
- ⊗ Gives meat in due season – **Preaches the Present Truth**
- ⊗ He is “so doing” when the Lord returns

The Wicked Servant

- ⊗ He is a backslider. He is a servant by name only, but not at heart.
- ⊗ He says, “My Lord delays his coming.”
- ⊗ Eats and drinks with the drunken. More concerned with affairs of this life, and loses sight of heaven.

The Servants and the Talents

- ⦿ Matthew 25:14-30
- ⦿ Faithful servants are those who improve their talents, not hide them in the earth.
- ⦿ It's not the amount of talents given, but the use made of what is given, no matter how small. Faithful servants are faithful in the small duties.

The Talents

⊗ *Christ's Object Lessons*, Chapter 25, "Talents"

Christ on the Mount of Olives had spoken to His disciples of His second advent to the world. He had specified certain signs that were to show when His coming was near, and had bidden His disciples watch and be ready. Again He repeated the warning, "Watch therefore; for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." Then **He showed what it means to watch for His coming.** The time is to be spent, not in idle waiting, but in diligent working. **This lesson He taught in the parable of the talents.** {COL 325.1}

The Talents

The talents, however few, are to be put to use. The question that most concerns us is not, How much have I received? but, **What am I doing with that which I have?** The development of **all** our powers is the first duty we owe to God and to our fellow men. No one who is not growing daily in capability and usefulness is fulfilling the purpose of life. In making a profession of faith in Christ we pledge ourselves to become **all** that it is possible for us to be as workers for the Master, and we should cultivate every faculty to the **highest degree of perfection**, that we may do the greatest amount of good of which we are capable. {COL 329.2}

The essence of perfection = ALL. (Matt 19:21; Luke 18:22)

The Talents

A noble, all-round character is not inherited. It does not come to us by accident. A noble character is earned by individual effort through the merits and grace of Christ. God gives the talents, the powers of the mind; we form the character. It is formed by hard, stern battles with self. Conflict after conflict must be waged against hereditary tendencies. We shall have to criticize ourselves closely, and allow not one unfavorable trait to remain uncorrected. {COL 331.1}

The Talents

Be ambitious, for the Master's glory, to cultivate every grace of character. In every phase of your character building you are to please God. This you may do; for Enoch pleased Him though living in a degenerate age. And there are Enochs in this our day.
{COL 332.1}

The heavenly intelligences will work with the human agent who seeks with determined faith that perfection of character which will reach out to perfection in action. To everyone engaged in this work Christ says, I am at your right hand to help you.
{COL 332.4}

Talents: Pursuing Excellence

- ⦿ The story of the talents is about pursuing excellence in the whole life. Giving the Master our all.
- ⦿ Servants of God pursue excellence in character, and they don't quit. Neither do they think that they've "arrived."
- ⦿ A character formed according to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next. . . . And in heaven we are continually to improve. How important, then, is the development of character in this life. {COL 332.3}

Review: Matt. 24-25

- ⊗ Understands the prophecies.
- ⊗ Preaches the Present Truth.
- ⊗ Works faithfully until Jesus comes.
- ⊗ Is not preoccupied with the affairs of this life.
- ⊗ Does not say in his heart, “My Lord Delays His Coming”
- ⊗ Faithful in the little things.
- ⊗ Actively pursuing excellence in all aspects of life, with no intent of stopping.

Daniel 3: Servants in the Furnace

- ⊗ Ancient Babylon
- ⊗ Golden Image
- ⊗ Legislation dictating worship
- ⊗ A union of church and state
- ⊗ A death decree
- ⊗ Time in the fire
- ⊗ Deliverance
- ⊗ Dan 3:26-28: They were obedient unto death!

Daniel 6: Servant in the Lion's Den

- ⊗ Plotting by the enemies of God.
- ⊗ Law urged by the people.
- ⊗ A union of church and state.
- ⊗ Legislation regarding worship.
- ⊗ Death decree, with a specific date of execution.
- ⊗ Time among the lion's.
- ⊗ Deliverance.
- ⊗ Dan 6:19-22 – He was obedient unto death!

Review: Daniel 3 & 6

- ⦿ These stories are prophetic of very similar events that will transpire in the last days.
- ⦿ The Servants of God's would rather die than disobey God.
- ⦿ They refuse the Mark of the Beast, and do not bow to the Image of the Beast.
- ⦿ They go through the Time of Trouble.
- ⦿ They are preserved and delivered by God.

Revelation 7:3

- ⊗ The Servants of God have the mind of Christ. (Phil 2:5-8)
- ⊗ The Servants of God give meat in due season until Christ returns. (Matt 24:45-50)
- ⊗ The Servants of God improve their talents. (Matt 25:14-30)
- ⊗ The Servants of God would rather go into the fiery furnace than bow before the image. (Dan 3)
- ⊗ The Servants of God would rather be thrown into the lion's den rather than worship man. (Dan 6)
- ⊗ The Servants of God are those who receive the Seal of God...