

Fulfilled Prophecies

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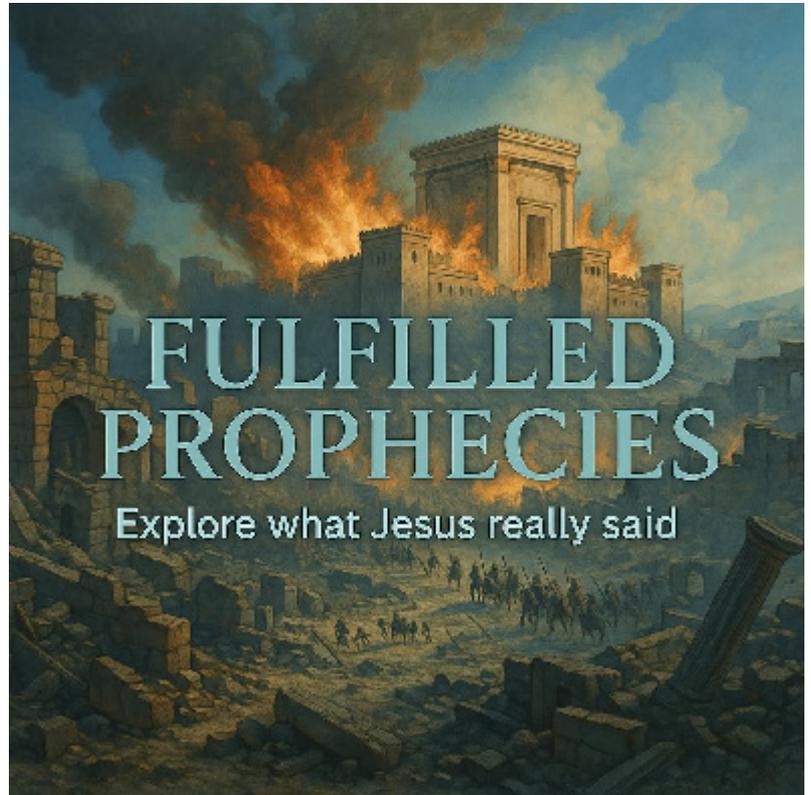
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144,000 - Out of the Great Tribulation - The 144,000 Is Not a Literal Number



By Dan Maines

Out of the Great Tribulation

Revelation 7 and the First Century Fulfillment

Revelation 7:14 *"These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."*

Right here in Revelation 7, we are told plainly that the redeemed came out of the **Great Tribulation**. But who were they? When did this tribulation take place?

The 144,000 Is Not a Literal Number

Revelation 7:4 mentions 144,000 being sealed. But then in **Revelation 7:9** John says: *"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all the tribes, peoples, and languages..."*

That tells us this number is symbolic, not literal. It represents the redeemed from all nations.

John Said He Was in the Tribulation

In **Revelation 1:9**, John said: *"I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation..."*

John was already experiencing tribulation. It was happening in his lifetime.

Jesus and the Great Tribulation

Jesus spoke of the **Abomination of Desolation** in Matthew 24:15, and in verse 16 He said: *"Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains."*

In **Mark 13:14** and **Luke 21:21**, Jesus says when they see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, that is the signal to flee.

Where were they? Jerusalem. **Who was He talking to?** His disciples. **What was the warning?** Get out fast before judgment falls.

First-Century Urgency

Jesus said: **Matthew 24:17-18** *"Whoever is on the housetop must not go down... whoever is in the field must not turn back..."*

That makes sense in the first century, when people traveled across rooftops. Not in the 21st century.

He continues in **Matthew 24:19-20**: *"Woe to those who are pregnant... pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath..."*

There were still Jews practicing Old Covenant law. Jesus gave this warning to **His generation**.

The Tribulation Was the Destruction of Jerusalem

Matthew 24:21 *"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will."*

This was **not future**. This was **first-century judgment**.

Josephus, the first-century Jewish historian, confirms this: *"The war with the Romans was the greatest of all wars ever heard of..."*

Daniel and Jesus Agree

Daniel 12:7 says it would last *"a time, times, and half a time."* That is 3½ years - the exact length of the Jewish-Roman War.

Daniel 12:11 tells us: *"From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished... there will be 1,290 days."*

Jesus quoted Daniel in **Matthew 24:15**, confirming this is the **same tribulation**.

This Was the End of the Age - Not the End of the World

Jesus never spoke of the destruction of the planet. He spoke of the **end of the Old Covenant Age**.

In AD 70, the Roman army destroyed Jerusalem, wiped out the temple, and ended all sacrifices for sin.

The 144,000 Were First-Century Believers

They fled when Jesus warned them. They were saved. They were **the firstfruits** of the New Covenant.

Revelation 7:14 says they came out of the Great Tribulation - and they did.

Christ Changed Everything

Before Christ, the dead went to Sheol. After Christ, **believers go directly to be with the Lord.**

2 Corinthians 5:8 *"We are... at home with the Lord."*

Christ is the resurrection. Eternal life is **now.**

In Conclusion

The Great Tribulation is not future. It is fulfilled. Jesus judged Jerusalem. He kept His promise. The Old Covenant ended. The Kingdom began.

Revelation 7:10 *"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."*

He sits on the throne now. The Lamb reigns now. The kingdom is here - and we are living in it.

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