

## Revelation – Week 4 The Marks

### *Introduction – Ron*

When discussing the book of **Revelation**, most people want to discuss **“the Mark of the Beast”**.

Of all the imagery found in Revelation, the **“mark”** seems to invoke the most speculation.

I have **heard** more than one person say, “I don’t want to **accidentally** take the mark of the beast.”

But the mark of the beast is not the only mark mentioned in scripture.

There is also “the seal of the living God.”

So our lesson tonight will contrast the two.

Let’s begin reading in **Revelation 13:1-8**

By verse 11-18, there is **“another beast”** mentioned.

### *Introduction – Greg*

#### 1. **Ron – 144,000**

Note: your handout has the **criteria** by which we are **comparing** and **contrasting** the two groups in the left hand column.

- Nature of the Mark – Revelation 7:3-4

The first mention of the 144,000 is in Revelation chapter 7.

Revelation 7:2 tells us that the angels held back their judgments on the earth until the 144,000 were **“sealed”**. A seal denotes “ownership and protection”. A king could place his seal on an object, decree, or person and it was protected. Verse 3 says, “*on their foreheads.*”

Is this forehead I.D. visible to everyone or only to God and His angels? Is it literal or figurative?

The word **“Seal”** is not unique to Revelation. Jesus was sealed – **John 6:27** “*God the Father has set a seal on Him.*”

Every believer is “sealed” with the **“Holy Spirit”** according to Ephesians 1:13.

But the 144,000 were sealed for a **unique purpose**. So the word sealed in relation to this group is speaking of more than the fact that they were redeemed / saved.

- The **object of worship** is clear. They worshipped **God**, the **“Lamb”**. (Note: The word lamb describes the **“sacrifice”** of Christ not the **demeanor** of Christ.)
- The **characteristics** of the **144,000**.

Revelation 14:4-5 *“These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. There were redeemed from among men, being first fruits to God and to the Lamb.”*

They are **servants**, **redeemed**, **human**, **unique**, **high moral character**

MacArthur calls them the “cream of the crop”.

Imagine 144,000 Old Testament **“Daniels”**; men that were of that **unique quality** and **spiritual resolve**.

1. **Greg**
2. **Ron – The fate of the sealed in end times**

Revelation 7 describes **two groups** of redeemed people in the **Tribulation**. (Note: per our beliefs – all believers in the Tribulation were saved in the Tribulation – pre-Trib position)

- First – the “144,000” – sealed of Israel
- Second – the “Great Multitude” mentioned in Revelation 7:9 *“of all nations, peoples, tongues.”*

The fate of these two groups in the Tribulation will not be the same.

- The 144,000 of Israel – Satan and the anti-Christ **will not** be able to harm these powerful, fearless, preachers of God.

They will frustrate the efforts of Satan and be one more reminder that every knee shall bow to the Lord God.

- The fate of the “Great Multitude” is different. They will be **excluded** from **“divine judgment”**. Judgment from God but not from Satan.

Revelation 13:7-8 *“It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them.”*

Multitudes of believers will be martyred at the hands of the beast.

- The 144,000 will live through the Tribulation and enter the Millennium.
- Some of the great multitude will likely make it through this 3½ year period.
- The eternal destiny of all believers is the New Jerusalem.

## 2. **Greg**

### **Ron’s Conclusion:**

People often say that the book of Revelation is scary. But imagine how it would have looked to John.

John was the **last apostle** alive; he was in prison. The churches were suffering from **sin** and **doctrinal** error.

The Jews rejected Jesus.

And now he sees 144,000 of the nation of Israel, preaching to every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Revelation 7:9 *“A great multitude which no one could number.”*

Imagine how encouraging this vision was for John the Beloved.

It was a vision of victory for the Lord and His redeemed.

### **Greg’s Conclusion**