



REVELATION 50 – CONUNDRUM OF THE 144,000

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Revelation 7:4-8

POOR HERMENEUTICS LEADS TO POOR INTERPRETATION AND CULTS

- Misinterpretations about the *Ten Lost Tribes of Israel*, and Replacement Theology, have led to cults and misinterpretations of this passage
 - Israel – Northern Kingdom comprised of Ten Tribes centered on Ephraim (1Ki 11:26-39)
 - Jeroboam – First king revived Golden Calf worship and false festival to keep people from Jerusalem Temple; ignored God’s promise to stay faithful (Ex 32:1-29; 1Ki 12:25-33; 14:7-16)
 - Eventually, Assyria conquered Israel and led a portion of the wealthy and industrious people into permanent captivity; hence, myth of *Ten Lost Tribes* (2Ki 17:21-24)
 - Hezekiah {Judah} sent heralds calling Jews to come worship Passover in Jerusalem after being conquered; most Jews remained in the land which became Samaria (2Ch 30)
 - Enlightenment heretics, poor hermeneutics, believed *Ten Tribes* were *American Indians* (Mormons); *Britains*; or even *Japanese*: Medieval believers saw *Ten Tribes* as allies to conquer Muslims that had retaken Jerusalem – God did not lose His people (Ro 11:26-29)

Ten Lost Tribes were never Lost: Gentiles never replace Jews in God’s Plan and same for Jews to Gentiles: Man cannot determine who are these people; Christ *knows* and *marks* them for the angels (Ro 11:25-32)

WHAT'S IN A NUMBER? WHY 144,000?

- God designed solar system and galaxies as measures of time and signs (Ge 1:14-19)
 - Year, solar orbit–12 months, lunar or solar, established 12 as completion {Day-12*2}
- Bible establishes meaning of several numbers
 - Three: God's Trinity complete within itself; i.e., triangle smallest enclosed structure
 - Ten: Multiplying the effect of attached number; especially if itself multiplied {10^x}
- Twelve tribes, or apostles, complete number for God's purposes (Re 21:12-14)
 - Each tribe has 10³*12 *called out* {ἐκκλησία, ekklēsia} carrying Gospel into World
 - 12²*10³, Duality, emphasizes God's complete calling since their *first* call (Ex 19:5-6; Is 61:5-6)

TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL: WHY DO THE LISTS KEEP CHANGING?

- Understanding Bible history helps understand Bible prophecy
 - Simeon and Levi led slaughter of Shechem men to avenge their sister's rape (Ge 34; 49:5-7)
 - Levite tribe to be scattered in the Land; another tribe needed to *complete* 12 tribes; supplied by their own sin, Joseph's sons given a portion (Ge 48:8-20)
 - Often Levi is not listed, scattered as priests, and Joseph replaced by one of his sons equaling twelve: Manasseh and Ephraim
 - Sometimes, depending on context, Joseph is listed so only one of his sons named
- Remember, Levi's {Simeon's} fierce anger led to Shechem's slaughter
 - Moses' *anger* his undoing: Murder then rejection from Promised Land (Ex 2:11-15; Nu 20:1-13)
 - Levi tribe's *righteous anger* at Golden Calf: Aaronic Priesthood established (Ex 32:25-29)

Aaronic Priesthood, indicative of the Flesh, struggled with self-control; *instrumental* in Calf Worship:
Aaronic Priesthood's role to examine and find Paschal Lamb acceptable Sacrifice- Jesus (Mt 26:57-66)

FINAL LIST OF TWELVE TRIBES: SINS OF THE FATHERS AFFECTS SONS

- God warned that each person responsible for own sin; but parent's sins influence, shape truth, how children, progeny, develop (Ex 34:6-7; De 24:16; Pr 1:8-9; Ez 3:16-21)
- Golden Calf worship did not end in the Wilderness; Levitical influence (Ju 17-18)
 - Tribe of Dan revived it in the North with Moses' grandson being its priest (Ju 18:27-31)
 - Jeroboam, Ephraim, expanded Calf worship to all Israel leading to exile (2Ki 17:21-23)
 - Thus, Dan and Ephraim descendants have no portion in *New Jerusalem*, excluded from list; replaced by Joseph and Manasseh: (Ge 48:17-20)
- Embraced Hermetic Dialectism resulting in captivity: *False Jews* (Ro 11:1-10)
 - Group rejected but Individuals still saved; whoever calls on the Lord will be saved (Ro 10:9-10)

PERSPECTIVE: WHY IS THIS PLACED HERE?

- What is the purpose of this list? Why is it placed here before seventh seal?
 - Seals about beginning of Great Tribulation
 - Church *called out*, replaced by Jews also *called out*, revealed, to the World
 - Jews were the *gateway*, Scripture repository, bringing Gospel to Gentiles which they did not accomplish in Old Testament; Jews always *gateway* (Is 9:2; Mt 4:12-17; Ro 3:1-4; 11:25-32)
- Their efforts encompass entire Great Tribulation, brings Gospel to multitude
 - This is an overview showing that while majority follow Satan's Lie, Christ remains at work using *His People, True Jews*, harvesting *His people, Jews and Gentiles*, from Antichrist
 - These Jews *marked* as wheat, *True Jews*, showing angels whom to assist: Large Harvest (Mt 13:24-30; He 1:14)