

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On March 14, 2013, we received the following comment:

“1 John 5:1 is a clear answer to any attempt to limit the number of the anointed: [According to the New English Translation of the Bible (NET)] ‘EVERYONE who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been fathered by God.’ Also from the NET Bible. ‘The verb gennaō- here means to be fathered by God and thus a child of God. The imagery in 1 John is that of a male parent who fathers children.’ A similar thought is found at John 1:12 from the NET Bible ‘But to ALL who have received him--those who believe in his name--he has given the right to become God's children.’ CAN ANYTHING BE CLEARER!! And these words were written AFTER the book of Revelation!”

To the author, thank you for your email. We agree with you. The matter is quite clear. There is no limit to those who could be faith sons of God and thus, no limit to those who have the heavenly hope. You make an excellent point that the words in *1 John 5:1* and *John 1:12* were written AFTER the book of Revelation, after John received the vision of the 144,000.

According to the book, “*All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial*,” published by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., the writing of the book of Revelation was completed circa 96 C.E., whereas the writing of the books of *1 John* and the *Gospel According to John* were both completed circa 98 C.E.

In your email, you quoted from the *New English Translation of the Bible (NET)*. For the benefit of our visitors, we will provide a few more translations so that all can be sure of what John the Revelator himself believed as to how many believers could become sons of God.

Regarding *1 John 5:1*:

“**Whosoever believeth** that Jesus is the Christ **is born of God**: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.” – *King James Version*

“**Every one who believes** that Jesus is the Christ **is a child of God**, and every one who loves the parent loves the child.” – *Revised Standard Version*

“**Everyone believing** that Jesus is the Christ **has been born from God**, and everyone who loves the one that caused to be born loves him who has been born from that one.” – *New World Translation*

Regarding *John 1:12*:

“**But as many as received him**, to them gave he power to become **the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name.” – *King James Version*

“But to **all who received him**, who believed in his name, he gave power to become **children of God.**” – *Revised Standard Version*

“However, **as many as did receive him**, to them he gave authority to become **God’s children**, because they were exercising faith in his name.” – *New World Translation*

These scriptures leave no doubt that ‘all who believe’ have the power to become sons of God by virtue of their faith. Thus, anyone who attempts to limit that number is in direct conflict with the words of Jesus as recorded by John the Revelator.

Thank you again, and please continue to share your observations.

“Elaia Luchnia”
