

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On July 10, 2012, we received the following inquiry:

“What I don't yet understand is, if we all have the heavenly hope, to whom does the mentioning of 144,000 pertain?”

Thank you for your inquiry. As a general matter, we avoid answering questions having to do with prophecy. However, this question has been raised before and we can provide an answer without delving into prophetic speculation.

Our answer to your questions is that, frankly, we do not know for sure. Remember, that number is part of the revelation that was ‘presented in signs.’ (*Revelation 1:1*) So, it may be a literal number; and it may not be. For now, the Society teaches that it is a literal number. Since we do not know for sure, we leave that interpretation alone. We are careful not to teach as **doctrine** the things we are not sure about.

What we are certain of are the things that Jesus taught us plainly and openly, supported by the Christian Bible writers. Rather than placing our hopes on a symbolic idea, we plant our feet firmly in the actual teachings of the Christ. He taught that we are **all** brothers, that God is the Father of **all** of us, and that **all** who are faithful will inherit to the heavenly kingdom:

“But you, do not you be called Rabbi, for one is your teacher, whereas **all you are brothers**. Moreover, do not call anyone your father on earth, **for one is your Father**, the heavenly One.” – *Matthew 23:8-9*

“For all who are led by God’s spirit, these are God’s sons. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery causing fear again, but you received a spirit of adoption as sons, by which spirit we cry out: “Abba, Father!” The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are God’s children. **If, then, we are children, we are also heirs: heirs indeed of God, but joint heirs with Christ**, provided we suffer together that we may also be glorified together.” – *Romans 8:14-17*

“Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who have been blessed by my Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world.**’” – *Matthew 25:34*

Know, too, that not understanding a prophesy does not affect our status as sons of God who are faithfully imitating Christ. We are confident that whatever happens, we will always be on the favorable side of events.

We hope this answer is satisfactory.

“Elaiia Luchnia”
