

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On March 19, 2013, we received a comment from a visitor regarding an article he read on another website about who may partake at the Memorial Supper. We have already written articles on most of the issues raised, except this one:

“What are your thoughts to the argument that only 144,000 are anointed based on the fact that only 11 faithful apostles were invited to the first Memorial Supper?”

To the author, thank you for your inquiry. We read the link to the article you provided and we find a few problems.

The writer of the article commits the same errors that so many Bible students commit. The writer uses prophecy to interpret the plain and open teachings, instead of using the plain and open teachings to interpret prophecy. The writer uses isolated verses to prove points while failing to consider the context. And the writer tries to pour the ‘old wine into the new wineskins.’

We believe if anyone simply looks at what Jesus taught, and what the Christian Bible writers preached, there would not be so much confusion. But these are difficult things to convey to people who have set themselves up as prophets with their own private interpretations, as we are seeing with the Governing Body. (*2 Peter 1:20*) Without a true spiritual intervention and a divine revelation, all prophetic interpretations are simply opinions. (We note the Governing Body has not yet claimed to receive divine intervention or divine inspiration.) We ourselves have written many articles, but in them, we are not interpreting prophecy. We are showing what the plain and open teachings are and what the prophecies **say**, not what they **mean**. But let’s get to the issue raised.

The fact that only the 11 faithful Apostles were participants in the first Memorial Supper is not proof that only a limited number of persons were admitted in the covenant instituted and mediated by Jesus. The Passover was not a large group or congregational commemoration. The Passover was conducted in private homes with close family and friends. (*Matthew 26:17-19*) So it is not unusual that the first Memorial Supper included only Jesus’ close friends.

We wrote an article on the subject of partakers based on the plain and open teachings of Jesus entitled **The Great Crowd of Partakers**. It discusses, and effectively invalidates, the Doctrine of the 144,000, which is the basis for the argument that only a limited number can partake at the Memorial Supper. See also **Eating and Drinking Worthily**, which shows plainly that all who exercise faith in Jesus Christ must continue participating in the Memorial Supper until Christ returns. (*1 Corinthians 11:23-26*)

These are our thoughts.

“Elia Luchnia”
