

144,000

Four Horsemen and the Coming World Madness – Part VII

Revelation 7:1-8; 14:1-5

Introduction

There are certain numbers revealed in the book of Revelation that have created incredible debate, along with amazing superstition, intrigue, religious fanaticism, and, not to mention, great confusion.

The number “666” would be at the top of the list. Debates are long and loud as to the meaning of this symbol. There are all kinds of notions, strange teachings, and weird predictions related to this number, as well as, I might add, a lot of websites.

Another number that has provoked as much debate, if not more, is the number “144,000”. An amazing array of religious teachings incorporate this number, fixating on it as if it were some kind of spiritual key or clue to unraveling the mystery of immortality.

A religion called Raëlism, which began in 1974 and follows the teaching of a former French journalist, is now considered the largest UFO religion in the world. The followers of this religion believe human life was the result of extraterrestrials. They also believe that there are 144,000 chosen people to continue the human race following, basically, the end of the world. They have actually attracted priests and bishops from other religions. This religion is popular outside America in places like France and South Korea.

The Church Universal movement believes that the extraterrestrial Lord of the Flame brought 144,000 souls from the planet Venus to Earth.

More popular in America are the Seventh-Day Adventists who believe that the 144,000 are the true believers – made known by their observance of the Jewish Sabbath, or Saturday, as their day of worship. They sadly mix Old and New Testament practices and in the process, confuse the meaning of both.

Their official website attempts to tone down their view from the public by stating that the 144,000 are not just Seventh-Day Adventists. However, by digging a little deeper, I found out that they believe only those who worship God on Saturday will go to heaven. In fact, they believe Sunday worship just so happens to be the mark of the beast. The Seventh-Day Adventist believes that the remnant

church – which is the code word for true believers – are those who worship God on the seventh day, or the Sabbath.ⁱ

Effectively then, the Seventh-Day Adventists are the ones going to heaven and everyone who worships on Sunday is in league with the devil and the coming antichrist.

This is amazing to me, especially given the clear and plain record of scripture. In the current New Testament church era, among other passages, Paul writes,

... no one is to act as your judge in regard to ... a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day (Colossians 2:16)

Paul goes further, in Ephesians 2:8, to make it clear that salvation is a gift from God without any contribution or work of man.

So, if salvation is by faith in Christ alone, but we have to collectively worship on Saturday in order to be saved, then the effort and works of man have been added to the gift of God.

The Sabbath sign of covenant relationship with Israel has been set aside in this church age, so we can worship God on any day of the week – individually and corporately. In fact, by the time of Acts chapter 20, believers were meeting on Sunday – the day the Lord rose from the dead – as their day of special worship.

Even more popular, and connected to this number 144,000, are the Jehovah’s Witnesses. They claim that the 144,000 in the Revelation account are not Jewish Christians, but actually Jehovah’s Witnesses. They would comprise the 144,000 number of true redeemed, rescued believers.

The problem with this belief became apparent when the number of Jehovah’s Witnesses exceeded 144,000 (what does God do with the leftovers?). So they revised their doctrine and taught that there was an earthly band of 144,000 and a heavenly band. The heavenly band of Jehovah’s Witnesses was for the charter members – many of whom had already died.

According to the latest data, Jehovah’s Witnesses believe there are just over 9,000 of this number registered on Earth today.ⁱⁱ

The problem of simple math reared its head again when the number of Jehovah's Witnesses exceeded 288,000 followers. They then created a third band of 144,000 called the "servant band".ⁱⁱⁱ

So there is the heavenly band, the earthly band, and the servant band of Jehovah's Witnesses. For those who do not believe there will be bands in heaven, you are in for a surprise!

It is amazing how many convoluted problems result from taking this number in any way other than its clear, literal announcement. So, let us pick up our study at Revelation chapter 7 and answer the 144,000 dollar question.

As you are turning to this chapter, you may remember how the previous chapter ended. We watched as the world entered an incredible time of cosmic upheaval. A massive earthquake shook the entire planet, causing the crust of the Earth to shift. Flaming asteroids came blazing through the atmosphere, colliding with planet Earth and causing untold devastation. The sun and moon were totally eclipsed, plunging the world into eerie darkness.

During these events, all of unbelieving humanity began to pray to the rocks to fall on them and for their lives to end, thinking they would then be saved from the wrath of God. From kings to slaves, all were equalized as the sixth seal was broken as the scroll was unrolled.

The last part of their prayer in Revelation chapter 6, verse 17, asked the question,

... and who is able to stand?

In other words, "Who can possibly survive the terror and wrath of God?"

God, through the writing of John the apostle in this book, puts on the brakes for a moment and answers this question for us.

Revelation chapter 7 is an interlude; a parenthesis; a pause, so to speak, in the chronological progression of the opening of the seals. The reason for this is to let us know the status of the gospel, and to let us know about a very special group of people who not only survive, but thrive.^{iv}

Angels Pause the Winds of God's Judgment

Notice the way John opens Revelation 7:1 with,
After this I saw . . .

This is the way John consistently introduces a new vision. Look at this verse.

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth . . .

Let us stop at this point for a moment. This is one of the verses that liberals use to mock the Bible. "Poor John; poor Christians, they're stuck with a book and an ancient church father who obviously thinks the world is flat with four corners. Can you believe that?! Angels are standing at the four corners of the Earth."

We can understand the four winds, which is an obvious reference to winds from the north, south, east and west, but this four corners thing – now we are stuck with pre-scientific understanding. We have to hang our heads in the presence of modern science and say, "Aw shucks, John didn't know science, so don't hold it against him."

However, I found it fascinating that the modern science of Geodesy has proven this true. Geodesy is a branch of applied mathematics that determines the size and shape of the Earth, among other things.

In recent years, geodetic measurements have proven the Earth really does have four corners. Earth actually has four projections or protuberances standing out from its basic spherical shape.

One scientist wrote, "The Earth is not really a perfect sphere after all, but is slightly flattened at the poles and has an equatorial bulge caused by Earth's rotation; it has a bulge around its middle."

How many of you can identify with this?! I am just going to move on!

This author continues, "Because of the equatorial bulge and the flattening at the poles, there are four corner protrusions – one at each pole and two at opposite ends of the strategic equatorial diameter."

There is more – and I quote, "These four corners [play a role in controlling] the great atmospheric circulation which governs the winds of the Earth."^v

... I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth . . .

This 2,000 year old document was centuries ahead of its scientific times.

Now these four angels are stationed at each pole and along the equator to do one thing – restrain the winds. This is a reference to the destroying winds of God's wrath. Notice 7:1b,

... so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

By the way, the four winds have often been referred to in scripture as the judgment of God.

So at the outset of this interlude; this pause, there is the calming of hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis, and a host of disturbances that have just ravaged the Earth in the previous seal of Revelation chapter 6.

Carefully note that the wind will not, at this point, disturb the Earth, the sea, or the trees. In other words, the churning of bodies of water and the collapsing of trees has now ceased. However, what I want to point out is the presence of bodies of water and trees.

Let me point out something contrary to public opinion. Near the end of human history as we know it, prior to the coming Kingdom, there are plentiful bodies of water and plenty of trees. We evidently did not run out.

In fact, Revelation chapter 8 will unroll even more terrors upon the planet and then,

. . . a third of the trees [will] burn up, and all the green grass [will] burn up. (Revelation 8:7)

We even have green grass – green grass! Evidently my lawn is not part of this picture.

The next verse in chapter 8 tells us that the springs of water and rivers will be poisoned by God’s judgment, so evidently there are rivers and fresh springs of water.

This planet belongs to God and God will sustain His planet, His creation, the human race, and the animal kingdom until He moves with judgment to wipe most of it out.

This does not mean we are not supposed to manage Earth well, take care of it and work to enhance her beauty and resources, but this is different from believing we must save the planet. God never asked us to save His planet.

This does mean that the sustaining, the longevity, and the resources of planet Earth are ultimately in the hands and providence of God. When we get to the time of Tribulation, guess what? Life is still sustained, and trees, grass, rivers, and springs of water are not only present, but prospering.

Imagine – God’s Earth has somehow survived the hole in the ozone layer. He has somehow caused Earth to survive in spite of all our oxygen consuming, water drinking, population exploding, carbon foot-printing, and, dare I say, global warming. Somehow God has kept it together.

I have been in an airplane with all four of my children at some point in time when they were younger. As soon as we flew up to around 20,000 feet, I would say to them, “Look down there. What do you see?”

They would answer, “Trees.”

I would then say, “But, I thought we were almost out of them.”

“Oh no – look at them all!”

Every once in a while, throughout the trip, I would say, “What do you see down there?”

“Trees!”

Trees were everywhere.

Ladies and gentlemen, this might not be politically correct to say – and you know I care deeply about that – but planet Earth is ultimately under the jurisdiction and protection of God and He will cause it to survive whether we have children, cut down a tree, recycle or not.

I am not against recycling – please do, if you would like. However, I do not believe it is biblical to attach recycling or anything else mankind does with saving the planet. The view that mankind is responsible to save the planet is an affront to the sovereignty of God, and it is also a rejection of the biblical account of the last days.

Paul wrote,

. . . the earth is the Lord’s and all it contains. (I Corinthians 10:26)

The Earth belongs to the Lord.

So in verse 1 of Revelation chapter 7, there are four angels serving God by corralling the winds of judgment.

The Sealing of the 144,000

Now notice that another angel appears in Revelation 7:2,

And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun [that is, from the east], having the seal of the living God . . .

Listen to his message, in verse 3.

saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.”

A “sphragis” (σφραγίς) was a reference to the mark made by the signet ring that an eastern monarch used to press into wax or clay to reveal his seal.

A signet ring was given to Joseph by Pharaoh after Joseph interpreted his dreams and was promoted to the second highest position in all of Egypt (Genesis 41:42).

These 144,000 have the authority and power of the living God, John writes.

Who are they? Verse 4 tells us.

And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

That is, every tribe that is mentioned in the list that follows in verses 5 through 8.

Who are the sealed and how many are there?

Two facts are clearly presented which help us answer the 144,000 dollar question. And we can answer it without any special Bible code or extraterrestrial help. There is no need for textual gymnastics.

1. Fact number one: These are Jews.

This is not the church. This is clearly a reference to literal, historical, ethnic Jews – from the sons of Israel.

Some authors have even suggested that since the passage is so clearly referring to Jews, it must have been added later to Revelation because it just cannot be – this has to be the church.

This is not the church. In fact, if national Israel instead of the church is understood in this paragraph, as it plainly states, the difficulty dissolves. However, if someone tries to make this the church, then they have a problem.^{vi}

Twelve tribes of Israel are mentioned in an itemized list that follows verse 4.

“When anyone says the church is a part of the 144,000, in Revelation 7, ask them, “Which tribe?”^{vii}

These are Jews from the tribes of the sons of Israel.

By the way, this also strikes a death blow to the belief that Jewish tribes have been forever lost, and to the belief that Europeans are the lost tribes. There are no lost tribes. God does not lose things. He certainly does not lose people.

There are the “lost boys,” but they are in *Peter Pan*. The lost boys are not in the Bible – I hate to break it to you.

God has not lost any tribes along the way. In fact, they will all show up at one point or another in the book of Revelation.

So, fact number one is that these are Jews.

2. Fact number two: there are 144,000 of them.

There is no need for confusion. This is not a figurative number.

Lest anyone should think this is a mere symbol, John gives an itemized list of tribes.^{viii}

Twelve thousand from each of the twelve tribes are listed. The tribes are listed with this number repeated over and over again.

If this number in Revelation is figurative, as the Amillennialist says, there is no good reason to take any other number in Revelation literally.

There is a great deal of confusion created when people make this number meaningless; just some random number. Even greater confusion is created when they spiritualize it away to be an unspecified number of believers,

- or the church of all ages;
- or a remnant of Christians who worship only on Saturday;
- or a group of chosen people marked by extraterrestrials who will survive the end of the world.

These viewpoints are philosophical, not exegetical. This text leaves no doubt that the number is definite and the people are unmistakable.

From each of these Jewish tribes, 12,000 are chosen by God to serve Him as special ambassadors, and are supernaturally protected from the antichrist. They are given a special, visible mark on their forehead.

Why are the 144,000 sealed and what do they do?

We have answered how many there are and who these 144,000 are. Now let us answer why they are sealed and what exactly they do.

There is a detailed description of them in Revelation chapter 14, so let us look and make four descriptive observations of these 144,000 Jewish believers.

Look at Revelation 14:1-2a.

Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion [this is on Earth], and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

And I heard a voice from heaven . . .

This gives further evidence that they are on Earth since they are hearing a voice from heaven.^{ix}

Now let us look at four observations that we can cull from this text.

1. First, the 144,000 are sealed as the sovereign Lord's possession.

The text says, in 14:1, these people had the name of God the Son and Father on their foreheads.

This sounds strange, does it not, to have a name written or maybe artistically designed as an insignia on the forehead? However, it did not sound strange to John's generation.

It was not uncommon for a soldier or a guild member in John's day to have some bodily mark as a devotee; it was not unusual for people to receive a mark on the forehead as a sign of consecration to a deity. The forehead was chosen because it was the most conspicuous; it could not be hidden.^x

The pagan religions of the ancients marked themselves with special symbols representing their devotion to their god.

Such markings were not unusual in John's generation and they are actually not unusual in our generation.

Today in India, millions of Hindus attach great importance to the ornamental mark on the forehead called a "bindi". It is usually a small round mark made on the forehead among the poorer classes, and expensive jewelry worn on the forehead of the wealthier women.

While this mark is considered a touch of beauty throughout much of India, it is required for married women. A red dot on the forehead is a sign of marriage and guarantees the social status of the woman – performing the same function as a wedding ring. They believe that a dazzling red bindi on a bride's forehead on her wedding day will usher in prosperity, and it grants her special honor as the guardian of the home and her family's well being. The insignia declares that she belongs to another and that her loyalty and devotion is to her husband.

By the way, the antichrist will later, in his jealous rage, mimic this by having his own followers signed with his own seal, as we read in Revelation 13:16.

For the 144,000, this mark on their forehead signifies they belong to almighty God. It is a mark of the Sovereign's possession.

2. Secondly, the 144,000 are sealed with supernatural protection.

These Jews are unable to be put to death. In chapter 7 they are sealed and in chapter 14 they stand with the Lord as the Kingdom is about to be ushered in at the end of the Tribulation.

John Phillips writes,

The mobilized armies of the Earth will not be able to touch a hair of the heads of these sealed ones; the concentration camps and torture chambers of the beast's fearful inquisition will leave them unscathed. The fire will not kindle upon them; the secret police will have dossiers as thick as prison walls, but they will be unable to harm them. The seal of God rests upon them and they are secured, come what may. They will be a living proof to the devil that not only is his secular power strictly limited by divine decree, but in the end he cannot win. If he cannot conquer these Jews, then he cannot possibly win in the end.^{xi}

They are sealed as the Sovereign's possession.

They are sealed with supernatural protection.

3. Thirdly, the 144,000 are sealed with spiritual power.

More than likely the great multitude of martyrs who sing in chapter 7 are those who believed the uniquely effective gospel preaching of these 144,000 passionate missionaries. The vast millions who are saved throughout the Tribulation, are saved largely because of the powerful testimony of these Jews who testify to the living God they serve.

Satan will no doubt attempt to kill these fearless preachers of the gospel, but God will not permit them to be harmed.^{xii}

These 144,000 will be a perpetual thorn in the side of Satan and his puppet antichrist.

There is simply no way to imagine the delegated power of these Jews as they travel the globe. They are unstoppable and indestructible.

4. Fourthly, the 144,000 are sealed as a symbolic pledge.

John calls these people, in chapter 14 verse 4,

. . . first fruits to God and to the Lamb.

These Jews represent the pledge and promise of God to redeem ethnic Israel to Himself, and these 144,000 represent the beginning of this harvest.

The apostle Paul used the same phrase when he referred to the new believers in the household of Stephanas as,

*. . . the first fruits of Achaia . . .
(I Corinthians 16:15)*

In other words, these believers were among the first to believe in this region and they represented the harvest of souls to come from this region.

God will keep His word and redeem the Jew no matter what happens – no matter the hatred or demonically inspired holocausts against them. The existence of the Jew even today, is a testimony to the pledge of God.

These are ethnic Jews and they still exist.

We have never met a Ninevite, a Girgashite, an Amalekite, a Hittite, a Jebusite, an Amorite, or any other mosquito bite, but we have met a Jew.

In 1936, the mayor of New York, Mayor La Guardia, faced a difficult dilemma. Anti-Jewish sentiment was at fever pitch in Germany. Nazi Germany was known for its hatred of Jews, believing Jews to be swine, the offscouring of humanity, and worthy, eventually, of death. A high-ranking diplomat from Germany was coming to New York for meetings, and it was the mayor's job to provide protection for him. Of course, New York was heavily populated with Jewish immigrants and they, along with the mayor, considered Nazism repulsive. What was he to do?

Mayor La Guardia was inspired to use this as an opportunity to send a message to the Nazis that they were terribly wrong in their treatment of Jews. He hand picked the bodyguards from the New York City Police and made sure they all happened to be Jewish men. What wonderful irony – this German diplomat who hated Jews would owe his personal safety and life to the care of Jews.^{xiii}

There will come a day when all the hatred of the world will be pointed at Christians and Jews. Can you imagine the hatred against Christians who also happen to be Jewish? These are Messianic Jews, as we call them today – Jewish men and women who have placed their faith in the Messiah who has come and who will come back.

These 144,000 will be uniquely marked. They are:

- sealed as the Sovereign's possession;
- sealed with supernatural protection;
- sealed with spiritual power;
- sealed as a symbolic pledge.

The fact struck me, as I studied the profile of these Jewish men who travel the globe discipling new converts, that in this church era, we are also sealed.

Paul tells the Ephesian believers,

. . . you were sealed in [Christ] with the Holy Spirit of promise (Ephesians 1:13b)

Further, in chapter 4, Paul writes,

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30)

This is not the visible name of the Father and Son on the forehead of these Jewish evangelists, but it is a seal nonetheless during the church age.

We are also the Sovereign's possession. We have also been empowered to serve Him as slaves of God. And we will also see His promises to us, the church fulfilled, for we will reign with Him in His coming glory.

It struck me as well that the lifestyle and character of these Jewish witnesses should be our own reputation and character. They were physically marked with a seal; we are spiritually marked with the Spirit, but the 144,000 were also marked with characteristics that should mark us today. Let me give four of them.

1. First, the 144,000 are marked by purity.

Notice John's words of these 144,000 in Revelation chapter 14 verse 4.

These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. . . .

This does not mean these men are unmarried, since Hebrew 13:4 declares the marriage bed undefiling.

It could mean they are virgin, single men, but more than likely it is simply a reference that they keep themselves away from the sexual promiscuity that runs rampant during the Tribulation.

The worship of the antichrist will be unspeakably vile and perverse. With divine restraint removed (II Thessalonians 2:6-7) and the unbelieving world abandoned by God, sin will be released like a flood, inundating the world.^{xiv}

The world will live out the debauchery of Romans chapter 1. Yet, these 144,000 will shine like beacons of purity.

John writes further in Revelation 14:4,

. . . they have kept themselves chaste.

The same word for “chaste” in this verse, “parthenos” (παρθενος), is used by Paul in II Corinthians 11:2 to refer to the pure virgin bride of Christ.^{xv}

This is a challenge to the church today to live sexually pure lives.

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians,

For this is the will of God . . . that you abstain from sexual immorality (I Thessalonians 4:3)

This is sexual activity before marriage and outside of marriage.

Paul wrote to Timothy,

. . . flee from youthful lusts . . . (II Timothy 2:22)

He wrote to the Corinthians,

Flee immorality . . . (I Corinthians 6:18a)

Has it ever occurred to you that God never commanded us to fight sexual temptation? He simply told us to run.

The mark of a witness for Christ today, should be one who so fears sexual misconduct that he or she runs from it; fears it; abhors it. Perhaps our testimony for Christ suffers in our culture today, because the Christian is no more distinctively pure in his relationships than the unbeliever is.

It is time to recapture what Robert Murray McCheyne, the godly nineteenth century Scottish preacher, said, “It is not great talents that God blesses so much as great likeness to Jesus. A holy minister/Christian is a powerful weapon in the hand of God.”^{xvi}

These witnesses are marked by sexual purity.

2. Secondly, the 144,000 are marked by loyalty.

Notice Revelation 14:4 again.

. . . These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. . . .

In other words, their priority is the will of God.

Henry Blackaby made popular a saying that I was reminded of by this, “The wise Christian finds out where God is at work and simply joins Him there.”

This is no-strings attached loyalty – they will go anywhere, do anything that God wants.^{xvii}

These 144,000 are passionately loyal to their redemptive cause and its Christ.

I had lunch this past week with a couple of North Carolina Supreme Court justices. I am not in any trouble, so do not worry. They wanted to tour our

facilities and learn about the church and Shepherds Seminary, having read about us in the *News and Observer*. During our lunch, one of the justices told us about his son who serves as a Marine, and how tough they really are. He said his son loves every bit of it – he can sleep standing up, leaning against a tree.

You might be thinking, “That’s nothing – I can sleep sitting up in a chair on Sunday morning.”

I know who you are, by the way.

The justice said that his son has a poncho to wear during a rain shower, but he uses it to cover and protect his equipment rather than himself.

This is dedication.

These 144,000 are the Messiah’s marines. They are marked by loyalty to the cause of the Lamb.

3. Thirdly, the 144,000 are marked by honesty.

John writes, in Revelation 14:5,

And no lie was found in their mouth . . .

This is what a good witness is supposed to do, is it not? They are to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the – what? Truth.

The believer’s life even now, should be as good as his handshake – marked by honesty.

The believers will be a marked contrast to the antichrist who speaks the native tongue of Satan, whose language is lying (John 8:44).

4. Finally, the 144,000 are marked by destiny.

John uses a unique word as he ends his description of these 144,000 when he writes at the end of this paragraph in Revelation 14:5b,

. . . and they are blameless.

This word “blameless” does not mean perfect – it means justified.

In fact, the word refers to the blamelessness of a sacrifice offered to God. It refers to the future, eschatological blamelessness which has in view the accounting they will give to God.^{xviii}

Jude uses the same word in his short epistle to speak of the day when,

. . . [we] stand in the presence of [God’s] glory blameless with great joy. (Jude 1:24)

In other words, these believers served Christ not on the basis of their own perfection, but the perfection of Christ.

We are not perfect, but we are enveloped by Christ’s perfection.

The question remains, can people see our mark?

Do we bear the marks of God's witnesses in our daily lives?

Would that our lives mirror the purity and loyalty and honesty and sense of destiny that so marked these 144,000 Jewish witnesses as we witness for our Lord even today.

Would that we would join the Messiah's Marines and take seriously the call of God in our own lives to testify of His grace and His glorious gospel.

Would that we would answer the call of John Wesley who once said, "Give me a hundred believers who love nothing but God and hate nothing but sin, and I will shake the world for Christ."^{xix}

ⁱ <http://www.adventist.org/about>.

ⁱⁱ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/144,000>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ray Stedman, God's Final Word (Discovery House, 1991), p. 160.

^{iv} Robert L. Thomas, Revelation: Volume 1 (Moody Press, 1992), p. 462.

^v Henry M. Morris, The Revelation Record (Tyndale House, 1986), p. 126.

^{vi} Thomas, p. 466.

^{vii} Adrian, Rogers, Unveiling the End Times in Our Time (Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2004), p. 98.

^{viii} Stewart Custer, From Patmos to Paradise (BJU Press, 2004), p. 88.

^{ix} John MacArthur, Revelation: Volume 2 (Moody Press, 2000), p. 71.

^x Thomas, p. 473.

^{xi} John Phillips, Exploring Revelation (Loizeaux Brothers, 1991), p. 110.

^{xii} John MacArthur, Because the Time is Near (Moody Press, 2007), p. 228.

^{xiii} Stedman, p. 155.

^{xiv} MacArthur, p. 76.

^{xv} Gerhard Kittel, Theological Dictionary of the New Testament: Volume 5 (1967), p. 837.

^{xvi} MacArthur, p. 77.

^{xvii} Sam Gordon, Revelation: Worthy is the Lamb (Ambassador, 2000), p. 302.

^{xviii} Gerhard Kittel, Theological Dictionary of the New Testament: Volume 4 (1967), p. 831.

^{xix} Stedman, p. 260.