

**Question** In Revelation 7 there are two groups of resurrected people mentioned, - in verse 4 a hundred and forty four thousand, *‘And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed.’* [given God’s Holy Spirit] and later in the chapter in verse 9 there are ‘a great multitude.’

What is the difference between these two groups ?

**Answer** This group of 144,000 are collected from the tribes of Israel and they are sealed [given God’s Holy Spirit] at the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal, spoken of in Revelation 7 and 8. They experience the final 3 ½ years of Tribulation. Most of them likely perish, along with this ‘great multitude’, who are not of the Tribes of Israel and who are also persecuted. They are all resurrected together at the end of the thousand years, and from what we read in verses 14-17 they will be resurrected to immortality with spirit bodies which ‘neither hunger ...nor thirst any more,’ and serve God in His temple.

They are not to be confused with another group of 144,000! These are the ‘firstfruits’ - Revelation 14:1-4, and Revelation 15:2, who are taken up to the Sea of Glass in heaven, in the 1<sup>st</sup> resurrection, (Revelation 6:12 -17, Matthew 24:29-31) also called the Heavenly mount Zion in Hebrews 12:22. This ‘firstfruit’ group become the Bride of Christ in Heaven and return with Christ 3 ½ years later to rule with Him in the millennium and – as the Apostle Paul says, have a ‘better resurrection’ ! Hebrews 11:35.