

Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors 1

“Only 144,000 Will Be Saved!”

Lesson 35

INTRO:

- A. Two possibilities by which you may have heard this statement:
 - 1. Either a family, friend, or neighbor is a Jehovah’s Witness or..
 - 2. You’ve had a Jehovah’s Witness to knock on your door.
- B. This belief is one of many which set the JW’s apart from most other religious groups. To just name a few:
 - 1. They have their own ‘translation’ of the Bible -**The New World Translation Of The Holy Scriptures.**
 - 2. Jesus was a created being thus not Deity/Divine.
 - 3. Christ returned and the kingdom was established in 1914.
 - 4. Man does not have a soul.
 - 5. No hell.
- C. In connection with this study, the JW’s teach there are two classes of followers:
 - 1. The Elect (144,000)
 - 2. “Other Sheep” or “Great Multitude”
- D. They teach the 144,000:
 - 1. will be given immortality in heaven.
 - 2. are equal with Christ.
 - 3. are the only ones which can be born again.
 - 4. are the only ones which can partake of the Lord’s Supper.
- E. Many JW’s will tell you...
 - 1. they are not among the 144,000,
 - 2. they are not going to heaven,
 - 3. they will stay here on a ‘Paradise Earth’ as one of the ‘Other Sheep’.

I. THE JW’s ‘PROOF’ TEXTS FOR TWO CLASSES OF FOLLOWERS:

- A. **Revelation 7:4-17**
- B. **Revelation 14:3-5**
- C. **John 10:16**

II. WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES TEACH?

- A. The above verses are supposed to teach the Witnesses’ two class system:
 - 1. They want to make the “144,000” and the “great multitude” literal but everything else in the verses figurative/symbolic.
 - a. This has absolutely no foundation.
 - 2. If the Witnesses want the number to be literal, they must also accept what is said **ABOUT THE NUMBER** literally, as well!
 - a. They were ALL JEWS! (7:4-8)
 - b. They were ALL MEN! (14:4)
 - c. They were ALL VIRGINS! (14:4)
 - 3. So, we have 144,000 virgin Jewish men!
- B. The Witnesses teach the 144,000 of Revelation 7:4 will be in heaven while the great multitude of verse 9 will be upon the earth.

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1. However, the Scriptures say the great multitude will be in HEAVEN, too!
 - a. Verse 9 states: the great multitude is “*standing before the throne*”.
 - 1) In their book, **New Heavens and a New Earth**, p. 16 they say the throne of God is in heaven and not on the earth: “To fit his unequalled position, his throne is in the heavens and our earthly globe is beneath his feet.”
 - b. It’s also seen in verse 11 the angels “*stood around the throne*” of God.
 - c. In Revelations 14:5 the 144,000 are “*before the throne of God*”.
 - d. **SO**, the 144,000, the angels, and the great multitude are all before the throne of God, which the Witnesses admit is in heaven!
 2. Rev. 7:15 says they are all “*in His temple*”.
 - a. In their book, **Let God Be True**, p. 132, they admit the temple is in heaven: “Those members now resurrected and united with Christ Jesus at the temple all proved faithful by a consistent course of preaching and ministering while on earth, and they are forevermore in heaven with the Head of the congregation...”
 3. Since the “**THRONE**” and the “**TEMPLE**” are in heaven by their own admission and the “**great multitude**” is before the throne and in the temple, we must conclude they are also in heaven!
 - a. But, this is the very thing the Witnesses deny!
 4. These Scriptures also teach these ‘two classes’ are the **SAME!**
 - a. Revelation 7:4 says, “*And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand...*”
 - 1) At this point John **DID NOT SEE** anyone, but only “**HEARD**” their number.
 - b. Verse 9 says: “*After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number...*”
 - c. At first, he only “**HEARD**” a number but when he “**LOOKED**” they was a great multitude.
 - d. The number 144,000 is a figurative/symbolic representation of the great multitude.
 - e. However, they are one and the same and are in the same place (heaven) in these verses.
- C. The other verse the Witnesses use to ‘prove’ the concept of “other sheep” is John 10:16.

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1. It is from this verse they get the term “*other sheep*”: “*And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.*”
 - a. **NOTE:** The Mormons also use this verse to give ‘proof’ to their claim that Jesus was talking about people in North and South America.
 - 1) Neither the JW’s nor the Mormons are correct in their use of this verse!
2. The statement of Jesus concerns the Jews and Gentiles.
 - a. At that moment, He had followers among the Jews.
 - b. But there would be Gentiles also that would follow Him.
3. The phrase “*I have*”, even though it is present tense, is to be understood in the same way as the Lord’s statement to Paul as he entered the city of Corinth for the first time. **Acts 18:10** “...*for I have many people in this city.*”
4. Jesus says in John 10:16, “...*they shall become one flock and one shepherd*”
5. **Ephesians 2:11-14** shows how the Gentiles, though at one time separated from the Jews, have become “**ONE**” in Christ:
6. John 10:16 does not teach a two class theory like the JW’s propose.
7. There is “**ONE FLOCK**” - **NOT TWO!**

CONCLUSION:

- A. All other passages the JW’s use are interpreted on the assumption that the Bible teaches their two class system.
 1. In fact, they say most of the Scriptures, especially in the New Testament, apply only to the 144,000.
- B. Many JW’s will say they are not among the 144,000 and their hope is not heaven but a ‘Paradise’ here on the earth.
 1. There will be no ‘Paradise’ here on earth because Peter tells us: “*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.*” (2 Peter 3:10)
 2. Not just a scorching of the surface and the removing of evil but the earth itself “**will be burned up**”.