

Andres Scheffer: Brighten The Corner Where You Are (19/5/18)

We are living near the end. Prophecy foretells many things. One of those is that those who will be alive when Jesus comes are the 144,000.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 - Resurrection

Revelation 1:7 - Special Resurrection

"Graves are opened, and "many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth. . . awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." Daniel 12:2. All who have died in the faith of the third angel's message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God's covenant of peace with those who have kept His law. "They also which pierced Him" (Revelation 1:7), those that mocked and derided Christ's dying agonies, and the most violent opposers of His truth and His people, are raised to behold Him in His glory and to see the honor placed upon the loyal and obedient." Ellen White, The Great Controversy, pg 637

The Character of the 144,000

Enoch is an example of the kind of people that comprise the 144,000.

- 1) Revelation 12:17 - The character of those whom Satan are: obedience and the testimony of Jesus
- 2) Revelation 19:10 - The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy.
- 3) Revelation 14:12 - Obedience and the faith of Jesus.

Was it easy to be faithful in Enoch's day?

Genesis 6:5,6 - Not at all! This is a description of the world in which Enoch lived.

"The advantages enjoyed by men of that age to gain a knowledge of God through His works have never been equaled since. And so far from being an era of religious darkness, that was an age of great light. All the world had opportunity to receive instruction from Adam, and those who feared the Lord had also Christ and angels for their teachers. And they had a silent witness to the truth, in the garden of God, which for so many centuries remained among men. At the cherubim-guarded gate of Paradise the glory of God was revealed, and hither came the first worshipers. Here their altars were reared, and their offerings presented. It was here that Cain and Abel had brought their sacrifices, and God had condescended to communicate with them.

Skepticism could not deny the existence of Eden while it stood just in sight, its entrance barred by watching angels. The order of creation, the object of the garden, the history of its two trees so closely connected with man's destiny, were undisputed facts. And the existence and supreme authority of God, the obligation of His law, were truths which men were slow to question while Adam was among them." Ellen White, Patriarchs and Prophets, pg 83,84.

Matthew 24:37 - As it was then... so shall it be at the end...

2 Timothy 3:1-5 - A description of the last days (very similar to the days of Enoch).

The Last Day Enoch's

1. Keeping the Commandments

Was Enoch different? Yes. Because he had a living relationship with God. He "walked" with God. This was the distinction between him and the people of his day.

Deuteronomy 10:12,13 - Obedience is compared to 'walking' in God's ways.

Psalms 78:10 - 'Walking' in obedience.

Romans 8:1 - 'Walking' in His ways.

Galatians 5:19-21 - Works of the flesh are...

1 John 2:3,4 - 'Knowing' God is somewhat synonymous with keeping the commandments.

Hebrews 11:5 - Enoch 'pleased' God. Because He walked in His ways.

1 John 3:22 - 'Pleasing' in His sight.

John 8:29 - Jesus was said to always 'please' the Father.

"Enoch's walk with God was not in a trance or vision, but in all the duties of his daily life. He did not become a hermit, shutting himself entirely from the world; for he had a work to do for God in the world. In the family and in his intercourse with men, as a husband and father, a friend, a citizen, he was the steadfast, unwavering servant of the Lord." Ellen White, Patriarchs and Prophets, pg 85.

2. The Testimony of Jesus (Spirit of Prophecy)

Jude 1:14,15 - According to Jude Enoch also prophesied to the world.

"Through holy angels God revealed to Enoch His purpose to destroy the world by a flood, and He also opened more fully to him the plan of redemption. By the spirit of prophecy He carried him down through the generations that should live after the Flood, and showed him the great events connected with the second coming of Christ and the end of the world. Enoch had been troubled in regard to the dead. It had seemed to him that the righteous and the wicked would go to the dust together, and that this would be their end. He could not see the life of the just beyond the grave. In prophetic vision he was instructed concerning the death of Christ, and was shown His coming in glory, attended by all the holy angels, to ransom His people from the grave. He also saw the corrupt state of the world when Christ should appear the second time--that there would be a boastful, presumptuous, self-willed generation, denying the only God and the Lord Jesus Christ, trampling upon the law, and despising the atonement. He saw the righteous crowned with glory and honor, and the wicked banished from the presence of the Lord, and destroyed by fire." Ellen White, Patriarchs and Prophets, pg 85-88.

SDA Fundamental Belief #18: The Scriptures testify that one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and we believe it was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White. Her writings speak with prophetic authority and provide comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction to the church. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested.

Personal Testimony - Andres shared how that he was not interested in the writings of Ellen White in his young life because he found them boring, and then he read the Great Controversy... That changed everything for him. He is now a big believer in the relevance of their messages, and the strength that can be gained from reading these beautiful books in connection with regular Bible Study.

3. The Faith of Jesus

Hebrews 11:5,6 - Faith is an essential ingredient for being a light to our world.

Personal Testimony - Andres shared an experience that he recently had after a colleague died in a terrible accident. Some of his other colleagues at the Ambulance Station began asking questions and he was able to share the hope that he has with them. This was possible because he has a living experience with Jesus, and a faith that can be shared.

"In the midst of a life of active labor, Enoch steadfastly maintained his communion with God. The greater and more pressing his labors, the more constant and earnest were his prayers. He continued to exclude himself, at certain periods, from all society. After remaining for a time among the people, laboring to benefit them by instruction

and example, he would withdraw, to spend a season in solitude, hungering and thirsting for that divine knowledge which God alone can impart. Communing thus with God, Enoch came more and more to reflect the divine image. His face was radiant with a holy light, even the light that shineth in the face of Jesus. As he came forth from these divine communings, even the ungodly beheld with awe the impress of heaven upon his countenance.” Ellen White, Patriarchs and Prophets, pg 87.

The Character of the 144,000 is laid out in these 3 things. Enoch was a living example of each of them. Let us look to Jesus so that we too can brighten those corners of this world where we are. This is both the preparation and the experience of those who will see Jesus. 2 Corinthians 4:17,18 - We look forward to the time when, like Enoch, we can see our Saviour face to face.