

Q+A. 4-D-7  
144,000

ELLEN G. WHITE PUBLICATIONS  
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

6840 EASTERN AVENUE, NW.

TAKOMA PARK, WASHINGTON 12, D. C.

September 9, 1957

960 McCorkle  
St. Helena, California

Dear Brother

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Your letter, written September 9, was received in this morning's mail, and I note what you say regarding Elder Loughborough's pamphlet entitled, "Questions on the Sealing Message." This was published privately and represented his views. It is not a standard denominational publication and was not studied by any book committee appointed to look over proposed publications. I must be frank to tell you that I cannot agree with some of the views Elder Loughborough has presented, and I would have some occasion to question the absolute accuracy that the statement Sister White is reported to have made in response to the question on the 144,000. The reason I question this accuracy is that it seems to be somewhat at variance with the published statements from Sister White's pen, as she set them forth in Early Writings and Great Controversy. On pages 648 and 649 of Great Controversy we find that the 144,000 are a company that have gotten the victory over the beast and over his image and over his mark. They are those who have come out of great tribulation, "they have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation; they have endured the anguish of the time of Jacob's trouble; they have stood without an intercessor through the final outpouring of God's judgments." To my mind this would eliminate those who have died in the faith of the third angel's message, for such, although they will be raised in a special resurrection, will not be raised until after the time of Jacob's trouble. Therefore they could not have passed through the experience referred to here.

I think that we would do well to hold to the clear statements as we find them in the published record. I believe that while the Lord has made clear the qualifications of the 144,000, He has purposely veiled in mystery the exact identity of the group, lest we number Israel.

I am enclosing a mimeographed document which will help in understanding more about what we do not know about the identity of the 144,000 than what we do know. This evidence leads me to question further the absolute accuracy of the statement reported by Elder Loughborough.

We cannot accept as authentic any statement which is based entirely on memory, as the mind is too tricky to serve as a satisfactory medium in perpetuating what might be considered testimony matter. <

We trust that this information will be helpful to you. If we can be of further service to you, please feel free to write to us again.

Sincerely your brother,

Arthur L. White, Secretary  
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