

See 27164

St. Helena, Cal. April 16, 1929.

Dear Brother,-

I hold in my hand ~~your letter of Feb. 25.~~ ^{your letter} In ~~it~~ you ask me regarding Sister White's belief and teachings about the 144,000.

I am sorry to confess that ^{sometimes when} I have received ~~my~~ letters asking questions similar to yours, ~~and I sometimes~~ ^{and I sometimes} feel inclined to answer them as Sister White ^{did} ~~did~~ ^{not} ~~do~~ when a similar letter was pressed upon her at a time that ^{she} ~~she~~ wished to be thinking and writing about something else. ~~then she answered,~~ "Wait until ^{you} ~~you~~ get there and then you will know all about it." ~~She said,~~ "Tell them to ^{they}"

I must confess to you that I do not understand why our brethren should be so much worried over this question. Our Father who doeth all things well, will give to you and to me just that place in the Kingdom of God which is best pleasing to Him and most beneficial to us.

It is my opinion that the culmination of the work of grace for the sinful inhabitants of this world of ours, will see many, many thousands of people who have accepted our Saviour's sacrifice and His bountiful provisions for sinners and who will share in the everlasting joys of the heavenly kingdom, but who have never passed through that deep Christian experience before translation that would fit them to be members of that group of redeemed saints who are to act as Christ's body guard, ^{will} His close companions and His specially entrusted agents to be the examples and the teachers of other redeemed saints. They had not shared their special experiences in this life and are not prepared to share the exalted position and duties of the 144,000.

As we witness the wondrous sacrifices and accomplishments of our foreign missionaries, as we witness the same sacrifice and accomplishments of faithful missionaries outside of our ranks, we are naturally led to believe that this turning to the Lord of thousands and tens of thousands of those who had formerly been indifferent, -- this accession to the ranks of Sabbath keepers of groups of fifty and one hundred, -- this gathering together at our African Camp-meetings of thousands of new converts, -- this rallying of mission schools in the South American highlands of hundreds upon hundreds is the work of the Holy Spirit in the connection with the ministry of our risen Lord, that shall be a demonstration to the universe of the richness of the grace of Christ.

And it is impossible for us to believe that through the infinite ministry of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, that tens of thousands of simple hearted heathen will be drawn to break with their idols to accept Jehovah as their God, and then will be disappointed regarding their acceptance as members of the heavenly family.

follow the Lamb whatsoever He goeth. Rev. 14:4

At the same time it is difficult to believe that these simple-hearted heathen, recently converted, and who partially understand the battles and the consecration of more experienced Christians, should all be members of that group especially chosen to be Christ's special attendants and body-guard.

This invitation in Rev. 22:17, is a broad one and opens the way for the children of people in heathen lands who are the children of those who have lived in darkness for many generations to come to Christ in response to the proclamation of the last gospel message.

and as we look abroad and see them coming, we cannot believe that the number of the saved from this last generation will be restricted to 144,000.

One day one of our ministers came to mother when her mind was free to take up any subject, and he said, "Who will compose the 144,000?" He answered, "Those that have sacrificed and suffered as Christ and His disciples sacrificed and suffered."

This in my estimation is in harmony with the thoughts which I have just presented that not all who are ^{saved} through the grace of Christ in this last generation will occupy exactly the same position in the Kingdom of God.

Whoever sees light in this view regarding Christ's dealing with the people of the last generation, will find no necessity for the irrational and patched-up views of those who say that the 144,000 will be composed all of men and no women, or of those who say that they will be all Americans and no foreigners.

Now to the question, Did Sister White teach that those who died in the message since 1844 and of whom it is said, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth," that they shall be members of the 144,000.

I can assure you, my brother, that this was the belief and the teachings of Ellen G. White. Many times I have heard her make statements to this effect, and I am in possession of a letter written to Brother Hastings who is mentioned on page 237 of LIFE AND DEEDS, in which she says plainly that his wife who had recently died, would be a member of the 144,000.

In a letter recently received from a brother in Reno, Nevada, reference is made to a statement in Elder Loughborough's book found on page 29 in which it is reported that Sister White said "Those who have died in the faith will be among the 144,000. I am clear on that matter."

And I testify, my brother, that that is in perfect harmony with her writings, her sayings and her teachings throughout the years of her ministry.

I notice that in Elder Loughborough's little pamphlet he makes reference to statements made in the first edition of the book "Early Writings." I have compared these statements in the first edition with the same statements in the current edition and I find them the same, and for your convenience I will endeavor to enclose a reference to these various statements as found in the latest edition of EARLY WRITINGS.

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I want to be in the first resurrection. I want to meet the loved ones who are now sleeping in the grave as well as those I love who are now laboring in distant lands. I want to meet the patriarchs, the prophets, the

apostles and the martyrs; and my soul is stirred with joyful ambition as I think of the privilege of meeting them in the City of God. As I think of standing under the tree of life, and drinking of the waters of the river of life, my heart repeats the old hymn "I long, O I long to be there."

It is my belief that there will be a select company from this last generation and from those who have died in the Third Angel's Message who will be honored as the special body guard of Christ. This company we speak of as the 144,000. I should like to be one of that company and I must be one of those whom Christ has redeemed from the earth and who enter in through the gates into the city.

Just how to explain the relation between the 144,000 who have passed through a special experience and are made Christ's body guard and those who may be redeemed from this last generation, I do not feel confident to speak with positiveness and with definiteness. My faith reaches out to the belief that there may be many thousands saved from this last generations who have not all passed through the special experience of the 144,000.

If you ask me to make an argument on this matter, I will freely say that I am not prepared to enter into argument regarding the 144,000. I am willing to wait until the saints are resurrected and taken to the heavenly city for a definite knowledge regarding God's plan in this matter. If in his infinite love he saves me from sin and translates me into His everlasting Kingdom, I shall be willing there to take any place that He sees fit to give me.

I suggest to you that you lay aside all perplexities regarding this matter, that you joy in the salvation of Christ, and use your every energy to encourage and help others along the Christian way.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) W.C. White.

The passages referred to in the J.W. Loughborough pamphlet are to be found in EARLY WRITINGS (1882 edition) as follows:-

Sealing Message p.	E.W. Old Edition	p.	E.W. New edition p.
21		145	285
" 22	" "	15	" " 15
" 24	" "	33	" " 40
" 25	" "	39	" " 36
" 26	" "	143	" " 282
" 27	" "	146-7	" " 286-7

Also in 17 p. 59.