

Sabbath ~ February 11, 2017

Lecture 12: 144,000 ~ Part 6 .

1.) Subject: A Look at John the Baptist .

1.1.) John was a representative of the people of God in the last days, to whom God has committed important and solemn truths. Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 2, page 44.

1.1.1.) NOTE: the following points are largely drawn from Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 2, pages 74-85.

1.2.) Bullet points about John:

1.2.1.) An angel announced his birth

1.2.2.) His father was struck dumb

1.2.3.) He leaped in the womb

1.2.4.) At his birth his father's tongue loosed, was filled with the Holy Ghost and prophesied.

1.2.5.) Reared in strictly temperate habits

1.2.6.) Separated himself from friends and kindred

1.2.7.) Lived out in the country

1.2.8.) Was never baptized in water himself

1.2.9.) Was baptized by the Holy Ghost

1.2.10.) Preached in the spirit and power of Elijah

1.2.11.) Announced the first coming of Christ

1.2.12.) Had a short mission

1.2.13.) Lived a lonely life

1.2.14.) Fearlessly rebuked the wickedness of that age

1.2.15.) Imprisoned by a lukewarm Jew, Herod

1.2.16.) Herod was influenced by his wicked wife

- 1.2.17.) Herod attended a party at which many other nominal Jews attended; all indulged their appetite for food and then drank wine making it impossible for them to understand spiritual things; their minds were then easily led down the path of immorality by the lewd dance of his wife's young daughter;
- 1.2.18.) In the heat of gross indulgence Herod made a rash promise based in pride
- 1.2.19.) Satan struck at Herod's pride; and not willing to sacrifice that, he had John beheaded
- 1.2.20.) John was not rescued

2.) Subject: The likeness of the 144,000 to John .

- 2.1.) Some very interesting parallels between the 144,000 and John the Baptist.
 - 2.1.1.) Foretold in the Bible
 - 2.1.2.) Urged to strict temperance
 - 2.1.3.) To live in the country
 - 2.1.4.) Separate from the prevailing wickedness
 - 2.1.5.) Many have never been properly baptized into the faith, only baptized as a door into the church
 - 2.1.6.) Preach in the spirit and power of Elijah
 - 2.1.7.) Announce the second coming of Christ
 - 2.1.8.) Have a brief message to give for an unknown time
 - 2.1.9.) Live a lonely life
 - 2.1.10.) Many of the faithful, in the sealing time of the 144,000, stand up and rebuke sin in an apostate church and are persecuted
 - 2.1.11.) We are told that after Sunday is made a test that the nominal SDAs will betray the saints to the

- Catholics as those who do not obey the law.
- 2.1.12.) After the seven last plagues start, a death decree will issue against the saints
- 2.1.13.) God the Father will deliver the saints; his voice will also resurrect those who have died in the faith of the third angel's message, keeping the Sabbath.

3.) Subject: Conclusion .

- 3.1.) What about John being beheaded?
- 3.1.1.) (Rev 20:4) And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: **and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded** for the witness of Jesus [1], and for the word of God [2], and which had not worshipped the beast [3], **neither his image [4], neither had received his mark upon their foreheads [5], or in their hands [6];** and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.
- 3.2.) **The stake and scaffold are not appointed for this time to test the people of God, and for this very reason the love of many has waxed cold.** No.29,p.15, at the top.
- 3.3.) I believe that the peace we enjoy in this country is the great test of our faith. Everything is so calm, tranquil, easy; why be so urgent? There is a special message on this very point, it is found in Testimony No.16, and starts on page 91

and extends to page 104, the end of the book. In these pages we learn that “We are in the third watch, waiting and watching for the Master’s return.” And, “The passing of the second watch has brought us to the third, and now it is inexcusable to relax our watching. The third watch calls for threefold earnestness.”

3.4.) It’s easy to watch, but it’s easier not to; and therein lies the rub. All is well, there seems to be no urgency, no need for such earnestness.

3.5.) Best we all be very careful about that....

And that is...
~ **The End** ~
of our Presentation for Today,
God Bless your Study

