

New Jerusalem, the Lost Ten Tribes and the 144,000

I will be going over in this paper the Lost Ten Tribes, the 144,000 and to a small degree the New Jerusalem (for a more in depth breakdown of New Jerusalem specifically see my paper *New Jerusalem, Zion, a City of Holiness*).

But before going over any of these, members need to understand this:

President Joseph Fielding Smith taught, “Our right to guidance from Holy Ghost. We have the right to the guidance of the Holy Ghost, but we cannot have that guidance, if we wilfully refuse to consider the revelations that have been given to help us to understand and to guide us in the light and truth of the everlasting gospel. We cannot hope to have that guidance when we refuse to consider these great revelations which mean so much to us both temporally and spiritually.

Now if we find ourselves in this condition of unbelief or unwillingness to seek for the light and the knowledge which the Lord has placed within our reach, then we are liable or in danger of being deceived by evil spirits, the doctrines of devils, and the teachings of men. And when these false influences are presented before us, we will not have the distinguishing understanding by which we can segregate them and know that they are not of the Lord. And so we may become prey unto the ungodly, to the vicious, to the cunning, to the craftiness of men.” (Doctrines of Salvation, p.43)

There are those that do just this. They don't read the revelations that have been given to us, they do not read the Book of Mormon, they do not read the Doctrine and Covenants, they do not read the teachings of the prophet Joseph Smith etc. They then go online, and listen to individuals who proceed to share with them their opinions, hearsay, rumors, etc. These members then claim by the power of the Holy Ghost that what they heard in the form of opinions, hearsay, rumors etc is true. President Joseph Fielding Smith clearly said of such, because you haven't focused on the revelations and put in the work that you are supposed to, you don't even qualify for the Holy Ghost.

With that said, be careful where you place your testimony and/or understanding of key doctrinal points- they should be coming primarily from the keys and the closer the keys are to Joseph Smith the better.

Let's begin.

“(D-5) What Became of the Tribes of Israel?”

How long Israel remained in Assyria after they had been carried away captive by Sargon II is not known. It is likely that many accepted the life and culture of their captors and lost their identity. They had gone into captivity because of their extreme wickedness, so it would not be surprising to find them accepting the pagan culture of the Assyrians. One of the books of the Apocrypha, however, records that one group of the captives saw that their captivity was the result of their own wickedness and sought the Lord in repentance (see Bible Dictionary, s.v. “Apocrypha”). The Lord heeded their cries and led them away into the north countries.

In the Apocrypha, Esdras describes the following vision: “But they took this counsel among themselves, that they would leave the multitude of the heathen, and go forth into a further country, where never mankind dwelt, that they might there keep their statutes, which they never kept in their own land. And they entered into Euphrates by the narrow passages of the river. For the most High then shewed signs for them, and held still the flood, till they were passed over. For through that country there was a great way to go, namely, of a year and a half: and the same region is called Arsareth. Then dwelt they there until the latter time.” (2 Esdras 13:41–46.)

Elder George Reynolds commented on the direction of the travels of the tribes of Israel: “They determined to go to a country ‘where never man dwelt,’ that they might be free from all contaminating influences. That country could only be found in the north. Southern Asia was already the seat of a comparatively ancient civilization; Egypt flourished in northern Africa; and southern Europe was rapidly filling with the future rulers of the world. They had therefore no choice but to turn their faces northward. The first portion of their journey was not however north; according to the account of Esdras, they appear to have at first moved in the direction of their old home; and it is possible that they originally started with the intention of returning thereto; or probably, in order to deceive the Assyrians, they started as if to return to Canaan, and when they crossed the Euphrates and were out of danger from the hosts of Medes and Persians, then they turned their journeying feet toward the polar star.”

“It is altogether improbable that in that long journey of one and a half years, as Esdras states it, from Media the land of their captivity to the frozen north, some of the backsliding Israel rebelled, turned aside from the main body, forgot their God, by and by mingled with the Gentiles and became the leaven to leaven with the promised seed all the nations of the earth? The account given in the Book of Mormon of a single family of this same house, its waywardness its stiffneckedness before God, its internal quarrels and family feuds are, we fear, an example on a small scale of what most probably happened in the vast bodies of Israelites who for so many months wended their tedious way northward. Laman and Lemuel had, no doubt, many counterparts in the journeying Ten Tribes. And who so likely to rebel as stubborn, impetuous, proud and warlike Ephraim? Rebellion and backsliding have been so characteristically the story of Ephraim’s career that he can scarcely conceive that it could be otherwise and yet preserve the unities of that people’s history. Can it be any wonder then that so much of the blood of Ephraim has been found hidden and unknown in the midst of the nations of northern Europe and other parts until the spirit of prophecy revealed its existence?” (Are We of Israel, Chapter One p. 10-11, Chapter Three, James E. Talmage, The Articles of Faith).

The account in Esdras is supported by what the Savior taught the Nephites, for He said the lost tribes had been “led away out of the land” by the Father (3 Nephi 15:15). Elder Reynolds’s explanation takes into account the numerous prophecies that indicate that when the ten lost tribes return, they will come out of the north (see, for example, Jeremiah 3:18; 16:15; 31:8; D&C 110:11; 133:26). Where they went is not known, and this fact has led to much speculation about their present whereabouts. The Lord has not seen fit to reveal their location, however, and until He does so, it is useless to try to identify their present locality.” (Old Testament Student Manual Enrichment: The Assyrian Conquest and the Lost Tribes)

Micah's Thoughts: The scattering of Israel is not the same thing as this group. Those that broke off of the group heading north are where we get the scattering of Israel. So we have two different groups. We also are told that we do not know the location of the body and we will not know the location of the body until they are revealed, and this revealing won't take place until they are returning. Ergo, this has nothing to do with patriarchal blessings. Patriarchal blessings deal with the scattering of Israel.

The Tenth Article of Faith:

“We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes.”

D&C 110:11

11 After this vision closed, the heavens were again opened unto us; and Moses appeared before us, and committed unto us the keys of the gathering of Israel from the four parts of the earth, and the leading of the ten tribes from the land of the north.

The gathering of scattered Israel is not the same thing as the ten tribes returning from the north.

Continuing with the Student Manual,

(D-6) The Return of the Ten Tribes

It is apparent from this passage that though the main body of ten of the tribes is lost, there are representatives of all twelve tribes scattered throughout the earth. This statement can be explained as follows:

1. When Assyria attacked the Northern Kingdom, many fled to the safety of the Southern Kingdom.
2. When the Lord led Israel out of Assyria, some remained behind (see Talmage, *Articles of Faith*, p. 325).
3. As the ten tribes traveled north, some stopped along the way—many possibly being scattered throughout Europe and Asia.
4. From time to time the Lord has led groups of Israelites into other areas of the earth: the Nephites and the Mulekites being two such groups (see 1 Nephi 22:3–5). Concerning this scattering, Elder Joseph Fielding Smith wrote: “One of the most interesting and significant parables ever written is that revealed to Zenos and recorded in the fifth chapter of Jacob in the Book of Mormon. It is a parable of the scattering of Israel. If we had the full key to the interpretation, then we would have in detail how Israel was transplanted in all parts of the earth.” (*Answers to Gospel Questions*, 2:56–57.)
5. The scriptures teach that remnants of all the tribes of Israel were scattered among the nations of the earth and in the last days will be gathered out from among these nations and from the four quarters of the earth. The remnant known as the lost ten tribes will return as a body out of the north countries. (see Deuteronomy 4:27; 28:29, 64; Jeremiah 16:14–15; 31:8; Ezekiel 11:15–17; Hosea 9:16–17; Daniel 9:7; 1 Nephi 22:3–4; 19:16; 3 Nephi 5:23–24; 21:26–29; D&C 110:11; 133:26–32.)

(Old Testament Student Manual Enrichment: The Assyrian Conquest and the Lost Tribes)

Micah's Thoughts: Once again, the distinction between the gathering of scattered Israel and the return of the ten tribes as a body is made abundantly clear. Those who do not believe in or teach a figurative or spiritualized interpretation of the ten tribes as a body do so because they do not have faith that the Lord can perform such miracles. The other thing here that is clearly identified that the “remnant” in the Book of Mormon and the scriptures is a reference to the ten tribes and not to the Native Americans. Joseph F. Smith was quoted as saying as much (for that breakdown see my paper *Jesus' Macro Last Day Timeline*).

The Doctrine and Covenants clearly foretells the time when the prophets among these tribes will lead the people back in a great and marvelous show of power (see D&C 133:26–34). Jeremiah promised that so marvelous would be this event that no longer would God be called the Lord who led Israel out of Egypt but the Lord who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north (see Jeremiah 16:14–15). The appointed time will come when the lost tribes of Israel will return to Zion to receive their blessings at the hands of Ephraim. “This great gathering will take place under the direction of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, for he holds the keys” (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 458). The lost tribes, as well as all others who want to be numbered in the house of Israel and receive the blessings of the priesthood, must come to Ephraim, who holds the birthright blessings (see Genesis 48:15–22; 1 Chronicles 5:1).

Elder Wilford Woodruff taught that when the ten tribes returned, they would come to Ephraim to obtain the priesthood as well as their endowments and sealings (see *Journal of Discourses*, 4:231–32; 18:127). Elder Orson Pratt stated: “God is determined to raise up Prophets among that people, but he will not bestow upon them all the fulness of the blessings of the Priesthood. The fulness will be reserved to be given to them after they come to Zion.” (In *Journal of Discourses*, 18:25.)

(D-7) The Lost Tribes to Come to Zion

When the ten tribes return, they will bring their rich treasures to the children of Ephraim (see D&C 133:30). Part of this rich treasure will be the records, which they have kept all these centuries. In them will be found the account of their miraculous escape from Assyria, their journey into the land to the north, their history, their prophets, and the appearance to them of the Savior after His Resurrection (see 2 Nephi 29:12–13; 3 Nephi 16:1–3).

In April conference of 1916, Elder James E. Talmage, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve, spoke of the lost tribes and their records: “There is a tendency among men to explain away what they don't wish to understand in literal simplicity, and we, as Latter-day Saints are not entirely free from the taint of that tendency. ... Some people say that prediction is to be explained in this way: A gathering is in progress, and has been in progress from the early days of this Church; and thus the ‘Lost Tribes’ are now being gathered; but that we are not to look for the return of any body of people now unknown as to their whereabouts. True, the gathering is in progress, this is a gathering dispensation; but the prophecy stands that the tribes shall be brought forth from their hiding place ... [and their] scriptures shall become one with the scriptures of the Jews, the holy Bible, and with the scriptures of the Nephites, the Book of Mormon, and with the scriptures of

the Latter-day Saints as embodied in the volumes of modern revelation.” (In Conference Report, Apr. 1916, p. 130.)

Then in October conference Elder Talmage spoke again of the lost tribes and made this remarkable prediction: “The ten tribes shall come; they are not lost unto the Lord; they shall be brought forth as hath been predicted; and I say unto you there are those now living—aye, some here present—who shall live to read the records of the Lost Tribes of Israel, which shall be made one with the record of the Jews, or the Holy Bible, and the record of the Nephites, or the Book of Mormon, even as the Lord hath predicted” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1916, p. 76).

(Old Testament Student Manual Enrichment: The Assyrian Conquest and the Lost Tribes)

Micah’s Thoughts: The ten tribes return as a body first to the land of Zion, sometime after they will then return back to the lands of Palestine. There are some members who think that this body returns to Palestine first- this negates almost all modern revelation including specific points of references provided by the Lord himself in the Book of Mormon. The second thing we should pick up on is that this group has scriptures. Much like those claiming we are in the seventh seal and then providing no proof of events that are supposed to occur, some claim there is no group of Israelites as a body, the gathering is entirely what we are doing right now, without addressing the problem of no other scripture. If the ten tribes are being gathered right now, where is their book of scripture? If the ten tribes are being gathered now, an event that is supposed to be so miraculous that people will stop talking about Moses, why is there no one on the entire planet comparing our missionary force to Moses? There are blockbuster movies made about Moses- we can’t even get C grade movies made about our missionaries, and when we do, they are typically some of the worst missionaries we have, spending the majority of their screen time moping around depressed or as comic relief. Very “Moses-like” indeed. The last thing that we need to pick up on here is the prophecy of Talmage, that some alive in 1917 would live to see this event. For a breakdown on this timeframe, see my paper *The Generation*.

D&C 133:12-15, 26-34

12 Let them, therefore, who are among the Gentiles flee unto Zion.

13 And let them who be of Judah flee unto Jerusalem, unto the mountains of the Lord’s house.

14 Go ye out from among the nations, even from Babylon, from the midst of wickedness, which is spiritual Babylon.

15 But verily, thus saith the Lord, let not your flight be in haste, but let all things be prepared before you; and he that goeth, let him not look back lest sudden destruction shall come upon him.

26 And they who are in the north countries shall come in remembrance before the Lord; and their prophets shall hear his voice, and shall no longer stay themselves; and they shall smite the rocks, and the ice shall flow down at their presence.

27 And an highway shall be cast up in the midst of the great deep.

28 Their enemies shall become a prey unto them,

29 And in the barren deserts there shall come forth pools of living water; and the parched ground shall no longer be a thirsty land.

30 And they shall bring forth their rich treasures unto the children of Ephraim, my servants.

31 And the boundaries of the everlasting hills shall tremble at their presence.

32 And there shall they fall down and be crowned with glory, even in Zion, by the hands of the servants of the Lord, even the children of Ephraim.

33 And they shall be filled with songs of everlasting joy.

34 Behold, this is the blessing of the everlasting God upon the tribes of Israel, and the richer blessing upon the head of Ephraim and his fellows.

D&C 45:56-59, 62-63, 65-71

56 And at that day, when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins.

57 For they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived—verily I say unto you, they shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day.

58 And the earth shall be given unto them for an inheritance; and they shall multiply and wax strong, and their children shall grow up without sin unto salvation.

59 For the Lord shall be in their midst, and his glory shall be upon them, and he will be their king and their lawgiver.

62 For verily I say unto you, that great things await you;

63 Ye hear of wars in foreign lands; but, behold, I say unto you, they are nigh, even at your doors, and not many years hence ye shall hear of wars in your own lands.

65 And with one heart and with one mind, gather up your riches that ye may purchase an inheritance which shall hereafter be appointed unto you.

66 And it shall be called the New Jerusalem, a land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the saints of the Most High God;

67 And the glory of the Lord shall be there, and the terror of the Lord also shall be there, insomuch that the wicked will not come unto it, and it shall be called Zion.

68 And it shall come to pass among the wicked, that every man that will not take his sword against his neighbor must needs flee unto Zion for safety.

69 And there shall be gathered unto it out of every nation under heaven; and it shall be the only people that shall not be at war one with another.

70 And it shall be said among the wicked: Let us not go up to battle against Zion, for the inhabitants of Zion are terrible; wherefore we cannot stand.

71 And it shall come to pass that the righteous shall be gathered out from among all nations, and shall come to Zion, singing with songs of everlasting joy.

“Zion and Jerusalem

And now I am prepared to say by the authority of Jesus Christ, that not many years shall pass away before the United States shall present such a scene of bloodshed as has not a parallel in the history of our nation; pestilence, hail, famine, and earthquake will sweep the wicked of this generation from off the face of the land, to open and prepare the way for the return of the lost tribes of Israel from the north country. The people of the Lord, those who have complied with the requirements of the new covenant, have already commenced gathering together to Zion, which is in the state of Missouri; therefore I declare unto you the warning which the Lord has commanded me to declare unto this generation, remembering that the eyes of my Maker are upon me, and that to Him I am accountable for every word I say, wishing nothing worse to my fellowmen than their eternal salvation; therefore, "Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come." Repent ye, repent ye, and embrace the everlasting covenant, and flee to Zion, before the overflowing scourge overtake you, for there are those now living upon the earth whose eyes shall not be closed in death until they see all these things, which I have spoken, fulfilled. Remember these things; call upon the Lord while He is near, and seek Him while He may be found, is the exhortation of your unworthy servant.” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.17)

“The New Jerusalem

It has been said by many of the learned and wise men, or historians, that the Indians or aborigines of this continent, are of the scattered tribes of Israel. It has been conjectured by many others, that the aborigines of this continent are not of the tribes of Israel, but the ten tribes have been led away into some unknown regions of the north. Let this be as it may, the prophecy I have just quoted "will fetch them," in the last days, and place them in the land which their fathers possessed. And you will find in the 7th verse of the 30th chapter, quoted, "And the Lord thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee." (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.85)

Micah's Thoughts: There are a lot of misconceptions about this quote. Those who have read or watched my videos including the *Nobleman and the Olive Trees*, *Zion, a City of Holiness*, *the New Jerusalem* and *The Generation* etc. might already understand what the misconceptions would be. When Joseph said this quote, New Jerusalem was dedicated, set apart and they were gathering to it. He was in this quote telling people to flee to Zion. Why would that change our understanding of this quote? When Joseph was saying this there was no need for a redemption of Zion because they hadn't lost it yet. Joseph said that John was with the ten tribes preparing them to return, and the Lord said in D&C 105 that Zion could be redeemed even now. The things that Joseph was prophesying would take place were to take place after the New Jerusalem had

already been redeemed. So, according to this quote and the D&C verses above we might make a points of reference that looks something like this:

Restoration of Celestial Law or as Joseph said, “embracing the new covenant and complying with the requirements” → Redemption of Zion → Buying an inheritance in Zion (Call to flee to Zion, leave behind Babylon) → Initial building of New Jerusalem starts, ergo meetings at Adam-ondi-ahman → Hail, Famine, Pestilence, Scourge, Civil War etc → Earthquake and the Return of the Ten Tribes “to the land of Zion” where they give Ephraim their treasures and Ephraim gives them the higher ordinances of the gospel → The Ten Tribes assist in the building and finishing of New Jerusalem, as well as in the gathering in to her

*If COVID-19 is the desolating sickness then the scourge might be already identifiable and that would mean the restoration of Celestial Law and the redemption of Zion is coming up soon. For a clear understanding of what members should do to prepare for this event see my paper *The Parable of the Ten Virgins* (which was mentioned in D&C above).

We know that the ten tribes will be returning to “the land of Zion” but this does not mean the New Jerusalem. Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, Orson Pratt, etc frequently pointed out that the land of Zion had reference to all of North and South America. So when one is talking of the land of Zion it is not the same thing as New Jerusalem specifically or where the Book of Mormon took place. The Book of Mormon took part in a specific section of “the land of Zion” and the New Jerusalem was identified as a specific location ie. Jackson County Missouri. We know that there could be a seven year famine (Joseph in Egypt as a type, Ether 13) and that the brothers (ie. the ten tribes) return two years into the famine. Therefore, “deserts with parched ground” doesn’t help narrow it down technically as that could be any location two years into a drought (assuming the famine is caused by drought). However, “the everlasting hills trembling at their presence” is very specific and it is not referencing Jackson County Missouri. The everlasting hills are everlasting because they go from the tip of North America to the tip of South America- I would, based off of that evidence, pen in the Salt Lake City Valley as the initial gathering place. The only people who will be allotted permanent residency in New Jerusalem are those from the tribe of Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh). The rest will temporarily inhabit the desolate cities of the land of Zion before they return to Palestine for their permanent inheritance. But how long will they be here?

Back to the manual,

The ten tribes will remain in the land of Zion among the tribe of Ephraim for some time. Elder Orson Pratt explained: “How long will they who come from the north countries tarry in the heights of Zion? Sometime. They have got to raise wheat, cultivate the grape, wine and oil, raise flocks and herds, and their souls will have to become as a watered garden. They will dwell in Zion a good while, and during that time, there will be twelve thousand chosen out of each of these ten tribes, besides twelve thousand that will be chosen from Judah, Joseph, and the remaining tribes, one hundred and forty-four thousand in all [see Revelation 7:4–8; D&C 77:11]. Chosen for what? To be sealed in their foreheads. For what purpose? So that the power of death and pestilence and plague that will go forth in those days sweeping over the nations of the earth

will have no power over them. These parties who are sealed in their foreheads will go forth among all people, nations and tongues, and gather up and hunt out the house of Israel, wherever they are scattered, and bring as many as they possibly can into the Church of the first-born, preparatory to the great day of the coming of the Lord. One hundred and forty-four thousand missionaries! Quite a host. All this has got to take place. There are persons in this congregation who will be in the midst of Zion, when the ten tribes come to Zion from the north countries, and will assist in bestowing the blessings promised by the Almighty upon the heads of the tribes of Israel. There are servants of God in the midst of this congregation who will lay their hands upon many of each of these twelve thousand, chosen out of the ten tribes, and set them apart as missionaries to visit the nations of the earth and hunt up the remnants of the seed of Jacob.” (In Journal of Discourses, 18:25.)

(Old Testament Student Manual Enrichment: The Assyrian Conquest and the Lost Tribes)

“The Prophet (Joseph Smith) clearly indicates that the twelve thousand sealed from each of the twelve tribes is not just a symbolic representation of the forces of righteousness, as some scholars maintain. They are a great missionary force of the sixth seal (see D&C 77:10). Joseph Smith shows us that they are ordained high priests chosen from among every nation to carry forth the gospel and bring as many as will come to the true Church (see D&C 77:11). (In another revelation the Prophet indicated that these 144,000 would also stand on Mt. Zion with the Savior. See D&C 133:18 and compare with Revelation 14:1–5.) The Prophet also said, shortly before his death, “I attended prayer-meeting with the quorum in the assembly room, and made some remarks respecting the hundred and forty-four thousand mentioned by John the Revelator, showing that the selection of persons to form that number had already commenced.” [HC, J SMITH 6:196.] This statement would seem to indicate that this great body of missionaries may be composed of mortals and immortals together.” (BYU Religious Studies Center: Insights from the JST into the Book of Revelation By Gerald N. Lund; <https://rsc.byu.edu/archived/joseph-smith-translation-restoration-plain-and-precious-things/13-insights-jst-book>)

Book of Mormon Student Manual: D&C 77:11. Who Are the 144,000?

“Then again, after the six thousand years have ended, before the Lord shall come while these trumpets are sounding, or about that time, we find that there is to be a great work among the nations—which will probably take place in the morning of the seventh thousand years. The ten tribes will have to come forth and come to this land, to be crowned with glory in the midst of Zion by the hands of the servants of God, even the Children of Ephraim; and twelve thousand High Priests will be elected from each of these ten tribes, as well as from the scattered tribes, and sealed in their foreheads, and will be ordained and receive power to gather out of all nations, kindreds, tongues and people as many as will come unto the general assemblage of the Church of the Firstborn. Will not that be a great work? Imagine one hundred and forty-four thousand High Priests going forth among the nations, and gathering out as many as will come to the Church of the Firstborn. All that will be done, probably, in the morning of the seventh thousand years.” (Orson Pratt, Journal of Discourses vol. 16, pp. 312-326)

Book of Mormon Student Manual: D&C 77:9. What is the Significance of the Angel from the East Sealing the Servants of God?

The four angels who are given power over the earth are kept from sending forth desolations upon the earth until God's servants are sealed in their foreheads. The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that this sealing "signifies sealing the blessing upon their heads, meaning the everlasting covenant, thereby making their calling and election sure" (Teachings, p.321)

Elder Orson Pratt gave this additional explanation:

"When the Temple is built [in the New Jerusalem] the sons of the two Priesthoods...will enter into that Temple in this generation...and all of them who are pure in heart will behold the face of the Lord and that too before he comes in his glory in the clouds of heaven, for he will suddenly come to his Temple, and he will purify the sons of Moses and of Aaron, until they shall be prepared to offer in that Temple an offering that shall be acceptable in the sight of the Lord. In doing this, he will purify not only the minds of the Priesthood in that Temple, but he will purify their bodies until they shall be quickened, renewed and strengthened, and they will be partially changed, not to immortality, but changed in part that they can be filled with the power of God, and they can stand in the presence of Jesus, and behold his face in the midst of that Temple. This will prepare them for further ministrations among the nations of the earth, it will prepare them to go forth in the days of tribulation and vengeance upon the nations of the wicked, when God will smite them with pestilence, plague and earthquake, such as former generations never knew. Then the servants of God will need to be armed with the power of God, they will need to have that sealing blessing pronounced upon their foreheads that they can stand forth in the midst of these desolations and plagues and not be overcome by them. When John the Revelator describes this scene he says he saw four angels sent forth, ready to hold the four winds that should blow from the four quarters of heaven. Another angel ascended from the east and cried to the four angels, and said, "Smite not the earth now, but wait a little while." "How long?" "Until the servants of our God are sealed in their foreheads." What for? To prepare them to stand forth in the midst of these desolations and plagues, and not be overcome. When they are prepared, when they have received a renewal of their bodies in the Lord's Temple, and have been filled with the Holy Ghost and purified as gold and silver in a furnace of fire, then they will be prepared to stand before the nations of the earth and preach glad tidings of salvation in the midst of judgments that are to come like a whirlwind upon the wicked." (Orson Pratt, Journal of Discourses, 15:45)

At his Second Coming, "the Lamb shall stand upon Mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having his Father's name written on their foreheads." (D. &C. 133:81; Rev. 14:1-5.) These 144,000 are Gods, as the name on their foreheads specifies; their callings and elections have been made sure; they are exalted personages; they are "redeemed from among men, . . . And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God." (Rev. 14:4-5.) They have attained perfection. These brethren, 12,000 from each of the tribes of Israel-excepting for some unspecified reason the tribe of Dan (Rev. 7:2-8)- "are high priests, ordained unto the holy order of God, to administer the everlasting gospel; for they are they who are ordained out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, by the angels to whom is given power over the nations of the earth, to bring as many as will come to the church of the

Firstborn." (D. & C. 77:9-11.) They are part of "a great multitude, which no man could number"-all of whom shall have membership in the Church of the Firstborn and therefore be exalted beings. (Rev. 7:9-17; Heb. 12:22-24.) (Mormon Doctrine, p.483)

D&C 77:9-11

9 Q. What are we to understand by the angel ascending from the east, Revelation 7th chapter and 2nd verse?

A. We are to understand that the angel ascending from the east is he to whom is given the seal of the living God over the twelve tribes of Israel; wherefore, he crieth unto the four angels having the everlasting gospel, saying: Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And, if you will receive it, this is Elias which was to come to gather together the tribes of Israel and restore all things.

10 Q. What time are the things spoken of in this chapter to be accomplished?

A. They are to be accomplished in the sixth thousand years, or the opening of the sixth seal.

11 Q. What are we to understand by sealing the one hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel—twelve thousand out of every tribe?

A. We are to understand that those who are sealed are high priests, ordained unto the holy order of God, to administer the everlasting gospel; for they are they who are ordained out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, by the angels to whom is given power over the nations of the earth, to bring as many as will come to the church of the Firstborn.

Revelation 7:4, 9-10, 13-17

John also sees in the sixth seal: the sealing of the 144,000; and the hosts of the exalted of all nations.

4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

New Testament Student Manual: Revelation 7:4–8. The Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand

In Doctrine and Covenants 77:11 the Lord explained to Joseph Smith that the number 144,000 mentioned in Revelation 7:4–8 is the number of representatives out of the twelve tribes of Israel who will be ordained to assist others in their quest for exaltation (see the commentary for Revelation 14:1–5). It is not, as some people believe, the total number of people who will be exalted. “The church of the Firstborn” refers to those who will be exalted and become joint-heirs with Jesus Christ (D&C 77:11). Members of the Lord’s earthly Church—The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—who live righteously and receive the ordinances of exaltation will become members of the Lord’s heavenly Church—the Church of the Firstborn (see D&C 93:20–22).

Micah’s Thoughts: We know a lot more about the 144,000 than people realize or want to admit.

1. We know that they are not chosen, set apart, ordained etc until after the ten tribes return, ergo if the ten tribes never return as a body this number cannot be formed.
2. We know that they are high priests, ergo these are only men.
3. We know that they are “sealed” which means they have had their calling and election made sure. You cannot have the Second Comforter seal you up unto eternal life when you have not done or fulfilled all the requirements for exaltation, ergo, these are men who are sealed to a wife. There are many callings in the Church today that you cannot hold unless you are sealed to a spouse- there is not a single calling of the priesthood in the Church where one has to not be married or sealed to hold the calling. We also have the quote from Joseph Smith identifying married men who would make up the 144,000. Ergo, “virgin” is a reference to their purity for “the pure in heart shall see God”, it has nothing to do with sex.
4. They will be teaching openly to the nations of the world and hunting out the elect. Ergo, this isn’t done in secret.
5. The 144,000 will consist of a multitude of types of people. There will be resurrected beings, permanently translated beings (immortal, they can’t die until the appointed time), and transfigured people (body is quickened and renewed to be able to withstand plagues, pestilence etc but as Orson Pratt said, “they will not be changed to immortality”). We know of two that will die in Jerusalem.
6. The 144,000 is an actual number, just like the Quorum of the Twelve has 12 apostles.
7. The Church of the Firstborn and the 144,000 are not the same thing. The 144,000 are a part of the Church of the Firstborn but all members of the Church of the Firstborn will not be a part of the 144,000. Just like the twelve apostles are members of the Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but every member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is not an apostle.

8. They get called after the tribulation
9. Revelation 7 occurs after the 144,000 are called, ordained etc. in New Jerusalem.
10. There are no members of the 144,000 from the tribe of Dan, reasons currently unrevealed

There are a lot of things we know about the 144,000, none of these are speculative and none of these were ever looked at or taught as figurative or spiritualized etc. When Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, Orson Pratt etc spoke of them it was always in plain and literal terms.

The ten tribes, however, are to eventually receive their land inheritance with Judah and not with Ephraim (see Ether 13:11), and there will come a time after they have received their priesthood blessings when they will go to Jerusalem. In that day will be fulfilled the statement of Jeremiah: “In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers” (Jeremiah 3:18).

Elder Orson Pratt stated further: “By and by, when all things are prepared—when the Jews have received their scourging, and Jesus has descended upon the Mount of Olives, the ten tribes will leave Zion, and will go to Palestine, to inherit the land that was given to their ancient fathers, and it will be divided amongst the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. They will go there to dwell in peace in their own land from that time, until the earth shall pass away. But Zion, after their departure, will still remain upon the western hemisphere, and she will be crowned with glory as well as old Jerusalem, and, as the Psalmist David says, she will become the joy of the whole earth. ‘Beautiful for situation is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.’” (In Journal of Discourses, 18:68.)

I know with every fiber of my being that the Church is true and for the Church to remain true this has to take place. As fantastical, as mythical, as magical, a miraculous...as it might seem, the Lord “will show unto the world that he is the same yesterday, today, and forever; and he works not among the children of men save it be according to their faith.” When the Lord comes, “will he find faith on the earth”? When Joseph Smith returns, “will he find faith in the Church”? I pray and commit all of you to gain such faith so that you may stand in that day and say “yea, I have faith.” In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.