

Revelation 5:8-10 “And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. **9** And they sung a new song, saying, You are worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; **10** And have made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”

When he had taken the book - This is the point at which the heavenly host responds. When Jesus took the book from the Father, the four beasts and 24 elders fell down before Christ, which is an act of worship. (Revelation 4:10) Also it can show the importance of the book and heaven's concern for the children of men.

Elders - This shows to us that the 24 elders minister in the heavenly sanctuary to aid Jesus Christ our High Priest. In the building of the Sanctuary, we are told, Exodus 25:18: And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. Also Exodus 26:1: Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them.

So it's not difficult to notice that these 24 elders are strong angels a representation of what was on the curtains and also overshadowing the mercy seat working not only in the heavenly sanctuary but send forth to minister to the heirs of salvation Hebrews 1:7, 14. Peter also speaking of these strong angels who we find have odours and incense Revelation 5:8, 8:3 says 1Peter 1:12: Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

This is a very curious passage from Peter that has made people come up with different ideologies of the angels desiring to look into the things preached by the prophets. Some even thing the prophets had more light than the angels. This cannot be so. We just read in Revelation 5:1 that there was *a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.*” The angels then seeing no one amongst them could open it, they would be curious to know what is its contents for it pertained to salvation of the universe. That is why Peter says they desire to look into these things. They stoop down to; the posture of those who are earnestly intent on finding out a thing, especially a writing difficult to be read; they bring it to the light, place it so that the rays may fall on it as collectively as possible, and then stoop down in order to examine all the parts, that they may be able to make out the whole. There is evidently an allusion here to the attitude of the cherubim who stood at the ends of the ark of the covenant, in the inner tabernacle, with their eyes turned towards the mercy-seat or propitiatory in a bending posture, as if looking attentively, or, as we term it, poring upon it. Even the holy angels are struck with astonishment at the plan of human

redemption, and justly wonder at the incarnation of that infinite object of their adoration. If then these things be objects of deep consideration to the angels of God, how much more so should they be to us; in them angels can have no such interest as human beings have.

We learn from the above that it was the Spirit of Christ in the Jewish prophets that prophesied of Christ; it was that Spirit which revealed him; and it is the same Spirit which takes of the things of Christ, and shows them unto us. This, the angels are involved at the highest level in making the things which are sealed to be known to men Revelation 1:1, Revelation 19:10, 22:9. Christ was never known by prophecy, but through his own Spirit; and he never was known, nor can be known, to the salvation of any soul, but by a revelation of the same Spirit. It is he alone that bears witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. This prerogative of the Revelation of prophecies he has committed on a higher sense to angels and a limited sense to human beings 1Corinthians 13:9.

The ministry of angels is something worthy looking into. These strong angels alluded to 24 elders work closely with Christ in the heavenly sanctuary.

The 24 Elders Revelation 4 and 5 point to something

You will find in 1 Chronicles 24:7-19, an organization of a 24 course of priests. These were to minister in the sanctuary under Aaron the high priest. This was still the case when Christ was upon the earth. (Luke 1:5, 8-9) Thus these elders are ministering in the sanctuary in heaven under Jesus Christ our high priest. But even more, when the High Priest entered the Most Holy Place, the priests gathered around the porch in the courtyard. We believe the earth is the courtyard because the altar of sacrifice represents Calvary. So While Christ is the High Priest and is in the Most Holy place, we must see the antitypical priest in the earth at a special place doing a special work. This is brought clear in 1Peter 2:9 and 2Corinthians 5:18-20 and Joel 2:12-17. As present truth church, we are not in the category of "The duty of the congregation during the Day of Atonement" but "The Duty of the Priests During the Day of Atonement". I can just say Seventh Day Adventism has suffered an Identity Crisis when it comes to the Sanctuary message. So while the 24 elders are strong angels a representation of the angels on the curtain of the sanctuary and the cherubims overshadowing the mercy, we have another group in Revelation 14 called the 144,000, the firstfruits that follows the lamb wherever he goes representing the priests that gathered at the porch on the Day of Atonement when the High Priest entered the Most Holy Place.

The First-fruits Revelation 14

In the sanctuary, the first-fruits were not the whole harvest but the choicest of those ready. There are arguments that the 144,000 are the saved of all ages, the whole saved from Adam to the last person but this is just a destruction of the sanctuary symbolism and typology. Also Malachi 4 talks

about Elijah being sent in the last days. The work of Elijah was to contend with Idolatry in Israel per se. He had no guile in his mouth neither was he defiled by any woman either physically or spiritually So I believe that the Elijah people are One True God believers and this is all about 144,000. He stood on a mountain to contend with this false worship. The 144,000 are standing on Mount Zion in their introduction to sounding the three angel's messages which are aimed at Babylon that woman Jezebel as the papacy is called in Revelation 2:20. I have proved from other writings that the papacy is Jezebel. If you missed that refer to "Revelation 2b - The Imminent Return of Jezebel and Elijah". Lastly, the same question posed in Revelation 6:17 is an update of Joel 2:11. Those who can abide are those in Joel 2:15, 16 blowing the trumpet in Zion, gathering the people, sanctifying the congregation, assembling the elders, gathering the children, and those that suck the breasts. According to Joel 2:17 these are the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weeping between the porch and the altar, and saying, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them. There are no other people standing on Mt. Zion but when the question of Joel 2:11 and Revelation 6:17 is asked but the 144,000. Hence it won't be erroneous to conclude that the 144,000 are the Elijah people, the priests at the porch on earth, those against false gods; the 144,000.