

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST – THE SEALED OF ISRAEL; A MULTITUDE FROM THE GREAT TRIBULATION -- 7:1-17

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by Pastor Chuck Smith, Vernon McGee, David Hocking, Warren Wiersby and others.

Rev 7:1 After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.
Rev 7:2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,
Rev 7:3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed

the servants of our God

on their foreheads."

Rev 7:4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:
Rev 7:5 of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;
Rev 7:6 of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed;

THE SEALED SERVANTS OF OUR GOD – vs. 1-8
 The IDENTITY of the four angels - - Cf. 6:1-8 -“four living creatures” - first four trumpet judgments.

vs. 2-3 ” - The INSTRUCTION given to these angels - The timing of their mission was connected to their sealing or protection - Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed - cf. Rev. 8:7-8 Seventh Seal -First & Second Trumpets (Vegetation Struck-Seas Struck)

vs. 4-8 -- The INFORMATION given as to the identity of these sealed servants:
 They are “servants of our God.”

They are sealed on their foreheads” - cf. 14:1; 2 Tim. 2:19 - counterfeit sealing by the antichrist – Rev. 13:6-7

They number 144,000, - 12,000 from each of 12 tribes

They come from “all the tribes of the children of Israel”

“TRIBULATION SAINTS” - Revelation 7:1-17
Rev. 6:17 - “who shall be able to stand?” When the fifth seal was opened, we saw the martyrs of history concerned with the justice and vengeance of God. A statement was made in 6:11 about those who were about to be killed.
 In this chapter we learn about those who will become believers in the tribulation period and be both protected by God (the case of the 144,000), as well as those will suffer martyrdom (as in the case of the great multitude).

There are 29 lists of the 12 tribes in the Bible
 The original list of Gen. 35:22-26 is exactly the same as in Ezk. 48:30-34

Rev. 7:6 - The tribe of Dan is missing in this list, and the son of Joseph is listed, and Manasseh, but not Ephraim - cf. 1 Kings 12:28-30; Hosea 4:17

cf. Deuteronomy 28:58-62; 29:18-21 - God must judge the two tribes that turned the nation against God!
 He also promised never to wipe out the twelve tribes!!!
 So we see God’s grace abounding!!! “But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more!! Isn’t that good news? – cf. 1 John 5:21 – “Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.” Rom. 11:2

They are described in greater detail in Rev. 14:3-4. They are called “redeemed from the earth” and the “first fruits unto God and to the Lamb”

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Rev 7:7 of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed;

Rev 7:8 of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.

Rev 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues,

standing before the throne and before the Lamb,

clothed with white robes,

with palm branches in their hands,

Rev 7:10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Rev 7:11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

Rev 7:12 saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Rev 7:13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

THE SAVED SAINTS WHO COME OUT OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION – vs. 9-17

"After these things" - they follow the sealing and redemption of the 144,000. - The PEOPLE who are being described – vs. 9-10

They are Removed from all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues

"standing before the throne, and before the Lamb" - They are Resurrected!

"clothed with white robes" - They are Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb

"palm branches in their hands" - They are Rejoicing - Feast of Tabernacles - Lev. 23

crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" They are Responding with praise to God for His salvation

"fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God" - The PRAISE of those in heaven - 11-12 The Worship that characterized their praise

"Amen! Blessing and glory, and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power, and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen." - The Words that filled their praise

Vs. 13-14 The **PROBLEM** concerning the identity of this great multitude - The Elder did not know - The Explanation identifies them as redeemed believers -

How are the sealed servants saved?

One possibility: Messianic movement in Israel today may be responsible or partly responsible. Today there are more Israeli people who believe in a personal Messiah than ever before. - Operation Solomon.

Another possibility: *Rev. 11:1-13* - two witnesses – *"the rest were afraid and gave glory to God"!!*

Or maybe God just does it!!!!

Notice the seven glorious descriptive words of our Lord!

What about a "SECOND CHANCE" for those who have fully heard the gospel before the Rapture and rejected it? cf. - Matthew 24:14, 2 I; 2 Thess. 2:10-12; 1 Cor. 10:11 (Noah-the flood; Sodom/Gomorrah; forgiveness of Peter)

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Rev 7:14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Rev 7:15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

Rev 7:16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;

Rev 7:17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. - The PROMISES of God to this multitude-martyrs who will die for their faith - A special Place

They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; - A continual Protection -

"for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them, and lead them to living fountains of waters" - A wonderful Provision -- Psalm 23

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." - A blessed Peace -

He will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters!!!

Cf. Isaiah 25:8; Rev. 21:4.

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		<p><u>Questions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. Are the sealed servants of the living God (144,000) promised safety during the tribulation? Will they have to be martyred to be saved?</i><i>2. What two tribes are missing from the list in those being sealed – vs. 5-8? Any ideas as to why?</i><i>3. Can you see the righteousness and the grace of God in this?</i><i>4. Chronologically, when or before the opening of what seal/s of the scroll do you think the 144,000 are sealed?</i><i>5. Do you believe these 144,000 are the first converts during the tribulation? Does the Bible tell us?</i><i>6. Could the 144,000 be the evangelists that are used in the savings of multitudes in 7:9?</i><i>7. Could a similar situation occur to that which happened in Jerusalem at the Day of Pentecost? Acts 2:6; 17-21</i><i>8. About how many dialects occur today that have not heard the gospel? 3000, 30,000, 100,000</i><i>9. About how many evangelistic missionaries are active in the world today? 50,000, 90,000, 140,000</i>
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