

Those Saved During the Tribulation

Revelation 7:1-12

I. Introduction:

A. Introduction & Context

1. – The length of the tribulation

- a. The tribulation period will be 7 years divided into two 3 and 1/2-year periods.
- b. The first half will be marked by a false peace, brokered by the antichrist.
- c. 2nd half will be marked by terrible judgment & suffering for all who'll be on earth.

2. – Pretribulation rapture

- a. The Bible clearly teaches a pretribulation rapture of the church.
- b. Jesus appears & calls His church out of this world before His judgment falls.

3. – Some will be saved.

- a. Even during this time of God's judgment on a wicked and sinful world, His grace will still be at work. Vast multitude of people will be saved during 7-year tribulation
- b. Warning: Those who reject God today will be deceived by antichrist & believe his lie

B. Paranetical

1. Chapter 7 is a paranetical chapter meaning it doesn't advance the chronological flow of events. It is like a pause in the action.
2. The pause is to address a matter of importance and fill in the details.
3. At the end of chapter 6 a question and statement were made. (**Revelation 6:17**)
4. The answer is no one would be able to stand apart from the grace of God.

II. The Angels Seen (Revelation 7:1-3)

A. Four angels

1. These 4 angels are standing on the 4 corners of the earth: north, south, east, and west.
2. They're commanded to withhold the wind for it blows not on the earth, sea, or any tree
3. The wind stands for the judgment announced in chapter 6.
4. These four angels are commanded to withhold the judgment.

B. Another angel

1. Then another angel ascends from the east who possesses the seal of God.
2. He identified the reason for judgment to be temporarily withheld.
3. There's a group of saints belonging to God to be marked before judgment begins.
4. They are to be sealed and receive a mark in their forehead.

C. Reasons for the mark:

1. – Indicates ownership

- a. God will put His seal upon these saints so the whole world will know they're His.
- b. They will stand out in the tribulation as God's redeemed.
- c. Application: The world should be able to see that we belong to Jesus.
- d. The moment of salvation we were sealed by the Holy Spirit's power (**Eph. 1:13-14**).
- e. Fact that we belong to God is evidenced by the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives.

2. – Protection

- a. This 1st group of saved people in the tribulation will be protected from the antichrist.
- b. The seal of God upon these saints will keep them from harm.

- c. Antichrist will want to silence and kill them, but he will not be able to do so.
- d. Application: By the power of the Holy Spirit we're eternally secure in our salvation.

III. First group is Jewish. (Revelation 7:4-8)

A. The remnant of Israel

1. This first group of redeemed from out of the tribulation will be Jewish.
2. God will save and seal 12,000 Jews out of each tribe of Israel.
3. There're 12 tribes of Israel thus there'll be 144,000 saved & sealed for His purpose.

B. Points to Consider

1. – Purpose of these 144,000 is twofold.

- (1) They will preach the Gospel.
 - a. They can't be harmed by the antichrist so they'll preach the Gospel unimpeded.
 - b. The church has been raptured and is in heaven, so in the darkest days of human history, these redeemed of Christ will be sharing the good news that Jesus saves.
- (2) Remnant of Israel
 - a. There will be a generation of Jews who enter the millennial kingdom.
 - b. These Jews will be the seed group who'll form the nation of Israel as Jesus sits on David's throne. The Jews of the Kingdom will accept Jesus as their Lord & King.
 - c. Jesus will rule 1,000-years on earth & Israel will be the greatest nation at that time.

2. – Literal interpretation

- a. To interpret this passage as an allegory opens the meaning to boundless imagination.
- b. The literal interpretation is the only one supported by the context of the passage.
- c. God will literally save and seal 144,000 Jews during the tribulation period.

3. – Jehovah's Witnesses

- a. The Jehovah's witnesses believe that 144,000 people in the church age will be resurrected & become spiritual Israel in heaven, getting the number here.
- b. That's false interpretation & teaching, 144,000 are Jewish, shown by 12 tribes listed.

IV. Multitude of others (Revelation 7:9-12)

A. A great host before the throne

1. After seeing sealing of 144k Jews, John saw a great host standing before God's throne.
 - a. This host are those who were saved out of the tribulation, who believed on Jesus.
 - b. No doubt, they were martyred for their faith.
2. – Wearing white robes
 - a. These white robes signify their righteousness before God.
 - b. Jesus forgave their sin when they believed on Him. They stand before God redeemed
 - c. Application: The saved today appear before God as perfectly righteous in His Son.
3. – Diversity
 - a. John said there're people saved from among all nations, tribes, peoples, & tongues.
 - b. God is no respecter of persons, He created all of us. (**Galatians 3:26-28**)
 - c. Application to current events: Events remind us of man's sinfulness & brokenness.
 - d. The Gospel message is the answer to what we see going on today.
4. – Praise and worship
 - a. The multitude joined angels, elders, & creatures around the throne to worship God.

V. Verified (Revelation 7:13-17)

A. Saved out of the tribulation

1. This vast host of saints will be saved out of the tribulation.
2. They will suffer and die for their profession of faith in Jesus.