

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

CHAPTER SEVEN

"A Look at those Saved in the Tribulation"

I. THE SEALING OF JEWISH SERVANTS (1-8)

A. Is a picture before judgment (1-3)

1. John saw four angels with power to hurt the earth and the sea holding the four _____ of the earth that they should not blow (1).
2. John saw another angel with the seal of God who told the four angels not to hurt anything until God's servants were _____ (2-3).
 - a. Apparently one of the judgments of the tribulation will be angels holding the wind that it doesn't blow.
 - b. Since these angles were told not to hurt anything until God's servants were sealed, this pictures an event before judgment. For this reason this sealing probably takes place sometime during the _____ half of the tribulation period.
 - c. The sealing here speaks of ownership and protection from the judgments of the tribulation period.

B. Shows how many and who these people are (4-8)

1. John heard the number that was sealed. It was _____(4).
2. These people are _____ - 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes of Israel (5-8).
 - a. Notice Manasseh is mentioned here but Joseph is substituted for his other son Ephraim. The tribe of Dan is also missing. While we know of no explanation for omitting Ephraim, there are several possible reasons for omitting the tribe of Dan:
 1. ancient interpreters accounted for this omission believing that Antichrist would come from the tribe of Dan (note Gen. 49:17; Jer. 8:16).
 2. Dan was the first tribe to lead Israel into idolatry (Jud.18:30; I Kings12:28-30) and an idolater's name would be therefore blotted out (Dt. 29:18-21).

- b. These Jews are a divine remnant who will be protected and preserved during the tribulation as a testimony of God's grace to Israel.
- c. The fact that these Jews are God's servants suggest that they will be Jewish _____ who will preach the gospel of the Kingdom to all nations before the end of the tribulation period (Matt. 24:14).
- d. It is likely that these 144,000 Jews will be won to the Lord through the ministry of Moses and Elijah. And it is also likely that through the ministry of these Jews that multitudes of _____ will be saved (7-9).
- e. Finally the 144,000 Jews will be delivered from their persecutors of the tribulation period for they will stand triumphantly with the Lord when it's all over (14:1). There will no doubt be other Jews saved during the tribulation period but they will have to give up their lives for the faith.

II. THE SCENE OF GENTILES SAVED (4-17)

A. Is a picture in heaven (9-10)

- 1. John saw an innumerable company of redeemed from every nation under heaven standing before the throne (9).
 - a. The white robes which they wore represent _____ through faith in the Lamb.
 - b. The palms which they held represent their triumphant _____ through faith in the Lamb.
- 2. John heard these multitudes that were saved ascribe praise to God concerning their salvation (10).

B. Is praised by all the Heavenly Host (11,12).

- 1. This included all the angels who stood about the throne (11).
- 2. These ascribed praise to God for those saved during the tribulation period (12).

C. Identifies who these people are and where they came from (13,14).

- 1. One of the elders asked John about them and told him who they were.

He said they had come out of "the great" tribulation meaning the last 3 1/2 years. These then are no doubt martyred saints of the _____ half of the tribulation period. Note 13:15.

2. Note while these had washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb they are not part of the _____ saints. They are shown standing before the throne but not on thrones as the elders of 4:4 which represent the church. Note also these individuals have no crowns yet which represent rewards after having been judged. That will come later.

D. Shows the blessed state that these martyrs now possess (15-17)

1. They are now where God dwells and they serve Him day and night (15).
2. They won't hunger, thirst, or be hurt anymore because the Lamb will feed them, lead them to living water, and wipe away all their tears (16-17).
 - a. These martyred saints will no doubt have incurred persecutions for befriending the _____ in the tribulation period (Matt. 15:31-46).
 - b. Some of these had starved because they refused the _____ of the beast and were not able to buy or sell (13:16-18). Some had apparently thirsted to death when the waters were turned to blood (15:4). Others had been scorched by the tremendous heat of the sun (16:8-9) or killed by other judgments. Now all these trials are past and their burdens lifted.