

Revelation – 101

9/14/25 – PM (Week 6)

Chapters 7-8 The Tribulation Saints / The 144,000 / The Trumpet Judgments

Review chapter 6

- The seven seals contain the WHOLE judgment of the earth revealed through three series of judgments – the seals, the trumpets, and the vials.
 - The rise of the Anti-Christ (FOUR horses, but ONE rider)
 - His reign begins with peace, but increasingly descends into bloodshed, war, chaos, famine, and death throughout the 7 year tribulation period. (Seals 1-4)
 - The fifth seal gives us a glimpse of the tribulation saints
 - The sixth seal reveals great signs in the heavens – the sun is blackened, and the moon became as blood, stars fall to the earth, and the sky departs as a scroll. Humanity seeks to hide from “the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.” (6:16-17)
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Chapter 7 is “parenthetical” – Remember, Revelation must be studied chronologically, not numerically. The EVENTS must be studied in order, not necessarily by chapter. This is one of those occasions. This chapter is inserted between the sixth seal and the opening of the seventh seal. John simply stops here to give more information about the saved of the tribulation - first mentioned when the fifth seal was opened (Ch. 6:9-11).

Chapter 7 contains two main scenes: the earth (vs. 1-8), and heaven (vs. 9-17).

I. The SCENE ON EARTH

The 144,000 servants, Sealed by God (Rev. 7:1-8)

- a. Four angels control the elements of nature / weather while these servants are “sealed”. (7:1-3)
- i. “four corners” simply means the four points of the compass – north, south, east, and west.
- ii. These servants are “sealed” – protected, preserved by a supernatural power of God as they preach the gospel throughout all the world during the tribulation.
 - b. The identity of the 144,000 (7:4-8)
 - 1. John hears the number of them (vs. 4)
 - 2. 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes = 144,000
 - 3. Who they are NOT
 - a. Not Jehovah’s Witness cult members
 - b. Not the church
 - 4. Who they ARE
 - a. They are Jews (Rev. 7:4-8)
 - b. They are men (Rev. 14:1-5)
 - c. They are virgins (Rev. 14:4)
 - c. Their ministry
 - 1. These men are Jewish evangelists (like the Apostle Paul) – who are sent into every nation of the earth preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. They preach throughout the tribulation period, and it is through their message that many who had not heard the gospel before the rapture, will come to know the Lord as Savior.
 - 2. Their preaching is a fulfillment of Matthew 24:14 – “this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”
 - 3. Also, Joel 2:30-32 – “that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered . . .”

II. THE SCENE IN HEAVEN

The Tribulation Saints (Rev. 7:9-17)

- a. An innumerable multitude (vs. 9)
 - 1. All nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues
 - 2. White robes (Rev. 6:9-11) – sign of purity / redemption
 - 3. Palms in their hands (symbol of victory) – ex. – Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem – palm branches
- b. Their worship (vs. 10)
 - 1. Worship begets worship (vs. 11-12)
 - a. 7 praises to God – blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honour, power, and might.
- c. An elder (four and twenty) asks John who are these people, and where did they come from. (vs. 13). He then explains in verse 14 that these are the tribulation saints. These are those who responded to the preaching of the 144,000 and were martyred for their faith during the tribulation.
 - 1. Their story - came out of great tribulation and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
 - 2. Their position – (vs. 15-17)
 - a. Before the throne of God
 - b. Serve Him day and night in the temple.
 - c. They are provided for and comforted by the Lamb.
 - d. They are NOT the church (the Bride of Christ).
 - e. They will not have resurrected bodies until after the tribulation. The church received ours at the rapture. They serve before the throne. The church “rules and reigns” with Christ.
 - 3. The exception – There is a very sad reality concerning those saved during the tribulation. 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12 tells us that anyone left AFTER the rapture of the church that has heard, understood, and REJECTED the

gospel will be sent strong delusion by God. He will blind them so they believe the lie of Satan and the Antichrist. Those who have had a clear understanding and a chance to be saved BEFORE the tribulation, but rejected the gift of God, will not have another chance during the tribulation.

III. Chapter 8 – The Seven Trumpet judgments begin

- a. Many teach / believe that these judgments begin in the middle of the tribulation (3 ½ years). As we know, the Antichrist makes a peace agreement with Israel for 7 years, but breaks that treaty after three and a half years. Bible scholars see that broken covenant with Israel and the Antichrist in full power, as the catalyst for these trumpet judgments, followed by the vial judgments.
- b. John now sees the seventh seal opened, and says there was silence in Heaven for about the space of half an hour (8:1). While there is no particular reason given, most Bible scholars believe it simply illustrates the “lull before the storm”.
- c. For the seven trumpet judgements, Jesus uses angels to sound each trumpet, and a different judgment comes upon the earth. Before these trumpets begin however, there is an offering given upon the golden altar in heaven (8:2-5). The fire (symbol of judgment) of the altar is placed in a censer and cast into the earth – showing that judgment is coming. John hears “voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.”
- d. The first angel sounds (trumpet) – vs. 7
 1. Hail and fire mingled with blood was cast upon the earth. A third part of the forests, and all green grass was burned up. What will livestock eat? Remember the famine represented by the black horse (Rev. 6:5-6). This judgment represents an ecological disaster on the earth.

- e. The second angel sounds – vs. 8-9
 - 1. A great mountain, burning with fire (volcanic eruption?). A third part of the sea became blood (sea always speaks of salt water, so a third of the oceans become blood. A third of the sea creatures die, and a third of the ships are destroyed (commerce / trade shortages).
- f. The third angel sounds – vs. 10-11
 - 1. “and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp”. This is no doubt a meteor or asteroid that strikes the earth. A third part of rivers and the fountains of water (fresh water) become “bitter” (poison). A third of the rivers, lakes, and ponds will be poison – and men will die from drinking that water.
- g. The fourth angel sounds – vs. 12-13
 - 1. A third part of the sun, and a third part of the moon, and a third part of the stars were darkened. The days will be shortened, and the nights will be longer.
 - 2. John sees an angel flying through heaven shouting a warning to the inhabitants of the earth concerning the next three trumpets. He calls them “woe, woe, woe”. The Greek word is “ouai” (oo-ah-ee) and is an exclamation of grief.

NEXT WEEK: Chapters 9-10 – The 5th and 6th Trumpets / The “little book”

