

The Book Of Revelation - Chapter Seven

INTERVAL BEFORE THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. **2** And 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 given to hurt the earth and the sea, **3** Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

THE 144,000 SEALED ON EARTH

4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: [and there were] sealed an hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

5 Of the tribe of Juda [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad [were] sealed twelve thousand.

6 Of the tribe of Aser [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephtalim [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses [were] sealed twelve thousand.

7 Of the tribe of Simeon [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar [were] sealed twelve thousand.

8 Of the tribe of Zabulon [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin [were] sealed twelve thousand.

THE GREAT MULTITUDE SAVED IN HEAVEN

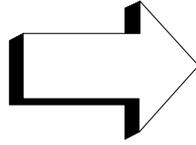
9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; **10** And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. **11** And all the angels stood round about the throne, and [about] the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, **12** Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, [be] unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

THE IDENTITY OF THE GREAT MULTITUDE

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? **14** And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. **15** Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. **16** They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. **17** For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

- chapter 7 is a response to the question asked in Revelation 6:17 - *Who shall be able to stand?*
- "four corners" - figurative in Bible times, as in the present
- "wind" - indicates judgement, forces of devastation
- "earth, sea, tree" - angels delaying 7 trumpet judgements
- "east" - symbolizes the source of blessing
- "seal" - an invisible sign of God's protection, contrasting with those who bear "the mark of the beast" (Rev. 13:16)
- these Jews are sealed by God, and the Antichrist cannot kill them because God is using them as His witnesses
- their mission is to preach THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM to the remaining Jews and Gentiles on earth
- we do not know how the 144,000 become followers of the Messiah; possibly God reveals Himself supernaturally to them as He did to the Apostle Paul
- we also do not know how they learn their tribal identity, as the Jewish people today do not have this information
- the 144,000 will be translated from the earth to Heaven after completing their mission (Rev. 14:1)
- this is a different list from usual listings of the 12 tribes, perhaps because it is symbolic of God's true followers:
 - (1) Judah is mentioned first because it is both the tribe of David and of Jesus the Messiah
 - (2) Levi is given a place here as a reward for faithfulness even though it had no tribal allotment in the OT due to the Levites' work for God in the Temple
 - (3) Dan and Ephraim are not mentioned because they were known for rebellion and idolatry
 - (4) Instead of "Ephraim and Manasseh" (Joseph's sons) this list reads "Joseph and Manasseh" again because of Ephraim's rebellion and idolatry
- since John is able to later number an army of 200 million (Rev. 9:16), the "great multitude, which no man could number" must be larger than that!
- see Rev. 4:4 - this group is standing before the Throne, not seated on thrones like the elders; they have palms in their hands, not crowns on their heads like the elders; John does not know them (Rev. 7:14), so they cannot be part of the church (or even OT believers)
- "white robes, and palms" = "righteousness and victory"
- verse 12 - sevenfold ascription of adoration to God
- there will be millions "saved" during the Tribulation, but they will be responding to THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM, so they cannot be part of the church - *and the vast majority of them will die as martyrs!*
- Tribulation martyrdom began in Rev. 6:9-11 and continues throughout the entire seven-year period
- God's Spirit will be present on earth during the Tribulation - *as it was before Pentecost* - to draw mankind to Himself
- "came out of" - "are coming daily out of" - continuously!
- in the Greek, verse 14 reads "THE great tribulation" - a definite period of judgement on the earth
- "blood of the Lamb" - basis for all (OT & NT) redemption (*Salvation is an "elastic" word, applying to many things*)
- "dwell" - "spread His tabernacle over them"
- the Lamb, who feeds and leads, is also the Shepherd!
- verse 17 - NO MORE REASON TO CRY... **FOREVER!**

The Gospel of The Kingdom



MESSAGE

"God is establishing His earthly Kingdom"

Matthew 24

Jesus gives signs of the end

FALSE CHRISTS - v. 4-5

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

WARS - v. 6

And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all [these things] must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

FAMINES - v. 7a

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines ...

DEATH - v. 7b

... and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

FIRST FOUR SIGNS - "BEGINNING"

All these [are] the beginning of sorrows. (Matt. 24:8)

MARTYRS - v. 9

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

WORLD CHAOS - v. 10-13

And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

PREACHING BY JEWS - v. 14

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

- It was preached primarily to the Jews when Jesus was on earth (Matthew 10:5-7, 15:24)
- It is vastly different from the gospel ("good news") preached by the New Testament church
- It was preached from the time of John the Baptist until the rejection of Christ by the Jews (crucifixion)
- It will be preached again by the 144,000 sealed Jews during the Tribulation & Millennium (Matthew 24:14)

Revelation 6 & 7

John sees events of the end

WHITE HORSE - v. 1-2

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. 2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

RED HORSE - v. 3-4

And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. 4 And there went out another horse [that was] red: and [power] was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

BLACK HORSE - v. 5-6

And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and [see] thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

PALE HORSE - v. 7-8

And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. 8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

FIRST FOUR SEALS - "HORSEMEN"

The four horsemen are distinct from the other seals.

MARTYRS - v. 9-11

And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they [were], should be fulfilled.

WORLD CHAOS - v. 12-14

And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

144,000 SEALED - chapter 7

We are not told explicitly that the 144,000 are God's special witnesses, or that the gentile host mentioned is a result of their preaching, but this appears to be a logical deduction. Otherwise, why are the two associated in Revelation chapter seven?