

The Sealing of the 144,000

Rev. 7

9/2/2020

V.1-8. Here we find a break in the opening of the seals. This prophecy (Revelation) is very precise and clear as to the events it predicts and how God will achieve His plan. In this interval we see that the “elect” of Israel will be sealed. As God reserved 7000 in the days of Ahab who did not bow the knee to Baal (I Kings 19:18), so there will be a “remnant according to the election of grace” (Rom. 11:4-6), and God will reserve 144,000 of Israel who during the period of the Tribulation will not bow the knee to Antichrist. This sealing is not the sealing of the Holy Spirit, by whom the Believer is sealed. Eph. 1:13-14 “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest (down payment) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession (we are not in heaven yet), unto the praise of His glory.” This is the sealing at the hand of angels that Jesus refers to in Mat. 24:31 “and He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (The language shown us just prior to this verse indicates the entirety of God’s creation: 1st, 2nd and 3rd heavens to the other. Earth would be the 1st heaven.)

What the sealing is we are told in Rev. 14:1 “and I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father’s name written in their foreheads.” They were sealed on their foreheads where others could see it. They were not secret disciples. We will find, in the same public manner, that the followers of Antichrist will be sealed in their foreheads or on their right hand with the “mark of the beast” which is the number of his name (666). Rev. 13:16-18.

“Holding the 4 winds”: We studied last week how mankind will realize the judgment of God is upon them. Just when all hope seems lost, four angels hold back the judgments of God until God’s people are marked as His own.

“The number of them”: God will select 12,000 Jews from each of the twelve tribes of Israel to be “evangelists” during the Tribulation. (Rev. 14:1-6 Rd. “first fruits”) The zeal of their work is rewarded in a great multitude turning to God. With the exception of these “evangelists” who are protected by the “seal” of God all who come to faith in Christ will be put to death.

The list we find here is different from the ones seen in the Old Testament. Judah is mentioned first probably because it is known as the tribe of David and of Jesus the Messiah (Gen. 49:8-12). Levi had no tribal allotment because of the Levites' work for God in the Temple (Deut. 18:1), but here the tribe is given a place of reward for faithfulness. Dan is not mentioned, because it was known for rebellion and idolatry. (Gen. 49:17). The two tribes representing Joseph (usually called Ephraim and Manasseh, after Joseph's sons) are here called Joseph and Manasseh because of Ephraim's rebellion. (Gen. 49)

This "Blood Washed Multitude" introduces us to another class of the saved of the "End-time". They do not represent the Church, for the Church has already been taken out. They differ from the Elders, who represent the Church, in that they stand, and have "palms" in their hands, while the "Elders" have crowns and sit on thrones and have harps and golden vials in their hands. They are gathered from all over the earth during the tribulation. The Bible teaches us of the Old Testament Saints, the New Testament Saints (The Gentile Dispensation; The Bride of Christ) and the Tribulation Saints. There will be a great true movement of the preaching of the "Gospel of the Kingdom" during this time with tremendous results we are being shown. While the Holy Spirit went back with the Church to escort the "Bride to be" home, it does not follow that He remained there. For in the Old Testament times, and during the earthly ministry of Jesus, He was active in the conversion of men, and so it will be after the Church is caught out. Those who are converted during the Tribulation period will be converted by the Holy Spirit.

The sight of this "Blood Washed Multitude" will so thrill and rejoice the Angelic Hosts that they will fall upon their faces and worship God.

V 10. "Salvation": People try many methods to remove the guilt of sin—good works, intellectual pursuits, and even cast blame on others. This group of people praises God saying that salvation comes from Him and from the Lamb.

Let's go over this "Blood Washed" multitude again looking at the Q & A found in this passage.

The 1st question is where are they seen? We find they are at the throne of God and looking at Jesus.

2nd: What is their appearance? They are standing in His presence.

3rd: What is the significance of the palms in their hands? This is showing they have victory.

4th: Where did they come from? They are from all over the earth. They have different backgrounds, languages, and society standards.

5th: What is the factor that brought them there? They had come out of the “Great Tribulation”. They had lost their life when they heard the truth, believed the truth, and received the truth presented to them by the sealed “evangelists”.

6th: What are they now missing? They will no longer hunger, thirst, or worry about the heat.

7th: What do they enjoy? They will have the Lamb feed them, lead them to living fountains of water, and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.

8th: How are they occupied? They continually serve God. Work is not the curse. Adam was tending the Garden of Eden before the “fall”. We, as the redeemed, also will not be without activity in heaven.

There is a clear picture being presented to us in this section of Revelation. The true Church has been caught away, as we read in Chapter 4. Satan is loose and the Antichrist is doing his best to defeat God. In this Tribulation Period his greatest hatred is against God’s ancient people, Israel.

During the dispensation in which you and I live his hatred is directed particularly against the true Church, but after she is taken out, he will focus his attention entirely upon the children of Israel. Satan knows that Israel is God’s covenant nation, and although Israel now rejects His Son Jesus, there is a day coming when Israel shall be converted and all the promises of the kingdom and their re-establishment in the land of Palestine will be fulfilled. Satan seeks to thwart God’s program and so sets out to destroy all Israel and thus defeat the program of God. He attempted this through Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, the Assyrians, the Greeks and the Romans, and more recently, through Mussolini and Hitler and a host of other people to whom he instilled hate to the Jewish race. As Satan has failed to destroy the nation of Israel in the past because of the intervention of God, so he will fail again. In the past the Lord raised up Moses, Nehemiah, and Mordecai, and so again in the Tribulation He will protect His faithful remnant.

The 4th thru 8th verses of this chapter states—so plainly that a child can understand—that during the Tribulation Period God will remember His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David and Solomon, and all the promises of Israel’s restoration in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and all the other prophets, and before the Antichrist can destroy the nation of Israel, God is going to save a remnant of twelve thousand from each of the twelve tribes of the sons of Jacob and seal them for Himself—seal them to escape destruction of the Antichrist and seal them to become His witnesses during the Tribulation whereby a

great multitude of Gentiles will be saved because of the testimony of this redeemed remnant from the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel.

These 144,000, all Israelites, the physical descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob, will become God's missionaries during the Tribulation Period. The saved ones, from every nation, will be those who have never heard the Gospel of God's grace. When the Church is raptured, all those who have heard the Word and been invited to Christ and have rejected Him will be left behind to perish in the Tribulation. There will be no "second chance" for them.

But the great masses in the world who have never heard the Gospel of God's grace will hear the message in the Tribulation from the lips of these 144,000 Israelites, and as a result a great number will be saved, but will face being martyred, and will be raised at the close of the Tribulation Period, and the final gleanings of the "First Resurrection".

We have studied the opening of the first six seals and were shown a lot of trouble coming to this world. There was shown that a fourth of the earth would perish. This "break" in the revealing of God's plan for this final period of Daniel's 70 weeks will be the formula used throughout the rest of the book. Intervals will be placed to discover a greater detail of this plan. In this chapter we have found that the effect of the "Gospel Ministers" sealed will be a great amount of people being saved. Some have even thought that this will be the greatest time of salvation during any 7 year period of this world. It is amazing to see how the same situation can have two totally different results. It is also true that many will be hardened against God in a dramatic way during this period. It is like the effect of the direct sunlight. The same light that hardens clay will soften wax! Some people turn to God during trials and others reject any notion of Him.

The Gospel: I Cor.15:1-4 Rd. The Gospel is not God asking you to do something; it is God telling you that He has done something for you. The Gospel is not you giving something to God: the Gospel is God's giving something to you. The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus. The Gospel is not do but done. By faith we can receive this finished work.