

Passage: Revelation 7:1-17

Title: Sealed and Saved

Summary: Many believers do not want to study Revelation because they say the things written are too frightening, too depressing.... What? Today's passage, brings great joy in that we see the great promise..... nobody can snatch us out of His hand, as we look at the 144,000 sealed of Israel, and the who knows how many millions upon millions (maybe even billions) who will be saved in the Tribulation Period.

Revelation 7 (NKJV) ¹ After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. ² Then 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 granted to harm the earth and the sea, ³ saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." ⁴ And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed: ⁵ of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed; ⁶ of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed; ⁷ of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed; ⁸ of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed. ⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen." ¹³ Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" ¹⁴ And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. ¹⁶ They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷ for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Shall I tell Them / Not Question – but Initiation / Engaged Abraham into His Plan

Back in Genesis the Lord appears to Abraham with 2 angels. They supper to together, God gives Abraham a promise of the child he shall have in his old age, they have a wonderful time of communion. As the Lord is leaving, He says to the angels with Him, shall I tell Abraham what I am about to do. It wasn't a question, it was the initiation of a spiritual conversation between the Lord and Abraham. The Lord wanted Abraham to know what was going to happen, what He was going to do, He wanted to engage Abraham in His plans. Abraham, the cries have come up to Me of the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah, and now it is time for my wrath and judgment to come down. So too is this book of Revelation, that God would let us in on what He is about to do, to engage us, and make us a part of His plan. The study of this book is a most honored position for us to be in, God has counted us special enough and pleasing enough to Him, to share with us, what He is about to do. What a blessing for us, and God promises us a blessing for engaging in, looking into what He is going to do.

(Genesis 18:16 NKJV) Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way.

*(Genesis 18:17 NKJV) **And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,***

(Genesis 18:18 NKJV) "since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?"

(Genesis 18:19 NKJV) "For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

(Genesis 18:20 NKJV) And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave,

(Genesis 18:21 NKJV) "I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

I think one of the powerful applications that we see here is that Abraham has just heard this wonderful news hey old man you're gonna be a dad and he could have said wow we gotta go and start preparing the baby's room and I gotta go look at my 401K and see how I'm gonna prepare for my son's college to come and all those other things and or just the joy of Sarah we're gonna be parents. And yet God can reach him because he was reachable that, God would say here's what I'm gonna do. Abraham was anything but numb and careless of what was to come to Sodom and he engages in intercession. Abraham knew Sodom and what was happening there as everyone in the region knew for what they were

known for, and yet his intercession was greater than just for Lot and his family his number far exceeded the eight that he knew, he will exceed it out to those that he didn't know as he starts with the number 50. *Genesis 18:22–26 (NKJV)*²² Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³ And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it? ²⁵ Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" ²⁶ So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."

I find it so amazing, and of course such a picture for me of who and how "God can reach me, because I am reachable", by seeing others, by having communion with God I can have the heart of God.

Bible prophecy:

is not given to us to scare us, but to prepare us.

It is not given to us to frighten us, but to invite us.

Rejoice – for devil Wants to Steal Your Joy

Many believers do not want to study revelation because they say the things written are too frightening, too depressing.... What? Jesus said I have come so that we may have an abundant life. Jesus wrote the Book of Revelation, to reveal Himself to us. The great thief is the devil, and one thing he wants to steal from believers is "joy", rejoicing! I read this Book of Revelation and I am overflowed with Joy, and rejoicing in My God! I find great joy that this world doesn't end in self-destruction and self-annihilation, but God steps in and rescues all those who are willing to be rescued and saved. And today's passage, bring me great joy in that I see the great promise..... nobody can snatch me/us out of His hand, as we look at the 144,000 sealed of Israel, and the who knows how many millions upon millions (maybe even billions) who will be saved in the Tribulation Period.

*John 10:10 (NKJV)*¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

So recap.....

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times **He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.**

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Revelation – Exhortation – Expectation - Explanation

So in chapter 1 we saw the Revelation of the Lord. Chapter 2-3, the Exhortation from the Lord, to be ready. Chapter 4, we have the Expectation of the Saints, as the Lord says Come up here, get out of there. And, chapter 5, we have the Explanation, of why the world is in the condition that it is in, as we saw Jesus reclaiming the Title Deed (the Scroll) to this earth, as Adam forfeited to Satan, who is the god of this world.

4 Horseman Recap / Man Gets what Wanted – Obnoxious Christians / Result 2 Billion

Things are going badly. The bow of the horseman on the white horse is broken. Blood flows in war. Famine follows. Disease and sickness run rampant. Man finally gets what they wanted, to be totally self governed, no God in their lives and government, and none of those obnoxious Christians with all their moral values. The resultant we saw that in just these 4 seals a quarter of the population is dead (post rapture that may be somewhere around 2 billion people). We saw, part of the Wrath of the Lamb is the Rapture of the Church, for the Restrainer is taking out (the Holy Spirit in you, the church) and the world is left with no moral conscience. Then we saw a multitude of saints killed for their faith, and the sixth seal brought on great earthquakes and cataclysmic events on the earth, as the whole earth is in upheaval. So before the 7th seal is broken, we have an interlude of more of what is going on down on earth while we are in heaven with the Lord.

This Chapter: 144K / Martyred Saints / Who can Stand? / God's Love – Able to Preserve – Do You

In this study we will see the sealing of the 144,000 children of Israel, and more martyred saints before the throne of God. Back in chapter 6 the question was asked who is able to stand in this great day of His wrath; chapter 7 tells us who, for we see that God will seal and preserve 144,000 children of Israel, and even though saints are being martyred on earth, they will stand before Him in heaven. God will show us in this chapter that His love and grace will still flow freely in the Tribulation Period, and that He is always fast at work amongst His children, and He is able to preserve them in any circumstance. Christian do you realize that today, that in the midst of a turbulent world, in our daily tribulations, in extreme circumstances, that the Lord is ever present with you, a comfort in time of need, and able to preserve you in all matters:

(Revelation 6:16 NKJV) and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!"

(Revelation 6:17 NKJV) "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

144,000 of Israel Sealed

(Revelation 7:1 NKJV) After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

Round Earth - Compass

Hey the earth is round, the Bible is in error. Should you hear that, refer them to a compass; north, south, east, and west. I might add, our military strategist have divided our world into 4 quadrants for military planning strategies.

(Revelation 7:2 NKJV) Then 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 granted to harm the earth and the sea,

(Revelation 7:3 NKJV) saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

Sealed for Protection / Ephesians we are Sealed

To seal something in that day was a sign of ownership. For the 144,000 He seals them for protection, a guarantee that nothing can harm them. For us today He does the same as He seals us with His Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13), a guarantee that He is coming for us, and that He will claim what is His. In the day of this writing a servant buying goods for his owner would put them in a container, and place wax on the container, then with his signet ring, a one of a kind insignia that represented the owner, he would impress his mark in the wax, and when the goods got to the final destination, the owner would gather them up by saying that is my seal, that one too, put them all in my cart, bring them to my house for they are mine. That is the Lord's promise to us, upon final destination, he will point us out and say they are mine – I Paid for them in full, my seal proves it:

(Ephesians 1:13 NKJV) In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

(Ephesians 1:14 NKJV) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

(Revelation 7:4 NKJV) And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

God starts Work among Israel

What we clearly see here is God starting His work among the children of Israel. Reminder, part of the reason of the Tribulation is:

- To Wake-up a People (Israel)
- To Shake-up the Heathen

- To make-up the Kingdom (Millennial & Eternal)

God Wakes / Protects – Exodus / Elijah – Ezekiel 9 – Rev 12

So God is going to start waking up the nation Israel that has been asleep now for 2,000 years after they had missed the Messiah.

- This correlates so closely with their bondage in Egypt; as the Lord put plagues upon the land of Egypt, we see that as the people of Egypt were afflicted, the children of Israel were not. In the beginning they were (water to blood and the frogs from the Nile) but then after nothing touched them. I might add though they had to apply the blood over the door for death to Passover or else they would suffer the same.
- In Revelation we see 144,000 being sealed and protected, and then at the Mid-Point God will whisk all of Israel away and protect all of them for the last 3 ½ years.
- We have seen this also when God preserved Noah through the flood,
- when Jezebel was after Elijah we saw that 7,000 prophets were preserved who would not worship Baal.
- And in Ezekiel 9, an angel marked the foreheads of those who were faithful to God, right before the Lord brought judgment upon Jerusalem:

(Exodus 8:22 NKJV) "And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the land.

(Exodus 8:23 NKJV) "I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall be.

(1 Kings 19:18 NKJV) "Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

(Ezekiel 9:4 NKJV) and the LORD said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it."

(Ezekiel 9:5 NKJV) To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity.

(Ezekiel 9:6 NKJV) "Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were before the temple.

(Revelation 12:13 NKJV) Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.

(Revelation 12:14 NKJV) But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

Super Evangelist / Meta Tauta – Chp 6 Salvation / Simple Chronological Order

You will most often hear these 144,000 being referred to as super-evangelist, 144,000 Billy Graham's in the Tribulation period. That may be, but the Scriptures does not state that (word for them is servant – doulos, while the word for the witnesses is – martus). We start verse 1 of chapter 7 with "meta tauta", after these things, which means after what happened in chapter 6, and what was happening there were people getting saved and killed after the rapture. (I think it is simple enough to just stay in chronological order unless it is obvious that God is giving us "filler" information of things that have transpired – so after these things means, after the things that happened in Chapter 6). So there were no super-evangelist in chapter 6, and people were getting saved, and as I have said, I believe millions are getting saved because of the witness you, the church, left concerning the end times.

Once Eyes Open / 2 Witnesses – Angels

Now I do think these 144,000 will be witnessing, because how couldn't they. Once their eyes were opened to the Messiah they had missed, there would be no keeping them quiet. But world evangelism will be going on we will see coming up by the 2 witnesses in Jerusalem, and the angels proclaiming the everlasting gospel. So God will have evangelism covered well.

(Revelation 11:3 NKJV) "And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

(Revelation 14:6 NKJV) Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth; to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people;

Dispel the Professional Myth / Pastor - Church will do It / Ephesians 4 – Equipping Saints

Why do I make this point, because I want to dispel the myth of “the professional minister”. I see today that people like the idea of “professional” ministers. I see that many Christians want to leave the work of the ministry up to the “professionals”. Well I am no Billy Graham, so I can’t witness. Well I am no Chuck Smith so I can’t teach. Really what it is the situation, is that people would rather have someone else do it, and spare them the burdens and troubles that come with ministry. Well I’m sure the pastor is praying for them. The church will take care of the poor and widowed. Those people that are hurting, hopefully they will go to church and someone there will talk with them. No, no, no, that is not how God intends it to be. The Lord makes it clear of how it is to work in Ephesians, for it says God has given gifts to the church, to equip the saints for the working of the ministry,. So the Lord gives to the church evangelists, pastors, and teachers not so they will build the church, but so that they will build up the believers, train-up the believers, so they then will go and build up the church.

(Ephesians 4:8 NKJV) Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."

(Ephesians 4:9 NKJV) (Now this, "He ascended"; what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?)

(Ephesians 4:10 NKJV) He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

(Ephesians 4:11 NKJV) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

(Ephesians 4:12 NKJV) for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

(Ephesians 4:13 NKJV) till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

2 Tim 2

Paul told Timothy, find faithful men that you might invest in, so that they will go out and invest into others:

(2 Timothy 2:1 NKJV) You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

(2 Timothy 2:2 NKJV) And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

God Saved us for Fellowship

But, God did not save us because He needed workers; rather He gives us the joy of being a part of His plan, to co-labor with Him on the things of eternity. God has called us for fellowship, that is why He saved us (please see Revelation 4:8 study).

Servant – Purity / Casual Approach to Purity / Not Mouths – Lives / Living Epistles

God calls these 144,000 servants, and Revelation 14 will give us more definition of what a servant is, why these 144,000 are so special, because they were pure. Too many Christians are taking a casual approach to holiness and purity. Here is the testimony of these 144,000. It is not what they did with their mouths, but what they did with their lives. Angels can preach the gospel, but only man can be living epistles:

(Revelation 14:3 NKJV) They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

(Revelation 14:4 NKJV) These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

(Revelation 14:5 NKJV) And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

(2 Corinthians 3:1 NKJV) Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you?

(2 Corinthians 3:2 NKJV) You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;

(2 Corinthians 3:3 NKJV) clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.

(Revelation 7:5 NKJV) of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;

(Revelation 7:6 NKJV) of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed;

(Revelation 7:7 NKJV) of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed;

(Revelation 7:8 NKJV) of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.

Get a 12 Year Old / Some say they 144K / JW's

Now, what I would like to do right now is go next door, grab a 12 year old out of Children's Church and ask them, who is God talking about here; and he would say – Israel. I would say, why, and he would say ahh because it says Israel. Exactly, it is that simple yet somehow this has been horrendously twisted. All kinds of groups say they are the lost tribes of Israel, they are the 144,000. Most notably are the Jehovah Witnesses, they said they were the 144,000, and then after they surpassed the 144,000 they had to change it (I guess they didn't realize the power of Satan's deceptions and how many people he could deceive with this errant doctrine). So you have cults like them saying they are the 144,000. God takes the time to name them by tribe, so he couldn't make it any clearer that He is talking about Israel.

Replacement Theology / Church in Tribulation / Came from Anti-Semitism – Christ Killer

But equally frightening is what is called "Replacement Theology". What that is (and you can be saved and messed up on this theology) they say, that it is not really Israel spoken of here, but the Church. You see if you mess up your outline (Rev 1:19) then you can really get messed up. But the church is in heaven, chapters 4&5, because 2&3 are the things which are – the church period. Replacement theology has many people accepting it, so they are putting the church in the Tribulation. Replacement theology came about in the early century because of anti-Semitism, the early church has hatred for the Jews because they say they crucified Christ (but it was your sin that crucified Christ – not man). So they couldn't accept that God would still work in the Jewish people, and love them.

Secondly – Israel Scattered / Ezk 36-37 / May 14th 1948/ God Kept track – Hairs on Head

Secondly, once Israel was scattered in 70AD after Titus destroyed Jerusalem, other people had a hard time of how this could possibly speak of this being Israel since they were scattered and without a homeland. So they began to spiritualize the Scriptures; their error was not believing that God was more than capable of re-gathering Israel back into the land (Ezk 36-37) and making them a nation again, never believing that May 14, 1948 could ever happen. They also said nobody knows whose lineage they are from after the records were destroyed in the temple – hey how big is your God, He is capable of keeping track of them. If He knows the number of hairs on your head, He knows who your dad is.

2000 years / Romans 11

So when Israel was scattered, and over the years scattered even more, many Bible teachers said God is done with Israel, God has forsaken them, totally ignoring the words of Paul in Romans 11:

(Romans 11:25 NKJV) For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

(Romans 11:26 NKJV) And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

(Romans 11:27 NKJV) For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

Satan Fuels Replacement Theology / Promotes Anti-Semitism – Prophetic Time Piece

They say this can't mean Israel; it has to mean the church, and so starts all the problems. Satan fuels this replacement theology because people get all whacked out on their theology, and it promotes anti-Semitism, people think God hates the Jewish people, and that promotes persecution against the Jews. Satan knows Israel is the prophetic time piece and center, and if he can destroy them, then the prophetic clock stops and God cannot finish off all His prophecies, including redeeming all of Israel, and coming back and casting Satan in the Lake of Fire, for God can not violate His own prophecies for that would make Him a liar.

God's Covenant Perpetual / Faithful to Them – Faithful to us / Full Assurance

God's covenant with Israel is perpetual, meaning it lasts forever, so since He has promised to Redeem them, He will. God's promise to them, and His faithfulness to them, is a demonstration that He will be faithful to us, and fulfill all He has promised us. If God bailed on Israel, then what security could we have that He wouldn't bail on us. But we have seen His faithfulness to them in our very lifetime, and we can have full assurance of His faithfulness to us.

God Knows Lineage – Took Time to Account / Maybe you feel Disconnected

God knows their lineage, and who they are, and may you take that example and demonstration of God. You may feel lost, you may feel disconnected because of your family, where you were raised, how you

were raised, but God knows exactly where you are, and where you came from, and He numbers you as His own special people, He calls you son, daughter.

The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation

(Revelation 7:9 NKJV) After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,
(Revelation 7:10 NKJV) and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Holding Palm Branches

After these things (meta tauta). They are holding palm branches and that immediately takes me back to that day when Jesus triumphal entered into Jerusalem. They people cried out Hosanna, Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna means to 'save now'. But in this chorus before the throne they are singing praises in the past tense, for salvation has come:

(John 12:12 NKJV) The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

(John 12:13 NKJV) took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!"

(Revelation 7:11 NKJV) All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,
(Revelation 7:12 NKJV) saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Angels fired Up / 7-fold Praise

Angels are all fired-up over these people making it to heaven, what an awesome scene.

Again, notice the seven-fold praises offered to God: blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power and might.

(Revelation 7:13 NKJV) Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

(Revelation 7:14 NKJV) And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Come Out of Tribulation – Not Kept From

This throng is preserved through the Tribulation (sealed), not "kept out" of it, as in Revelation 3:10. Here, possibly, the greatest harvest of souls the world has ever seen will take place!

Revelation 3:10 (NKJV)¹⁰ Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

Want to be an Elder / Initiate Spiritual Conversation – Lead to Spiritual Truths

Do you want to be an elder, in your home, in your church, in your workplace, then take note here of this elder in Revelation and what he is doing. He initiates spiritual conversation, to teach a spiritual truth. John didn't ask him, he asks John. You will be amazed at how many people will respond to your initiations. I like to talk about stuff I just read or heard in a Bible study so it just flows because it is so fresh in my mind.

Christians Killed for Testimony / Baton Rouge

Christians will be killed for their testimony, for standing with Jesus, the world will be looking to blame someone for all the woes and they will blame the Christians as the anti-christ will energize their hatred. I am reminded of the time when I lived in Louisiana, same call as before, death bed urgency, I drove 3 hours, got into the room and it was a strange situation, filled with hospital staff, and an armed police officer. I shared the gospel, told her God's forgiveness was available for her and He is waiting with Open arms. But as I shared, she turned her head from me, and would have nothing to do with Him. But I tell

you, the looks of all in that room, as they stared at me their eyes were like flames just burning through me. It was as if they were saying if this woman is suffering enough, and you have to dump more upon her. I think of what it will be like for the saints who share in this time of Tribulation.

Can't you just let her die in peace they were thinking no doubt, and there is only one way to die in peace, and that is in the arms of the Prince of Peace.

Want to hear something amazing? She miraculously recovered, left the hospital, and returned home to Florida, and her two sisters who were saved were able to continue their ministry to her; that is where I lost contact, as I was just one piece of God's love for her, and heaven will tell me the rest. But in the miracle, I see the promise (not just a statement):

2 Peter 3:8-9 (NKJV) ⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

John Didn't Recognize

Just a note, notice John didn't know who these saints were, so that means they are not the church because John knew who the church is, he pastored them. So he doesn't recognize them, these saints who were martyred, which gives more evidence that the Church is raptured before the Tribulation.

(Revelation 7:15 NKJV) "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

(Revelation 7:16 NKJV) "They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;

This what they Will Suffer / Hunger – Thirst - Heat

Verse 16 are the things they will suffer in the Tribulation period. For any person that says they will wait until the Tribulation period to get saved I say if you can't stand for Him know, how are you going to be able to stand for Him in all these happens of the Tribulation, and then be martyred to boot.

Millennial Temple

This refers to the Millennial Temple because we see that in heaven there is neither night nor temple (Rev 21:25; 22:5).

Revelation 21:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).

Revelation 22:5 (NKJV) ⁵ There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

(Revelation 7:17 NKJV) "for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Nail scarred hands, so to be able to wipe our tears.

Good Shepherd

He is the Great Shepherd, and I am reminded of Psalm 23 when I read this passage:

Psalm 23 (NKJV) A Psalm of David. ¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. ³ He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

All His Rules – This What He wants to Take Away

Many people say I don't want to come to Jesus, all His rules, all the things that He wants to take away from me. Do you know what He wants to take away from you, your tears, the dryness and the void, that is what He wants to take away. I can tell you the only thing Jesus has ever taken away from me, I can look back and say thank you for taking it – those things had hurt me so much, and were robbing me.

Starts – Ends with 144K

Can I point something out, we will see through the study of this book that God will start with 144,000 and he will end with 144,000. Not 143,999, He will not lose a one; same to, with us. Some just call chapter 7 a filler, a little more commentary of what is happening on earth and heaven, but to me the chapter is purposefully written to show the faithful of God's promises. Just as He will be faith to Israel, so too will He be faithful to those of us that call Him Father:

(John 1:12 NKJV) But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

John 10:27–30 (NKJV)²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one."

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need