

Revelation 7 – 28 March 2019

Purging of the Purchased Possession:

Parenthesis: Providing for the Precious Ones

Introduction – ***PRAY NOW***

Chap 6-19 is the Tribulation, what is it's purpose?

Wake up a nation – Israel

Shake up the heathen

Make up the kingdom – purging the land

But **FIRST** He must – **Take up** His bride

God is redeeming the earth to gain us!

Matt 13:44 – We are the hid treasure in the field

Boaz redeemed all that was his kinsmens' to receive Ruth.

Chapter 6 ended with a question (look at it)

Today, we'll see God's provision for 2 "precious" groups of people during the Tribulation.

Read Chapter 7 Vs 1-3

1. Vs 1 – The Two Witnesses from Rev 13 hold back rain & this is how God accomplishes that.
2. Vs 1 – “4 corners of the earth”
 - a. Literally; the 4 angles of the earth – North, South, East & West.
 - b. This is just a figure of speech.
 - i. Example: “Marines are serving the flag at the 4 corners of the earth”
 - ii. Example: “Sunrise tomorrow at 6am”
 - iii. Example: “Hit the ground running”
 - c. When God speaks of creation, He’s specific
 - i. Isa 40:22 – speaks of the circle of the earth
 - ii. Job 26:7 – hangs the earth upon nothing.
3. Vs 2-3 – The seal of God
 - a. This isn’t a new concept to God
 1. Marked those to protect at Passover
 2. This was prototyped by God in Eze 9:4

- ii. Hebrew word for seal is *taw*, last letter of alphabet
- iii. The original Hebrew '*taw*' is a cross!
- b. Jesus in Olivet Discourse Matt 24:22,31 speaks of gathering & protecting 'God's elect'.
- c. The church should also be familiar with this sealing, b/c we're sealed.
 - i. Eph 1:13 – When we believed, we “were sealed with that Holy Spirit of Promise.”

Read Chapter 7 Vs 4

The 1st group of “precious” people God provides for is 144,000 of the Israeli nation.

1. This verse is not hard to understand.
2. Before 1900 or 1948 it took a lot more faith to accept.
3. OT declared Israel would return from Babylonian captivity – took faith to believe.

4. Rev 17-18 speaks of Babylon being a player in the last days – takes faith to believe.

Read Chapter 7 Vs 5-8

1. Just so we don't allegorize this, God lists them.
2. 144,000 = 1% of world Jewish population.
3. Explain that there are 13 tribes?
 - a. Natural sons are 12, include Joseph's two sons to make 13.
 - b. Land apportionment
 - i. Levites – no land
 - ii. The favored son (Joseph) – double portion
 1. Manasseh and Ephraim
 - c. Priest's garment
 - i. Levi & Joseph included not Joseph's sons.
 - d. This list of sealed Israelites
 - i. Joseph is listed twice (Joseph & Manasseh)
 - ii. No Dan
 1. 1st to go into idolatry

2. Only tribe to not bother trying to take the land that God gave them.

a. It was too little for them, they said in Joshua 19:47.

4. Different orders of the names

a. Birth order – Gen 29-30

b. Blessing of Jacob – Gen 49

c. Blessing of Moses – Deut 33

d. Sealing of the Israelites – Rev 7

e. Two more lists in one chapter in the future.

Do you know what they are? Eze 48

i. Land apportionment in the millennium

1. All 13 including Joseph's 2 sons & Levi land.

ii. Gates to the city

1. All 12 – Joseph as one & Levi

Application –

Restate - The 1st group of “precious” people God provides for is 144,000 of the Israeli nation.

1. Re-read Matt 13:44
 - a. What did man do when he found treasure?
 - b. Hid it again to protect it until the time.
 - i. This is seen here as sealing of the 144,000.
2. If God could give a verse of scripture to these 144,000, I think it would be James 5:7.
 - a. Notice the “precious” fruit of the earth!

Read Chapter 7 Vs 9-10

The 2nd group of “precious” people God provides for is the Tribulation Saints.

1. Notice that they’re arrayed in robes not raiment as mentioned in Rev 6:9-11.
2. What other event does this remind you of?
Palm Sunday!

Read Chapter 7 Vs 11-12

1. Riches is here substituted with Thanksgiving.
2. Two events
 - a. Rev 5 – Angels chorus about the scroll redeeming the people of the world.
 - b. Rev 7 – Angels chorus about Tribulation saint's redemption.
3. Two events applications
 - a. Rev 5 – We are God's riches. The church; the treasure in the field.
 - i. We say that God has riches for us in heaven, but we are God's riches!
 - b. Rev 7 – Thanksgiving; for God's grace even extended into the Tribulation!

Read Chapter 7 Vs 13

1. The question was designed to point out the important parts of the story, that John didn't know.
 - a. Who are they?
 - b. Where did they come from?

2. Church vs Trib Saints

- a. Notice that John recognized the church in Rev 5, but didn't know whom these were.
- b. Rev 20:4 – speaks of both groups

Read Chapter 7 Vs 14-15

1. The church is reigning with Christ.
2. These here are seen as serving Christ in his temple in heaven.

Read Chapter 7 Vs 16-17

1. Fountain
 - a. Jer 2:13 – Forsaken Me, the fountain of living water...
 - b. John 4:14 – a well of water springing up unto everlasting life.
 - c. God will give us *more* than we need.
2. These verses are another indication that the Trib is hard.

Restate – The 2nd group of “precious” people God provides for is the Tribulation Saints.

1. If God could give us a verse of scripture for these Trib saints, I think it would be Psm 116:15.
 - a. They are “precious” to Him.

Conclusion –

So today, we’ve seen God’s provision for 2 “precious” groups of people during the Tribulation.

1. The 144,000 sealed Israelites; provided with protection thru the Trib.
2. The Tribulation Saints; provided with assurance of their home in heaven that will satisfy every need.

Prep for next week: See if you can identify the 6 trumpets.