

THE BOOK OF REVELATION 38 Key

The Ministry of the 144,000

I. Overview

A. (Rev. 7:1-8 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.*

B. Revelation 7 is an informational chapter. It interrupts the story of what is happening on earth as the seals are being opened in heaven.

C. You see, God does not turn the world over to the devil and the antichrist during the Tribulation Period, but rather He is working out His master plan of redemption in the earth.

D. Just prior to the beginning of the Tribulation Period the church is raptured.

E. In His mercy, God ordains a powerful vehicle to replace the church...144,000 Jewish Evangelists.

F. They begin their ministry immediately after God delivers Israel from the Russian Invasion of Israel and pours out His Spirit on Israel.

1. (Ezek. 39 NKJV) ¹*"And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal; (Magog, Mechech, and Tubal were sons of Japheth from whom come the Scythians, Russians, Muscovites, Tibareni, Cappodocians, and other*

people who predominate in eastern Europe and northern Asia. Rosh refers to Russia. Gog is a title of the prince or ruler of Rosh or Russia. Meshech is the present day city of Moscow.) ²and I will turn you around and lead you on, bringing you up from the far north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel. ³Then I will knock the bow out of your left hand, and cause the arrows to fall out of your right hand. ⁴You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. ⁵You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken," says the Lord GOD. ⁶"And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I am the LORD. ⁷So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel. ⁸Surely it is coming, and it shall be done," says the Lord GOD. "This is the day of which I have spoken ⁹"Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and bucklers, the bows and arrows, the javelins and spears; and they will make fires with them for seven years. ¹⁰They will not take wood from the field nor cut down any from the forests, because they will make fires with the weapons; and they will plunder those who plundered them, and pillage those who pillaged them," says the Lord GOD. ¹¹"It will come to pass in that day that I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea; and it will obstruct travelers, because there they will bury Gog and all his multitude. Therefore they will call it the Valley of Hamon Gog. ¹²For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land. ¹³Indeed all the people of the land will be burying, and they will gain renown for it on the day that I am glorified," says the Lord GOD. ¹⁴"They will set apart men regularly employed, with the help of a search party, to pass through the land and bury those bodies remaining on the ground, in order to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they will make a search. ¹⁵The search party will pass through the land; and when anyone sees a man's bone, he shall set up a marker by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon Gog. ¹⁶The name of the city will also be Hamonah. Thus they shall cleanse the land.'" ¹⁷"And as for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Speak to every sort of bird and to every beast of the field: "Assemble yourselves and come; Gather together from all sides to My sacrificial meal Which I am sacrificing for you, A great sacrificial meal on the mountains of Israel, That you may eat flesh and drink blood. ¹⁸You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, Drink the

blood of the princes of the earth, Of rams and lambs, Of goats and bulls, All of them fatlings of Bashan. ¹⁹You shall eat fat till you are full, And drink blood till you are drunk, At My sacrificial meal Which I am sacrificing for you. ²⁰You shall be filled at My table With horses and riders, With mighty men And with all the men of war," says the Lord GOD. ²¹"I will set My glory among the nations; all the nations shall see My judgment which I have executed, and My hand which I have laid on them. ²²So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day forward. ²³The Gentiles shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity; because they were unfaithful to Me, therefore I hid My face from them. I gave them into the hand of their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. ²⁴According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I have dealt with them, and hidden My face from them."

²⁵"Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name—²⁶after they have borne their shame, and all their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, when they dwelt safely in their own land and no one made them afraid. ²⁷When I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and I am hallowed in them in the sight of many nations, ²⁸then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer. ²⁹And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,' says the Lord GOD."

G. Immediately after Russia's defeat and the pouring out of God 's Spirit on Israel, the 144,000 will be converted and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

H. This seal provides them with Divine immunity, causing their ministry to be so effective that a Great Multitude of people from Israel as well as from every nation, tribe, people, and tongue will be converted to Jesus.

I. We know that these 144,000 are evangelists because they are called the servants of our God in (Rev. 7:3 NKJV) ³saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

J. One serves God by carrying out a Divine assignment.

K. The assignment that they are to carry out is the preaching of the Gospel.

L. You see, the Gospel is to be preached until the end...right up until the Second coming of Christ.

1. (Matt. 24:14 NKJV) ¹⁴ *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

2. (Acts 2:20, 21 NKJV) ²⁰ *The sun shall be turned into darkness, And The moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.* ²¹ *And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'*

3. Whoever calls upon the Name of the Lord right up until the great and awesome day of the Lord shall be saved.

4. So, the 144,000 are obligated along with every other believer to share the Gospel during the Tribulation Period.

5. It is obvious that a great multitude of people are saved during the Tribulation Period. (Rev. 7:9, 10 NKJV) 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!"*

6. How can they be saved unless Gospel preachers are sent to preach to them? (Rom. 10:13-15 NKJV) ¹³ *For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."* ¹⁴ *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?* ¹⁵ *And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"*

7. In Daniel's 70th Week or the Tribulation Period, God is focusing on Israel. Many Israelites will be saved along with a Great Multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and tongue.

M. (Rev. 14:1-5 NKJV) ¹ *Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.* ² *And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.* ³ *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.* ⁴ *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. ⁵And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

1. The 144,000 are the first fruits to God, that is they are the first to be saved from Israel as well as the first to be saved during the Tribulation Period.

2. They are male virgins who remain unmarried because they have a huge task to accomplish in a short space of time. Family responsibility would hinder them from being totally given to their assignment.

II. Internal proof of the Pre Tribulation Rapture of the Church.

A. As soon as God destroys Russia and her allies at the very beginning of the Tribulation Period, He will pour out His Spirit on Israel, and the 144,000 will be the first to be converted.

B. If Gog's destruction happened before the rapture, then the 144,000 would be converted and begin to operate before the rapture of the church.

C. But when the 144,000 are sealed, they are the only servants of God on the earth who are sealed; proving that the church has already been raptured.