

Salvation in the Tribulation Revelation 7:1-17 (Part 15)

Questions: 1. Will people get saved in the tribulation? Yes
2. Will the Holy Spirit be active during the tribulation? Yes

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8

3. Is God finished with Israel? No

Romans 11:25-29

Revelation 7:1 *After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree.*

Four Angels: John sees 4 angels holding back the wind on the earth.

- Four corners of the earth. Every direction N, S, E, and W. The entire earth.
- The angels are holding back judgment.

Revelation 7:2-3 *Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."*

Angel with the seal of God: John sees an angel coming from the east to seal servants on their foreheads.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

Deuteronomy 11:18 *"You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.*

Bind them as a sign on your hand: What our hands do shall be guided by god's Word. On right hand, power and strength. Our power and strength guided by the Word of God.

They shall be as frontlets between your eyes: What we see, think and decide shall be guided and governed by the Word of God.

Exodus 13:11-16 *"When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, 12 you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord's. 13 Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. 14 And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. 15 For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.' 16 It shall be as a mark on your hand or frontlets between your eyes, for by a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt."*

Revelation 7:2-3 *Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."*

Revelation 7:4-8 *And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: 5 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad, 6 12,000 from the tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh, 7 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar, 8 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.*

Genesis 49:17 *Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that his rider falls backward.*

- Ephraim took the lead in the rebellion when Israel split in two: Northern part (Israel or Ephraim) and the Southern part (Judah).

- Ezekiel 48 lists the 12 tribes that had land allotted to them in the conquest of Canaan and lists their land allotment in the 1,000 year reign. Joseph and Levi are omitted. Joseph has a double portion through his 2 sons and Levi is given a special portion for the priestly family.

Revelation 7:9-10 *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

A great multitude that no one could number: John sees millions of people who have been saved during the tribulation and died by martyrdom or as a result of the tribulation impact itself.

Matthew 24:14 *And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

Standing before the throne: Their location is standing before the throne of God praising Him. They are redeemed.

Palm branches in their hands: This reminds us of Jesus' triumphal entry, known as Palm Sunday in Christian Churches where Jesus came into Jerusalem on a donkey and the Jews were saying "Hosanna" meaning "Save Now".

Crying out with a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Revelation 7:11-12 *And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."*

- Standing with the Redeemed believers were: angels, elders (representing the Church), and the 4 living creatures.
- They worship God using seven words of adoration and praise.
 - 1) Blessing (eulogia) – a good word, a praise.
 - 2) Glory (doxa) – honor derived from a good reputation; it is the radiance or outshining of the divine person.
 - 3) Wisdom (sophia) – divine knowledge and perspective on all things, especially in the outworking of His plan of salvation.
 - 4) Thanksgiving (eucharistia) – we get our word "Eucharist" from it.
 - 5) Honor (time: tee-may) – esteem, public recognition.
 - 6) Power (dunamis) – God's omnipotence, his ability to act as He wills.
 - 7) Might (ischus) – strength as a quality one has. Often related to God's mighty acts in salvation history.

Revelation 7:13-14 *Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."*

- One of the elders asks John if he knows who these are in white robes. He does so to see if he knows. Like we do to a child, "What color is your shirt?" We know, but we are seeing if the child knows.

Revelation 7:15-17 *"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 shelter them with his presence. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. 17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."*

Before the throne of God: They will be in a place of comfort and security... before the throne of God.

1. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 *And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, 22 and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.*

Ephesians 1:13 *In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.*

Ephesians 4:30 *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

2. Our worship is about God not us.

3. The world is broken by sin, but heaven is not.