



**Relative Quiet, 144,000 Evangelists, and Global Revival
The Lamb's Promises to Tribulation Saints
Revelation 7:1-17**

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Six seals have been opened. Man has demonstrated that his appetite for death and destruction has not gone away. Now, with the church gone, and with the church, the restrainer; Satan can convince those in power to use the WMDs they have accumulated and as a result, the war and resulting outcome of it in the 2nd through 4th seals, has resulted in over 1.4 billion dead globally.

After the church left, those who were left behind, began to look for the whys of what had just happened.



As the truth dawned on them, many were saved, but a false religious system arose in the gap left by the church's departure, and this false religious system persecuted and systematically slaughtered those who were coming to Christ post rapture. The 144,000 evangelists may have also had a part in these salvations.

In the 5th seal we heard from those who had been martyred and a warning was issued to those who were responsible.

With the 6th seal, God began His direct intervention into the affairs of man. We covered that last time.

Now, with the 6th seal opened, and those events coming to completion, there is an apparent interlude, or simply a quiet time, as part of the 6th seal, before Jesus opens the 7th seal.

At this point in the Tribulation, there is an important action that must take place and to make sure it does, everything pauses for a moment.

Or is this just a continuation of the 6th seal? The text never uses the word...pause. It appears this is a continuation of the 6th seal and is also a continuation in response to what the post rapture saints asked with the 5th seal.

We are about to be introduced to the 144,000 Jewish evangelists that the Lord is preparing to send out to the planet. I really do not want to go into all the various ideas that are out there as to who these 144,000 are and what is going on. Most of them come from approaching the text as allegory and from reading into the text. We understand that John is an eyewitness to what he sees and is reporting to us exactly that.

We continue to take the text as is.

In the midst of judgment, and horrific as that is based on what we saw last time, what we see here is God showing mercy.

We are going to learn that He will deliver two groups through the first half of the Tribulation. One group, 144,000 Jewish evangelists, He intends to supernaturally protect and bring them through the Tribulation.

The other group, gentiles from all over the planet, are all of those who will die in faith during the same time.

John will see both groups here in Revelation 7.

We know a storm is coming though and we have already seen a sample of the judgement which is about to be poured onto the earth dwellers here on the planet.

Having been in more than a few storms, there always seems to be that period of calm before the winds pick up, or the hail begins to fall, or the tornado touches down.

Living in West Texas, we usually had prior warning that conditions were favorable for storms to form during the day. I was always surprised about how calm it was. Many times, even the birds were not singing as well. Just totally still.

I was not totally used to it all yet and went out running even though you could see the storm approaching. It was so calm.



But I noticed the sky in front of the dark clouds off in the distance begin to turn green. That means something is being thrown in front of the storm, usually hail. So, I ran back to the house and got back inside just before baseball size hailstones began falling.

The storm did an aggregate amount of damage from the hail only of more than \$100 million. But before it hit, it was so calm.

This is the same picture we see here, the calm before the storm, literally.

Revelation 7:1–3

“After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth so that no wind would blow on the earth, or on the sea, or on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, holding the seal of the living God; and he called out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, “Do not harm the earth, or the sea, or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.”” (NASB 2020)

John tells us that after he witnessed those events take place with the 6th seal, he has a new view. Global. We learn this from his phrase, “after this” or meta tauta in the Greek.

For the immediate moment, John sees four angels at the four major compass points of the earth holding back the wind. It is incredibly calm now after all the action from the 6th seal.

The meaning of this verse, however, is undoubtedly that the angels located in four different key positions on the earth, perhaps one at each pole and two at opposite ends of a strategic equatorial diameter, are able to control the great atmospheric circulation which governs the winds of the earth. (Morris 1983, 126)

The air is always in circulation here on earth. It is driven by the cooling of night and the heat of the sun during the day, as well as the rotation of the planet. If you haven't noticed, there is a global balance that is maintained by the Lord using this massive engine of His creation to keep the earth from overheating or over cooling.

Hurricanes take energy out of the oceans, for example, but they also transport the moisture onto land that needs it. In other words, the winds here on earth supports life as we know it. John has just told us, he sees four angels, preventing the wind from blowing anywhere on the planet.

Without the wind, there would be no rain. Water in the oceans would continue to evaporate and would spread out into a vapor canopy over the planet. Remember, God is in the process of terraforming the planet back to the conditions of Eden.

Genesis 2:6

“Rather, a mist went up from the earth which watered the entire surface of the ground.” (CJB)

How long had the winds been held back? We are not told. Without the wind, atmospheric debris and dust would come back to the surface quickly.

For those who are on the planet, it would be strange. No breeze, no wind anywhere. No waves on the ocean, no rain either. Just calm everywhere.

Judgment has begun, but now, for a short time, calm. There are still the trumpet and bowl judgments yet to come.



John continues to write down what he sees and now he sees another angel ascending from the east as the sun rises and this one has a specific job to do. We also find out that there are other job assignments that were made to the four angels holding back the wind as well.

As this one angel comes from the east, John hears aspects of those future assignments as the angel commands the four angels, to wait until the bondservants of the Lord had been sealed or marked first. Have they already been involved in ministry? We are not told, but now we are told they will be marked.

Those four angels also have been tasked to harm the sea, the earth and the trees. In the Greek, something is going on with the three words. Normally all three nouns would be in the same case, earth and sea are in the genitive case but trees are in the accusative.

The change of case (γῆς ... θαλάσσης ... δένδρον) answers to a subtle difference in the force of ἐπί; the winds blow on land and sea, but the trees are singled out for a direct attack. (Swete 1906, 94)

So one of two potential possibilities; the angels are holding back judgement from God on limited aspects of the earth, reflecting that the initial judgement coming is still limited which is a reflection of the grace of God and His desire to see all be saved; or it is a picture of judgement being withheld on the nations of the world, both those who still are organized as well as those who have fallen into chaos, see previous seals as well as a selecting out for judgement of those who are rulers, rich, movers and shakers. This also reflects the grace of God.

The reason for the apparent pause though is given. What we see John relate here is similar to what Ezekiel heard and saw as well.

Ezekiel was taken to Jerusalem to witness the withdrawal of the glory of God from the Temple prior to the final invasion and the ensuing destruction of the Temple by Babylon.

Ezekiel was taken by the Lord to Jerusalem, and he witnessed a group of executioners, prepared to exact the judgment of God on the city, but heard this as they too were asked to wait.

Ezekiel 9:3–4

“Then the glory of the God of Israel rose from above the cherub where it had been, to the threshold of the temple. He called to the man clothed in linen and carrying writing equipment. “Pass throughout the city of Jerusalem,” the LORD said to him, “and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the detestable practices committed in it.”” (CSB)

Before final judgment in Jerusalem began, God marked or removed those who belonged to Him. They were protected. But no one else was.

This is a type of what we are seeing here. Judgment is about to begin in earnest, and this angel from the east has a seal to identify those who will be protected through the Tribulation. They are identified as “the bondservants of our God” and they will be marked on their foreheads.

Who are these bondservants? Good question, John continues to tell us.

Revelation 7:4–8

“And I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, from the tribe of Zebulun



twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, and from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.” (NASB 2020)

Satan will indeed counterfeit this in Revelation 13 as he uses a mark for all those who follow the counterfeit trinity that is yet to arise here in the text.

Here, the mark is being given by God and the results will be supernatural protection of a group of men who will not only survive the entire Tribulation period, but we will later see them in Revelation 14 with the King at the Temple.

By the way, the 144,000 are not Jehovah’s Witnesses, nor is it symbolic of the church.

The Jehovah’s Witnesses teach that the 144,000 represents the total number of those who will reign with Christ. Since there is a much larger group—a “vast multitude ... which no one could number”—mentioned immediately afterward as taken from earth to heaven (v. 9), the JW view is discredited even in its closest context in Revelation. While many believe the 144,000 is symbolic for the church, the tribal names and numbers naturally refer to ethnic Israel. (Cabal, et al. 2007, 1897)

I believe exactly what the context of the text says. The 144,000 are all Jewish men, 12,000 from each tribe with the exception of the tribes of Dan and of Ephraim.

Both of those tribes were leaders in idolatry. But Ephraim gets wrapped up into the tribe of Joseph as does Manasseh. Here the tribe of Joseph is referenced and so is Manasseh but not Ephraim, this I intentional. “The tribes of Manassa and Ephraim are mentioned as Manassa and Joseph, emphasizing the double portion of the inheritance that Jacob promised Joseph (Gen. 48:3–22).” (Custer 2004, 88-89)

There still is a tribe of Dan as we see a gate in the New Jerusalem named for the tribe. We are not told why Dan is left out. There are those who teach that the antichrist will come from Dan but that is nowhere in the text.

The 144,000 are sealed for protection as well as for service. This is done to fulfill what Jesus said.

Matthew 24:14

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole inhabited earth as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.” (NET 2nd ed.)

If the Gog Magog war of Ezekiel 38 takes place just before or after the rapture of the church, that has had a massive impact on the Jewish nation. They would realize just how God has indeed protected the nation in the face of certain destruction. It would drive a search of the scriptures and repentance by many.

“The remarkable deliverance from Gog (Russia) will have had a traumatic effect on the whole nation even before the period of judgment begins. Many such believing Israelites will go further, believing in Christ as their Messiah and Savior. They will soon begin a forthright witness for Him, seeking to lead their countrymen, and indeed the world, to accept Him before it is too late, in the manner of Psalm 2:10–12 and Romans 1:16.” (Morris 1983, 129)

Let me reiterate, the 144,000 are all Jews. “Such careful delineation definitely indicates that these 144,000 are Jews and will be nothing else, in spite of much speculation to the contrary. The emphasis is on the Jewishness of the 144,000.” (Fruchtenbaum 2003, 220)

The scriptures clearly teach that there will be a waiting remnant of Israel when Jesus returns a second time. We are now seeing the beginnings of that. Why is this here in Revelation? Dr. Pentecost explains.



“In order for the Lord to fulfill the promises made in the Abrahamic, Davidic, Palestinian, and new covenants at His second advent, it is necessary that there be a believing remnant over whom He can reign and to whom the covenants can be fulfilled. There must also be a group of believing Gentiles who can receive, through faith, the benefits of the covenants in His reign. These groups go into the millennium in their natural bodies, saved, but not having experienced death and resurrection. If the church were on earth until the time of the second advent, these saved individuals would have been saved to a position in the church, would have been raptured at that time, and consequently there would not be one saved person left on the earth. Who then would be waiting to meet Christ at His return? With whom could Christ literally fulfill the covenants made with Israel? These considerations make necessary the pretribulation rapture of the church, so that God may call out and preserve a remnant during the tribulation in and through whom the promises may be fulfilled.” (Pentecost 1958, 214)

This points us again to the realization that once the church is gone in the pre-tribulation rapture, is it God once again dealing with His people Israel. The Tribulation is primarily Jewish.

John has seen this event take place and then he gives us the same “high” sign that his view has changed again.

He shifts from looking down at the planet and witnessing the sealing taking place to having his view now be redirected back to the throne room. He may have also traveled through time to witness the vast number of those saved throughout the Tribulation and who paid for it with their life.

Revelation 7:9–10

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all the tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”” (NASB 2020)

John has seen the beginning of what is most likely the largest evangelistic movement to take place on the planet. One which begins shortly after the rapture of the church. He sees the evangelists being set aside and given protection.

And now he is an eyewitness of what the overall impact of this outreach effort has produced in terms of fruit. Millions of souls coming to Christ.

This is not the church. The church is already in heaven in glorified bodies. These are those who have come to Jesus after the church was removed.

This large number before the throne shows us how effective the preaching of the evangelists has been.

These evangelists will do in seven years or so, that which the church has been unable to do in 2,000 years. We are dangerously close to having His word to the entire planet, the use of computers, radio and podcasting does indeed get us close, but there are gaps that exist. They will be filled in by these 144,000 evangelists and they will do this in around 7 years.

Millions are indeed being reached, right now and there is indeed an impact globally taking place. But look at what John is saying here.

We see a large group, millions, all standing before the throne, all in white robes and all with palm branches. They are all victorious and have remained faithful to the Lord. And they are worshipping.



John sees them beyond the Tribulation, in the Millennial Kingdom, standing before Christ's Millennial throne in Jerusalem. (Gingrich 2001, 47)

Most perished at the hands of the enemy during the Tribulation, but not all. Some passed through the Tribulation and are now residents of the King and His reign.

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, saying, “Amen, blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen.”” (NASB 2020)

John gives us more detail about the worship taking place before the throne and we see all the angels are there, the four seraphim are there, as well as the church, represented by the elders and all of us, are worshipping the Lord.

Those who had been martyred are no longer below the altar either. That is why I believe that John was transported, as part of his witness, to the future to see the outcome of the ministry of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists.

The view is similar to the one earlier in Revelation, but now could be the Millennial Temple there in Jerusalem.

John was obviously curious and one of the elders gave him insight as to what is going on. The elder asks the question that John obviously would like to ask.

Revelation 7:13–17

“Then one of the elders responded, saying to me, “These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?” I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “**These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.** For this reason they are before the throne of God, and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. They will no longer hunger nor thirst, nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”” (NASB 2020)

The answer identifies for us who all of these are. These are saved gentiles from all over the planet. They are those who believed in Christ as a direct result of the ministry of these Jewish evangelists.

Included are those 5th seal saints we saw earlier. The number has been completed, they have been resurrected and now they are with the Lord together with those who survived the Tribulation.

Earlier we talked about the restrainer being removed. That would be the Holy Spirit. When the church was raptured, the Holy Spirit, dwelling in the church was indeed taken and the restraint that had been on evil was removed.

But with salvations taking place, we see that the Holy Spirit is still busy doing His thing.

From this chapter it should be evident that the Holy Spirit will be still at work in the Tribulation, for the work of regeneration is His particular ministry. While the work of restraining evil is removed, allowing the Antichrist to begin his evil rise to power, the Holy Spirit Himself will still be in the world and will have an active ministry. While He will no longer be baptizing (for that is a special ministry for the Church only), He



will be performing some of His other ministries, such as regeneration, filling, sealing, etc. (Fruchtenbaum 2003, 222)

All of this is being shown to John as it is evidence of the accomplishment of one of the goals of the Tribulation, the taking out of a remnant of His own people, and those gentiles who would follow the Lamb and help to repopulate the planet during the Millennial rule of Jesus Christ.

Three visions are embraced in the results of the breaking of the sixth seal: first, the prodigious commotions which fill the world with consternation; second, the sealing of the 144,000; and here, the multitude of palm-bearers before the throne. (Seiss 1901, 430)

Those John sees are those who were left behind but came to faith in Christ after the rapture. They are not the church. There is no crown or throne or reward for this group as there was for the church. The church is promised to have the Holy Spirit in us from the point of salvation and forever.

But salvation is still possible and those who are saved have a very distinct future per what we learn here. They have come through the Great Tribulation, and now, stand before the throne in white, victorious.

Revelation 7:15–17

“For this reason they are before the throne of God, and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. They will no longer hunger nor thirst, nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.” (NASB 2020)

They had trouble on the earth during the great tribulation. In the ancient Greek grammar of this passage, “the” is emphatic. This was a time of great tribulation for this multitude. This leads many to believe that most, if not all, of these are martyrs from the great tribulation. (Guzik 2013, Re 7:13-14)

Many would have, because of exclusion from the beast’s economic system, suffered from starvation as well as thirst. They were not allowed any sanctuary, home or covering either. Faith in Christ will become very costly.

All that would be reverse if they would simply take the mark of the beast. But that would mean rejecting Christ and salvation.

They are familiar with affliction and prevailed through Christ.

They will be involved in priestly service, serving Him before His throne 24/7. The location of that service is the Temple, the same one that God Himself will enter as we see in Ezekiel 43.

Ezekiel 43:1–5

“Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing east. And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory. And the vision I saw was just like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and just like the vision that I had seen by the Chebar canal. And I fell on my face. As the glory of the LORD entered the temple by the gate facing east, the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple.” (ESV)

This is where they will serve.



As they serve, they are promised to not only be with Him, but to be continuously protected unlike what their experience was during the Great Tribulation. “Once they are before the throne, they will be under God’s tabernacle and in His presence, and so also delivered from everything evil or harmful that men are subjected to on earth, such as hunger, thirst, heat and even sorrow. These believers will know God’s personal and direct comfort, indeed, the personal comfort of the Great Shepherd Himself.” (Keathley III 2002, Re 7:15)

The fact that they will no longer suffer ever again, and have all they will ever need, is because the Lamb is their Shepherd. They will be fully occupied with service to Him.

We are talking about a group of future believers who were left behind when Jesus came for His church. They had other things at the time that attracted their attention, and placing their trust in Christ for their eternity was simply not that important, until it was. The rapture will indeed wake up many.

Right now, is your opportunity if you do not know Jesus. Don’t get left behind.

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

ABC’s of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.



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