

CHAPTER SEVEN

ISRAEL'S REMNANT SEALED

Revelation 7: 1-8

The seventh seal is discussed in **Chapter 8**. However, before we get there, God has a parenthesis for us in this chapter. **Chapter 7** may be divided into two portions dealing with two groups—the 144,000 Israelites, and verses **9** through **17**—the multitudinous Gentiles. This chapter also portrays God as compassionate, merciful, and loving. This is right, for *God is love (1 John 4:8)*. In fact, *God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved (John 3:16-17)*.

It's mankind's wickedness, rebellion, and sin that produce judgment: *For the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)*, and *they plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same (Job 4:8)*. The judgments already described were unleashed because of the hardness of men's hearts. They rebelled—and continue to rebel—for thousands of years. God, however, is so great that, at this point, He declares a “time out.(grace abounds)” He still loves the human race and longs to save mankind. He desires for men everywhere to open their minds and hearts and come unto Him. The result is this chapter, which deals with the mercy of God in the midst of Tribulation. God, in love, creates a lull before the storm in order to call men to salvation and revival.

I. God Called and Commissioned a Group of Believers to Go into Jerusalem and Tarry until the Day of Pentecost, and They Obeyed.

- A. They went into an upper room and with one accord waited until the day had fully come.
- B. The disciples preached with great power. Out of a five minute sermon 3, 000 were saved.
- C. They preached during the transition period between the age of the law and grace.
- D. Then one day young Saul of Tarsus came along and Christ dealt with him and the message was carried to the Gentiles. He preached, “*By grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.*”
- E. This is the age of preaching on the grace of God.
 - 1. It is the Age of Grace.
 - 2. The Holy Spirit is calling out a people for His name—a people from all nationalities and all classes.

II. There Are Four Forms of the Gospel Mentioned in the New Testament.

The word “**Gospel**” means “**good news.**” If we are to rightly divide the word of truth then we must understand and distinguish between the four forms of Gospel.

A. The Gospel of the Grace of God

- 1. The message we preach today is the message of Grace—unmerited favor—salvation through faith in the finished work of Jesus.

2. The Gospel of Grace is the good news that Jesus died, was buried, rose again and conquered:
3. The world, the flesh, death, hell and the grave.
4. The message we preach today is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus “according to the Scriptures.”
5. Grace will be preached until the Rapture. Then the Church will go out to be with Jesus.

B. The Everlasting Gospel

1. The “Everlasting Gospel” is mentioned in **Revelation 14:6**.
2. It will be preached at the very close of the Great Tribulation Period... the closing days of the reign of the Antichrist.
3. The message of the “Everlasting Gospel” is judgment; but even the message of judgment will be good news to earth’s dwellers at that time.
 - a. They will have gone through almost seven years of hell here on earth—especially the last 3½ years of the reign of Antichrist.
 - b. Good news to the people who have rejected Antichrist and refused to receive his word, and the people of Israel (those who have not been butchered).
 - c. The message of swift judgment and holy fury against the Antichrist and his armies will be good news indeed.
4. The announcement of the everlasting Gospel will be to those who have been saved during the Tribulation Period (**Revelation 7: 9-17; Luke 21: 28; Psalm 96:11-13; Isaiah 35: 4-10**).
 - a. **Revelation 7:9-17** ⁹After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; ¹⁰And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. ¹¹And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, ¹²Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. ¹³And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? ¹⁴And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.
 - b. **Luke 21:28** ²⁸And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

- c. **Psalm 96:11-13:** ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. ¹² Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice ¹³ Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.
 - d. **Isaiah 35:4-10:** ⁴ Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you. ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. ⁶ Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. ⁷ And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. ⁸ And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
- C. **Paul Refers to “My Gospel”**
- 1. Paul preached salvation by grace.
 - 2. Paul preached rewards according to faithful stewardship on the part of the believer.
 - 3. We will be judged according to our faithful stewardship.
- D. **The Gospel of the Kingdom**
- 1. The Gospel of the Kingdom is the good news that a kingdom of righteousness will be set up right here on this earth.
 - 2. After the Rapture of the Church, after the Holy Spirit is taken back to Heaven with the Christian, the announcement of the Kingdom on earth will be resumed.
 - 3. Here in **Revelation 7**, 144, 000 missionaries out of Israel— 12, 000 from each tribe—are sealed, commissioned, and ordained to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom.

III. Preaching of the Gospel

- A. In **Matthew 24:14** we read: “*And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come.*”

Many have used this verse to suggest that Jesus cannot come until the Gospel has been preached to every nation. This is not the interpretation for we are not preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, we are preaching the Gospel of grace. This is the Age of Grace, not the age of the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom. This is not the day of the King. This is the day of the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

IV. The Gift of Pentecost to the Missionaries of Israel

There is no doubt in my mind that the 144,000 will have the same gifts received by the 120 on the day of Pentecost. I believe the 144,000 missionaries out of Israel will have the abilities to speak to people in their language as did the 120. Those who hear the message and receive it will make up the number in **Revelation 7:9** and following. Those who refuse to believe the message of the missionaries and who follow the Antichrist instead, will receive the mark of the Beast and will be damned (**2 Thessalonians 2:1-2**). ¹*Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,* ²*That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*

The unpardonable sin after the Rapture will be the mark of the Beast. (Today the unpardonable sin is blasphemy against the Holy Ghost), The preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom will continue throughout the seven-year period... the reign of the Anti-Christ. At the close of the Tribulation, the battle of Armageddon will be fought. After the battle of Armageddon the glorious Kingdom will be ushered in, Jesus will sit on the throne in Jerusalem in the temple, and will reign for 1,000 years. We, the born again, will reign with Him (**Revelation 20:1-6**).

V. Those Who Preach the Gospel

Here in "*Chapter Seven*" We Look Away from the "Breaking of the Seven Seals," in Order That the Spirit Might Enlighten Us Concerning These Who Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom Who Never Heard the Gospel of the Grace of God.

- A. After the Rapture, these 144,000 will inherit the work (work that should have been done by the "Bride of Christ" while she was here, blessed of God working under the powerful dispensation of Grace!) This inheritance is symbolically similar to the passing of the mantle so the race can continue. God has never been without a witness on the earth, and He never will be.
- B. The 144,000 will come forth out of the tribes of the Children of Israel. There **will not be one Gentile** in the group—not one!

Alas, ignorance abounds: [There exists religious cults, such as the Jehovah's Witnesses. "We've come to know that we who work the work, complete our mission assignments, we who performed best during our mission as His "witness" will be considered for a position in the great 12 X 12 THOUSAND Club—quite literally we are not to fret, Jehovah's decision is what's best for us!" "We have been asked whether or not we will be disappointed if we are not part of the 144,000?" the answer is no! 'Well we understand that our reward will be here on the earth. Jehovah has promised us that the meek (and we are the meek) will inherit the Earth."

In long debated discussions that I've had with Jehovah's Witnesses they seem to appear neutral about this discussion and then they start up with another chain of thought, (it seems at times that they have memorized it)

"I'm going to have one of those great big mansions that these fools are building here and now. They don't even realize it but that home won't be occupied by the builder for long, It will be mine... and on and on they go!

I really think that many of these poor people who do not know Christ as their Saviour are trying to convince themselves of the great lie that has been fabricated. How pitiful, pray for them! Jesus said, ^{19}*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ^{20}But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ^{21}For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*” **Matthew 6:19-21 (KJV)** I can’t even begin to tell you that most of the homes built today, regardless of the money spent on them, will not last when the termites have had their fill. And what about the wholesale destruction throughout the tribulation!]

- C. Mankind’s theology is and always has been flawed . By God’s strict definition, there can be but one and she is not a Gentile. God’s Holy Word established the covenant, it defined Israel as a people, unlike any other— They are God’s children, God’s chosen—Holy selectiveness which excludes all of God’s creation except for this small remnant known as the Wife of Jehovah. These, who are none other than the physical decedents of Abraham are to be known as His wife, yes wife. Those today who claim that out of their religion, even though they be gentiles, there will enter into heaven a selected group known as the 144,000. The Bible is clear on the subject, there will be no gentile in that number.
- D. Where the lost ten tribes are I do not know—nor does any other man. Their identity is lost. God knows where they are. When He is ready for them, He can find them. We need not worry about the ten lost tribes. We need to be concerned about lost people today.

THE 144,000 ISRAELITES

- I. **Verse 1:** *And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.*
 - A. The fact that the angels are standing on the four corners of the earth does not signify that the earth is square. God knows the world He made it round: *He...sitteth upon the circle of the earth (Isaiah 40:22)*. This statement was in the Bible when Christopher Columbus allegedly was making a fool of himself by claiming, contrary to public opinion, that the world was round. The God who made it and sits upon the circle of it knows it is not square. Therefore, the term “the four corners of the earth” IS BUT A Bible expression depicting north, south, east, and west—the four points of the compass. The four angels, standing at these four positions administering judgment, are commanded to relent so there might be a time of great revival as the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.
 1. So clearly we have Four angels standing on the four geographical corners of the earth. North, South, East, West
 2. The angels were holding the four winds, that they should not blow.
- II. **Verse 2:** *And 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 given to hurt the earth and the sea.*

- A. John sees another angel ascend from the east.
- B. This angel has the seal of God.
 - 1. The angel cried with a loud voice to the four angels,
 - 2. To these two angels it was given to hurt the earth and the sea.

III. Verse 3: *Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.*

A. The genuine believers receive their seal from the angel of God at this point in time.

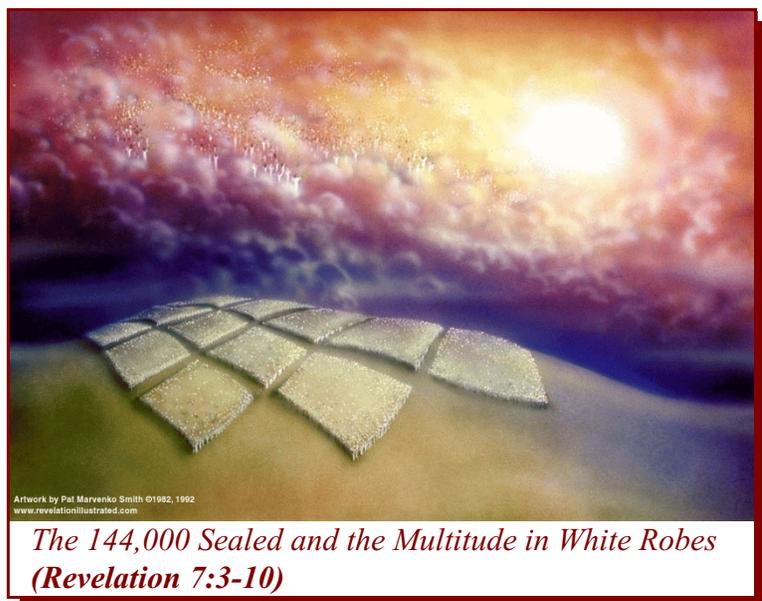
- 1. The angel said to the four winds—*“Hurt not, the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”*
- 2. It seems that some power, or force, of the enemy tries to hinder the sealing of these servants. But judgment is stayed until they are sealed.



B. The wicked get their seal—666—under the super-deceiver, the great imitator, the Antichrist (**Revelation 13:17-18**)

IV. Verse 4: *And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.*

- 1. The sealing begins.
- 2. God seals His witnesses **12,000** out of each of the 12 tribes, **144,000** in all. Can you imagine 144,000 Spirit Filled Evangelist witnessing to this the throngs of Antichrist followers!



- V. **Verse 4:** *And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.*
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- VI. **Verses 5-8:** ^{5}*Of the tribe of **Juda** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Reuben** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Gad** were sealed twelve thousand. ^{6}Of the tribe of **Aser** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Nephtalim** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Manasses** were sealed twelve thousand. ^{7}Of the tribe of **Simeon** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Levi** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Issachar** were sealed twelve thousand. ^{8}Of the tribe of **Zabulon** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Joseph** were sealed twelve thousand.*
- A. This group cannot be the Church, for the Church is already in heaven (**Revelation 4:1**) Also, the Church is not Jewish, but is composed of all races, people, and tongues. Again, this group does not picture the Seventh Day Adventists or the Jehovah's Witnesses. Both have claimed this in their theological writings. The Seventh Day Adventists say that the 144,000 are not Englishmen or Americans either, as the advocates of British Israelism teach. They make the Israelites forerunners of the Anglo-Saxons. Come on now, Armstrongites and Garner Ted. Surely you cannot be that foolish! These are Jewish tribes with Jewish names. Do the names **Juda, Reuben, Gad, Aser, Nephtalim, Manasses, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zabulon, Joseph** and **Benjamin** sound British? Had they been named Heathcliff, Sir Winston, or Sherlock Holmes you might have had reason to propose such nonsense. Under the circumstances, however, you had better allow Jews with Jewish names to head up Jewish tribes in a Jewish nation—Israel.
- B. Presently the Jews are not certain of their tribal heritage. However, the omniscient, all-knowing God will untangle this condition at the appointed time. Actually, no one today really knows what his stock or lineage is. As a result of migrations, most people are a hodgepodge of differing nationalities. Perhaps it is best not to know or trace one's ancestry. We might be embarrassed to discover our roots! One might learn that he is a descendant of Attila the Hun! Persons planning to study their family tree should beware. They might find some of their relatives hanging by the neck, while the evolutionists find theirs hanging by the tail!
1. The 144,000 Jewish evangelists are anointed by the Spirit. **Joel 2:28-29** describes the situation as these Spirit-filled preachers proclaim the gospel of the kingdom. *And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.*

We need to pause here briefly because there is a great deal of confusion concerning the presence of the Holy Spirit during the Tribulation hour.

This has resulted from a faulty understanding and interpretation of **2 Thessalonians 2:7**: *For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.* The term *letteth* is the Old English word for *hinders*. The picture being painted here is the rise of the Antichrist. **Second Thessalonians 2:6** states *Ye know what withholdeth that [the Antichrist] might be revealed in his time.* Then verse seven makes it clear that the Hinderer—the Holy Spirit—continues to hinder the Antichrist’s rise until He—the Holy Spirit—is taken out of the way.

Here is another reason millions believe in the pre-Tribulation Rapture. Why? The Hinderer lives in the hearts of His people: *If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his (Romans 8:9).* Also, **1 Corinthians 3:16**: *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?* Because of this truth, God’s Spirit cannot be taken unless those in whom He lives are taken. Hallelujah! One should note, however, that the Spirit’s removal only speaks of His restraining power.

Let me prove this assertion: The Holy Spirit is God, the third member of the Trinity. As God, He is omniscient (all knowing), omnipotent (all powerful), and omnipresent (everywhere at all times). Therefore, the Holy Spirit cannot be removed from the earth because He, as God, is in all places constantly. David states in **Psalms 139:7-10**: *Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: If I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even thee shall thy hand hold me.* Since the Holy Spirit is everywhere at all times, only His restraining influence over sin is removed during the Tribulation. I trust that I haven’t confused anyone by stating the fact that when the Church goes forth to be with the Lord that the Holy Spirit would be with them. When the church leaves this earth, it is the restraining power and influence over sin that will be gone.

Presently Christians are *the salt of the earth and the light of the world* (see **Matthew 5:13-16**). The evacuation of Christians, in whose hearts the Holy Spirit lives, is the way—the only way—His restraining influence on sin is removed, ridding the world of salt and light. Christians are God’s preservative forces, as well as the dispellers of darkness. Imagine what happens when the Spirit’s restraining influence (the Church) is removed via the Rapture. Quite literally, all hell will break loose upon earth. Still, even during this time, His continuing personal presence on earth produces one of the greatest revivals in the history of mankind.

The message of the 144,000 centers on the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. This was the emphasis of the Old Testament preachers: *To [Jesus] give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins (Acts 10:43).*

In addition to preaching the message of the shed blood of Jesus, the 144,000 proclaim the advent of the King: *And this gospel [or good news] of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come (Matthew 24:14).* This is not the message of His first coming—the Rapture (**Revelation 4:1**) but the Revelation or revealing of Christ as King (**Revelation 19:16**).

In order to get the picture of the complete message the kingdom messengers will proclaim, one must study the life of John the Baptist. John’s message was: (1) Repentance: He said, *Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (Matthew 3:2)*; (2) the blood: again, He saith, *behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:29).* This message of repentance and the blood was to prepare the hearts of the people for the third part of His message—the coming of the

King. Though Christ was rejected in the days of John the Baptist, He will be accepted when the 144,000 Jews preach the identical message.

At this time a worldwide revival ensues, for one of the elders asks, *What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came thy? And I said unto Him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:13-14).* Let's study this God-sent, Holy Spirit-empowered revival, step by step.

- C. Name each of the twelve tribes of Israel and declare that 12,000 will be sealed out of each tribe. There are those who shrug this whole thing off but we must give them their place in God's program if we understand the Word. God has not forgotten His people, "*neither will He cast them away forever*" (**Romans 11**). The most glorious days for Israel are yet to come. Every promise made to Father Abraham will be literally fulfilled....

PART TWO

GENTILES WHO ARE SAVED DURING THE GREAT TRIBULATION!

Revelation 7: 9-17

I. The Multitudinous Gentiles

Verse 9: "John Beheld"⁹*After this I (John) beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;...*

John states: "*After this.*" After What? After the 144,000 Jewish evangelist are sealed by the Spirit of God. God's message is always to the Jew first, then to the Gentile. That's why **Romans 1:16** declares, ⁽¹⁶⁾*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

- A. Since the Jews have heard, John sees a great multitude standing before the throne which no man could count, from every race and nationality.
1. Of all nations, tongues—
 2. Of every tribe and people—
- B. They stood before the throne clothed in white robes, and each one had a palm in his hand.
1. Their white robes prove that they have trusted in the message of the blood and are clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
 2. The waving of the palms in their hands signifies victory.
 3. They have overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil.
 4. They are joyous because they have survived the first six seals of judgment and their joy leads to praise.

II. The Multitude and the Elders Offer Praise and Worship of God.

Verses 10 & 11 ^{10} *And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.* ^{11} *And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,...*

- A. The multitude recognizes the source of their salvation and victory.
- B. They cannot be kept silent.
 - 1. Who can be silent when the **Grace of God** does its mighty work of salvation in one's heart?
 - 2. Immediately the angels join with them in praise of the Father and of the Son.

III. Not a Member of That Host Is Silent. Their Struggles and Trials Are Over. Their Thanksgiving Is Made Known.

Verse 12: ^{12} *Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.*

- A. What a glorious scene as the angels surrounding the throne and God's people (represented by the elders) fall on their faces in worship, praise, and adoration!
- B. Their sevenfold praise session to God centers around:
 - 1. Blessing
 - 2. Glory
 - 3. Wisdom
 - 4. Thanksgiving
 - 5. Honour
 - 6. Power
 - 7. Might... forever and forever
- C. No wonder they say, "**Amen!**" Then one of the elders asks a question.

IV. The Question At Hand—"Who are those in white robes?" "Where did they come from?"

Verse 13: ¹³ *And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?*

The answer is found in the next verse:

V. The Elder states: "Thou knowest"—"They are the ones that came out of the Great Tribulation. They have washed their garments in the blood of the Lamb."

Verse 14: ^{14} *And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

- A. This is another proof that the Church is in heaven, not upon earth. Why?
1. John does not recognize this group.
 2. He knows the raptured Church in heaven (**Revelation 4:1**), but not the ones on earth in this text.
- B. These are the Tribulation saints who have *washed their robes, and made them with in the blood of the Lamb*.
1. Please hear God again: *These are they which came out of the great tribulation*.
 2. That settles it and explains why John—who recognized the Church in heaven—is in a fog concerning these individuals.
- C. They are **new** brothers and sisters in Christ, though unknown to John.
1. They have been saved in a different period of time—a time when he and the Church were in heaven.
 2. The Church was not on earth to make their acquaintance.
- D. The next scene is exciting. Each group saved during different dispensations of time has different duties to perform.
1. The Church is the bride of Christ and enjoys the 1,000 -year honeymoon upon earth (**Revelation 20:4**) ⁽⁴⁾ *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*
 2. They reign as rulers, kings, and priests. Note the following scriptures:
1 Peter 2:9 (KJV) ⁽⁹⁾ *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: ...*
Revelation 1:6 (KJV) ⁽⁶⁾ *And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*
- E. The 144,000 serve as bodyguards of the Lamb and His bride (**Revelation 14:4**)
1. The Gentiles saved during the tribulation will be Temple servants, waiting on Christ and His bride. They serve in the glorious Temple (described in **Ezekiel 40–48**) which is set up immediately after Russia—under the names Gog, Magog, Meshech, Tubal, and Rosh—is destroyed see (**Ezekiel 38 & 39**).
 2. Everything is so near. Russia could march soon, then Antichrist would be known and then the Lord would return with the His bride.
 3. At that time the Millennial Temple is erected and the Gentiles serve.

VI. Gentiles Serving Before the Throne of God.

Verse 15: ⁽¹⁵⁾ *Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in*

his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

- A. This verse clearly shows us that this company is not the Bride of Christ—the Church. The Bride will reign with Jesus here on earth. This multitude is said to serve Him day and night.
- B. Because God is dwelling among them, the depravations they suffered under the Antichrist are now abolished.
 - 1. Under the reign of the world dictator, there was little food and one had to take the mark of the beast —666— to obtain sustenance.
 - 2. These believers who refused the number had to eke out an existence day by day. Now, with the Lord in their midst, the picture changes.

VII. No More Deprivations.

Verse 16: ^{16}*They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.*

- A. Along with the hunger and thirsting that we have already mentioned there is the matter of the scorching effects of the sun during the Tribulation hour: [As] *the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire* **Revelation 16:8.**
 - 1. In addition, the word *heat* refers to fires of persecution as described in **1 Peter 1:7** ^{7}*That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*
 - 2. From this point onward the people of God from all dispensations enjoy the presence of God.
 - a. Their days of suffering, heartache, and abuse by an ungodly world are finished.
 - b. Tears are wiped away as every remembrance of past sorrow is obliterated from their minds and hearts.

VIII. God Himself Will Feed Them, God Will Lead Them—and God Himself Will Wipe Away All Tears from Their Eyes.

Verse 17: ^{17}*For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

In closing please notice: It is not the compassionate Lamb who shed His blood who wipes away the tears from their eyes—but God the Father who gave the Lamb— God, against whom they (and we) have sinned. All sin is against God; but God will tenderly wipe every tear from their eyes and they will never weep again. They will enjoy “everlasting consolation” and they will enjoy peace uninterrupted.

On to “Chapter 8”