

WASHED WHITE, NOT WHITE-WASHED

JEWISH EVANGELISM IN THE TRIBULATION



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Revelation 7

The Scripture states that the Lord is not willing that any should perish. Consequently the Lord has provided Gospel information for the whole human race so that everyone might be saved. The world has been evangelized many times in the past and will be evangelized again in the time of Jacob's Trouble, commonly known as the Tribulation.

The following passages teach us that the world has been evangelized. 1 Timothy 3:16, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." Colossians 1:16, "For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in Earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him." Acts 17:6, "And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rules of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also." Revelation 7. Revelation 14.

There will be four groups of evangelists in the Tribulation since it will be the worst time in all of human history.

1. 144,000 Jewish evangelists.

Revelation 7:4, "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." Revelation 14:1, "And I looked, and lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Fathers' Name written in their foreheads."

2. Their converts.

Revelation 4:5, 6, "And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and

voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal; and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind." Revelation 6:9, "And when He had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony which they held." These are the Tribulation saints.

3. The two witnesses, Moses and Elijah.

Revelation 11:7, "And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them."

4. Angels preaching the everlasting Gospel.

Revelation 14:6, 7, "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the Earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him: for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and Earth, and the sea, and the foundations of waters."

IN REVELATION 7:1-8 WE HAVE THE JEWISH EVANGELISTS OF THE TRIBULATION.

Verses 1-3 take place immediately after the rapture of the Church. **Many individuals in the Tribulation turn to the Word of God and accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.** And those who accept Christ as Saviour, among them are also included Jews. From these born again Jews, 144,000 are

the evangelists of the Tribulation. In verses 4-5 they are said to be sealed.

1. The significance in their sealing: They are sealed so that they can be preserved, and protected, and given the guarantee of the validity of their message, and the salvation of their converts.

2. The significance of the Jewish evangelists: These are 144,000 literally Jews, in the Jewish Age, Jacob's Trouble, in the Jewish Age previously and now here also in the Tribulation the Jews have the responsibility of preaching the Gospel. They are sealed because in the Age of Israel the Holy Spirit came and went, and didn't permanently indwell them.

3. The omission of the tribes of Dan and Ephraim: Two tribes are not mentioned as evangelists in the Tribulation. Dan is omitted because they led Israel in idolatry in the Jewish Age. They set up the golden calves in Daniel and 1 Kings 11:26. "And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite of Zereda, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zerah, a widow woman, even he lifted up his hand against the king."

The false prophet comes from the tribe of Dan, Genesis 29:17, "Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward."

Ephraim is omitted as an evangelist because they led the revolt and split and division in Israel. 1 Kings 11:26. Levi, the priestly tribe, replaced Dan, and Joseph replaced Ephraim.

In verses 9-14 we see the converts of the Tribulation. In verse 9a we see their description. **They are innumerable.** Gentiles are also won to the Lord. The expression "tongues" means languages, which indicates once again the scattering of the Jews during their dispersion under the fifth cycle of discipline. They speak all the languages, tongues of the Earth.

Verse 9b is their position. They stand before the Lamb. **They are born again, regenerate, wearing white robes, which speak**

of imputed righteousness. 2 Corinthians 5:21, "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin: that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." **And they are triumphant.**

Verse 10: **Their praise.**

Verses 11, 12: **Their abode.**

Verses 13, 14: **Their identity.**

Verses 15-17: **The destiny of these converts.**

Verse 15: **Saved;** They stand before the Throne. **Serving;** They serve the Lord day and night. **Sheltered;** He shall spread over them.

Verse 16: **Satisfied;** They hunger no more.

Verse 17: **Shepherded;** The Lamb shall shepherd them. **Sustained;** The living fountain of waters.

Revelation 21:4: **Solaced;** God shall wipe away all tears.

SAVED, SERVE, SHELTERED, SATISFIED, SUSTAINED, SOLACED, SHEPHERDED. Seven features of the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

HERE IS BIBLICAL REVIVAL

The 144,000 Jews, the servants of the Lord in the Tribulation, will pick up the banner dropped by the ascending Church as it goes up to meet the Lord in the air.

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."

We see in this verse that four angels are at the four corners of the Earth holding back or controlling the four winds of the Earth. From Revelation 10:1, 12:7, 14:6 and 16:5 we have sufficient evidence that angels will play a vital part during the Tribulation, and are at this present time also rendering service to the Lord in various capacities.

“And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud; and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire.” “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels.”

“And I saw another angel flying the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the Earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.” “And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous. O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because Thou hast judged thus.”

Psalm 103:20, “Bless the Lord, ye His angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His Word.” We see that Israel is mentioned many times in connection with angels and also interpreting angels.

In Revelation 7:1 we learn that the four angels are stationed at the four winds of the Earth so that the winds shall not at that time blow upon the Earth, sea or any tree. These are ministering angels.

We have learned much from meteorology and there is still much to learn. Scientists can predict to a certain extent and in a general way the type of weather that will exist in a given area at a given time.

God gave Job a questionnaire, none of the questions which Job could fully answer satisfactorily. Among these the Lord asked Job, “By what way is the light parted, OR THE EAST WIND SCATTERED UPON THE EARTH?” Job 38:24. This implies that there is some place from which the East wind comes forth and then is scattered over the Earth. This type of language is expressed in Psalm 135:6, 7. “Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did He in heaven, and in Earth, in the seas, and all deep places. He causeth the vapors to ascend from the ends of the Earth; He maketh lightnings for the rain: HE BRINGETH THE WIND OUT OF HIS TREASURIES.”

So, according to this passage there is a place which is designated as the treasury of the wind. Where is this place? Who is in control of it? How are the winds brought out of it? And how are they directed into various directions? Well, Jeremiah 10:13, “When He uttereth His voice, there is tumult of waters in the heavens, and He causeth the vapors to ascend from the ends of the Earth: He maketh lightnings with rain. AND BRINGETH FORTH THE WIND OUT OF HIS TREASURES.”

So, angels that remain faithful and true to God, constituted a well organized host. And as John looked at the vision which was before him, he saw another angel, a fifth angel, that ascended from the sunrising with the seal of the living God.

Revelation 7:2, “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.” 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.”

We read frequently of tornadoes on land and hurricanes on the sea and the mighty power and damage wrought by them. **But from this passage it appears that the angels have control of at least some of these tornadoes and these hurricanes, or are given control over them.** We know the Bible speaks of the angel of fire, the angel of water, and the angel of the abyss.

In Nahum 1:2-8 it says, “Jehovah is a jealous God and avengeth. Jehovah avengeth and is full of wrath.” “Jehovah hath His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds and the dust of His feet. He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth. The mountains quake at Him, and the hills melt, and the Earth is upheaved at His presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. Who can stand before His indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of His anger? His wrath is poured out

like fire, and the rocks are broken asunder by Him. JEHOVAH IS GOOD. A STRONGHOLD IN THE DAY OF TROUBLE: AND HE KNOWETH THEM THAT TAKE REFUGE IN HIM. But with an overrunning flood He will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue His enemies."

Now when the Lord Jesus Christ was asleep in the boat in which He was crossing the Sea of Galilee, there arose a mighty tempest and the storm was about to destroy the boat in which the Saviour and the apostles were sailing. The apostles awakened Jesus Christ and He rebuked the wind and the waves, and there was a mighty calm, Luke 8:22-25.

Now, though the elements may seem to be on a rampage, **all the forces of nature are under the mighty hand of God who does many things that are hard for us to understand. But He does all things well.** Do you see God's hand in nature, the earthquakes? Amos did. Do you see God's hand in the storm?

Revelation 7 opens with a change in scenery. The previous chapter was catastrophe, and after a great storm has been raging, the scene stops. A giant wave has risen to its crest, and it stops. In the midst of the clamor of the world's upheaval, supernatural and natural, black sun and bloody moon, terror of humanity in its naked cowardice, **FOUR MESSENGERS SUDDENLY APPEAR.**

We first have four horsemen, and then four angels. And the four messengers, angels, plus the teaching commanding angel, hold back, lay hold upon the winds of judgment. Judgment is suspended. The "four corners of the Earth" represent universality, i.e., the uttermost parts of the Earth; North, East, South and West. They stand on the cardinal points, indicating that they are far removed from each other and that the judgment is now arrested and it is wide in its extent.

Many places **in Scripture the wind is used as the symbol of Divine judgment**, and the fact of the four winds being universal

means that the judgment is wide spread. Jeremiah 49:36, "AND UPON FLAM WILL BRING THE FOUR WINDS FROM THE FOUR QUARTERS OF HEAVEN." Here again is clearly a picture of judgment coming from the Lord on every side. We have a similar prophecy in Jeremiah 51:1, "Thus saith the Lord; Behold, I will raise up against Babylon, and against them that dwell in the midst of them that rise up against Me, a destroying wind." In this one God will raise up against Babylon a destroying wind.

Zechariah 6:1-5 speaks of chariots which come from the presence of the Lord, and they are called in verse 5, "four spirits from heaven." The Hebrew word for spirits is that which is usually used for wind.

So in our passage in Revelation 7:1-3 we are definitely speaking here of a moment when judgement is temporarily suspended. Not only from the direct statement of the other messenger angel, having the seal of the Living God, He clearly states however that their activities cease, "Until..." "Until" the 144,000 Jewish evangelists are sealed and preserved in the midst of judgment, and then the winds blow once more, and judgment will proceed as though there had been no interruption.

Revelation 7:4, "AND I HEARD THE NUMBER OF THE SEALED, A HUNDRED AND FORTY FOUR THOUSAND FROM EVERY TRIBE OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL." 144,000 Jewish evangelist servants of God. It is clearly stated in this verse, **JEWISH.** 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel. There is not a single Gentile in this group. The term Israel is literally "prince with God." This was Jacob's name after he became a believer. The term "Israel" is used synonymously with Jews, Jewish believers. Israel, princes with God, evangelizing in the Tribulation. Israel in Jacob's Trouble.

There is no doctrine more vital for the going forward or the advancement of the kingdom of God than the doctrine of Israel's place in God's plan in the Tribulation, a time of Jacob's Trouble, unbelievers' trouble. **They will be sealed by the angel in order**

to protect them from the dangers of the time. They will be immune from all dangers. The sealing of these evangelists brings to mind the sealing of the visions of the people of Jerusalem who were to be exempt from injury during a crisis that was coming upon the doomed city. This is found in Ezekiel 9:3-8.

The principle that we have here is GRACE ALWAYS PRECEDES JUDGMENT. This is found in Revelation 7:1ff, and in Revelation 14:1-7, 12, 13.

IN REVELATION 14:1-4 YOU HAVE THE JEWISH EVANGELISTS AGAIN.

A. Their triumph: Verse 1, “And I looked, and lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father’s Name written in their foreheads.” The 144,000 stand with Jesus Christ on Mount Zion, and this is a reference to the Second Advent of Jesus Christ, and His triumphal entry to Jerusalem as the Son of David. This is found also in Zechariah 14:4, “And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.”

B. Their message: **The Lamb of God, which is salvation in Christ. The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, that is their message.** They not only teach the Gospel and give out this message, but **they are also occupied with the Person of Jesus Christ.**

C. Their identification: Revelation 7:3, they were sealed. “Saying, Hurt not the Earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.” They have the Father’s Name in their foreheads. Revelation 13:16, 17. “And He causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark on their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that

had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” **This indicates relationship, which is established by faith in Christ.**

Galatians 3:26, “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.” John 1:12, “But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name.”

D. Their praise: Revelation 14:2, 3, “And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the Earth.” This records for us musical instruments, their accompaniment.

Revelation 5:9, the new song sung by the four living creatures, the 24 elders and numerous angels. Now it is a song by men on the Earth, the 144,000 standing on Mount Zion. And we see here that the Word of God never outlaws musical instruments as a means of worship and praise. “And they sang a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.”

E. Their devotedness: Revelation 14:4a, “These are they which were not defiled with women: for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.” **So great will be their task, so important will be their mission, that these men sacrifice even the normal functions of life. They devote their time entirely to the Lord’s work.** The intensity of their evangelistic efforts can be seen in denying themselves the greatest earthly relationship of marriage. They will remain virgins. Paul would be another example of the same devotedness. **This is the true principle of fasting and occupation with Christ.**

F. Their redemption: Revelation 14:4b, “These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.” They are called “firstfruits.” **This means that 144,000 evangelists are the first saved people in the Tribulation.** Since all believers will have been removed at the rapture of the Church before the Tribulation, they would be saved therefore apart from human instruments, by reading the Word, and the Holy Spirit's convicting ministry. And they are sealed, just like Old Testaments believers for special functions.

G. Their ministry: Revelation 14:5. They will be faultless in their lives, and honest in their speaking. **They make the issue of GRACE clear in salvation.** “In their mouth was found no lie, they were without blemish.” Again Dan and Ephraim are not mentioned because of idolatry and jealousy.

In Genesis 49:16, 17 it says, “Dan shall judge his people. Dan shall be a serpent in the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward.” The father of Dan predicted that he would be like a snake lying in the grass waiting to strike. There will not be a single Danite of those 144,000 Jewish evangelists, but of the others there will be 12,000 of each tribe. Joseph will be taking the place of Ephraim and Manasseh.

What a tragedy. **Through disobedience they lost their privilege of service. Since these servants of God will be located among the nations of the Earth, in dispersion, they will not need to learn other languages to give out the Gospel.** They will already have a knowledge of them and the message will go forth swiftly. This will be world-wide revival.

THERE ARE THEREFORE THREE SIGNIFICANT PURPOSES FOR THE TRIBULATION:

1. The world-wide revival.
2. The destruction of the wicked.
3. The conversion and deliverance of Israel.

World-wide revival is the movement back to God to the inner thirst for the souls of the human race. “As the hart panteth after the water brook, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the Living God, when shall I come and appear before God?” Psalm 42:1, 2. This is an expression of positive volition in the Tribulation.

When everything is moving along nicely for man, man thinks and feels his independence of God. Not until some calamity strikes does man generally feel his need of the help of the Lord. Men are prone to take things for granted, not allowing God to lead them in their lives, they are, as the Scripture declares, “at ease in Zion.”

Isaiah 26:9, 10, “With my soul have I desired Thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek Thee early: FOR WHEN THY JUDGMENTS ARE IN THE EARTH, THE INHABITANTS OF THE WORLD WILL LEARN RIGHTEOUSNESS. LET FAVOR BE SHEWED TO THE WICKED. YET WILL HE NOT LEARN RIGHTEOUSNESS. IN THE LAND OF UPRIGHTNESS WILL HE DEAL WRONGFULLY, AND WILL NOT BEHOLD THE MAJESTY OF JEHOVAH.”

In this verse we see the prophet Isaiah speaking of men who have been touched and influenced by the judgments of the Tribulation. **It is obvious that these judgments upon the world cause the inhabitants of the Earth to learn righteousness through the Deliverer, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the book of Judges constantly when the people cried out in their trouble, the Lord raised up a deliverer. **And after they were delivered, they forgot the Lord.** So they cried out again and another deliverer was raised up. **And they forgot the Lord again.** In the time of Judges, the commentary on them was that “EVERY ONE DID WHICH WAS RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES.”

So in GRACE God now proceeds to set His seal upon a great body of men before the

judgment trumpets will sound and the vials break forth of His wrath upon the Earth.

We know, of course, that salvation of any individual in any dispensation is the result of the active GRACE of God, and from man's viewpoint, the result of individual belief in God's Word about our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ, and there is, of course, no change in the Tribulation.

Now these 144,000 Jewish evangelists, who have been sealed, have put their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, in the time when Jesus Christ is called "despised and rejected of men," Isaiah 53:3. **Now upon their personal faith in Jesus Christ, the seal of God will be effectually set. This is the endowment of God the Holy Spirit.**

There will be a great change in their position. Previously to their conversion they had been a part of the cosmos, world system. But now they have become the property of the Lord who redeemed them. **Upon them, therefore, God will set His seal, so that they may be distinguished from the world which He disowns.** This gives us the comparison between the mark of the beast and the mark of the Lord. **The believers are identified with Christ and the unbelievers are identified with the anti-Christ.**

As the blood was put upon the door of the household in Egypt so that the angel of death would pass over these houses and strike only those which were not marked, **so the seal of God is put upon the forehead of His own so that the angels of judgment, passing through the world, will know those who are the Lord's.** This is the principle of the remnant. **The Lord always leaves a remnant of believers upon this Earth.**

The seal of the Lord on those who are the Lord's servants takes us back to a great picture in the book of Ezekiel. A man clothed with linen and who carries a writer's inkhorn is ordered by God to go through the city and "set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and cry for all the abomination that be done in the midst of Israel," Ezekiel 9:4.

Others then were ordered to go through the city and to slay utterly old and young, both maids and little children, and women, "But come not near any man upon whom is the mark, and being at My sanctuary," Ezekiel 9:6. **This is the principle that "judgment must begin at the house of God."**

From the context it is clear that it is a prophecy of God's dealings with Israel at the time of the end. This will be the working out of God's plan, judgments that come from God Himself that will never ever touch His own; i.e., Noah's day, the day of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the Second Advent of Christ. These are all examples of this principle.

Revelation 9:4 says that the satanic forces which are released from the bottomless pit will be able to hurt only "THOSE WHICH HAVE NOT THE SEAL OF GOD IN THEIR FOREHEADS." **And when we read further in this chapter of the nature of the torments which demon hosts will bring to men, we see the reality of the protection which is then afforded to those who are the Lord's own.** "The foundation of God maketh sure."

In every age and on this foundation, He tells us there is a seal. "The Lord knoweth them that are His," 2 Timothy 2:19. **Then, as now, we have this certainty of position, which is really a call to a way of life, which is not conformity to this world, which is renewing our mind, which is practical mental separation in accordance with our positional separation and sealing.**

REVELATION 7:4. THE MARK ON THE FOREHEADS.

THE REMNANT ACCORDING TO GRACE.

1. Jeremiah 33:13, cf 2 Samuel 7:8-16. "In the cities of the mountains, in the cities of the vale, and in the cities of the south, and in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, SHALL THE FLOCKS PASS AGAIN UNDER THE

HANDS OF HIM THAT TELLETH (literally counteth) THEM. SAITH THE LORD."

2. Micah 7:7-20. THE VOICE OF THE REMNANT IN THE LAST DAYS. Verse 14, "FEED THY PEOPLE WITH THY ROD, the flock of Thine heritage, which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel, let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old."

3. John 10:27-29, "My sheep hear My voice and I know them and they follow Me; and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of My hand. My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand."

"PASSING UNDER THE ROD" is where the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. This is also where the shepherd marks out nine-tenths of the sheep for slaughter. "PASSING UNDER THE ROD." This is how one-tenth of the sheep were marked as the scapegoats.

Here is the mark, identifying of the believers. **Apparently from these passages only one-tenth of the population at that time are believers and go into the Millennium in physical bodies.**

The witnesses themselves are from the 12 tribes of Israel. They are not of the Church Age at all. **Britain and America are not the ten lost tribes of Israel, as some teach.** There is no difference between Jew and Israel. They are the same, and most definitely Scripture tells us that all the Jewish tribes of Israel are now included.

Revelation 7:5-8, "Of the tribe of Judah were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. 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. Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed

twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand."

SEALING means preservation, protection, guarantee validity of their message, and guarantee of their salvation to those who accept their message. 144,000 Jewish evangelists in the Age of Israel, **Jews who had the responsibility to disseminate the Gospel,** sealed because of being in the Jewish Age, the Tribulation, the age of Jacob's Trouble.

REVELATION 7:9-14, THE CONVERTS OF THE 144,000 JEWISH EVANGELISTS IN THE TRIBULATION.

Verse 9, "After 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."

1. Their description: Verse 9a. Innumerable, great multitude, Gentiles are also won to the Lord. "Of all nations, kindreds, people and tongues." Tongues are languages, which again indicate the scattering of the Jews during the fifth cycle of discipline. They all speak the languages of the Earth.

2. Their position: Verse 9b. "They stand before the Lamb," in the presence of Christ. They are born again believers. "With white robes," which indicates their imputed righteousness. "With palms in their hands," **this is triumphant, Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords.** Palms were used on the 15th day of the seventh month with thanksgiving, fruits, joy, the feast of the tabernacle, i.e., the Millennium.

SO HERE IS A GREAT AWAKENING. A WORLDWIDE REVIVAL.

Multitudes accept Jesus Christ as their Personal Saviour as a result of this tribulational evangelism. The greatest awakening of all times will take place when the anti-Christ is consolidating his power and while he is spending his most

powerful effort to exalt himself in the Holy of Holies in Jerusalem, crushing all those who refuse to bow before his statue.

This thought, that Satan had in eternity past in heaven, now manifests itself on the Earth. A numberless company is now seen, from every nation and kindred and people and language. Clothed in white robes, symbol of righteousness which they have received from Jesus Christ, and they have in their hands palms, symbols of victory and glory and honor.

THOUGH THIS MULTITUDE IS TAKEN OUT OF EVERY LANGUAGE, AND NATION, AND KINDRED, AND PEOPLE, NEVERTHELESS IT CRIES OUT WITH ONE SINGLE VOICE. Verse 10, “And cried with a loud voice saying, salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb.” These are the converts of the Jewish evangelism of the Tribulation. This is the same message that John had in the beginning of the book of Revelation.

The very “cry” is in the vivid dramatic present tense. It is constant. **Their cry is one of praise to the Lord for the salvation He has accomplished on their behalf. Their praise responds to His GRACE in salvation. It was accomplished by the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit and They receive praise. The Father planned it, the Son executed the Father’s plan, and the Holy Spirit illuminates and teaches it to us.**

Verse 9, palms.

Verse 10, salvation, Hosanna, joy, thanksgiving, salvation.

Verse 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.” **The only God they could worship was the Lord Jesus Christ, because He is the only revealed Member of the Godhead.**

At this cry of praise, all the angelic beings standing round about the great circle of the elders, and the living creatures, the cherubim around the throne of God, fall

down upon their faces and worship God. We know from other Scriptures that angels are Bible students. 1 Peter 1:12, “Unto whom it was revealed, that not only unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the Gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven: which things the angels desire to look into.” So the angels in their turn take up the praise also.

Verse 12, their abode. “Saying Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.” “Amen” and then we have a seven-fold description of praise from their own behalf, closed with another “Amen.”

THE SEVEN-FOLD PERFECTION OF PRAISE.

The definite article “the” before each doxology, seven-fold implying completeness and totality unto ages of ages. “Amen,” I believe it. “Amen,” the foundation of belief.

Verses 13, 14, their identity. “And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?” One of the angels, elders, now asks a question. Who are these people which make up this great multitude? And from whence have they come?

There are those who teach falsely that the elders represent the Church, and identify the great multitude also of the Church. They put themselves in the position of seeing the Church as being in heaven as the glorified Church telling John, who is on the Earth as a prophet of the Church, that the great multitude is no other than themselves, the Church, simply because of not wanting to see the restoration of Israel.

Verse 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.” **These are the martyrs of the Tribulation refusing to worship**

the beast. These do not constitute the Church at all.

We, the body of Christ, are seen in heaven already at the time of this vision. Our calling and our service, and our destiny, are all different from that of the great multitude here. In Matthew 24 the Lord Jesus Christ Himself tells of this same time of terror which He calls "The Great Tribulation." It is while that reign is upon the Earth that this multitude is saved through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. And as their calling and their service differs from ours, so does their destiny.

We are the "bride" with the "Bridegroom," and we sit upon the throne and rule and reign with the Lord Jesus Christ. Our destiny is said to be that of rulers and judges. We are to be kings and priests. This is found for us in 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3, "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Knew ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?" And in 1 Peter 2:9, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness; into His marvelous light." And Revelation 1:6, "And hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father: to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

The 144,000 are to be the glorious bodyguards, the retinue of the Lamb, following Him wherever He goes. Revelation 14:4, "These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth."

The destiny of the Gentile multitudes however is that of temple service. In Ezekiel we read that the temple will be the central earthly feature of the Millennial reign. And the great multitude comes out of the Tribulation and they will carry on the priestly work in the temple. The secret of their triumphant endurance is the washed white robes,

which indicates imputed righteousness, their character and conduct and thus their secret to triumph.

"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as wool." **WASHED WHITE, NOT WHITE-WASHED TOMB-STONES.** The great thing in a trial is not to just emerge from the trial, but to emerge from it with unstained faith and conscience. **This is not possible to man's unaided efforts, but only to the sacrificial power of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

These believers were able to make the redeeming power of Christ peculiarly their own, and the nature of their cruel sufferings identified them especially with their Lord. CHRISTIANS AND CHRIST HAVE A NOTICEABLE UNION IN SUFFERING. To know the fellowship of His sufferings, as if the experience of suffering alone could yield the deepest experience of communion with One who was conceived essentially as a Lamb who had been slain, a faithful witness, who opened not His mouth. "As a lamb led to the slaughter. He opened not His mouth." **It is to the blood of the Lamb, not their own blood, that they owe their happiness and triumph, redemption, not martyrdom is the essential basis of their deliverance.**

"Though I give my body to be burned and have not love, it profited me nothing." "Though I give all my goods to feed the poor and have not love, it profited me nothing." People are redeemed without becoming martyrs. **Believers die when their ministry is finished, when they reach a full age.** But no one could be a martyr without having the strength of redemption behind them.

Verse 14, "Sir," literally, "Lord, Thou knowest." **Ignorant of Divine things ourselves, it is well to look upward for Divinely communicated knowledge.** "Come" is literally "Come," implying that they are just come. "Great tribulation" is literally The Great Tribulation. The Tribulation, the Great one, that which the Lord Jesus Christ foretold that would precede His coming in Matthew 24:21. "For then shall be great tribulation, such as

was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."

This is the completion of the waiting for the recompense of the Tribulational saints who are the martyrs, and here is completed, the fifth seal, and they are taken out of the Earth, before the judgments on the anti-Christian apostasy.

Verses 15-17, their destiny. **"THEREFORE THEY ARE 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."** **They serve Him day and night. There is NO WEARINESS in heaven and no rest in hell.**

"Therefore" is because they are so washed, saved, white, without which no salvation can ever enter into heaven. "Before" is PROS, in the presence of, face to face with, literally. This is absent from the body and face to face with the Lord. **"Throne and temple."** These are connected because we can approach the heavenly King and Priest in His throne. **He is the unique Prophet, Priest and King.** "Throne" is THRONOS, which is seat of authority. "Temple" is NAOS, the Holy of Holies. **The throne of GRACE is from which GRACE flows.** **"Come to the throne of GRACE boldly."**

"Day and night." Perpetually because there is no night in the heavenly sanctuary. **"In His temple,"** the Holy of Holies which is the heavenly analogue to His temple on Earth, for strictly there is no temple there in Revelation 21:22. **"And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it."** **God and the Lamb are the temple and the light filling the whole world so that there is no distinction of sacred and secular places, the city is the temple and the temple is the city.**

"Shall dwell among them." This is literally, **"Shall be the tabernacle over them."** Cf, Revelation 21:3, **"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with**

them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God." Leviticus 26:11, **"And I will set My tabernacle among you: and My soul shall not abhor you."** Isaiah 4:5, **"And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defense."**

Isaiah 25:4, **"For Thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall."** Ezekiel 37:27, **"My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be My people."**

His dwelling among them is a secondary truth besides what is expressed here. Literally, **"who spreads His tent over them."** "Dwell" is SKENE, a tent booth tabernacle. **But He is their shelter. He is their covert, their tabernacle. The principle of a banner of love over them.**

This is the long awaited feast of tabernacles, the Millennial reign of Christ. Peace, prosperity and plenty, and protection. **Once He tabernacled among us, as the Word became flesh. And He was in great lowliness. But at the Second Advent of Christ, He will tabernacle over us, in great glory.**

He that sitteth on the throne, the great majestic God, shall overshadow them with a presence of intimate care followed by shepherding, feeding, which is an ancient and familiar conception. This is a picture of Jewish fulfillment in the Millennium. The Shekinah glory will return in the era of final bliss, and **"all shall behold His glory."** The First Advent, **"we beheld His glory as the only Begotten of the Father full of GRACE and Truth."** **At the Second advent all will behold His glory. He will dwell among us, and over us.**

This is the principle of Immanuel, God dwelling with us. The day of the great tribulation will be over. They will hunger no more,

neither will they thirst, and the reason is given. Verse 16, "They shall hunger no more neither thirst and more, neither shall the sun light on them nor any heat." Verse 17, "FOR THE LAMB WHICH IS IN THE MIDST OF THE THRONE SHALL FEED THEM AND SHALL LEAD THEM INTO LIVING FOUNTAINS OF WATERS AND GOD SHALL WIPE AWAY ALL TEARS FROM THEIR EYES."

Here is Psalm 23, fulfilled to the maximum. "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters." These Tribulational believers have not been able to buy or sell because of the mark of the beast. And so consequently are hungry and thirsty and they are now fed by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

"Heat" here is a reference to the scorching sirocco. The Egyptian dead yearned for a cooling breeze in the next world, quoted here. "Let me be placed by the edge of the water with my face to the north, that the breeze may caress me and my heart be refreshed from its sorrows."

In Luke 16 the desire there is for cool water also. "Hunger no more. Thirst no more," as they did in the Tribulation. "The sun," literally, "scorching in the East." "Sun" is also used as the symbol of government. These are those who suffered also from the authority that is centered in the anti-Christ, and thus shall suffer no more. Heat also has the connotation of persecution and suffering. The draught of life, "no water" situations.

And the principle, "The trial of their faith being much more precious than of gold that perisheth through it be tried with fire, will have been found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:7. **THE SUFFERING IS OVER FOREVER.**

GOD HIMSELF SHALL WIPE AWAY ALL TEARS FROM THEIR EYES. Literally, "Wipe off every tear out of every eye." "Living fountains of waters." "Living" is ZAO, which means to live, life, lifetime. **There will be no suffering or thirst like in Sheol.** Luke 16:24, "And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue: for I am tormented in this flame." "Living fountains of waters" refers also to wisdom which is drunk by the thirsty. "My heart thirsteth after Thee." This is then a fountain of righteousness which is inexhaustible. So in the midst, the middle, front of the throne, **He tends as a Shepherd of our souls.** And "lives of fountains of waters."

Here is described for us the destiny of the converts of the Jewish evangelists in the Tribulation. Jewish evangelism. **Israel witnessing to Jacob.**

Verse 15, SAVED: Before the throne.

Verse 15, SERVICE: They serve Him night and day.

Verse 15, SHELTERED: He shall spread His tabernacle over them.

Verse 16, SATISFIED: No hunger, no thirst.

Verse 17, SHEPHERDED: The Lamb shall shepherd them, the Bishop of the soul.

Verse 17, SUSTAINED: By a living lively fountain of waters.

Verse 17, SOLACED: Wipe away every tear out of every eye.

Effective Jewish evangelism in the Tribulation, a world-wide revival.

Buddy Dano, Pastor

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