

**"The Grace of God"**

**Part 2**

**Revelation 7:1-17**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of the book of Revelation we stepped into chapter 7. I want to do a review and pull some more thoughts into what we looked at last week because what we will look at today will connect with what we looked at a week ago.

In this chapter we find a "calm before the storm". We have just looked at the first 6 Seal Judgments and in those judgments we were able to see the devastation which will be poured out upon the earth in the beginning of the tribulation period.

1. The Anti-Christ.
2. Wars.
3. Famine.
4. Death of a quarter of the world's population.
5. God shakes the heaven and the earth.

Then we come to chapter 7 and it is here that we find God restraining the judgments.

**I. The Restraints of God**

**Part 2**

**Notice Revelation 7:1-4**

The judgments are stayed until the 144,000 Jews can be sealed with the seal of God in their foreheads. This is what we looked at last week. We looked at 2 points concerning this mark in their foreheads.

1. **It will most likely be a visible mark for their protection.**

**Ezekiel 9:4-6**

*<sup>4</sup> And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.*

<sup>5</sup> *And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:*

<sup>6</sup> *Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: **but come not near any man upon whom is the mark;** and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.*

Let me remind you that the 144,000 will be missionaries because the church will not be here.

**Notice Revelation 7:3 again.**

They are referred to as THE SERVANTS OF GOD.

Let me show you what Isaiah recorded.

**Isaiah 66:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> *And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and **they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.***

<sup>20</sup> *And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.*

Now let me get you back to the mark on the 144,000 Jewish men.

2. **This mark will be counterfeited by the Anti-Christ.**

The time of the tribulation will be a time of great deception.

**Revelation 13:11-17**

<sup>11</sup> *And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.*

<sup>12</sup> *And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.*

<sup>13</sup> *And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,*

<sup>14</sup> *And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.*

<sup>15</sup> *And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.*

<sup>16</sup> *And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:*

<sup>17</sup> *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 will be an attempt to lead many astray. Let me show you what Jesus said about the deception during the Great Tribulation. Keep in mind the counterfeit mark of the Anti-Christ.

### **Matthew 24:21-24**

<sup>21</sup> *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

<sup>22</sup> *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

<sup>23</sup> *Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.*

<sup>24</sup> **For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.**

Now this deception will not just exist in the second half of the Tribulation but it will also exist in the first 3 ½ years. Let me remind you that the 144,000 will most likely be saved through the ministry of the 2 witnesses in Revelation 11.

Now let me get you back to the 144,000 Jews. They are Jewish men and they are the FIRSTFRUITS of God.

### **Revelation 14:1-5**

*And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.*

<sup>2</sup> *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:*

<sup>3</sup> *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.*

<sup>4</sup> *These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the **firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.***

## **II. The Results of their Witness**

### **Notice Revelation 7:9**

Here we see a great multitude that is standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

Notice Revelation 7:10-12

Here we see the praise of this multitude as well as the praise of the angels around the throne.

**Notice Revelation 7:13-14**

One of the elders here asks John who this multitude is and where did they come from. The elder then answers and he tells John these are they who have come out of the great tribulation and have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb.

**Notice Revelation 7:14 again.**

The statement, "THESE ARE THEY WHICH CAME OUT" literally means "these are they who are coming out". This statement is in the present tense and it means there is a constant line of saints coming out of the tribulation. This takes my mind to the words of Jesus.

**Matthew 24:9-12**

<sup>9</sup> *Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you; and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.*

<sup>10</sup> *And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.*

<sup>11</sup> *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

<sup>12</sup> *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*

**Matthew 10:21-22a**

<sup>21</sup> *And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.*

<sup>22</sup> *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake:*

**Let me give you a glimpse into the mind of the slayers.**

**John 16:1-2**

*These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.*

<sup>2</sup> *They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.*

The people who are doing the slaying will be under the influence of Satan as they follow the Anti-Christ. They are most likely under the strong delusion which God will send.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,*

<sup>10</sup> *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

<sup>11</sup> *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*

This scene is not limited to the first half of the Tribulation. The elder tells John they came out of the GREAT TRIBULATION and this is late enough in the Tribulation that the Gospel has been preached around the world.

Let me now point out some interesting points from all of this.

1. **The witness of the 144,000 missionaries will be very effective.**

Let me read the words of one Bible teacher on God using the 144,000 Jews.

*"There is a decided advantage in using Jews to conduct a worldwide revival in the short timer period of 3 1/2 years. . . The modern missionary, . . . must spend approximately six years [4 years of Bible, 2 of target language] before he is fully equipped to present the gospel in a language that is not his own. . . . All of this world's major languages, and a great number of the world's minor languages, are spoken by Jews somewhere. . . . Most Jews receive a good and basic understanding of the Old Testament text. . . . These Jews will already speak the languages needed. They will already have a basic knowledge of the Old Testament text. . . they could begin to preach the gospel in a very short period of time."*

The Jewish men are the perfect missionaries for this time on earth.

### **Application:**

We are also the perfect witnesses to those whom we know. There are people you know and you have a connection with them which no one else has. Therefore you are responsible to share the Gospel with them.

## **Ezekiel 3:18-19**

<sup>18</sup> *When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.*

<sup>19</sup> *Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.*

2. **When the righteous die they will no longer suffer.**

### **Notice Revelation 7:15-17**

These verses give us a look into what these people will suffer but when they are killed they will be set free from the suffering.

### **Application:**

You may have lost a loved one who was saved and you wonder what it is like for them now. The answer is right here. They are suffering no more. They are comforted by the Lamb as they stand before the throne of God. Whatever it is which brought suffering into their lives it no longer exists. They are free from all pain, sorrow, and suffering.

### **Conclusion;**

I want to notice their praise before we stop today.

### **Notice Revelation 7:10**

In the Tribulation people will be saved through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ just as we are today.

### **Notice Revelation 7:14**

They had been washed in the blood of the Lamb.

## **What about you?**

### **John 14:6**

<sup>6</sup> *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

### **Acts 4:10-12**

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*<sup>10</sup> Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.*

*<sup>11</sup> This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.*

*<sup>12</sup> Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*