

"The Significant Characters of the Tribulation"

Part 10

Revelation 12-14

Introduction: In our study of the book of Revelation we have spent the past 5 weeks looking at chapter 13. Chapter 13 is possibly one of the darkest chapters in the entire Bible. It was in that chapter that we were able to look at two specific characters of the Tribulation and one specific group of the Tribulation.

We looked at the Anti-Christ and his rule and reign during the 7 years of the Tribulation. We were able to see that he will have all the power and authority of Satan. He will be very deceptive and he will severely oppress the believers of the Tribulation.

We also looked at the Earth Dwellers of the Tribulation. They are people whose names were never entered into the Book of Life. They will be a group of people who will set their faces against God and refuse to repent of their sins no matter what. They will seal their eternal destiny when they take the mark of the Beast and sell completely out to him.

Then we met the False Prophet who completes the Satanic Trinity. He will function as the Holy Spirit functions today for he will point everyone to the Anti-Christ. He will do amazing miracles in the sight of the Anti-Christ and he will use the miracles and his words to deceive the people to follow the Anti-Christ. During the Tribulation there will be great deception upon the earth.

Let us notice the Words of our Lord.

Matthew 24:11

¹¹ And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Matthew 24:24

²⁴ 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.

In chapter 13 we looked at the image that will be set up in the Tribulation Temple and how the Image will command everyone to receive the Mark of the Beast and all who do not will be hunted down. The Mark will be required to buy and sell during the Tribulation and it will be a means for the Anti-Christ to have control over the entire world. Those who do not

receive the Mark will be forced into living in the shadows and they will literally be hunted by the authorities who serve under the Anti-Christ. Let me show you a picture of this.

Genesis 10:8-10

⁸ *And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.*

⁹ *He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.*

¹⁰ *And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.*

Nimrod was a mighty hunter of men whom he led in a rebellion against God. This is a picture of what is coming in the Tribulation.

So, the 13th chapter of the book of Revelation is one that is extremely dark. Then we come to the 14th chapter and it will prove to be a breath of fresh air after coming through the 13th chapter. Listen to the words of Seiss concerning the transition between the two chapters.

"The blackest storms often give place to the loveliest sunsets. The winds and thunders exhaust themselves. The clouds empty and break. And from the calm heavens behind them comes a golden light, girding the remaining fragments of gloom with chains of brightness, and overarching with the bow of promise the path along which the terrible tempest has just passed. Like this evening glory after the summer's gust, is the chapter on which we now enter."

In this chapter we shall see that in the midst of all the darkness of chapter 13 God is still in control and He is working out His plan to accomplish His purpose.

I. **The 144,000 Jewish Missionaries**

A. **Their Security**

Notice Revelation 14:1

There is so much encouragement in this verse for us as we look closely at all that is said here and we spend some time searching through some other verses.

We were introduced to these 144,000 in Revelation 7 and here in this chapter we see them again. Now what we need to do is determine if this scene is taking place on the earth or in

heaven. There are many different views concerning the location of this scene. Let me give you my stand on the scene and then use some Scripture to back up what I am believing.

I believe the scene before us is a scene that will unfold after the Great Tribulation and it will be on the earth after the return of Jesus Christ prior to Him setting up His Kingdom.

Now let me explain why I don't believe this is a heavenly scene. If it is a heavenly scene my question is how did the 144,000 Jewish Missionaries get to heaven.

Let me show you some other verses.

Revelation 7:1-4

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.

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,*

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

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.*

These 144,000 Jewish men will come on the scene at the beginning of the Tribulation. They will most likely be saved through the ministry of the two witnesses of Revelation 11. After these 144,000 men are saved they will then be sealed so as to be protected during the Judgments of the Tribulation.

Now, if they are in heaven in Revelation 14 then how did they get there? If they were killed then my question is, "What was the purpose of the seal?" I believe the **SEAL** is a **SEAL** of protection and in the Tribulation, they will be supernaturally protected by God. Some may try to say they could have been RAPTURED to heaven. But the Rapture happens before the Tribulation and there is no mention of another Rapture in the Tribulation.

The SEAL on the 144,000 contrasts with the MARK of the Beast on the Earth Dwellers. They will perish who receive the Mark but those who are SEALED by God will never perish.

Notice Revelation 14:1 again.

We see in this verse that they are standing Lamb on Mount Zion. Now Mount Zion speaks of Jerusalem in the Bible and there is also a heavenly Jerusalem. But I believe Mount Zion here is the one which the Bible speaks of in the Millennial Kingdom.

Micah 4:1-7

¹But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

² And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

³ And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

⁴ But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.

⁵ For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.

⁶ In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted;

⁷ And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.

Let me show you one more passage.

Matthew 25:32-40

³² And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

³³ And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

³⁴ Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

³⁵ For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

³⁶ Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

³⁷ Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

³⁸ When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

³⁹ Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

*⁴⁰ And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of **the least of these my brethren**, ye have done it unto me.*

This is the Judgment of the Nations at the end of the Tribulation. The GOATS are the unsaved, the SHEEP are the saved that have survived the Tribulation and then there is a 3rd group that Jesus refers to known as HIS BRETHREN. I believe these are the 144,000 who have been kept alive through the 7 years of Tribulation.

I point to all of this to help you to see that the scene before us is one that will take place on the earth after the Tribulation.

Application:

What does all of this mean to you and me who will never step one foot into the Tribulation because we will be Raptured away first?

The encouragement for you and I is that when God places His Seal upon His people NONE of them will ever be lost. This group will start out as 144,000 and when the Tribulation is over they will ALL be with Jesus Christ in the Kingdom.

When a person today accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior they are immediately SEALED with the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:12-14

¹² That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

*¹³ In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise**.*

¹⁴ Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

It is impossible to be saved and not be SEALED with the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:9

⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

So, here is the point that I want you to grasp, once we are saved we are FOREVER secured in Jesus Christ. It is impossible for a believer to lose their salvation.

Hebrews 10:10-14

¹⁰ By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

¹¹ And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

¹² But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

¹³ From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

¹⁴ For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

John 10:27-30

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

³⁰ I and my Father are one.

B. Their Song

Notice Revelation 14:2

Here we see that the song John hears from heaven can only be learned by the 144,000. Why is it that they are the only ones who can learn the song?

Probably because the song has a very special meaning to what these Jewish Missionaries experienced during the 7 years of Tribulation upon the earth. Have you ever been through a deep dark valley and heard a song that became your song read a passage of Scripture that became YOUR Scripture? That seems to be what we are seeing here. This song is so personal that only the 144,000 Jewish Missionaries can learn the song.

This reminds me of the words of Psalm 40.

Psalm 40:1-3

I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

² He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

³ And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

Conclusion:

In closing let me pull some of these thoughts together for us. When we are saved we can rest assured that we are secure in Christ. But this does not mean He will not permit us to pass through some very dark times. Matthew 25 tells us what these Jewish men will pass through. Hunger, thirst, imprisoned, strangers and abandonment.

Isaiah 43:2-3a

² When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

³ For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour...

Remember Daniel's 3 friends and the fiery furnace? But listen! When God leads us through the valleys and we remain steadfast God will put a song within our hearts and He will make the Scriptures very special in those dark times.

Psalm 119:143

¹⁴³ Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet thy commandments are my delights.