

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

CHAPTER 7

“In Wrath Remember Mercy”

In chapter 6, we saw the first 6 seals opened, of the “Title Deed” to the earth:

1. **A Peace Plan** of 7 years, broken 3 ½ years into the Peace Plan by the antichrist, which breaks out into...
2. **War**, and the results of a massive war...
3. **Famine**, and the results of war and world wide famine...
4. **Death**, more that 1/3 of the people of the earth die...
5. **Killing of Believers** by the antichrist for not worshipping him.
6. **Stars falling** from the Heavens, polar axis shift, tectonic plates of the earth causing islands and mountains to disappear.

The 7th seal will not be opened until chapter 8. Chapter 7 then becomes a “Pause” between the judgments.

This is a reoccurring pattern that we will see in the Book of Revelation:

- ⌘ Between the 6th and 7th **Seal**, a Pause.
- ⌘ Between the 6th and 7th **Trumpet**, a pause.
- ⌘ Between the 6th and 7th **Bowl**, a pause.

Over the course of human history, many religious men and theologians have given to us the idea that God is a very angry, vengeful God, who wants to destroy us.

- ⌘ **The truth is**, the Bible doesn't teach this.
- ⌘ **The Bible teaches** that God is Loving and Kind, full of Mercy, and very patient and Long suffering towards us.
- ⌘ **What God really wants to do**, is save us from this world of evil and death.
- ⌘ **So, He took incredible steps** to seek to influence our decision to ask Him to help us and save us.

He will not overrule our own will, but He will do everything that He can to influence our decision in a way that we can see that He is so full of Mercy and Love towards us.

- ⌘ **If something in your life has happened to you** that has caused you to doubt whether the Lord does love you, all you have to do to see clear evidence that His love for you is great, is to look at the Cross.
- ⌘ **Which one of us** could ever imagine allowing our own son to be tortured and killed in the most vicious and brutal form of death known to man.
- ⌘ **Jesus death on the Cross** is the clear message that God does Love you, and that He has already taken away all of your sins on the Cross.
- ⌘ **A simple acceptance** of Jesus sacrifice for you, and a willingness to surrender your life to Jesus full Will and control, is your guarantee that you have as your possession, Eternal Life and Heaven waiting for you.

Further proof of Gods great love and patience for us, is seen in these pauses between the judgments of the 6 Seals, The 6 Trumpets and the 6 Bowls Judgments.

- ☞ **After waiting patiently** for man to turn and surrender to the Lord for 6,000 years, the Lord finally, reluctantly has run out of patience and is now bringing judgment.

But even in the midst of Judgment, the Lord is Merciful, still not wanting to destroy, but wanting to save.

- ☞ **Between each Judgment**, that will grow progressively worse, He pauses, waiting, hoping that people will turn to Him, so that He can forgive them...

Habakkuk 3:2

O LORD, I have heard Your speech and was afraid; O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; **In wrath remember mercy.**

The Lord answers that call for Mercy, through every step of this Wrath that he is pouring out here in the Book of Revelation...

Revelation 7:1

1 After these things (The Opening of the 6 Seals) I saw four angels standing at the **four corners** of the earth, **holding the four winds** of the earth, that the **wind should not blow** on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

- ☞ **Four corners:** the earth is actually elliptical, it is flat at the poles.
- ☞ **The four corners are the N, S, E, W,** the 4 quadrants of the earth.
- ☞ **The marines** are spoken of as being in the “**Four corners of the earth.**”
- ☞ **Apparently these angels have the ability to stop the winds** from blowing over the face of the earth.
- ☞ **Holding the wind:** the effects of holding back the wind is to prevent the rains from watering the earth thereby causing great famines.

Revelation 7

2 Then 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 granted to harm the earth and the sea,

- ☞ **Another angel:** angels are messengers, some are **to restrain satan**, some come to **bring messages** to people, these are **to mark** the ones as protected by God as his servants.
- ☞ **Seal:** Greek: “**Sphragis**” A fencing or a barrier of protection.

3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have **sealed the servants** of our God **on their foreheads.**"

4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. **One hundred and forty-four thousand** of all the tribes of **the children of Israel** were sealed:

5 of the **tribe of Judah** twelve thousand were sealed; of the **tribe of Reuben** twelve thousand were sealed; of the **tribe of Gad** twelve thousand were sealed;

- 6 of the **tribe of Asher** twelve thousand were sealed; of the **tribe of Naphtali** twelve thousand were sealed; of the **tribe of Manasseh** twelve thousand were sealed;
- 7 of the **tribe of Simeon** twelve thousand were sealed; of the **tribe of Levi** twelve thousand were sealed; of the **tribe of Issachar** twelve thousand were sealed;
- 8 of the **tribe of Zebulun** twelve thousand were sealed; of the **tribe of Joseph** twelve thousand were sealed; of the **tribe of Benjamin** twelve thousand were sealed.

Many people, including many Bible commentators, various churches, and the latter day cults, have misinterpreted these verses in Revelation chapter 7 by giving to us, Jesus church, the promises that God made to Israel, because Israel rejected Jesus as their Messiah.

These verses here in Revelation chapter 7, verses 4–8, are clearly addressed to “Jews”, 12,000 men from each of the 12 tribes.

Whenever anyone takes the promises that the Lord made to Israel and tries to apply them to their self, there is a huge problem.

- 1) **The promises that the Lord gave to Israel** were *unconditional*; It is impossible that Israel could forfeit any of those promises.
- 2) **Paul, took three chapters in the book of Romans**, chapters (9, 10, and 11) to emphasize that the Lord is not finished with Israel yet.
- 3) **The Seventy Week prophecy of Daniel 9** is very specific in that The 70 weeks of years called for in Daniels prophecies concern the nation of Israel, not the Church.
- 4) **Jesus told Mary that Jesus would take David’s Throne.** Israel appears 75 times in the New Testament. Each time it refers to national Israel.

So, we see these “Sealed servants”: who are they?

- ☞ **Herbert w. Armstrong** of the world wide church of God, many years ago, said they are his followers. If you forget to pay your tithe to the church, he sends you a telegram.
- ☞ **Jehovah’s witnesses:** Based on these 4 verse here in Revelation 7, they have said that only 144,000 will be saved. They reached this number in the late 70’s.

But, What does verse 4 really say? From the tribes of the children of Israel. Simple!!!

- ☞ **12,000 men** from each of the 12 Jewish tribes=**144,000**
- ☞ **In revelation Chapter 14** we see in greater detail who these 144,000 are.

Revelation 14:1-4

- 1 Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb **standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand**, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads.
- 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.
- 3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

4 These are the ones who were **not defiled with women, for they are virgins**. These are the ones **who follow the Lamb wherever He goes**. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

- ☞ **They are Young Jewish men** who are virgins.
- ☞ **They follow Jesus wherever he goes**.
- ☞ **Commentators have stated that they could be Jewish evangelists** who are reserved by God for this time during the tribulation to witness to the nation of Israel that Jesus is the messiah.
- ☞ **The reason we believe they are Evangelists, is because the next time we see them in Heaven, they are accompanied an “Innumerable Number of Believers in Jesus...”**
- ☞ **They sing “the song of Moses”** again in 15:1-4 this is believed to be the result of the 144,000 witnesses and the 2 witnesses (*Moses and Elijah*)
- ☞ **Remember, this is a time when God turns his focus from the church who has been Raptured to the nation of Israel who he is seeking to save by the 144,000 and the two witnesses.**

God turned His attention from the nation of Israel after they rejected Jesus as their Messiah. He then turned to the Church, and is gathering in His church until the Rapture. He will then turn His attention back to the nation of Israel and save a remnant of them beginning at the middle point of the 7 year Tribulation.

Luke 21:22-24 JESUS Speaking of the last 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation:

22 For **these are the days of vengeance**, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

23 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be **great distress** in the land and **wrath upon this people**.

24 And **they will fall by the edge of the sword**, and be **led away captive** into all nations. (Where they have been for the last 2,000 years) And **Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled**.

When Jesus Rode into Jerusalem on April 6th, 32 A.D., It was “**Palm Sunday**”.

- ☞ **If the Jewish leadership** had been studying their Bibles instead of playing Religion, they would have known this date from the Book of Daniel, as God predicted the exact day their Messiah would come.
- ☞ **Like Simeon and Anna**, who were waiting at the Temple, because they knew from the Bible that their Messiah was about to come.
- ☞ **Then when Jesus came**, they should have received Him, but He was not the kind of Messiah that they were expecting.

They wanted a Messiah who would overthrow the Roman government and make their lives easier...They were looking for a Great Regal King coming in Great Power and Glory...

- ☞ **They didn’t understand** that when Jesus came the first time, he was coming as a *Humble Servant who was “Laying Down His life for the sins of the whole world”*.
- ☞ **Today, people miss Jesus** for the exact same reasons, he doesn’t meet their expectations for what God is supposed to be like.

- ☞ **Today even Christians** let themselves get discouraged and even become angry and impatient with the Lord, because He doesn't work in their life like they wanted Him to.

So, because Israel missed their Messiah, rejected their Messiah, the Lord was free to offer the same Salvation to everyone else in the world, which is exactly what He has been doing for a little more than 2,000 years.

- ☞ **Jesus is gathering "His Church"**, from all those in the world who will believe the simple message that God will forgive and save all those who accept Jesus death on the Cross for themselves.
- ☞ **There is only a limited time** that God will make this offer.
- ☞ **When His offer is to expire**, a date that only He knows, then "The Times of the Gentiles will be fulfilled".
- ☞ **The expiration date** will be the day the Rapture happens...

This is all a fulfillment of Romans 12, Daniel 9 and Luke 19.

Israel will be blind to the fact that Jesus is their messiah, until the church is complete

Romans 11:25-27

25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, **that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.** TILL ALL OF THE CHURCH COMES IN.

26 And so **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

27 For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins."

Daniel 9:24-27

24 "**Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city**, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

25 "Know therefore and understand, That **from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks**; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

26 "And **after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off**, but not for Himself; And **the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.** The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

Titus fulfilled this prophecy of Daniel describing how the "City and the Sanctuary" were to be destroyed.

This was fulfilled in 70 A. D. by Titus and his Roman army as they did destroy Jerusalem, the Temple, and Killed over 1 million Jews, and disbursing the rest of the Jews to the 4 corners of the earth.

Jesus had predicted the siege of Jerusalem

Luke 19:41-44

41 Now as Jesus drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,

42 saying, "**If you had known, even you, especially in this your day**, the things that make for your peace! But now **they are hidden from your eyes**."

43 For days will come upon you **when your enemies will build an embankment around you**, surround you and close you in on every side,

44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and **they will not leave in you one stone upon another**, because you did not know **the time of your visitation.**"

So, here we are in Revelation chapter 7, and now even during the Great Tribulation Period, even though the people living during these last 3 ½ years had rejected Jesus as their Lord and Savior before the Rapture happened and the Tribulation began...The Lord is sending out 144,000 Jewish Evangelists to give the world ONE FINAL CHANCE.

Then, HERE IN VERSE 9, we see the results of the 144,00 and their attempts at reaching the world for Jesus

Revelation 7:9

9 After these things AFTER THE 144,000 ARE SEALED, I looked, and behold, a **great multitude** which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, **clothed with white robes**, with **palm branches** in their hands,

10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "**Salvation** belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

This will be the fulfillment of what Jesus said in Matthew chapter 24

Matthew 24:14

And **this gospel** of the kingdom **will be preached in all the world** as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

- ☞ **The church** is not going to experience some kind of a great Revival before the Rapture happens, in fact, when the Rapture happens, the world will see the Greatest Falling Away of Faith the world has ever seen before.

Luke 18:8

I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

2 Thessalonians 2:3

Let no one deceive you by any means; for "*The Day of the Lord*", (the 7 year Tribulation), will not come unless the falling away (**Greek "Apostasia"**) comes first

It will not be until the 7 year Tribulation Period, that these 144,000 Jewish evangelists go out with the Gospel of Jesus, that the whole world will hear what Jesus has done and have the opportunity to receive Him.

- ☞ **The results** of their taking Jesus message, being sealed by God so that antichrist cannot touch them, is seen here in Revelation 7, verses 9 and 10

- ☞ **“A Great multitude”**: Notice they are from **“All nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues”**.
 - ☞ **Clothed in white robes**: only those redeemed by Jesus wear white robes.
 - ☞ **They are not “The Church”** we will see that they are a different classification than the church.
 - ☞ **Those saved before the Tribulation began** *“Reign with Jesus”*, these saved out of, or during the Great Tribulation Period, *“Serve Jesus”* night and day in His Temple.
 - ☞ **Palm branches**: This group is unique from the others that wear white robes. In that **“They have palm branches”**
1. **Palm branches are associated with times of rejoicing**. In Leviticus 23:40 on the first day of tabernacles the people are commanded to take palm branches and rejoice before God.
 2. **Palm branches were used to acknowledge a great king**. Palm Branches were both spread on the road before Jesus and waved at Him, as He rode into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday in 32 A.D.

This group here in Revelation 7, that are *“Saved Out of the Great Tribulation”* are singing a **different song from the group in revelation 5:9**.

1. **Revelation 5:9-10** The Church, those saved before the beginning of the Tribulation, they sing of being **“Redeemed,”** and **“Reigning”** as kings and Priests.

Revelation 3:21

To him who overcomes **I will grant to sit with Me on My throne**, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

1 Corinthians 6:2-3

2 **Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?** And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

3 **Do you not know that we shall judge angels?** How much more, things that pertain to this life?

Matthew 19:28

So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, **you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**”

These that we see here in Revelation Chapter 7, are overcome and killed by the antichrist, even as Daniel had predicted.

Daniel 7:21

“I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,

2. **Revelation 7:10**, here, These who are saved *“Out of the Great Tribulation”* sing of **“Salvation”,** and **“Serve Jesus day and night in His temple.”**
3. **Revelation 5:9** the Church sang of **“Riches”,** we are Jesus treasure.

Revelation 5:9-10

9 And **1** they sang a **new song**, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; **2** For You were slain, And **3** have redeemed us to God **4** by Your blood **5** Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
10 And **6** have made us kings and priests to our God; And **7** we shall reign on the earth."

The group here in Revelation 7 sing of Salvation:

Revelation 7:10

10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "**Salvation** belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

This group in Revelation 7 Serve Jesus day and night in His temple.

Revelation 7

15 "Therefore **they are before the throne** of God, and **serve Him** day and night **in His temple**. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

Those who Accept Jesus before the Tribulation begins, have a different classification that those saved out of the Great Tribulation Period here in Revelation chapter 7.

Jesus said that the church would be HIS TREASURE

Matthew 13:44

44 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like **treasure** (US) hidden in a field,(THE WORLD) which a man found(JESUS) and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has (HEAVEN) and buys that field. (WITH HIS LIFE)

So, there are unique rewards, gifts, and responsibilities for those who give their life to Jesus now, before the Tribulation begins and are found faithfully serving Jesus when He comes for them at the Rapture

The angels that are there around the throne, now respond to the song of those saved out the Great Tribulation:

Revelation 7:11

11 **All the angels** stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,
12 saying: "**Amen!** Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

As a result of seeing these redeemed from the Tribulation, the Elders (US), the 4 faced Seraphim, fall down to worship the Lord.

Revelation 7

13 Then **one of the elders** answered, saying to me, "**Who are these** arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "**These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation**, and **washed their robes** and made them white **in the blood of the Lamb**."

Right after the 144,000 Jewish evangelists are sealed and sent out, we see this multitude of those "**Saved out of the Great Tribulation period.**"

The question is asked by one of the elders: "Who are these"?

1. *"They come out of The Great Tribulation."*
2. *"They have white robes washed in the blood of Jesus."*

Revelation 7

15 "Therefore they are **before the throne** of God, and **serve Him** day and night **in His temple**. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

Again, the designation of "Serve him":

1. They have all of the same **salvation benefits** of the church, except:
2. This group **serves** Jesus day and night.
3. The church **reigns** with Jesus.
4. **John does not recognize them**, if it was the church he would have known who they were.

This group that come out of the Great Tribulation period are in the same classification as those we saw in Revelation chapter 6

Revelation 6:9-11

9 When He opened the fifth seal, **I saw under the altar** the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "**How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?**"

11 Then **a white robe was given to each of them**; and it was said to them that they **should rest a little while longer**, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, **who would be killed as they were, was completed**.

There are 2 classifications of people here:

1. **Those who are saved before** the Tribulation begins are "The Church"
2. **Those who are saved "out of** the Great Tribulation Period.

They are not the same.

1. **Those who are the Church**, saved before the Tribulation begins are seen Sitting on thrones, Reigning.
2. **Those saved out of the Tribulation** are seen standing before the throne, Serving Jesus Night and Day.

Revelation 7

- 16 "They shall neither **hunger** anymore nor **thirst** anymore; **the sun** shall not strike them, nor any heat;
- 17 "for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will **wipe away every tear** from their eyes."

Revelation 7 This group "*Comes out of the Great Tribulation*", and are said to not "**Hunger**", "**Thirst**", no longer, neither do they "*Have the sun burn them*."

- ☞ **Because this group comes "out of the Great Tribulation" they have experienced .**
- ☞ **Famine.** (Chapter 6)
- ☞ **Intense heat** from the sun as it has been magnified during this time.
- ☞ **Lack of water**, as the fresh water supply has been turned to blood.
- ☞ **Tears from the trials** of the tribulation and losing their own lives.

So, these that have given their lives to Jesus during the Great Tribulation will lose their lives because antichrist will "*Be-Head them*", but they will be in Heaven, not experiencing any more hunger, thirst or the Burning Sun.

The Book of 2 Thessalonians details the time when the antichrist will reign and deceive most of those who live on the earth

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

- 9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,
- 10 and with all **unrighteous deception among those who perish**, because **they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**
- 11 And for this reason **God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,**
- 12 that they all may be condemned who **did not believe the truth** but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

This is a description of those who did not receive Jesus before he came, before the Tribulation begins.

- ☞ **Because they did not receive the love of the truth** that they might be saved, When the antichrist comes, they will believe him and follow him.
- ☞ **Because they did not receive the truth,** God will give them over to this "**Delusion**" that satan will teach.
- ☞ **The results here seems to be that they cannot be saved** because they believed the lie rather than the truth.

This is why it is very dangerous to make the statement that you will wait until you see the beginning of the Tribulation and the introduction of the antichrist before you will receive Jesus as Savior and Lord. If you reject Jesus before He comes, When the Tribulation begins, the Lord will turn you over to be deceived by the antichrist so that you will believe him, follow him and worship him.

- ☞ **The results** of either rejecting Jesus now, or choosing to wait and accept Jesus until you see if there is a Rapture and Tribulation, is that when the antichrist is revealed, you will be deceived by him and follow him, and you are damned forever,
- ☞ **It would be better** not to take that chance, but instead receive Jesus now while there is still time.

Let's look at what the antichrist will do to get people's allegiance during his reign and the final outcome of those who follow him:

Revelation 13:16-17

16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, **to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,**

17 and that **no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.** (NKJ)

- ☞ **If you are alive when the antichrist is here,** you cannot buy food or anything else without his mark.
- ☞ **Notice it is not just a credit number,** it is "The mark of his name", or "The number of his name"
- ☞ **Christians** have the "Name of Jesus"
- ☞ **Those who follow the antichrist** will have "His name".

Revelation 14:9-13

9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If **anyone worships the beast and his image,** and **receives his mark** on his forehead or on his hand,

10 **"he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God,** which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. **He shall be tormented with fire** and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

11 "And the smoke of their torment ascends **forever and ever;** and **they have no rest day or night,** who worship the beast and his image, and **whoever receives the mark of his name.**"

- ☞ **A warning** to not take the mark.
- ☞ **Taking the mark** is the same as worshipping the beast.
- ☞ **Everyone who does** will be tormented for eternity with the beast.
- ☞ **The patience of the saints** is to endure the killing by the antichrist.