

## THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 3/28-29/2022 *Revelation Chapter 7*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340**

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=TK5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

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### OPENING PRAYER

#### Review:

**Rev 6:17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" Can anyone be saved after the Rapture of the Church?**

Chapter 7 gives us the answer! In the parenthetical (pause) chapter, He takes a break and shows us some of the things happening behind the scenes in this period of time. We see God's grace and mercy with such clarity! **Hab 3:2c) In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy.** God seems to be saying, in all of this difficulty, I have not changed. My heart is still broken for the lost! I am still maintaining My covenant with the nation of Israel. My heart is broken over the rebellion of mankind! I am doing everything possible for Me to do, to turn the hearts of rebellious men and women, to Myself!

**Who will stand?** 144,000 of the tribes of Israel will stand. Two prophets, possibly Moses and Elijah, will stand. And *behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, peoples and tongues*, will stand! What a great revival, possibly the greatest ever.

**Revelation Chapter 7 FROM TRIBULATION TO JUBILATION! – The Sealed of Israel (Restored Remnant of Israel) – (vs. 1-8); A Multitude from the Great Tribulation – (vs. 9-17).**

**The 144,000 of Israel Sealed**

**Rev 7:1** *After these things I saw four angels (“angels” used 67 times in Revelation) standing at the four corners (quadrants), 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.*

- **Bible critics have pointed to this scripture as proof** that the Bible could not be inspired of God because it talks about the four corners of the earth, and we know that the earth is round. Thus, the Bible is not reliable. It could not be inspired of God who would say that the earth was square because of the four corners of the earth.
- **Job talks about the circle of the earth.** That was in a day when people thought the earth was flat. Job says that He hung the world upon nothing. It is not on the back of a turtle, or an elephant or Atlas is not holding it up as many people at one time believed. But He hung the earth upon nothing. So, the Bible is reliable, when it talks about the four corners of the earth. It is talking about the north, east, south and west, and about the north wind, south wind, east wind and west wind. Bible critics are always looking for some little thing to try and find some flaw. They have been working at it a long time and they really get frustrated.
- **The four angels...holding the four winds of the earth.** The four messengers stand on the cardinal points, indicates that they are far removed from each other and that judgment that is now arrested is wide its extent.
- **The suspending of God’s judgment for a short time.** (Rev 7:3b) *“Till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”* **They were holding the four winds of the earth that the wind should not blow** on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. It is hard to imagine when the winds cease to blow for a period of time! I would hate to be here in the Los Angeles basin. We have a wind that sort of sweeps the air clean in the afternoon. It is always a blessing when that afternoon breeze carries all the smog over to Arizona and parts east. But these winds are going to be released in hurricane force during the great tribulation.
- **Recently in Oklahoma tornados, the Lord gave us a foretaste** of what can happen when the winds really kick up. They were measured at somewhere around three hundred miles an hour and of course, we know the devastation that, that tornado left in its path. We see the devastation that can happen when hurricanes hit with 185 mile-an-hour wind. God is going to release some ferocious winds upon the earth but until He does, and the devastation that they bring, He wants to seal a group that they will not be hurt by this tremendous force of wind that will be released upon the earth.

**Rev 7:2** *Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal (sphragis – signet, 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,*

- **There will be hurricanes, there will be tornados such as the world** has never seen before. Those on land and the sea will not escape these horrendous winds. But yet, this angel commands the four angels holding back these winds not to release them until he was able to seal the servants of God in their foreheads.

**Rev 7:3** *saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed (indicates ownership and security) the servants (doulos – slave, bond-servant) of our God on their foreheads.”*

- **He seals His servants with the seal of our God.** We are not told anything about what the seal looks like or is. It is some seal that God puts on them, but He does not tell us exactly what it is. It is interesting how that when the Bible is silent, so many people seem to know the answers and they have all their conjectures. But it is best to stay away from conjecture. If I do make conjectures, I try to be careful to let you know that this is my opinion and it is something that we are not certain of, but it is our opinion.
- **Believers are sealed by the Holy Spirit.** We are told in numerous places of believers’ being sealed. (2Co 1:22) *who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.*
- (Eph 1:13, 4:30) *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.[4:30] And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

- **(2Ti 2:19)** Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, **having this seal:** "The Lord knows those who are His," and "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."
- **(Rev 20:3)** and he cast him (Satan) into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and **set a seal on him**, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

**Rev 7:4** 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:** **(Rev 14:1)** 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.

- **144,000! That should make it clear.** There should not be any confusion or doubt as to the identity of the hundred and forty-four thousand. They are from all of the tribes of the children of Israel. That is about as plain as you can say it. Yet, many groups have come along and claimed to be the hundred and forty-four thousand who were sealed of God. The Jehovah's Witnesses made that claim. But they must not have had much faith as to how large the Jehovah's Witness would grow because they have passed the hundred and forty-four thousand. Then they began to scramble, and they had trouble trying to explain how you make it into heaven now because it is already full. Because as we get further on into the book of Revelation, we will find the hundred and forty-four thousand again in heaven. We will have another description of them in chapter fourteen.
- **Why Israel?**
  - ✓ **They are God's chosen, covenant people!** God chose Abraham and made a covenant with him, that in his seed all the nations would be blessed, that he would have the Messiah come through his lineage. God also made a covenant with David. Israel is God's covenant people.
  - ✓ **Because they had God's word!** They were to write the Scriptures. They were to preserve it. We have the Jewish nation of Israel to thank for our Bible! Most of the sixty-six books were penned by Jewish writers.
  - ✓ **They had God's Messiah, the Christ, the Jesus, the Anointed One!** The Savior of the world! Our Savior, Jesus Christ, was Jewish!
  - ✓ **They were God's light to the nations.** God had chosen the nation of Israel, not to be like other nations, but to be a light to other nations. That is one of the reasons behind God's choice during this time. Daniel chapter 9 and Romans chapters 8-10, speak of this. Basically, Israel is God's timeclock! All of history and all of Bible prophecy revolves around the nation of Israel. It is no accident that Israel exists today as a nation. Hitler tried to exterminate them, but God preserved and protected them.
- **They are the tribes of Israel!** It does not take a genius to understand that. But in case someone like Herbert Armstrong comes along and says, No, we are Israel, the church is Israel and we are the hundred and forty-four thousand and of course, Herbert Armstrong when he was in his heyday, was declaring that they were building up to the hundred and forty-four thousand and that they were preparing a place in the wilderness for these people to flee and he would send them a telegram when that time came if they were faithful supporters in double tithing and triple tithing to his ministry. Herbert Armstrong has gone to his reward and those hundred and forty-four thousand had been dispersed.
- **We do not know who they are.** They are not any group of people, of Christian believers somewhere, some sect. They are very plainly Jews! They are from the tribes of the children of Israel. So there not be any confusion, the Lord takes the care to name the twelve tribes and twelve thousand from each tribe and twelve times twelve thousand equals a hundred and forty-four thousand. These 144,000 have been referred to as 144,000 Billy Grahams, or possibly Paul the apostles! Some of the great innumerable multitude of Tribulation saints that come to the Lord, most likely will be saved by their witness. **(Mat 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.
- **We believe the rapture of the church could happen at any moment.** We do not have to reach the whole world with the gospel before the church is caught up. But before the second coming, God is going to see fit to spread the gospel to the whole world. There are also going to be two witnesses, possibly Moses and Elijah, that are going to come and preach the gospel. Also, in **(Rev 14:6)** Then I saw **another angel** flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people.

***Rev 7:5 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;***

- **12,000 from each tribe!** We read the names of each tribe and twelve thousand from each of them. You will notice something interesting in that the Bible always speaks of the twelve tribes of Israel and yet, as they are listed in different places in the Bible, there are not always the same names. In other words, here in this listing in Revelation the tribe of Dan is omitted, and the tribe of Ephraim is omitted.
- **When Jacob came to Egypt and he met his son Joseph,** who he thought had been dead, and when he met Joseph, Joseph brought his two sons to his father, Jacob, in order that he might present Jacob the two grandsons of his son Joseph, in order to receive a blessing from his dad. He brought them in the position so that when Jacob would put his hands on his two sons to bless them, that his right hand would be upon his son Manasseh and his left hand would be upon Ephraim. But Jacob, as the boys came to him, crossed his hands and put his right hand on Ephraim and his left hand on Manasseh. Joseph said, No, no, dad, you are mixed up. Ephraim is the younger! Jacob said, I know what I am doing, son. Jacob gave the blessing upon the two sons. But then he said to Joseph, These two are mine. They are as my sons. Whatever sons are born to you after this, they are yours but these two are mine and they became tribes in Israel. The tribe of Ephraim and the tribe of Manasseh.
- **They both came out of Joseph who was one of the twelve sons of Jacob** but yet in that sense, you now have thirteen tribes. Joseph becomes two tribes, Ephraim and Manasseh. But sometimes and here is an interesting thing in Revelation, Manasseh is listed as one of the tribes and Joseph is listed instead of Ephraim and the tribe of Dan is omitted. Sometimes as they listed the tribes, the tribe of Levi was omitted because when they came in and they apportioned the land to the twelve tribes. Levi did not get any of the apportionment of the land because they were the priests and thus they did not have a section that this is the land of Levi, such as the land of Judah, the land of Benjamin, the land of Asher and Naphtali and so forth. Levi did not get any portion and so, you have Ephraim and Manasseh, there was no portion to the tribe of Joseph in the distributing of the land to the various tribes. So, you have actually fourteen when Joseph is counted separately from Ephraim and Manasseh and so you have two that are omitted in the twelve thousand here, Dan and Ephraim.
- **In Ezekiel, he speaks about when the Lord comes again and there is the regathering of the nation** of Israel into the land that God had promised to their father Abraham perpetually. When they come back into the land when Jesus returns, and the land again is apportioned out to the twelve tribes, it is interesting that the first tribe to get its portion is Dan, though Dan is not sealed here in Revelation. In the last chronological listing in (*Eze 48:32*) *on the east side, four thousand five hundred cubits, three gates: one gate for Joseph, one gate for Benjamin, and one gate for Dan;*
- **It means that they will survive some of them** but not without suffering from many of the afflictions that will come upon the world during this period of great tribulation. Why Dan and Ephraim were omitted from being sealed is probably because Dan was the first tribe to go into idolatry. When the kingdom was divided, and Jeroboam set up the golden calf in the northern portion of the kingdom, one of the calves was set in the city of Dan actually up in the northern part of the upper Galilee. (*IKi 12:28-30*) *Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!" [29] And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. [30] Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan.*
- **Ephraim also was given over to idolatry.** The prophet Hosea said, Ephraim is given over to her idols, let her alone. Because of the leading the tribes of Ephraim and Dan into idolatry is probably the reason why God did not seal them to protect them from the devastation that will take place when these four winds are released in their havoc and power upon the earth. (*Hos 4:17*) *"Ephraim is joined to idols, Let him alone.*
- **Those who have a weakness for idolatry cannot be permitted to witness** in a time of such deception, when the antichrist is pointing to a statue of the man of sin and calling upon people to worship him. But we see that Dan and Ephraim are not yet cast off from God. Like Jesus took care to send word to His erring disciple Peter, (*Mar 16:7*) *But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."*

***Rev 7:6 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;***

*Rev 7:7 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;*

*Rev 7:8 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.*

### ***A Great Multitude of Tribulation Saints Saved from Every Nation***

***Rev 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations*** (*ethnos* – ethnic group), ***tribes*** (*phule*, family group), ***peoples*** (*laos*, people group), ***and tongues*** (*glossa*, language group), (each group) ***standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes*** (redeemed), ***with palm branches*** (rejoicing victoriously) ***in their hands,***

- **It is a wonderful thing to me how that the Lord really does not keep an accurate count** that He gives to us of how many converts there were or how many people. On the Day of Pentecost, it says there were about five thousand men plus women and children. Or it spoke about multitudes came. Many were healed. But it was not a thing of keeping statistics so that it gives you the exact number. Apparently, God is not so interested in numbers. It can become a bondage when we start counting people and finding out just how many were there. That can be a thing of great bondage. May God deliver us from numbers. That is, the bondage of thinking, Oh my, how many are there or how many attended or how many people came forward or how many got saved? (*2Sa 24:1-2*) *Again the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, "Go, number Israel and Judah." [2] So the king said to Joab the commander of the army who was with him, "Now go throughout all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and count the people, that I may know the number of the people."*
- **You do not find the Lord in the New Testament giving numbers** out like that. They were only approximations and really, only God knows. Only God knows. People ask, How many people have been saved? I do not know. God knows. It does not matter. It is something we leave the numbers with God. He knows those that are His and that is the important thing.
- **They are not Israel because they are, Of all** (each and every) ***nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues.*** The nations are divided into various families, various ethnic groups, various language groups. These people are from all over the world.
- ***Standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes,*** White robes represent **the righteousness of Jesus Christ that is imparted** by faith. These are people who came to a faith in Jesus Christ, the white robes.
- **They were saved by grace through faith! With palm branches in their hands.** The palms are a symbol of victory and of worship. You remember when Jesus made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, they were waving the palm branches. Here is a great number! Multitudes no man can number. They are from all over the world, and they are standing there before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in the righteousness of Christ, victorious and worshipping Him.

***Rev 7:10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*** (*Hab 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.*

- **Worshipping the Lord,** salvation to our God, to the Lamb!

***Rev 7:11 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*** (saved and singing!),

- **Heaven is going to be a glorious time of worshipping the Lord!** If you find it onerous to worship the Lord now, you are going to be uncomfortable in heaven! But if you have discovered the joy and the blessing of just worshipping God, then you are going to be right at home in heaven because we are going to be worshipping God! Oh, there is so much, so much to be thankful for!
- **True praise is that which rises spontaneously from our heart** at the recognition of the goodness of God; the grace of God; the blessings of God. God loves to bless His people. The blessings of God so often invoke from us spontaneous response of praise! Lord, You are so good! Oh Lord, I love you! It is that spontaneity of praise that is really true praise.
- **Sometimes in services, there will be a cheerleader trying to encourage people** to praise the Lord because we want God to bless us tonight and let us all praise the Lord. There is an emotional buildup of praise among the people. But if I am praising the Lord in order to get a blessing, that is not true

praise. That is very self-centered. But, if I realize how good God is, and do not you know if you are standing in that heavenly scene and you realize, Wow, I made it, this is glorious, there is just going to be that spontaneity of praise! No one's going to have to say, Now praise the Lord, everybody. We will be praising Him! We will be worshipping Him! We will be entering in to see the God who created the whole universe. To see the Son of God who came and gave Himself for our sins! To be there in that glorious crowd! It will just be spontaneous praise from all over the place! Each new group that comes in, will say, Wow, praise the Lord! Glory to God! Notice how these elders always seem to always be falling on their faces in worshipping God!

***Rev 7:12 saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."***

- *And they are saying, Amen [So be it]: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might (7:12),*
- **It seems like every time they praise Him, they are adding something** to it because the goodness and the greatness of God is expanding in their mind! More and more they see God's goodness and God's grace. Thus, they expand the worship. In the beginning, the elders first say, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor for Thou hast created all things. So, glory and honor. But then when the Lamb takes the scroll out of the right hand, then we say, Worthy is the Lamb to receive the praise, the glory, and the honor.
- **Then, as the heavenly number joins in the praise and they give out many different things,** they expand the praise and here it is expanded even further. "Blessing, glory, wisdom, Thanksgiving, honor, power, and might!"

***Rev 7:13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"***

- **John is saying, I do not know, You tell me,** is basically what John is saying. The elder said, Who are these in their white robes? Where did they come from? In chapters 4 and 5, John recognized the church. Yet he does not recognize this multitude before the throne. Therefore, they cannot be the church.

***Rev 7:14 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.***

- **The meaning and significance of the Tribulation Saints! The elder identifies these people as those that came out of the great tribulation.** Wow! We see such grace from God! In **the midst of His wrath** being poured out. We **see the greatest period of revival** that the **world has ever known** will take place immediately after the rapture! There likely will be many people who have been on the fringe edge of things. Many, who have not made a commitment to the Lord, but they have heard the message. They have loved ones who knew the Lord, who had been witnessing to them for a long time. Suddenly, when the rapture takes place, there will be a realization and an awakening of just what has happened. There will be a lot of people on their knees repenting, crying out to God for mercy, for grace and for salvation.
- **In the opening of the fifth seal back in chapter six, verse ten,** he saw the souls that were under the altar who were slain for the testimony, which they held. **(Rev 6:10) 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?"** These were they who were martyred during the rule of the antiChrist, who felt it was necessary to purge from the earth in order that the antiChrist might solidify his power.
- **These advocates of the New Globalist's World Order** are beginning to say that there is going to have to be a cleansing of the earth of believers before they can really establish the Globalist objectives. They talk about billions of people being cleansed from the earth in order to establish their Utopia upon the earth. The putting to death of those who are standing in the way of what they are hoping and planning to establish upon the earth.
- **Here is a great number of people, coming to Him! God is in control!** In chapter six under the fifth seal, **their number is not yet complete.** Thus, they are in a holding pattern until the full number is complete. Those that are to be martyred will be martyred. They are calling out, Lord, how long before You get even with those on the earth who killed us? **(Rev 6:10-11) 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**.

- **Here in chapter seven, he is filling you in on these that were there crying out for vengeance** upon those that had taken their lives. Their number is now complete. They are now brought into the heavenly scene. They have come out of the great tribulation and are now there in the heavenly scene. They can now take their place in the heavenly scene. They are not the church. Had they been the church, John would have known, when he said, Who are these? Where did they come from? That is the church, I am part of that. But John does not know who they are. They are a group that John is not acquainted with.
- **When we get to the twentieth chapter of the Book of Revelation** and there in the heavenly scene, (**Rev 20:4a**) *And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them.* That is the church! Jesus said, (**Rev 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.*
- **Paul said to the Corinthians, (1Co 6:1-3)** *Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? [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?* “It is wrong for you to take these petty things to a civil court. You ought to be able to settle these among yourselves. Don’t you know that we are going to be judging angels?” So, this first group that John sees in chapter twenty, verse four, is the church. On their thrones, judgment is given unto them.
- **But then John said, (Rev 20:4b)** *Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.* John, **seeing the second group, realizes it is that group** that we have here in chapter seven **who were martyred during** the great tribulation period. They were put to death by the antiChrist for their refusal to go along with his program. For their refusal to worship him and to take the mark that he puts upon everyone to mark them as his. They refuse to enter in to that economic system of receiving a mark and buying and selling by the mark that is in their right hand and in their forehead. They choose death rather than serving the antiChrist. Thus, they are put to death because of their refusal to worship the antiChrist. There will be millions, no doubt, “**A great multitude no man can number.**” They are there in heaven because they have been martyred for the witness that they have.
- **Do not ever think, well, that is great, I will just wait!** I will live it up now and then when the church is raptured, I’ll get serious before God! I will not take the mark and I will let them put me to death and I will come in that way. Let me just say this. If you cannot live for Jesus now with the help of the Holy Spirit, I question how you will ever be able to die for Jesus then. It is so important that you live for Jesus now and that you be with the church that is raptured! Do not plan to die for Jesus then! (**2Th 2:3**) *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away (apostasia) comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,*
- **Following the rapture, there will be great deception!** Again, consider what the Apostle Paul taught the Thessalonians, (**2Th 2:9-11**) *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! Repent and commit to the Lord now! Let everyone know about His love for them and because He is righteous and just! His judgment is surely coming!*
- **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.** The white robes represent the righteousness of Christ by faith. We find that the church is also clothed in white linen, pure and clean - The righteousness of the saints. We are righteous not by our works that we do but are accounted righteous by our faith in Jesus Christ!
- **As a Pharisee, Paul the apostle was trying to be righteous by his works.** He was trying to do everything that would constitute righteousness. He was doing his best to keep the law as he understood it. He said, (**Php 3:6-9**) *concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness, which is in the law, blameless.* (Paul, really worked at it! But going on, he said.) *But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. [8] Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the*

loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ [9] and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; He once had that. But now the righteousness, which is of Christ through faith. That is the righteousness that God accepts!

- **The Tribulation saints washed their robes white, made them white in the blood of the Lamb!** What can wash away my sin? What can wash the stain of sin? What can wash the blight of sin from my life? Nothing but the blood of Jesus! Oh, precious is the flow!

**Rev 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.**

- **Therefore they are before the throne of God.** Again, this shows that they are not the church because “they stand before the throne of God,”
- **We need to understand that people saved during the Tribulation are not the church,** and therefore are in an entirely different position than the church!
- **This company stands before the throne (Rev 7:9). The bride of Christ sits on the throne! (Rev 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.**
- **This company serves the Lord (Rev 7:15). The bride of Christ is served by the Lord! (Luk 12:37). Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.**
- **And serve Him day and night in His temple.** The church has nothing to do with the temple. The church is the bride of Christ. We live and reign with Him and we are His bride! He said, (**Joh 15:15**) *No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.* We are there as the bride of Christ. They, coming in later, have a lesser position, serving there in the temple.
- **And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them!** Know this! It is going to be so great, no matter what category you are in! Just being there is going to be wonderful! **And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them!**

**Rev 7:16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;**

- **They shall neither hunger anymore.** Going back to the third seal, back in verse five of chapter six, there is going to be a great famine upon the earth that follows the war. During the war, the great battles, probably a nuclear war, so many of the food supplies of the earth will be destroyed or contaminated by radiation that famine is going to destroy many more people than it does even today. Thus, these people that are in the great tribulation are going to experience famine. These people that are now brought into the heavenly scene, “they will neither hunger nor thirst anymore!”
- **Nor thirst anymore;** Now as we move on in the Book of Revelation we find that God is going to smite the fresh water supplies of the earth and they become as wormwood (bitter). They become unpalatable. People will be going around thirsty because the water will not be drinkable. Again, contaminated.
- **The sun shall not strike them, nor any heat.** We are told as the judgments of God progress that God gives power unto the sun to scorch men, who are living upon the earth. They were scorched with the great heat of the sun. You talk about the earth cooling and the earth warming. They used to say it is cooling, now they say it is warming. But it is going to really heat up during the great tribulation as power is given to the sun to scorch men. They have gone through, and they have experienced some of the hardships of the great tribulation. The hunger, the famine, the thirst, and the scorching sun. But they are freed from that now. They are there in the heavenly scene and they are away from all of the calamity and all of the catastrophes that they experienced because they were not ready when the Lord raptured His church. Note the picture of heaven in a negative way. No hunger, thirst, scorching sun, calamities and catastrophes!

**Rev 7:17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd (feed- The Lamb goes from lamb to shepherd!) them and lead them to living fountains of waters (abundant joy in heaven). **And God will wipe away every tear** (will comfort) **from their eyes.**” (**Psa 23:1-3**) *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. [2] He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. [3] He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.***

- **They are brought into the heavenly scene, but it is going to be a hard way to go!** You do not want to



plan to go that way, believe me. You do not want to be here when the judgment of God begins to fall upon the earth. As Jesus said, (**Luk 21:36**) *Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.* I want to be among those in chapter five rather than those in chapter seven! I want to be there standing before the Son of Man before the great tribulation begins upon the earth, rather than being here and going the hard way. There is an easy way to go, there's a hard way to go. It is up to you.

### **SUMMARY POINTS:**

- **We see God's purpose and plan for the remnant of the nation of Israel.** Elijah – I have 7,000. God always has His true remnant!
- **There will be a great revival, possibly the greatest of all time!** Even in wrath, our amazing **God will remember mercy!** (*Rev 7:9*) *After these things 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.*
- **Even during the middle of God's wrath being poured out on a Christ rejecting world, God remembers and shows His abundant mercy and grace!** (*Mat 24:21*) *For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.*
- **We thank the LORD for providing us so great a salvation** and the provision for forgiveness of our sins through the blood of Jesus Christ, we have been washed and cleansed from our defilement!
- **We thank Him for accounting us worthy to escape the things that are coming** upon the earth and for helping us that we might stand before Him, being ready when He comes. That is the big question. The rapture of the church could take place at any time. It seems very close. **Are you ready?** That is the issue.
- **Make peace with God right now!** So that no matter what comes, when it comes, how it comes, when death knocks at your door, **you will be prepared, and you will be ready.**
- **If you are ready, be a faithful witness to those who are not, telling them of Your great mercy in Your judging the Christ rejecting world and what's ahead in these final days!**

### **CLOSING SONG:**

(*Rev 7:12*) saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

**"REVELATION SONG"** - Phillips, Craig & Dean (5:47)

*Worthy is the, Lamb who was slain, Holy, Holy, is He.*

*Sing a new song, to Him who sits on Heaven's Mercy Seat [Repeat 2x]*

*[Chorus:]*

*Holy, Holy, Holy Is the Lord God Almighty, Who was, and is, and is to come*

*With all creation I sing: Praise to the King of Kings! You are my everything, And I will adore You...!*

*Yeah!*

*Clothed in rainbows, of living color, Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder*

*Blessing and honor, strength and Glory and power be To You the Only Wise King, Yeah*

*[Repeat Chorus:]*

*Filled with wonder, Awestruck wonder At the mention of Your Name*

*Jesus, Your Name is Power, Breath, and Living Water Such a marvelous mystery Yeah...*

*[Chorus:]*

*[Chorus (Repeat at a cappella)]*

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

**For next week, read Chapter 8**