

## Revelation Chapter Seven

Before I read chapter seven, I need to press upon you the urgency of seeking the Lord. If I can stir but one lost soul today it will be worth it all. Quite frankly, most people around us are totally unconcerned about their soul. Yet Jesus says in the gospel of Mark, *“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”*

I ask you today: what shall it profit you if you continue to reject Christ and lose your soul? Do you know what it means to lose your soul? Have you counted the cost should you be lost? It is time to seek the Lord. It is time to repent and confess Christ as your Savior. It is time to get right with God before it is everlastingly too late.

Now look with me at Revelation seven:

*1And 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.*

*2And 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,*

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

*4And 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.*

*5Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.*

*6Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nepthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.*

*7Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.*

*8Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.*

*9After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;*

*10And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.*

*11And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,*

*12Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.*

*13And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?*

*14And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

*15Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.*

*16They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.*

*17For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

As we approach this chapter you will notice it is an interlude between the opening of the sixth seal and the opening of the seventh seal in chapter eight. John sees something unique happening as 12,000 individuals from the 12 tribes of Israel are sealed.

Verse three refers to these individuals as “*the servants of our God.*” Immediately upon seeing this group of 144,000 Jews sealed and marked out as servants of the Lord, the text says John sees a great multitude from all nations, kindreds, people, and tongues standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They are clothed with white robes and palms are in their hands.

John sees them crying with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation to our God which sets upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.”

One of the elders around the throne proceeds to ask John, “Who are these which are arrayed in white robes? Where did they come from?” To which John responds that he does not know who they are. However, John asks the elder to identify this great multitude of people and he proceeds to say to John, “*these are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*”

Now let me call your attention to several things. First, this multitude finds Christ during the great tribulation period. Remember, Jesus identifies the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation as “great tribulation.” Consequently, we must conclude this great

harvest of souls from the gentile nations occurs during the dark days of the great tribulation. As indicated with the opening of the fifth seal in chapter six, most of these converts will die for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

Next, the chapter obviously connects the 144,000 sealed Jewish servants of God and this great multitude. You will recall in Matthew 24 Jesus says that this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. In as much as the global witness of the church is no longer present post rapture, the Lord raises up a witness out of the house of Israel. I think this is important to acknowledge.

Remember, the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel's prophecy concerns the Jewish people, not the church. As things rapidly unfold during the relatively short seven-year period predicted by Daniel, John sees 144,000 Jews sealed as the servants of God upon the earth. These servants will preach the gospel of the kingdom during those days.

I might add those who are converted amongst the nations will also bear testimony to the truth of the gospel despite the fact it will cost them their lives as martyrs of the faith.

## **Conclusion**

Let me conclude with two simple thoughts: first, these 144,000 individuals are Jews, they are not gentiles. They obviously are special instruments of the Lord during the coming tribulation period. And finally, if the church was still on the earth with millions of believers around the world still preaching the gospel, there would be no need for this group to be sealed and serve as special servants of the Lord.

Today both Jews and gentiles are a part of the same body of Christ and in Christ there is neither Jew nor gentile. However, the entire prophetic program that unfolds after the rapture concerns Israel. Everything revolves around her including world evangelism. Think about that.