

The Book Of Revelation

Study 37

Revelation 7:1-8 (NKJV)

¹ *After these things 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.*

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,*

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.*

SURVIVORS OF THE WRATH OF GOD

The previous chapter of Revelation, (*Chapt six*) looked at a time of unprecedented disaster, unrelieved terror, and unimaginable slaughter that lies ahead for the world.

Commonly known as the Tribulation, it will be a time when Jesus Christ takes back the earth from the usurper, Satan.

That action is symbolized in the book of Revelation by His unrolling of a seven-sealed scroll.

As He breaks each seal, a new divine judgment is poured out on the earth. The judgments of the first five seals were severe.

But the disasters associated with the sixth seal (*the beginning of the Day of the Lord*) will far surpass those of the first five seals.

And the judgments of the seventh seal, which contains the even more intense trumpet and bowl judgments, will be the worst of all.

The world has refused to believe and acknowledge the first five Seals as God's judgment on the earth, but the sixth seal breaks down that wall and they begin to acknowledge that God is judging the earth. More specifically the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.

Revelation 6:16-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ *and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!*

¹⁷ *For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*

Now to the seventh chapter. This chapter forms a parenthetical section between the sixth and seventh seals in order to answer that question of who will survive? Who can stand? It introduces two groups who will survive the fury of divine judgments.

1st Group

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These are Jewish evangelists who will be preserved on earth. They will survive the holocaust of divine wrath unleashed by the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments

God will also protect them from the murderous efforts of Antichrist and his henchmen to wipe out believers in the true God.

Having survived the wars, famine, unprecedented natural disasters, disease, rampant, unchecked sinfulness, and savage persecution of the Tribulation, they will enter the millennial kingdom alive.

2nd Group

Revelation 7:9-17 (NKJV)

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,*

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

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."*

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.*

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.

*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."*

These are those who will be martyred and thereby be ushered into the blissful rest of heaven, where they will be preserved.

After the horrific events of the sixth seal, and before the opening of the seventh seal in Chapter eight, the Holy Spirit provided this chapter as an interlude for the reader to catch his breath. It is also a reminder than in the midst of His wrath, God will remember mercy

Habakkuk 3:2 (NKJV)

*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.*

This pair of visions contrasts the preparedness of believers, who will be delivered from the wrath, with the panic and devastation of the unbelievers, who will not survive that wrath.

The 1st letter to the Thessalonians speaks of this contrast.

1 Thessalonians 5:3-9 (NKJV)

³ For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

⁸ But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

⁹ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

That God will preserve His people in the time of judgment is a familiar theme in Scripture.

David says;

Psalms 34:17-19 (NKJV)

¹⁷ The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles.

¹⁸ The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all.

We can be assured of His mercy and His faithfulness to His promises of Salvation from the wrath of God.

Remember, when God destroyed the world in the Flood, He preserved Noah and his family. When He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, He preserved Lot and his daughters. When He destroyed Jericho, He preserved Rahab and her household. And when He destroyed Egypt, He preserved the nation of Israel.

He takes care of those who are His.

Now listen and hear this, The tribulation is revealed to be a time of unparalleled judgment, disaster, and death. But it will also be for many the time of salvation.

Some of those redeemed out of the Tribulation have already been mentioned in connection with the fifth seal;

Revelation 6:9-11 (NKJV)

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.*

They were martyrs, killed because of their faithfulness to the word of God and to the Lord Jesus Christ

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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,*

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

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."*

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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.*

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."*

Many believers will surely die from the wars, the famine, and natural disasters that God brings in judgment on the earth.

Countless others will die as the result Anti-Christ's persecution.

Their physical deaths are not, however, a result of God's wrath.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ *and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NKJV)

⁹ *For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

His protection is upon His own.

God's judgments on the world and Antichrist's persecution are just the means by which God ushers them into His presence.

Many believers will not die, however, they will survive to populate the millennial kingdom.

Jesus taught that truth in His description of the sheep and goat judgment.

Matthew 25:31-46 (NKJV)

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;

³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

³⁷ Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?

³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?

³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

⁴¹ Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

⁴² for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

⁴⁴ Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'

⁴⁵ Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'

⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

To the saved, come and inherit the Kingdom

To the unsaved, depart from me, they will be cast into hell.

Many of those who enter the millennial kingdom alive will be Gentiles

Isaiah 2:2-4 (NKJV)

² Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it.

³ Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

Micah 4:1-5 (NKJV)

¹ Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And peoples shall flow to it.

² Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

³ He shall judge between many peoples, And rebuke strong nations afar off; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

⁴ But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, And no one shall make them afraid; For the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

⁵ For all people walk each in the name of his god, But we will walk in the name of the Lord our God Forever and ever.

Zechariah 8:20-23 (NKJV)

²⁰ "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Peoples shall yet come, Inhabitants of many cities;

²¹ The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, "Let us continue to go and pray before the Lord, And seek the Lord of hosts. I myself will go also."

²² Yes, many peoples and strong nations Shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, And to pray before the Lord.'

²³ "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you." ' ' "

But let's note that the Tribulation is also the time of Israel's national salvation, of which the prophets spoke.

The most detailed description is found in *Zech.12:10-13:1-9* you need to read this!!

This is the time of which the apostle Paul spoke when he wrote

Romans 11:26-27 (NKJV)

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."

Rev 7:1-8 introduces the group of survivors preserved in the midst of the horrors of the Tribulation, who have been saved and redeemed for some time but, as the final fury hits, are set apart for special service and given special protection.

John's vision of this special group of people contains three features:

- 1st Wrath Restrained**
- 2nd Saints Sealed,**
- 3rd The Israelites identified.**

We will begin with these next Sunday