

Revelation 7

The Sealed Evangelists and a Great Multitude

Good morning, church.

Hope you all had a wonderful week, we are glad you here this morning.

Let's pray for this morning.

So, I remember being very young the first time it happened.

My father was in his pajama shorts with no shirt, and he had an advanced case of pillow head.

It did not seem to bother him however, he was in no hurry to get a comb and fix it, it was Saturday, and we had nowhere to go.

My father had just cooked breakfast, he was drinking his coffee and my sisters and I were playing while watching Saturday morning cartoons.

All was peaceful, with the smell of bacon permeating through our house.

When the moment was interrupted by a knock on our door.

We all wondered who it was; my father looked through the window and saw two well-dressed people with pamphlets in hand.

I could see my father had a dilemma in his mind, as he debated opening the door.

But they made eye contact with him, and he had no other choice but to open the door.

They greeted him, and ask if he had ever thought about heaven, and what the Bible teaches about the End Times.

Now, I watched my father, stand outside that Saturday morning, with no shirt, and the craziest pillow head I have ever seen, and he discussed Biblical truths with them.

They left after a while, I am not sure my dad could call it a win on his part, I thought surely they thought they were talking to crazy man, by the way his hair looked and his interesting PJ's.

But he held his own, and that was my first encounter with this group who tends to think they are a select group of people.

Now if you listen these to Jehovah's Witnesses long enough you will find, that they have twisted and changed scripture just enough to put them into the category of a cult.

They believe based on their understanding of scriptures, that exactly 144,000 authentic Christians go to heaven to rule with Christ in the kingdom of God.

They will tell you, these 144,000 with Jesus, will also perform priestly duties that will bring faithful mankind to perfect health and 'everlasting life'. *Revelation—Its Grand Climax at Hand!*. Watch Tower Society. p. 200.

They believe that most of those 144,000 are already in heaven, and that there is a remnant still here on earth.

This is motivation of course, for those who are working to earn one of those spots.

They believe there are only 144,000 truly born again Christians who are the 'anointed.'

And only by being associated with those anointed Christians will there be any hope of salvation.

They are not the only cult that has made claim to these 144,000 that we see in the scriptures.

Many so called prophets have found deeper mysteries, and meanings to the scriptures, and have had special revelation that they have found the way to being one of these select few.

There has been so much confusion surrounding these men.

But my hope this morning is for all of you to be equipped, and for you to know, and discern what John is seeing in his vision of this group.

Remember the literal, simplistic approach to the Revelation is the best, and easiest to understand.

We don't have to piece puzzles and clues together, to find the deeper meanings of scripture, we do not need a special prophet to decipher these things.

God has not made his Word an episode of Dora the Explorer with riddles and challenges to find different levels of understanding.

He makes it simpler than that, as we will see this morning.

So, remember now where we left off.

Chapter six we saw the first 6 seals of judgment broken and they revealed the first half of the 7 year Tribulation period.

Now before we can see the events of the seventh seal, John is given a parenthesis within the vision.

We will go from the broad picture and timeline and narrow down to certain details taking place during these 6 seals of judgment.

We will be in Chapter 7 this morning, and there will be a sudden change in scenery.

We had in the last chapter, the four riders of the apocalypse, that brought a false Christ, worldwide war, famine, and deadly plagues were unleashed.

We saw a quarter of humanity slaughtered as Death and Hades received power to kill.

Then in the fifth seal, we saw of those deaths, many were Martyrs, who died for the Word of God.

These witnesses in the fifth seal will be seen again this morning, with a little more detail.

But the fifth seal helped us to understand that there will be salvation in the Tribulation.

You see after that which restrains, the Holy Spirit, who is working through the church, and has since Pentecost, He will, when the Rapture happens He will be removed as this Restrainer, who was working through the church.

At that time, a fury of persecution will be unleashed on those who confess Jesus as their Savior.

The Holy Spirit's unique work through the Church will be done with, however, as He worked in this earth before Pentecost, He will continue a unique work in the Tribulation.

God's Spirit is omnipresent, or ever-present. He has always been in the world and will always be in the world.

And in the Tribulation, the Spirit of God will be very active, and there will be a Great Awakening like this world has never seen before.

The fifth seal made evident this understanding.

Then from the fifth seal, John's vision came back to earth, and we saw cosmic disturbances, a worldwide earthquake, darkness covered the earth, and terror came upon all men, from kings, to slaves.

Everyone hid themselves from the terror of the wrath of the Lamb of God.

Now, before God's Wrath can continue, there will be a break, just for a moment, as God seals a special group of Jews for a unique work in the midst of the Tribulation.

If this was a movie, the crashing devastation, the terrifying waves, the tumultuous winds are all suspended for a moment, but after this picture is

complete, the scene will pick up again, as the catastrophes will continue.

So let us peek into this moment with John, and see these special workers and the fruit of their ministry here in chapter 7.

The Sealed of Israel

7:1 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.

So this parenthesis is placed in a specific time for us.

Remember, Meta Tauta, after these things.

This seems to be immediately after the sixth seal, and before the seventh seal.

We see this break in God's work of judging the earth.

And John sees these four angels controlling the four winds of the earth.

These four mighty beings, from the north, south, east, and west, are for this brief moment holding back the winds of judgement.

These hurricane force winds from all sides will for a moment be stopped, and the world will have no wind.

A kind of calm before the peril is once again unleashed on earth.

They do so for a good reason, and we read next...

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."

They are commanded to withhold their power to harm the earth, so this angel ascending from the east can place a seal on the servants of God.

So we can take away a few things from this reading.

As God is about to unleash more judgement upon this earth, before the next phase where even more severe judgements are hurled upon this earth.

He desires to protect His servants by setting a seal, or signet upon them, that will set them apart in the Tribulation, and protect them from all the evil of the Antichrist and even the events of God's Wrath.

The kings and rulers of the day had certain seals, or signet rings.

During this time, in John's day, a message would be sent and sealed with this type of signet ring.

Perhaps clay would be heated up, and the ruler would push his ring in to signify that the letter was certified from him.

It was a family seal, remember when the prodigal son returned home, the father placed on him a coat, and a ring on his finger, signaling that he was fully restored as a representative of the family.

God, sent by the hand of this angel from the east, His special seal, to place upon these special servants, to set them apart during this time.

We see something similar in Ezekiel... When God was administering His judgment on Jerusalem for their rebellion toward Him.

It reads in...

Ezek. 9:3-6 Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub, where it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed with linen, who had the writer's inkhorn at his side; 4 and the Lord said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it."

5 To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity. 6 Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at

My sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were before the temple.

Now, the mark they received in Ezekiel's day, in Hebrew was a 'tav.'

This is what it looked like...

Show Picture

Now that is interesting, wouldn't you say?

I am not sure what God will seal these Tribulation servants with, but a 'Tav' worked before, so who knows?

Now, you understand that you are sealed today right?

Scriptures says of our age, that the church has a unique seal as well.

2 Cor. 1:21-22

21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

We are sealed by God's Spirit, the evidences of this are in a changed life.

Some might falsely teach today, this seal is shown through the gift of tongues or some supernatural manifestation.

However, scriptures explain other evidences.

Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law

You see the mark on my life is the manifestation of these characteristics.

Before Christ I was a selfish monster of iniquity.

I looked out for myself, lived for myself, I lied, cheated, stole, lived violently against others, and was controlled by my addictions.

Now, after Christ, His Spirit, the seal of my redemption, began to create in me a new heart, and apart from the gift of tongues, I see His fruits in my life.

I am marked and sealed by the Holy Spirit, and those evidences should be obvious in your life as well.

If your life is ruled by your fleshly appetite, I might venture to say, perhaps this mark of salvation is not upon your life yet.

And you can take care of that today, we will have opportunity at the end of service, for you to come and ask Christ to come into your life, and mark you, to give you the guarantee of your salvation, the Holy Spirit.

So, these Tribulation servants are uniquely marked for the hour of trial that has come upon the whole world, and next we get more information to who they are.

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:

Okay, this is interesting, we see here the number of these special servants.

And we even see who they are, where they come from.

They are from the children of Israel.

Wait, that does not make sense, how do the Jehovah's Witnesses and other cults get off saying they are these specially marked servants.

Well they spiritualize this text.

“Well, God has moved beyond Israel, after they rejected Christ.”

So this is a spiritual Israel not an ethnic Israel.

Well, you really have to draw from this text things that are really not there.

Believe it or not, some really godly Christians in the centuries prior to Israel becoming a nation again on May, 14th 1948, these men could not foresee there ever being a national regathering of Israel, and they contested that the church inherited these promises of God.

But no Christian today can make that error.

God was true to His promises to His chosen people group.

And He is even now as we hear this sermon, gathering from all the nations of the world His people, and Hebrews all over are making Aliya, and immigrating back to the promise land.

There is a literal Israel today, and the promises made to this people group are irrevocable.

And in the Tribulation, with Christ's Church taken out of the way, God's attention will turn back to His people.

And resume the final week of Daniel's prophecy dealing with Israel.

Now, when we read the children of Israel here, there is no spiritualizing this, or no need to take a symbolic approach.

It makes sense, and if that was not certain enough God explicitly has John write specifically what tribes they hail from.

So next time a Jehovah's Witness tries to tell you they are the 144,000, ask them to point out the tribe they belong to.

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.

“Oh, this obviously means John was talking about a sealed group, from Europe and the Americas.”

“This is too obvious, God gave a mystery here so, only those with secret glasses can understand the secrets of this specific code.”

“God is trying to trick us, by using these specific tribes, to conceal the fact, He means gentiles are the chosen 144,000.”

No! God desires that all would come to repentance and the knowledge of His Son, He is not a tricky God, there is no deeper meaning here.

Listen, when someone tries to tell you, you have to be one of these 144,000 sealed servants to be saved, you will not be deceived.

God plainly allows us to know who they are.

God will use the Jewish nation once again to be a light to the lost in the Tribulation.

That seems unheard of for you... Think about who God used in the Old Testament to be a light to draw all of humanity to the One True God?

What did God reveal to Jacob about his purpose, and the nation that descends from him?

Gen 28:13-14 And behold, the Lord stood above it and said: "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. 14 Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Israel's purpose was to draw all of humanity to Yahweh, and this promised Seed or Messiah.

“Well we are about the New Testament and God did things differently, this is a gentile Church now,” you might protest.

Well what nation did the very first 12 Evangelist derive from?

What nation brought the gospel of the New Testament to the Gentiles?

It was Jewish witnesses who were used to birth the church after Pentecost!

And why should it be unthinkable, that God, in the next dispensation would choose that same nation to bring many to salvation.

It is not unthinkable, and perhaps the plain understanding here is the right understanding.

These 144,000 servants of the Most High, we will see later, they are sexually pure men, and set apart in their own generation.

They are Messianic Jews who come to faith in Jesus in the Tribulation, perhaps after the Antichrist asserts himself in the Temple of God here on earth.

They are not the only Jews who come to salvation in the Tribulation, they are just the select that will be protected from Satan and his prodigy, and they will be used mightily in the Tribulation to lead one last great Revival.

And we will see a group of people next, that attest to this Revival, and I think it is no accident that John sees both groups in this pause before the seventh seal is open.

These 144,000 servants are seen first, then the fruit of their ministry is seen second.

But before we get into the second group.

There are still somethings that leave us uncertain about the 144,000.

The list of the twelve tribes is incomplete.

We see no mention of the tribe of Dan, or Ephraim.

Now, if you remember in Israel's history, when Solomon's son Rehoboam inherited the kingdom, there was an uproar from 10 of the other tribes of Israel.

Jeroboam led this revolt.

And after a series of events, the kingdom of Israel was divided into two.

Judah and Benjamin in the south and the other 10 in the north.

The Northern tribes immediately left the God of their ancestors and it was Dan and Ephraim who led the way in to idolatry.

In 1 Kings 12:25-31 we see golden calves were set up and that deception turned out to be a place of no return for the northern tribes.

They never recovered and they were led away into paganism and because of this, they were conquered and dispersed among the nations.

And some think even the Antichrist would descend from Dan, because of what his father prophesied about him.

Gen 49:17 Dan shall be a serpent by the way,
A viper by the path, That bites the horse's heels
So that its rider shall fall backward.

Now, that point cannot be certain, but we do know what God said would happen if any tribe or person went into idolatry.

As God renewed His covenant with His nation, He explained...

Deut. 29:18-21 so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood; 19 and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart' — as though the drunkard could be included

with the sober. 20 "The Lord would not spare him; for then the anger of the Lord and His jealousy would burn against that man, and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him, and the Lord would blot out his name from under heaven. 21 And the Lord would separate him from all the tribes of Israel for adversity, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this Book of the Law

It is quite possible that these two tribes were removed and separated from this special calling and work because of their leading the way in the rebellion against the covenant or contract made with God.

It is interesting however, in Ezekiel's list of the tribes of Israel, during the Millennial Kingdom, we see that both tribes are to receive an inheritance in the Land.

And we see even though they are overlooked for this special work, God's Grace prevails in the end, and they are restored into the 12 tribes.

Now, another source of contention for many people, is after the dispersion of the Jews in AD 70, all genealogical records were lost.

No Jew today is certain of which tribe they belong too.

However, man may have lost these records, but God is not confuse on what tribe a person belongs too.

He will have no problem organizing this complete list of faithful Evangelists in the Tribulation.

God's Word will be true. None of the tribes was ever lost as far as God was concerned.

He has known where they are at all times.

I will say this final word, nowhere in the Bible is the word "Israel" to mean anything else then the descendants of Jacob.

To infer here that this Israel somehow relates to the true Israel the Church cannot be sustained in the scriptures.

Israel is never used for Gentiles.

So now, you cannot be duped, and hopefully you are equipped to reason through these false doctrines of the day.

So in the Tribulation so far, we have two distinct groups of believers, we have the martyrs, and the 144,000 Jewish servants.

We will also see many Jews persecuted in the Tribulation, as well as gentile believers.

Remember these 144,000, are sealed and protected of the Jewish nation, they are not the total number of Jews that come to Christ, for which many will find salvation in Jesus from that special nation.

Now the second group that John sees excites me very much!

These seem to be the fruit of the preaching of the first group of men in his vision...

Now remember what Jesus told His disciples.

Matt 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.

Many have taken this to believe the church's mission is to take the gospel to the whole world, so the end can be ushered in.

But today, we are not preaching the gospel of the Kingdom.

That is the Gospel in the Tribulation; we preach the gospel of Grace now in this dispensation.

After the rapture of the Church, the message will once again be, the "Kingdom of Heaven is at hand, repent."

That Gospel will go forth in the Tribulation from these 144,000, there will also be two bold witnesses, and even an angel will be flying over the earth preaching this gospel.

The Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached to all the world, then Christ will come and establish His Kingdom.

It is right, for the church to try to advance the Gospel of Grace to every nation as well, our commission from Jesus was to "Go and make disciples of the Nations."

We do this in obedience, but understand the gospel will go worldwide in the Tribulation, and then the end will come.

So, the next scene shows us the ramifications of the Gospel of the Kingdom being preached, it works for the salvation of many.

The World's Greatest revival will take place during this final seven year period.

But it will come through one of the greatest persecutions this world has ever seen.

A Multitude from the Great Tribulation

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!"

We have this hopeful scene here as John looks out and sees innumerable throngs of worshippers.

John notices they were not from one particular nation or race.

They were from all nations, tribes, peoples, and languages.

Another doctrine, that these events only take place in the Holy Land, that this is a regional vision, will be dispelled as we journey through Revelation.

This is one place that puts that idea to rest.

This is a worldwide revival that has taken place in the Tribulation.

This multitude is before the throne, so these are those who have died.

Once again, ask your Jehovah Witness neighbor, if only 144,000 are in heaven, why do we see a myriad of saved worshippers before the throne in heaven.

These are identified by their distinct white robes, that connect them with the Martyrs in the fifth seal, and here they have palm branches in their hands, signifying victory or triumph.

And their worship is joined with one accord by many angels and the four living creatures.

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."

They are all overwhelmed once again, as they were in Revelation 5, and they give their sevenfold praise here.

Once again, every group seen in the heavenly realms are always centers on the King of kings.

The center of eternity's attention will be on the Lamb of God.

Understand, when you pray, "Your will be done, Your Kingdom come."

You are asking for our present to align with what our passion will be in the eternal future.

Began now to allow Christ to enrapture your whole life, to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

For He is our all, and will be our all. If that does not excite you, perhaps you might want to rethink your religion.

Because ours is one of dying to self, decreasing, so He can increase all the more.

This is heavens scene.

Now, next, we will see some more clarity on who this blended family of worshippers are.

They will clearly be distinct and separate from the church, as one of our own representatives speaks to John.

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.

Have you ever been put on the spot, and asked a question you should have no trouble answering?

The other day, a visitor asked me, pastor what's your vision for the church.

The question is an obvious one for me, to teach God's Word, simply. And to raise up another generation to take our place after we are gone, who will carry that mission on.

But in the moment, right after I was teaching the words left my mind, and I went searching for words and my answer came out incomplete.

It was embarrassing.

It reminded me of the classroom setting when the teachers would ask a question, and I would try to avoid eye contact, so they did not call on me.

I am painfully shy and awkward, so even if I knew the answer I would lose it in the heat of the moment with all eyes on me.

Maybe some of you can relate.

Well, one of the Elders asks John a question, and perhaps John could have remembered from the fifth seal who these were, yet he is unsure of himself.

And he uses great wisdom, for which I wish I could have used this reply in class all those years ago.

“Sir, you know.” I wonder how my teachers would have handled that reply.

And with John’s response, the elder so graciously answers him.

"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.

This multitude is unique and cannot be mistaken for the church or any other group of believers.

These, that John sees, are those Martyrs that come of out of the great Tribulation.

They responded to the gospel being preached, they heard and answered, but during the dispensation of the Tribulation, their salvation will cost them everything.

The persecution and misery they endure in this world will be unlike any known so far.

Yet we see they are not saved by their own death.

There salvation comes from the same place it comes from in each dispensation...

The Old Testament saints waited in faith for the promised Seed of a woman, the Suffering Servant that Isaiah prophesied about, who was wounded for our transgressions.

The blood of the Lamb saved them, the blood that each of those animal sacrifices represented, that the Passover Lamb spoke so clearly of, that is how they were saved. By their faith in what was promised to come.

And in our dispensation, the same blood, of a crucified Jesus of Nazareth cleanses us, and washes us as white as snow.

And in the Tribulation, there will be no other Name that can save, but the precious Name of Jesus, the Lamb of God.

His blood was sufficient for all who will come to Him.

And Salvation will be found in that time of trouble, the Great Tribulation.

We see next...

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.

We see here once again that this multitude is not the church.

To the church, Jesus promises another position than that of before 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.

We will rule with Christ, and even judge angels from this place of authority. 1 Cor. 6:3

But this multitude of Tribulation Saints is found before the throne, and will serve Jesus in His temple during the Millennial Reign.

When John sees the vision of the 1000-year reign of Christ in Chapter 20, he sees these two groups separate.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them.

That is the church, ruling with Christ, and then the rest of the verse John sees the Martyrs....

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.

And we have this separation between the groups.

And there is distinct groups that will go into the Millennial Kingdom, and each will have their purpose.

But we will see in the latter part of Revelation, when we get past the 1000-year reign of Christ, that the groups will blend together into an eternal harmonious group of saved souls.

But for now, there is distinctions and separations, each group having their place and role in God's plan.

To this group of Martyrs, after the torment of their existence here in the great Tribulation, they receive a reprieve, and the words of Christ are found to be true for them in their dispensation as well.

Matt 11:28-30 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Christ is their comfort as well, as death brings them into their new reality.

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."

And if there is only one section of the Bible that I would want to leave behind for my unsaved loved ones who might endure the Tribulation, it would be this one.

Here they receive their hope; that they can cling on to as the wrath of Lamb of God is poured out on humanity.

You see the 144,000 Hebrew Evangelists will be divinely protected through this time.

Those who put their faith in the Jesus during the Tribulation will have to endure not only the judgments

of God, but added upon that will be a satanic persecution and hatred from the enemies of God.

This section of scripture will be their assurance to what awaits.

Even though the suffering will be like no other time, there awaits for them the comfort of Christ, who will be in their midst, and will personally wipe away every tear that might still be on their face as they receive their inheritance.

They will know the depths of hunger as they choose not to receive the mark of the beast, to buy and sell.

Many think even the radiation poisoning from the fall out of nuclear war will contaminate any food stockpiles.

And only those corrupted with this mark of the beast will have access to food.

So these Tribulation saints will know starvation and suffering.

But the truth they have found will supersede any fleshly demands their feeble bodies are putting into their minds.

You see, many of these will have loved ones taken in the rapture, they rejected that first offer of grace, there is no way they will miss the final offer.

And despite all their sufferings they hold out, knowing what lay ahead for them.

No longer will the suns heat scorch their exposed skin.

During this time they fled, from this great persecution, being driven from the comfort of their homes, they will be constantly moving from place to place.

They will be beaten down by the scorching heat, but the promise of what awaits, keeps them faithful.

A water that will forever satisfy their thirst and will quench their desire.

Their Savior awaits, and such wonderful promises of comfort are on the other side of their suffering.

And these promises, preached through the 144,000 Jewish Evangelists, are enough to save a multitude that cannot be numbered.

I think those who claim to be the select few that will be in heaven will be greatly disappointed by the sheer masses that will be in glory.

Christ did not go to the cross for a select few of the human race.

In fact, we are instructed in **1 Tim 2:1-4**

... that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

We will see throughout Revelation many different groups, from Jews, to all nations, tribes and tongues will have a place in Glory.

Jesus' work on the cross was sufficient for every human to find salvation.

When we get to the dimensions of the New Jerusalem, we will see it is huge, and big enough for myriads of Saints.

Unfortunately not every person will choose, and as we will see here in Revelation, although the Greatest Revival that ever come to this earth takes place, in direct opposition to this Great Awakening will be an evil unparalleled in the history of the world.

And during this Seven year period, it will seem at times that this Evil has the upper hand, and is even prevailing over the good, yet, we will see very clearly that God is in total control, and in the end He will decimate all that have followed the Serpent of Old.

There too will be many who reject this offer of salvation in the Tribulation, as many today reject God's Grace.

Now, if you are here this morning, and you plan on waiting until after the Rapture of the church to come to Jesus.

You have found all this information valuable, and you plan on taking it with you into the Tribulation.

Well, if you in fact do live until this time, the suffering and the weight of being a follower of Jesus Christ will be at times unbearable.

And I think if you can justify not coming to Him now, in this time of Grace, where we get to live for Him, you will have trouble justifying to yourself to die for Him.

Do not play the lottery with your salvation, no one is promised tomorrow, and in your waiting, you might find death comes for you early.

Make sure your salvation is sure now, so if tomorrow does not come, you can be assured of being in the presence of the Lord.

Now, for you Christians here today who are going through hardships and trials.

All throughout this Revelation, there is such wonderful promises for us.

We have such a great hope in Jesus.

Those tears you cry on your pillow at night, one day they will be wiped away, and they will never return.

We are headed to a wonderful place, prepared for us since the world began.

There will be no more sorrow, there will be no pain, there will be no more injustice, no more evil, no more betrayal, and no more disappointment.

Be comforted this morning by the Word of God, we have so much to look forward to, so much sweet worship to proclaim to Jesus.

As we sing this last song, meditate on that hope, that one day, our worship will be with that heavenly chorus.

All for Jesus our Savior, the Lamb that was slain.

Be reminded and comforted this morning.

Please, I know that many of you are struggling in these last days, please during this last song come forward to receive prayer.

The Elders and Pastors will be up here they desire to minister to you this morning.

If you have never asked Jesus to be Lord of your life, please do so today, come forward and pray with one of these men.

God bless you all, we love you greatly.

Let's pray.