

The Greatest Revival the World Has Ever Seen! Revelation 9-1-21

Sister Shelbia opened our study with prayer. Then we viewed the Robert Jeffress video, 'The Greatest Revival the World Has Ever Seen!'

Two days after Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany in 1933, a twenty-six-year-old pastor and theologian went on the radio to denounce Adolf Hitler's policies; and argue against what had become a national obsession - an idea known as the Fuhrer Principle. That pastor was named Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer was troubled by a number of things he saw happening. The marginalization of the Jewish people, long before they were taken to the crematoriums. He saw how the German church began to surrender to the Nazi's, becoming known now as the national Reich church. **The church began to obey Godless edicts from the Nazi's such as "On the altar as there must be nothing but a copy of Mein Kampf (Nazi's; Hitler's manifesto and book; considered Hitler's bible) and to the left of the altar a sword."**

Fuhrer literally means 'the leader', and in Germany at that time it had messianic overtones. This young pastor warned of the dangers of placing too much faith in fallen humanity. He also spoke out against the marginalization of German Jews, years before Jews were rounded up and gassed in concentration camps.

His commitment to God's chosen people caused division in his own church. At a gathering fellow believers, he delivered a lecture titled "The Church and the Jewish Question," during which many of his fellow pastors walked out as he spoke.

Then the German church surrendered to Nazi control, becoming known as the National Reich church. Or another one of the rules - **"The christian cross must be removed from all churches, cathedrals, and chapels...can you imagine such a thing? and it must be superseded by the only unconquerable symbol, the swastika."**

This was too much for Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the young pastor who spoke out against the Fuhrer Principal and for German Jews. He couldn't stand to see Bibles being replaced with Nazi Swastika's. Bonhoeffer left the German church and established a new German church - the Confessing Church, built on the principals of scripture and obeying God unconditionally. A group of seminarians (many brave Christians) and pastors followed him in this establishment of this fellowship of the Confessing Church. But soon, when World War II broke out, Confessing Church pastors were refused military chaplain posts; and Adolph Hitler ordered these pastors to be drafted into service and placed at the front lines of battle. Without pastors, and starved for pastoral leadership, the church all but faded away.

By this time, Dietrich Bonhoeffer decided he had to do something radical to stand up against evil. It was becoming clear that Hitler and his closest allies were madmen. And so Bonhoeffer joined the Abwehr, the German military intelligence agency. Pretending to serve the Nazi Reich as a spy, he became a double agent and actively worked to undermine the commands of the Third Reich. He even involved himself in an assassination plot to remove Adolf Hitler from office. Many people were critical of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Many Christians were critical of him; and said 'why are you so concerned with politics?' They told him to just resign himself to preaching the gospel. That's what Christians are to do; just preach the gospel; and everything else would take care of itself. Sound familiar to you?

Bonhoeffer understood that leaders determine policies. And policies determine the moral and spiritual direction of a nation.

10 years later, after Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany, (1943) approaching the tenth anniversary of Hitler's rise to power, Bonhoeffer explained why he took such radical actions in an essay titled, "After Ten Years." In it, he encouraged his fellow conspirators to keep at the task of ending the nightmare known as the Third Reich. Listen to his words. He wrote, **"Who stands fast? Only the man whose final standard is not his reason, his principles, his conscious, his freedom or his virtue, but the man who is ready to sacrifice all this when he is called to obedient and responsible action in faith and in exclusive allegiance to God - the responsible man, who tries to make his whole life an answer to the question and the call of God. Where are these responsible people?"**

"Who stands fast?" I thought of those words as I prepared the message today; and remembered how similar those words are to the commanders of the earth during the great tribulation who after experiencing these horrific judgments, remember what we saw last time? They cry out to the rocks and the mountain's and they say, fall on us and hide us from the presence of the one who sets on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the day of God's wrath is come and who is able to stand?

Revelation 6:17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? as the seals judgments were poured out from God: Who is it that stands fast during times of persecution during times like Dietrich Bonhoeffer did?

We're going to answer that question today in ***Revelation 7:1-17***

1 And 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.

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

4 And 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.

5 Of 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.

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

7 Of 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.

8 Of 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.

9 After 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;

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

*11 And 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,
 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.
 13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?
 14 And 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.
 15 Therefore 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.
 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.
 17 For 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.*

If you have your Bibles, turn there as we look at **the greatest revival in human history**. When the unbelievers of Revelation 6 asked this question, **Who is it that will be able to withstand the wrath of the Lamb in the judgment day of God?** they had no idea that two groups of believers would be able to answer it.

One group would stand on earth throughout the remainder of the tribulation, having been sealed with God's protection.

The other group would stand in heaven, in victory and joy, even though they had lost their lives during the tribulation.

We meet both groups in Revelation 7 in what I call **the greatest revival in history**, which will come during the greatest persecution against believers in history.

John will answer the question who will be able to stand in the great tribulation. The church is in heaven. The 24 elders with God, worshipping; and now we see the beginning of the final 7 years of earth history (the tribulation) when God pours out his wrath on mankind. This is the final 7 years that begins with the rise of the antichrist. Not by force, but on a promise of peace and safety.

We see in Revelation 6, six of those seal judgments. Remember there are three series of judgments:

Revelation 6 = 6 seal judgments

Revelation 8 & 9 = trumpet judgments

Revelation 16 = the bowl judgments

When we go thru Revelation 6, we see six of those seals broken. But then there is a pause before the 7th seal and the beginning of the trumpet judgments.

This is so key to understanding the book of Revelation. I never understood the book until I understood this. The book of Revelation is not in chronological order all of the time.

For example, we're moving toward the tribulation til the second coming of Christ. He said wait a moment, we're gonna back up a little in time and there's another aspect I want to talk to you about and explain to you. That's what happens in Revelation 7. We've almost got thru the seal

judgments but then John says I want to explain to you something else. We're gonna back up to the beginning of the tribulation.

Before Revelation 6, something happens here and its the:

144,000 ISRAELITES WILL STAND ON EARTH DURING THE TRIBULATION.

Revelation 7 opens with "After this," which indicates that John is about to receive a new vision. This seems out of place, since we expected this chapter to open with the breaking of the seventh seal. But the Lord put an interlude between the sixth seal and the seventh seal, which will be broken in *Revelation 8:1 And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.*

First, Jesus will talk about those who will stand during the tribulation.

This is one group John wants to talk about - *who will stand firm on earth during the tribulation.*

THE VISION OF THE RESTRAINING AND SEALING ANGELS

What happens during this lull in God's judgment is His twofold answer to the question, "Who is able to stand?" Here is the first part of the answer:

Revelation 7:1-3 And John says:

1 "After this I saw four angels standing at the four orders of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

(The writers off the Bible were so stupid they thought the earth was flat and it had 4 corners to it, so that's why you can't press the Bible on anything. Have you ever heard that before - the earth is flat - the Bible says 4 corners of the earth.

Don't do it now but sometime go on your iphone. Type in sunset. And it will tell you the time the sun is going to set today. It will tell you the time of the sunrise tomorrow morning. How ignorant, how stupid! The sun doesn't rise or set. It just appears that way to us. This is the language of appearance. It's the earth's rotation that makes the sun appear to rise and set. It's the same thing here. This is just the language of appearance). *2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun (from the east, which is always an indication of salvation that's about to come), having the seal of the living God; 3 and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying 'Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads'".*

Before the judgments can come at the very beginning of the tribulation, the angle says before you unleash your judgments angels, we need to seal the bondservants of God. What does that mean?

In Biblical times, a seal signified 3 things:

1. **Authority**; If a ruler was going to sign an edict, he would seal it. He would put a seal on it. Now you may have seen in the news Wednesday that President Trump invited me to Washington to stand with him as he signed an historic executive order on antisemitism. It's a tremendous thing he did and before he signed that executive order, he invited me on stage to say a few words; and once I had finished, he sat down at his desk and took out this folder that had a beautifully written edict about protecting the Jewish people from antisemitism. Up until that point that edict was nothing but words on a piece of paper. It had no force, it had no authority whatsoever until the President sat down and took out his presidential sharpie pen, (which I have right here - he gave it to me. It has his little signature on it in gold) and he wrote in big letters, his signature on this official command from the most powerful person in the nation. That's the power of a

signature. Now in John's day, the emperors didn't have a sharpie. No emperor sharpie, but what they did have was a seal, and if you were the emperor, king or governor and you had an official edict, what you would do is take a piece of clay or wax and put it on that order; and then the king would take his signet ring and press it into the clay or wax with that impression of his ring on it and this expressed or embossed impression was a sign of the emperor's authority. It was an official command. Now, we are going to see in a moment that these bondservants of God will be sealed with the mark of Almighty God, himself.

2. **It marks possession.** Many times if you want to show that something belongs to you, You write your name on it. Same things with a seal. A seal is kinda like a sticker you put on things. It was a sign that it belonged to you.

3. **The seal was a sign of protection.** It meant protection. Remember after Jesus was crucified and they put him in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. Pontius Pilate ordered a soldier to guard the tomb; and not only that, but the tomb was sealed. That seal was actually a piece of string that was put across the boulder and held on either side with a piece of wax to signify the tomb was being protected by the power of Rome itself. It had the Roman insignia on it. That was the meaning of a seal. By the way, did you know if you are a Christian today, you have God's seal on you? A sign that you belong to Him. A sign that He owns you. A sign that He is going to protect you. Anyone want to know what God's seal is?

Ephesians 1:13-14 says:

13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

If you are a Christian you have the Holy Spirit inside of you to guide and protect you. To remind you that you belong to him; and the Holy Spirit is His promise that God will fulfill His promises to you. Even though God has already purchased your sin, one day we are going to be delivered from the presence of sin, when God takes us to live with Him forever. And the Bible says that the Holy Spirit is God's down payment that he is going to fulfill His ultimate promise to you. That's the seal for a Christian.

But this was a different seal for 144,000 people. This is the seal of the Living God.

The natural question is who are these 144,000 who are sealed?

The angel in verse 2 came from the east, which in the Bible is often associated with divine help. This is appropriate, since this angel will seal 144,000 Israelites with God's protection.

1/4 of the world will be killed during the tribulation, which could be upward of 2 billion people using today's population statistics. Many people will be killed, but these 144,000 that God seals and protects, will not suffer death.

You know one way we know this is true is if we turn to Revelation 14. There is a picture in verses 1, 3, and 4 of the 144,000 who are standing with Jesus Christ on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. How many are there at the end of the tribulation? Not 133,999? But 144,000. Not one has been lost!

Revelation 14:1,3,4

1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

THE SEALING OF THE 144,000

Revelation 7:4-8

4 And 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.

5 Of 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.

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

7 Of 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.

8 Of 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.

This fifth angel commanded the first four angels to restrain the winds until God's bond-servants could receive God's seal, which identifies clearly to whom these witnesses belong. The angel John saw in **Revelation 7:2** **And 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, bore 'the seal of the living God' and told the four angels 3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.**

Revelation 14:1 **And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.**

This seal bears the name of the Lamb and of the Father, and it will be placed on the foreheads of those who are chosen. The forehead is the most conspicuous part of the body. There will be no mistaking whom these people serve. These are the ones whom God chose to seal.

Revelation 7:4 **John said, "I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel," with twelve thousand from each of the twelve tribes.**

Ephesians I tells us that seal is the Holy Spirit of God in you.

Ephesians 1:13-14, Paul said, **"in Him (Christ), you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation - having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy**

Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession to the praise of His glory. If you're a Christian you have the Holy Spirit in you to guide you, to protect you, and to remind you that you belong to Him.

The Holy Spirit is the promise that God will fulfill His promise to you. God purchased your pardon from sin when you were saved, He is taking away the power of sin over you. You follow Him, and one day, you will be delivered from the presence of sin when God takes you to live with Him forever.

The Holy Spirit in you is God's down payment that He will fulfill His ultimate promise to you. The Holy Spirit is the seal for a Christian. But in Revelation 7, the 144,000 witnesses have a different seal; they have the seal of the living God.

THE IDENTITY OF THE 144,000

Many people have interpreted Revelation 7:4-8 incorrectly. You can read and read who these 144,000 are. Seventh Day Adventists say these 144,000 witnesses refer to their group, who are found observing the Jewish Sabbath when the lord comes again. Jehovah's Witnesses say these 144,000 belong to their group, having specifically reserved places in heaven. You have some Mormons who think they are the 144,000. Can I share with you a simple rule for interpreting the Bible? It's so simple.

When the plain sense makes good sense, seek no other sense. Read the Bible as it is written and unless there is some reason to take it symbolically, take it just like it is written! And when you do that it is very clear who the 144,000 are.

These are 144,000 that are sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel. From the tribe of Judah - 12,000; From the tribe of Reuben - 12,000; From the tribe of Gad - 12,000; and on and on. These are Jews who have been selected and sealed and saved by God at the beginning of the tribulation. Now today, if you are a Jewish person it's hard to know what your tribe is. The records were lost with the destruction of the temple. But just because we've lost the records doesn't mean God has lost the records. He knows who these tribes are. We say, well wait a minute, all Christians are raptured and in heaven. You just have a world of unbelievers. How can they ever be saved? The same way you are saved and I am saved! The power of the spirit of God using the Word of God to bring us to a knowledge of Christ! Yes we'll be raptured but there will be Bibles left behind, Christian books left behind, plus people will remember our words to witness. The words of Christ will be left behind and although people won't be indwelt by the Holy Spirit during the tribulation, it doesn't mean that the Holy Spirit won't come upon people and convict them like he did in the Old Testament time.

These are the 144,000. There are no Gentiles among them. What's more, there is no mention of the church because the church has already been raptured and is in heaven. This group represents the physical descendants of Jacob - Israel.

Someone may ask, "If the rapture has already occurred, how will these 144,000 people be saved?" "God's Word will remain, and God's Spirit will still be active on earth during the tribulation. Also, remember that Christian books and programs will be left behind after we are gone. The Holy Spirit can use any of these means to convict these Jews to come to faith in Jesus as the Messiah, and they will be sealed by God.

You may be wondering, “How can the Holy Spirit be active if all Spirit-indwelt believers were taken away at the rapture?” First of all, remember that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He is God, and therefore, He is omnipresent. He doesn’t just dwell in believers, as if we were simply His home. He has always been in the world and will continue to be. Before Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came to indwell believers permanently, He ministered in and among people.

After the rapture, the Spirit will probably revert to His pre-Pentecostal ministry. In addition, before Pentecost, the Holy Spirit influenced God’s people, but He did not indwell them. The sealing of the 144,000 Israelites indicates God’s special protection during unprecedented global disaster, but the Spirit does not indwell them.

THE MINISTRY OF THE 144,000

Because the 144,000 witnesses are protected from God’s wrath, they receive power to fulfill the Old Testament calling of Israel to be God’s witness among the nations.

Isaiah 43:1-12

1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

3 For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.

4 Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

5 Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;

6 I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;

7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

8 Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears.

9 Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth.

10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

12 I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God.

Gods plan for Israel has always been for them to shine God’s light to the Gentiles -

Matthew 5:14-16

14 Ye are the light of the World. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

and to be a blessing to the whole world -

Genesis 12:1-3

1 Now the Lord has said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Bible scholar J. Dwight Pentecost wrote of these 144,000 Jewish evangelists, ‘They, like Saul (the apostle Paul), will be set apart to be God’s witnesses to the Gentiles.’

Remember, God hasn’t finished His plan with Israel yet. God has temporarily stopped His dealings with Israel. But He isn’t finished with them. He’s going to fulfill His purpose with Israel.

In Romans 11:1 I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

Has God rejected His people Israel? No! May it never be. Part of God’s plan for Israel is that they be used to bring a worldwide knowledge of God thru Christ Jesus. That’s the reason God set Israel apart. He chose Israel to be a witness of Him to the world.

I remember about a year and a half ago, I was invited to give the opening prayer at the opening of our embassy in Jerusalem. In that prayer, Netanyahu and all the Jewish officials were seated before me. And I thank God for choosing the Jewish people, saying that it is from the Jewish people that we receive the knowledge of the one true God.

It is thru Israel that we receive the prophets. It’s from Israel that came the Word of God. And it is thru Israel the Messiah of the world has come! God’s plan was for Israel to deliver to the world the knowledge of the one true God; and they will ultimately fulfill that promise during the great tribulation.

You know ***Matthew 24:14 says And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.***

The Jewish people will fulfill their mission, surviving to become the first fruits of Israel in Christ’s millennial kingdom.

Though the Jews have rejected Jesus as their Messiah, God still has a purpose for His chosen People. But that purpose will not be realigned until after the rapture, when the 144,000 Israelites will be sealed. Though many more Jews will come to saving faith in Christ, only these 144,000 are commissioned as evangelists to the nations.

Jesus said that before His second coming, ***“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations; and then shall the end come.” (Matthew 24:14).***

Remember, that’s before the second coming. There’s no condition for the rapture. The rapture could happen at any moment, at any time; but before the final return of Christ to the earth, the

whole world will hear the gospel. And one way they will hear it is thru the witness of these 144,000 Jewish evangelists.

Who will stand during the tribulation? The 144,000 Jewish evangelists who have been supernaturally sealed by God will stand on earth during the tribulation. But there is a second group that will stand strong during the tribulation, and we see the result of the witness of the 144,000 Jewish Evangelists beginning in

Revelation 7:9 After 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;

Remember, at the beginning of the tribulation there are no Christians on earth. The 144,000 are sealed and saved; and selected by God.

THE TRIBULATION SAINTS WILL STAND IN HEAVEN DURING THE TRIBULATION

Just as Revelation 7:1 opened with “After this” to indicate a new vision, so Revelation 7:9 opens with “after these things”.

THE PRAISE OF THE TRIBULATION SAINTS

At this point, John was given a new vision of countless people praising the Father and the Lamb. John’s vision shifts from looking at earth and now he’s looking at heaven.

Notice what John sees beginning in

Revelation 7:9-12

9 “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; (suddenly he see’s a whole mass of people that can’t be counted. Jews and Gentiles alike meaning they are standing before the throne of God and they are saved. Not only that, but they are in white robes meaning they have been forgiven and hold palm branches ‘a sign of victory’ and they cry out.)

10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb”.

11 And all the angels were standing at the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying,

12 ‘Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen’

Who are these people from every nation and tribe of the earth? During the tribulation, people will come to faith in Christ from every political orientation, lineage, race, and language. This means both Jews and Gentiles. They will praise God and the Lamb for their salvation and their victory over satan and the antichrist.

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Revelation 19:1-2

1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

This is part of the greatest revival the world has ever seen. These are those who are saved during the tribulation through the witness of the 144,000. It's gonna be something the world has never experienced before.

People often ask, will people be saved during the tribulation? Yes! It won't just be a handful of people, it will be a multitude of people who will be saved.

But do you know how some people respond to the fact that multitudes will be saved during the tribulation? They say, well "So you mean I will get a second chance at salvation"? I thought there were no second chances after death. No, if you die without putting your faith in Christ, you've waited too long. But if you live through the tribulation, you don't get just a second chance to be saved, but perhaps a third or fourth chance as well. If you've waited until the second coming of Jesus to earth, you've waited too long. There is no second chance after that.

So a multitude of people will be saved. So there are some who say, 'well, I think I'm just gonna wait to accept Christ; and see if this rapture stuff actually happens. And if I see the sudden disappearance of Christians and these 144,000 Jews going around telling others about Christ, then I'll accept Jesus as savior. Don't be so sure about that!

If you're not willing to trust in the free gift of salvation thru Christ right now, when there's no penalty in our country for doing that...no hardship to trust in Christ. If you won't do it now, why do you think you would do it during the tribulation when you will be threatened with loss of water and shelter and food? When you see your loved ones tortured or you may give your own life for Jesus Christ? If you won't do it now, why would you do it then? And what makes you think you'll even want to do it then?

You and I aren't guaranteed tomorrow. And don't forget the Biblical truth that you can harden your heart so often that you reach a point where you cannot believe. YOU CANNOT BELIEVE! You can say no to the offer of salvation so many times that you'll no longer want or be able to receive the gift of salvation.

Remember Pharaoh? The Bible says God hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he could not obey the commands of God. You say, that's so unfair. That's so unfair! For God to harden somebody's heart. What about free will and blablabla? That's not fair. You know what? If you look at scripture you'll find that pharaoh hardened his own heart ten times before God hardened his heart.

You can say no, no, no so many times that you will no longer be able to say yes to the gift of salvation. Today is the time to say yes to the gift of salvation!

In Revelation 7, those who put their trust in Jesus Christ erupt in praise and worship, joined by the angels and the twenty-four elders.

7:12 Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. God is worthy of this worship and adoration throughout eternity, "forever and ever". The heavenly hosts' final "AMEN" underlines the truthfulness of this doxology.

WHO ARE THE TRIBULATION SAINTS? THE IDENTITY OF THE TRIBULATION SAINTS

After the hymn of praise, one of the 24 elders asked John a question:

Revelation 7:13-14

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

14 And 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.

Remember there are no Christians at the beginning of the great tribulation, so let's be clear on the identity of these believers. Millions of people are saved but some of them will die because of the natural disruptive elements like the cosmological disturbances, the volcano's, the earthquakes, the lack of good. But some will die during the tribulation because of martyrdom. They will give their lives because they refuse to take the mark of the beast.

As we have seen, the 24 elders represent all God's redeemed - the saved and redeemed Israel. These believers in white robes in Revelation 7 came to faith in Christ during the tribulation. Warren Wiersbe explained, "the fact that they are standing before the throne and not seated around it indicates that these people are not identified with the 24 elders. In fact, John himself did not know who they were! If they had been Old Testament elders, or the church, John would have recognized them. That the elder had to tell John who they were suggests that they are special people, which, indeed, they are."

John didn't know who these white-robed believers were, so the elder told him, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation" (v. 14). Jesus coined the phrase 'the great tribulation' (*Matthew 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*) and identified it with the second half of Daniel's seventh week

(Daniel 9: 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.)

(Mark 13:14-20

14 But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:

15 And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house:

16 And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment.

17 But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

18 And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter.

19 For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.)

The phrases 'washed their robes' and 'made them white in the blood of the Lamb' (*Revelation 7:14 And 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.*) Refers to salvation

Zechariah 3:4-5

4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.

5 And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by.) and purified deeds (Revelation 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city). Of course, making robes white by washing them in blood doesn't make sense. How can you wash something in blood and make it white? This is the essence of the gospel. No matter how stained your life is by sin, your sins can be erased and your life made as white as snow thru the blood of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 9:22 says, "All things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness".

These tribulation saints have come thru great suffering and are saved by the power of God. That's the promise for every believer. God doesn't promise to take you out of your problems, but He does promise to walk with you through those problems.

Remember, Christians on earth are saved FROM THE TRIBULATION because they are raptured into the clouds with Jesus. Those saved after the rapture are not saved FROM THE TRIBULATION, but they will eventually be saved OUT OF THE TRIBULATION!

God's plan for most Christians is not to be saved from the tribulation but to be saved out of the tribulation. William Barkley explained the difference this way when he said, the deliverance which God gives is not the deliverance of escape, but the deliverance of conquest. It is not a deliverance which saves people from trouble, but a deliverance that brings them triumphantly through trouble. It does not make life easy, but it makes life great. It is not part of the Christians hope to look for a life from which we are saved from all trouble and distress. The Christian hope is that in Christ we can endure any kind of trouble and distress. Remain upright throughout and come out to glory on the other side. *I like that phrase, come out to glory on the other side!*

That's what happens to the tribulation saints. They go through terrible persecution, but they come out to glory on the other side. They are delivered out of the tribulation.

I thought of this phrase yesterday we had the memorial service for Hannah Till, the wife of Leroy Henry Till, the long time minister of music at this church. 1972 when Leroy was 44 years old and at the height of his ministry here at First Baptist, he had a debilitating stroke that immediately ended his ministry inside the church. It didn't end his ministry, but it ended his ministry in the church. He required constant care. Yesterday at the memorial service, Robert, the Till's son, shared this story about his mom. At the onset of dad's stroke, Hannah Till reached the point of desperation. She lifted up her hands, palms up to God and said, God, please heal Leroy. Heal Leroy! You know the pressure this is putting on our family, Heal Leroy! Then she turned her palms down and said again, but not my will but your will be done.

Physical healing was not a part of God's will for Leroy. At least not at that time. Instead, Hannah Till would spend the next 47 years of her life caring for her husband. She did so not begrudgingly, she did so joyfully. And yet, God was with her throughout those 47 years.

There are countless doctors and nurses, healthcare workers who came to know Christ and saw the love of Christ displayed through this situation; and on November 23, when God called her home she came out to the glory side.

That's the promise of every Christian. God does promise to take you out of your problems, but he does promise to walk with you through the problems.

Revelation 7:13-14

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

14 And 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.

This sounds so strange. What do you mean make white by the blood of the Lamb? How can blood make anything white? Blood is not a whitening agent, its a staining agent. Have you ever tried to wash blood out of a garment? It's difficult, but this is the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. **It doesn't matter how stained with sin, how dirty and filthy your life is, When you trust Jesus to take the penalty of your sin, God takes your ugly, dark and dirty sin and he makes you as white as snow in His presence.**

That is the beauty of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

You know that gospel message, as precious as it is to us, is absolutely offensive to most people. To hear that their sin is so great that it takes blood - the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse us.

Peter Crepp says it so well when he writes if you confess at the fashionable cocktail party that you personally love to play with porcupines or that you plan to sell CIA secrets to the communists or that you are considering becoming a Palestinian terrorist, you will find a buzzing and fascinating crowd of people around you; *but if you confess that you believe Jesus Christ is God, that he died to save us from sin by shedding his precious blood, and that there really is a heaven and a hell, you will find yourself talking to empty air with a distinct chill in it.*

People hate to hear that message. The message that their sin is so great that it demanded a blood sacrifice so great as through the death of Jesus Christ. **But it is through his blood that we find healing, redemption and forgiveness.**

Remember the old gospel song, are you washed...are you washed in the blood, in the soul cleansing blood of the Lamb. Are your garments spotless are they white as snow, are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? **That's the gospel of Jesus Christ!**

Notice what he says here. What is the reward of those who stand around the throne?

THE REWARD OF THE TRIBULATION SAINTS

Because these tribulation saints are clothed in righteousness, they are able to stand before God's throne and serve Him continuously. The elder told John, "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 7:15-17).

Why are they? before the throne of God! Because they have washed their garments in the blood of the Lamb. People are in heaven, not because of their family or church membership. The only people in heaven are those that have washed their garments in the blood of Jesus Christ.

These tribulation saints serve God "day and night" with songs of praise and adoration. **God will protect and fellowship with them, pictured in the spreading of His 'tabernacle' over them (v 15).** God will protect them from physical harm, hunger, thirst, and heat. And God's protection

extends beyond the physical. He will see to it that the tribulation saints are fully satisfied spiritually. The references to hunger and thirst also carry spiritual overtones. ***Jesus said those who ‘hunger and thirst for righteousness’ will have their souls filled (Matthew 5:6).*** And in ***John 6:35, Jesus taught that He is the ‘bread of life’ and that anyone who hungers after spiritual things and believes in Him will not walk away hungry or thirsty.*** That is what God will do for these tribulation saints - and for all believers.

The elder added that the Father ‘will wipe every tear from their eyes’ (Revelation 7:17).

TWO TIMELESS TRUTHS FROM REVELATION 7

Revelation 7 teaches us at least two important truths, not only about the end times but also about our times.

GOD NEVER FORGETS HIS PROMISES

The sealing of the 144,000 teaches us the God never forgets His promises. He won't forget His promise to Israel, as seen in the sealing, and the using, of the 144,000.

He won't forget His promise to the tribulation saints in welcoming them into heaven. And He won't forget His promise to you: ***“I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).*** Though He has set aside Israel for a time, choosing to work His plan of redemption thru the church, God never forgets His promises, nothing is ever lost to God. Although the world is at rage, or your world in particular, may seem out of control, God has a plan that He is working out, and you can count on Him to keep His promises to you.

GOD ULTIMATELY REWARDS THE FAITHFUL

That majestic scene of the tribulation martyrs around the throne of God reminds us that ***‘God will ultimately, if not immediately, reward the faithful.’*** Paul wrote to encourage the believers in Rome: ***“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Romans 8:18).***

Going back to the story at the beginning of this message, Dietrich Bonhoeffer came to understand how God turns suffering into glory. Because of his participation in the plot to kill Hitler, Bonhoeffer was transferred to the Flossenburg concentration camp and handed as an enemy of the Third Reich. Moments before Bonhoeffer's execution, the camp doctor observed Bonhoeffer kneeling in prayer. Later the doctor wrote, “I was most deeply moved by the way this lovable man prayed, so devout and so certain that God heard his prayer. At the place of execution, he again said a short prayer and then climbed up the steps to the gallows, brave and composed. His death ensued after a few seconds. In the almost fifty years that I worked as a doctor, I have hardly ever seen a man die so entirely submissive to the will of God.”

It is God's will to keep His promises and to reward the faithful. In the end times, He will do both for Israel and the British and Latin American saints, but He will also do the same for you today. Paul said in ***2 Timothy 2:11-12, “If we died with Him, we will also live with Him; if we endure, we will also reign with Him.***

Sister Shelbia shared information from: Wrath and Glory Book by David Reagan. Chapter 6 ends with a question, Who is able to stand before the wrath of the lamb?

Chapter 6:17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Chapter 7 begins by answering that question. Chapter 7 is first of several parenthetical passages - which means it inserts a word of encouragement to the reader. **There are 2 groups that will be able to endure the wrath: Jews and Gentiles.**

There will be 144,0000 Jew who are converted in the tribulation. Probably by Gods supernatural *Ezekiel 38 & 39 'Mog and Magog War'*, that is being set up to happen in Middle East right now. *Ezekiel 38:*

1 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

3 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

4 And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:

5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:

6 Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.

7 Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.

8 After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

9 Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.

10 Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought:

11 And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates,

12 To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land.

13 Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

14 Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?

15 And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:

16 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

17 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them?

18 And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face.

19 For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel;

20 So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

21 And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother.

22 And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Ezekiel 39:

1 Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

2 And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:

3 And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand.

4 Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

5 Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD.

6 And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

7 So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

8 Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord GOD; this is the day whereof I have spoken.

9 And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years:

10 So that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord GOD.

11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the

passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamongog.

12 And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land.

13 Yea, all the people of the land shall bury them; and it shall be to them a renown the day that I shall be glorified, saith the Lord GOD.

14 And they shall sever out men of continual employment, passing through the land to bury with the passengers those that remain upon the face of the earth, to cleanse it: after the end of seven months shall they search.

15 And the passengers that pass through the land, when any seeth a man's bone, then shall he set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamongog.

16 And also the name of the city shall be Hamonah. Thus shall they cleanse the land.

17 And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood.

18 Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan.

19 And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.

20 Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD.

21 And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them.

22 So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward.

23 And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword.

24 According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid my face from them.

25 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name;

26 After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid.

27 When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations;

28 Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.

29 Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

Bondservants of God will go forth as messengers of God and will preach as God's missionaries to the world. The purpose of the tribulation is not primarily punishment. The fundamental purpose is to bring people to repentance. God does not wish that any should perish.

II Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

There will be a great a harvest of souls based on the tribulation; others will be brought to God by the 144,000; some from responding to the special Angel messenger who will go all over the earth and some will be saved because of the 2 witnesses in Jerusalem - who preach there, die and come back to life.

Most people will reject the gospel, but most of those who are saved at this time will be martyred.

Revelation 7:9 After 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; a great host of people from every nation and tongue. They are clothed in white robes Revelation 7:14 And 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.

and they came out of the great tribulation and washed their robes in the blood of the lamb. They are converted by the 144,000 and murdered by the antichrists agents.

Is there consciousness after death? Yes there is.

Those who have been martyred

Revelation 7:11 And 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, 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

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

The souls of the martyr (7:13) have a intermediate body at their death; and they will get a glorified body at the return of the second coming of Jesus.

14 And 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.

15 Therefore 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.

They serve the Lord.

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

17 For 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.

Bonhoeffer stood fast, those we learned about today stood fast, and we must stand fast. The 4 corners of the earth is a language of appearance, such as sunset and sunrise.

What are we suppose to be doing today? Repentance is one of the main reasons for the book of Revelation.

HOW TO PRAY FOR UNSAVED POEPL:

1. Pray for their soul and spirit to be awakened. (*Judges 5:12 Awake, awake, Deborah: awake, awake, utter a song: arise, Barak, and lead thy captivity captive, thou son of Abinoam.)*
2. Pray for a change in a person's desires.
3. Binding the strong man. (*Matthew 12:29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.)*
4. Pray for God to bring confusion to bad relationships.
5. Pray against seed stealers.
6. Pray that anybody who plants a seed will be successful.
7. Pray the strong man prevents the adversary from taking up room and residence in the unsaved persons life and driving the strong man out thru prayer.
8. Pull down strongholds - Bind satan not to take them captive.
9. Ask for God to put workers across their path. (*I Peter 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.)*
10. Be serious and watchful in your prayers.

THE WARRIORS PRAYER:

Heavenly Father,
Your warrior prepares for battle.
Today I claim victory over satan by putting on the whole armour of God.

I put on girdle of truth!
May I stand firm in the truth of your word so I will not be a victim of satan's lies.

I put on breast plate of righteousness! May it guard my heart from evil so
I will remain pure and holy.
Protected under the blood of Jesus Christ.

I put on the shoes of peace!
May I stand firm in the good news of the Gospel so your peace will shine through me and be a
light to all I encounter.

I take the shield of faith!
May I be ready for satan's fiery darts of doubt, denial, and deceit so I will not be
Vulnerable to spiritual defeat.

I put on the helmet of Salvation!
May I keep my mind focused on you so satan will not have a stronghold on my thoughts.

I take the sword of the spirit!
May the two-edged sword of your word be ready in my hands so I can expose the tempting words
of satan.

By faith your warrior has put on the whole armor of God!
I am prepared to live this day in spiritual victory!
Amen.

One of the main things I learned for the study of the 7 churches is deceit. Deceit and discouragement are satans great lies told to get to us. This is a powerful prayer and we need it badly.

The Red Sea Rules: these are according to what happened in exodus when the Israelites were confronted by the Egyptians.

1. Realize, God wants you to be where you are.
2. Be more concerned for God's glory than for your relief.
3. Acknowledge your enemy but keep eyes on the lord.
4. Pray - pray - pray some more.
5. STAY CALM AND CONFIDENT AND GIVE GOD TIME TO WORK
6. When unsure, just take the next logical step by faith.
7. Envision God enveloping presence around us. He will never leave us or forsake us. *Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

Deuteronomy 5 1 And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them. 2 The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. 3 The LORD made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day. 4 The LORD talked with you face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire, 5 (I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to shew you the word of the LORD: for ye were afraid by reason of the fire, and went not up into the mount;) saying, 6 I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. 7 Thou shalt have none other gods before me. 8 Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth: 9 Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, 10 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments. 11 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. 12 Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee. 13 Six days thou shalt labour, and do all thy work: 14 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter,

nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou. 15 And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day. 16 Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. 17 Thou shalt not kill. 18 Neither shalt thou commit adultery. 19 Neither shalt thou steal. 20 Neither shalt thou bear false witness against thy neighbour. 21 Neither shalt thou desire thy neighbour's wife, neither shalt thou covet thy neighbour's house, his field, or his manservant, or his maidservant, his ox, or his ass, or any thing that is thy neighbour's. 22 These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me. 23 And it came to pass, when ye heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, (for the mountain did burn with fire,) that ye came near unto me, even all the heads of your tribes, and your elders; 24 And ye said, Behold, the LORD our God hath shewed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that God doth talk with man, and he liveth. 25 Now therefore why should we die? for this great fire will consume us: if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, then we shall die. 26 For who is there of all flesh, that hath heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? 27 Go thou near, and hear all that the LORD our God shall say: and speak thou unto us all that the LORD our God shall speak unto thee; and we will hear it, and do it. 28 And the LORD heard the voice of your words, when ye spake unto me; and the LORD said unto me, I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken unto thee: they have well said all that they have spoken. 29 O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever! 30 Go say to them, Get you into your tents again. 31 But as for thee, stand thou here by me, and I will speak unto thee all the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which thou shalt teach them, that they may do them in the land which I give them to possess it. 32 Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. 33 Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.

8. Trust God to deliver in his own unique way. There isn't any way we can figure God out - *Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*
9. View your current crisis as a faith builder for the future.
10. Don't forget to praise him.

WE HAVE TO KEEP THESE THINGS BEFORE US AS WE GET MORE AND MORE INTO THIS WORLD WHICH IS GETTING MORE COMPLEX.

Pastor Dwight Jones says we are living at the most bazaar seasons for history.

- A. Technology has advanced to the point that the beast in Revelation 13 can be made real. They are planning 10 story giants to put in cities to give the orders of the antichrist to the people.
- B. The new temple will be built before very long. The temple institute has the utensils and instruments for the temple. The snails for the blue die that goes on the hem of the priests garments have come out of the Mediterranean Sea.
- C. There are 2 red heifers without a blemish on them and they are almost to the age of sacrifice. We are living in a time to waste. **We have to be about our fathers business.**

WHO AM I IN CHRIST?

*There are so many things going on with people we know around us. All of us have to be prepared for the next thing, whatever that IS. We don't know. **BY FAITH IN CHRIST YOU HAVE BEEN BORN INTO GOD'S FAMILY AND THE FOLLOWING WORDS ARE TRUE OF YOU.***

- 1. *I AM THE SALT OF THE EARTH (MATT 5:13)*
- 2. *I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (MATT 5:14)*
- 3. *I AM A CHILD OF GOD (JOHN 1:12)*
- 4. *I AM CHRIST'S FRIEND (JOHN 15:15)*
- 5. *I AM A SALVE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (ROMAN 6:18)*
- 6. *I AM A JOINT HEIR WITH CHRIST, SHARING HIS INHERITANCE WITH HIM (ROMAN 8:17)*
- 7. *I AM A TEMPLE - A DWELLING PLACE-OF GOD. HIS SPIRIT AND HIS LIFE WELLS IN ME (1 CORINTHIANS 3:16, 6:19)*
- 8. *I AM A MEMBER OF CHRIST'S BODY (1 CORINTHIANS 12:27; EPHESIANS 5:30)*
- 9. *I AM A NEW CREATION (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17)*
- 10. *I AM RECONCILED TO GOD AND AM A MINISTER OF RECONCILIATION (2 CORINTHIANS 5:18, 19)*
- 11. *I AM A SAINT (EPHESIANS 1:1, 1 CORINTHIANS 1:2; PHILLIPIANS 1:1; COLOSSIANS 1:2)*
- 12. *I AM GOD'S WORKMANSHIP - HIS HANDIWORK - BORN ANEW IN CHRIST TO DO HIS WORK (EPHESIANS 2:10)*
- 13. *I AM A FELLOW CITIZEN WITH THE REST OF GOD'S FAMILY (EPHESIANS 2:19)*

Sister Donna requested to add something to the list of how to pray for the lost:

She stated that this has been exempted from the church - **we need to pray for conviction of the Holy Ghost!**

Sister Donna asked to share a message in tongues with the group. This was given by the Holy Ghost - and it goes along with Standing in God's Word.

The Holy Ghost spoke and said, did I not command you that in the days of evil to put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand in the evil day, but don't just stop with the covering of your armor. You should pray for boldness so that you would open your mouth and boldly proclaim the name of Jesus. The adversary is watching the countenance of your faith for I have not given you a spirit of fear but of the love and a sound mind. Hear my voice, little flock. Daily pray that the boldness of God will be upon you. Pray earnestly and effectively that the boldness of my spirit will be upon the continence of your faith so your adversary will know beyond the shadow of a doubt that the greater one is working within you. **We have to pray for the boldness of the Holy Ghost in these evil days to be able to stand. The Holy Ghost will strengthen us and give us the ability to fight in the name of Jesus.**

I think we'll go to the prayer list now.

Sharon is not with us today cause she has a major decision to be made by Monday morning. She needs to have God's wisdom, discernment so she will know exactly what to do and have peace.

Kay Miller - Covid - very sick lady with weak lungs and very sick. She is in her third week of not being able to eat much. Her husband, Jerry was hospitalized and is still having gastro problems and needs to be seen by a doctor.

Amanda Castons had her surgery - keep praying for continued healing. She also lost both parents recently.

Leadership of America.

People of Afghanistan, especially the Christians. Pray for their strength, for many salvations of people who are on the fence over there.

I've heard reports of Muslims who have had visions of Jesus and God saved.

Light in the United States - its awfully dark here. We have a battle of light and darkness.

People of Haiti, especially the children.

People of Tennessee -flooding.

Prayer for Grace Community Church and the decision to be made.

Baby Dillion, foster child. God's healing and protection.

Dr. Derby's family.

Geraldine Beaufort - Covid for 2nd time.

Steve and Carolyn - MRI - tumor hasn't changed. Thankful liver is clear. A team of docs will decide what to do next. They will go back in one month.

Fredericktown Schools - several Covid cases.

God is working! He's alive and well.