



Rejoice Learning Center
USA, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh,
Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Benin

Lesson 12: End Times Part 2 – Tribulation: Israel, the Church, the Seals, the Trumpets, and the 2 Witnesses.

Today, we continue to review the time of Tribulation:

- 1. The Israelites are marked for protection (Rev 7)
- 2. Marked by God: What is the seal? Who is sealed?
- 3. The body of Christ is empowered by the Holy Spirit (Rev 11)
- 4. Tribulation: Seven Seals opened (Rev 6 and 8)
- 5. Tribulation: Seven Trumpet Judgments (Rev 8,9,11)
- 6. Tribulation: The 2 Witnesses (Rev 11)

1. THE ISRAELITES ARE MARKED FOR PROTECTION

In addition to the Beast System (see Lesson 11), which will ultimately cause many believers' downfall, the time of tribulation will also be characterized by a series of judgments manifested through natural disasters. During this period, the Israelites will be marked and sealed, much like Noah was preserved during the flood judgment. This signifies that God's chosen people will be kept secure by His seal. Let us support this with scriptures.

A select group of Israelites (144,000), who are bondservants of God, will be sealed for their protection. This event will occur between the 6th and 7th seals, before the trumpet judgments.

Revelation 7:2-4

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 bondservants 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.**

Believers are mentioned as sealed with a mark on their foreheads during the fifth trumpet judgment. In short, locusts are instructed to torment only those people who do not have the seal of God.

Revelation 9:3-11

³ And out of the smoke **locusts** came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. ⁴ **They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.** ⁵ They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes. ⁶ During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude (escape) them.

⁷ The locusts looked like **horses prepared for battle**. On their heads they wore something like **crowns of gold**, and their faces resembled **human faces**. ⁸ Their hair was like **women's hair**, and their teeth were like **lions' teeth**. ⁹ They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their **wings** was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. ¹⁰ They had **tails with stingers, like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months.** ¹¹ **They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).**

The sealed 144,000 are mentioned again, this time in heavenly places. They sing a new song. (In Rev 13, the Antichrist was permitted to kill them.)

Revelation 14:1-5

Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him **144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.** ² And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. ³ And **they sang a new song** before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been **redeemed from the earth.** ⁴ These are they which were **not defiled** with women; for they are virgins (ML: spiritually pure, not natural virgins). **These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth** (ML: Servants of God). These were **redeemed from among men**, being the **firstfruits** (ML: first converts) unto God and to the Lamb. ⁵ And in their mouth was found no deceit: for they are **without fault before the throne** of God.

(This chapter then continues with the angel going out saying, **"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."**)

Who else will be singing a song? And who else is in heavenly places?

The believers who resisted the mark of the beast. This is mentioned before the seven bowls of wrath are poured out.

Revelation 15:1-4

I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: **seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God’s wrath is completed.** ² And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, **those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given to them by God** ³ and **sang the song of God’s servant Moses and the Lamb:** “Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations. ⁴ Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

2. MARKED BY GOD: WHAT IS THE SEAL? WHO IS SEALED?

What is the seal?

We read earlier in Revelation 3 that the seal is placed on the forehead, and we read in Revelation 14:1 that with the Lamb were **144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads.**

What is the lamb's name? Jesus!

What is the father's name? Jesus!

But what about Gentile Believers?

Ephesians 1:13-14¹³ In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, **you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,** ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the **redemption** of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 4:30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were **sealed** for the **day of redemption.**

What is the seal? The spirit of Jesus: Jesus!

→ 144,000 Israelites and Gentile believers are sealed for the day of redemption with Jesus!

Who is sealed?

Those born of the Holy Spirit, established in Christ, and anointed.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 Now He who **establishes** us with you in **Christ and anointed** us is God, who also **sealed us** and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

The holy and faithful ones in Christ.

Ephesians 1:1 is addressed to God's **holy people** in Ephesus, the **faithful in Christ** Jesus: ...**Ephesians 1:13-14**¹³ In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, **you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise**, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. **Ephesians 4:30** Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were **sealed** for the day of redemption.

Those who are known by the Lord and abstain from wickedness.

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this **seal**, "The **Lord knows those who are His**," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to **abstain from wickedness**."

Those who do the work of God, just like Jesus did.

1 Corinthians 9:1-2 ...Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the **seal of my apostleship** in the Lord.

John 6:27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed **his seal of approval**.

The bondservants of God (Bondservant means a slave without wages).

Revelation 7:3-8 says, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the **bond-servants** of our God on their foreheads." (We read this scripture in the beginning.)

Many other scriptures talk about believers being marked out. Marked out means to identify something. The marked out believers are:

The holy ones, the saints: Rom 1:7

The holy, special people: Deut 7:6

The circumcised: Gen 17:13 -> In the NT we talk about circumcision of the heart.

The perfect ones, blameless ones: Exodus 12:21

The anointed ones: 1 Sam 26:11: Priests & Prophets: Lev 16:32/ 1 Chron 16:22

The clean ones: Leviticus 20:25

Those who rest in the Lord: Leviticus 23:24

Those who serve Jesus: Num 17:5

Those who obey Jesus: Nehemia 1:9

Sealing people is not a new concept; it was introduced in the Old Testament.

Those who grieved over the wickedness in Jerusalem were given a mark.

Ezekiel 9:3-11 He called to the man dressed in linen who had the writing kit at his side. The LORD said to him, “**Go through the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of the people who moan and groan over all the abominations practiced in it.**” While I listened, he said to the others, “**Go through the city after him and strike people down; do not let your eye pity nor spare anyone! Old men, young men, young women, little children, and women—wipe them out! But do not touch anyone who has the mark. Begin at my sanctuary!**” So they began with the elders who were at the front of the temple. He said to them, “Defile the temple and fill the courtyards with corpses. Go!” So they went out and struck people down throughout the city. While they were striking them down, I was left alone, and I threw myself face down and cried out, “Ah, sovereign LORD! Will you destroy the entire remnant of Israel when you pour out your fury on Jerusalem?” He said to me, “The sin of the house of Israel and Judah is extremely great; the land is full of murder, and the city is full of corruption, for they say, ‘The LORD has abandoned the land, and the LORD does not see!’ But as for me, my eye will not pity them nor will I spare them; I hereby repay them for what they have done.” Next I noticed the man dressed in linen with the writing kit at his side bringing back word: “I have done just as you commanded me.”

The Israelites, when leaving Egypt, were marked with the blood:

Exod 12:13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, so that when I see the blood I will pass over you, and this plague will not fall on you to destroy you when I attack the land of Egypt.

Exod 12: 22–23 . . . Take a branch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and apply to the top of the doorframe and the two side posts some of the blood that is in the basin. Not one of you is to go out the door of his house until morning. For the LORD will pass through to strike Egypt, and when he sees the blood on the top of the doorframe and the two side posts, then the LORD will pass over the door, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.”

3. THE BODY OF CHRIST IS EMPOWERED!

Jesus empowers the church and Israel to fulfill His will:

- to walk in the spirit and power of Elijah and Moses
- to be willing to sacrifice ourselves for his name's sake

In Revelation 11, the two witnesses of Jesus are discussed: they are the church and Israel. We will explore this topic under point 6) in this lesson.

Let us look at how the Holy Spirit empowers us:

Revelation 11:3-7 ³ And I will appoint my **two witnesses**, and they **will prophesy** for 1,260 days, **clothed in sackcloth.** ⁴ They are “the two olive trees” and the two lampstands, and “they stand before the Lord of the earth.” ⁵ **If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die.**

(ML: Isaiah compared the Word of God to a fire. **Elijah** called down fire on the fifty soldiers and their captain: 2 Kings 1:9–14).

⁶ **They have power to shut up the heavens** so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; (ML: In 1 Kings 17, **Elijah** tells King Ahab that there will be no rain or dew for several years) and **they have power to turn the waters into blood** (ML: **Moses** performed the same sign) and **to strike the earth with every kind of plague** as often as they want (just like **Moses**).

⁷ Now when they have finished their **testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.** (ML: Abyss is the place where demons are held, see Luke 8:30-31. This speaks of the destroyer.)

What else do we know about the end-time church?

The Lord told me in prayer, “The signs I have given to Moses I have given to the church.”

The signs of God's presence in a believer are found in Exodus chapters 3 and 4.

In summary, they are:

- > He sends you (apostle)
- > He fulfills His word
- > You experience wonders, favor, and provision
- > You have power over demons and sickness
- > Those who discredit you will be judged
- > You are a messenger of the gospel and judgment
- > The Lord is with your mouth and teaches you what to say

- > You will be loved by the holy ones and hated by everyone else
- > You speak by the spirit of God and are given a Rod (Kingship/Rulership/Divine Guidance/Working of Miracles)

Exodus 33:14 The presence of the Lord is with you, and you have his peace

(For scripture references and details on the above, please refer to our teaching on YouTube: Good News Episode 53: I Am With You Always)

Jesus said in Mark 16:17-18 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;¹⁸ They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

→ **The end-time church is powerful in signs and wonders!**

4. TRIBULATION: SEVEN SEALS OPENED

During the tribulation, we will deal with the Antichrist and distressing events. These events are being released as Jesus, the Lamb who was slain, opens a scroll with seven seals (Rev. 5).

Revelation chapters 6 and 8 state what will happen when the seals are opened. Here is a summary:

1. Seal: White horse: Release of the Antichrist, who is set out to conquer.
(ML: He will eventually kill believers as written in Rev 6:10, Rev 7:14, Rev 13:15-17, Matthew 24:9...)

2. Seal: Red horse: War, people killing each other.

3rd seal: Black horse: Famine and Inflation.

4th seal: Pale Horse: Death and Hades were given power over $\frac{1}{4}$ of the earth to kill by war, famine, plague, and wild beasts.

5th seal: the souls of the Martyrs crying out to God

Rev 6:10 How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood? Then each of them were given a white robe and **they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.**

Rev 7:14 And John also saw the ones in white robes. **These are they who have come out of the great tribulation;** they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb. (Martyrs)

The 6th and 7th seals speak of the return of Jesus.

6th seal

Rev 6:12: There was a great **earthquake**. The **sun turned black** like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole **moon turned blood red**, ¹³ and the **stars in the sky fell to earth**, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. ¹⁴ The **heavens receded** like a scroll being rolled up, and **every mountain and island was removed** from its place.

Rev 6:15-17 Everyone was afraid of the wrath of the Lamb.

Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶ They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from **the wrath of the Lamb!** ¹⁷ For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

In Revelation 7:2-4 we learn that the Seal of Jesus is given to the 144,000 Israelites just before God's judgments take place (as discussed earlier). This happens after the 6th and before the 7th seal.

7th Seal

Revelation 8: When he opened the 7th seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

The 7th seal leads into the trumpet judgments.

5. TRIBULATION: SEVEN TRUMPET JUDGMENTS

After the 7th seal is opened, the trumpet judgments are released. All saints are marked and not destroyed by these disasters.

Here is a summary of the Trumpets as found in Revelation chapters 8-11:

Revelation 8:

1st trumpet: God rains down hail and fire mixed with blood upon the earth – burning up a third of the trees and all of the green grass.

2nd trumpet: A third of the sea turned into blood, ⁹ a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

3rd trumpet: A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.

4th trumpet: A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.

Revelation 9:

5th trumpet: Revelation 9:3-11 Evil Locusts with scorpion power were told to torture unbelievers for 5 months. People will seek death but don't find it. Believers are sealed with a seal on their foreheads and remain unharmed.

³And out of the smoke **locusts** came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. ⁴ They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, **but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.** ⁵ They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes. ⁶ During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

⁷ The locusts looked like **horses prepared for battle.** On their heads they wore something like **crowns of gold**, and their faces resembled **human faces.** ⁸ Their hair was like **women's hair**, and their teeth were like **lions' teeth.** ⁹ They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their **wings** was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. ¹⁰ They had **tails with stingers, like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months.** ¹¹ **They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).**

6th trumpet: Revelation 9:13-20

V 15: And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to **kill a third of mankind:**

V 18 **A third of mankind was killed** by the three plagues of **fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths.**

Revelation 11

7th trumpet: Revelation 11:15 Then the **seventh angel blew his trumpet**, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, **“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”**

6. TRIBULATION: THE TWO WITNESSES IN REVELATION 11

The bible talks about 2 witnesses who will be very powerful during the time of the tribulation. They bring damage to the Antichrist and the World system. Who are they?

Who is called a witness in scripture?

Revelation 1:5: Jesus.

and from Jesus Christ, **the faithful witness**, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood.

Genesis 31:50: God. (Laban talking to Jacob who was running away with his daughters)

If you mistreat my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters, although no man is with us, see, **God is witness** between you and me.”

Acts 5:32: The Holy Spirit. (Disciples speaking) We are witnesses of these things, and so **is the Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Romans 3:21: The Law and the Prophets. Paul writes, ²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, The Law and the Prophets bear **witness to it.**

Luke 24:46-48: The Apostles. (Jesus speaking to his disciples before his ascension)
⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He (Jesus) told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ **You are witnesses** of these things.

Acts 1:8: Every spirit-filled believer. ...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My **witnesses both in Jerusalem**, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Revelation 11:2-12 The two witnesses during the Tribulation.

Who are the two Witnesses?

We learned under point 3 of this lesson that the end-time church will walk in the power of the prophets with signs and wonders. As we study Revelation 11:1-12, we confirm that the two witnesses are Israel and the Church.

Revelation 11:1-2

I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. ² But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, **because it has been given to the Gentiles/Nations. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months** (ML: 3.5 years).

→ **Luke 21:20-24 Jerusalem will be trampled on**

²⁰“When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. ²² For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. ²³ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. ²⁴ They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. **Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**

→ **Matthew 24:15-22 the abomination of desolation will be standing in the holy place and a time of great distress!**

¹⁵“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘**the abomination that causes desolation**,^[a] spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. ¹⁸ Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. ¹⁹ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! ²⁰ Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹ **For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.** ²² “**If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.**

Revelation 11:3-4 continued

³ And I will appoint my **two witnesses**, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days (ML:3.5 years), clothed in sackcloth.

⁴ They are the **two olive trees** and the **two lampstands**, and they stand before the Lord of the earth.

Olive trees

are symbolic for **Israel and Gentiles**:

Israel: Jeremiah 11:16–17 The Lord called thy name, A green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit: with the noise of a great tumult he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken. ¹⁷ For the Lord of hosts, that planted thee, hath pronounced evil against thee, for the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done against themselves to provoke me to anger in offering incense unto Baal.

Israel and Gentiles: Romans 11:17–24. Paul talks about a **cultivated olive tree** portraying Israel, and a **wild olive tree** representing the **Gentile** believers.

Romans 11:24-25 After all, if you (ML: the Gentiles) were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree (Israel), how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree! I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: **Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in,...**

→ When the "fullness of the Gentiles" is reached, Jewish people will put their faith in Jesus.

The two olive trees are Israel and the Gentiles. Olive trees are also symbolic of the Holy Spirit. Without the oil, the lamps don't burn.

Exodus 27:20 Command the Israelites to bring you clear oil of pressed olives for the light so that the lamps may be kept burning.

What about the Lampstand (also known as Menorah)?

The lampstand was given to the Jews: It was used in the Tabernacle and later the Temple. It was the only source of light and had to give light day and night. (Exodus 25:21-31). It was pointing to Jesus, the light of the World (John 8:12); the true light that gives light to everyone (John 1:9).

But the lampstand was also given to the Church:

Revelation 1:20 Jesus says the "seven lampstands are the seven churches."

Revelation 2:1-2 To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who **walks among the seven golden lampstands** (referring to 7 end time churches mentioned in Rev chapters 2 and 3.).

Matthew 5:14, we are called the "light of the world" and we must walk **in the light of God**" (1 John 1:7).

We see the Lampstand speaks about the Jews and the Church. It is also symbolic of the Holy Spirit. Isaiah 11:2 lists seven attributes of the Holy Spirit.

Spirit of the Lord

Spirit of Knowledge

Spirit of Understanding

Spirit of Wisdom

Spirit of Counsel

Spirit of Power

Spirit of the Fear of the Lord

Zechariah 4 also confirms this: In this chapter, the lampstand symbolizes the spirit of God given to build the temple of God.

Why two lampstands and two olive trees? Why two witnesses?

Because every matter must be established by two or three witnesses. What has been established by Jews and Gentiles? **Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the only Savior!**

All Glory and Praise belong to him who lives forever and ever!

Jews and Gentiles become one.

Galatians 6:16 This is the Israel of God, those who believe in a new creation.

Galatians 3:29 We are all sons of Abraham

Romans 2:28-29 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; ²⁹ but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

1 Peter 2:9 is written to the church, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a **holy nation**, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

Philippians 3:3 calls the church “the circumcision”.

Ephesians 1:4 calls the church “the chosen.”

One in the spirit, just like Christ and the Church.

We are one in him. The Bride is ready. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Revelation 11:7-14 continues – we will be killed, resurrected, and raptured:

Now, when they have finished their testimony, **the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.** ⁸ Their bodies will lie in the public square of **the great city**—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt (ML: the world), where also their Lord was crucified. ⁹For three and a half days, some from every people, tribe, language, and nation will gaze on their bodies and **refuse them burial** (ML: sign of contempt). ¹⁰ “And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets (144’000 Israelites and NT Church) **tormented** them that dwelt on the earth.”

¹¹ **But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered them**, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. ¹² Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “**Come up here.**” **And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.**

¹³ At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

¹⁴ The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.

Just as Christ resurrected, so the end-time church also will be resurrected.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and **the dead in Christ shall rise first:** ¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

What is our duty until Jesus comes?

Matthew 28:18-19 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

James 5:7-9 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, **be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.** Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

How do we establish our hearts?

- In the Word of God and fellowship with the Holy Spirit.
- We must prepare ourselves for the possibility of being killed by the Antichrist, as predicted in Revelation 6:10, Revelation 7:14, Revelation 13:17, Revelation 13:15, and Matthew 24:9, among other verses.

Lesson Summary:

- The Church (Jews and Gentiles) is empowered by the Holy Spirit in this last hour, just as the Antichrist is empowered by Satan.
- We can confidently enter into the time of tribulation knowing that we are protected from the trumpet judgments that will hit the world and preach the gospel with great signs and wonders following.
- We most likely will be killed for our faith: **Rev 12:11** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death.
- After Jesus died on the cross, many who previously mocked him believed in him. So, it will be with us. After we are resurrected from the dead, people will glorify God and put their faith in him!

Maranatha! (Our Lord, come!)