

REVELATION CHAPTER 7

PART 1



***BLESSED IS HE THAT READETH,
AND THEY THAT HEAR
THE WORDS OF THIS PROPHECY....***

REV 7: 1-8

KJV ¹And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. ²And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, ³Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. ⁴And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel

⁵Of the tribe of Judah were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. ⁶Of the tribe of Asher were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Naphtali were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasseh were sealed twelve thousand. ⁷Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. ⁸Of the tribe of Zebulun were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

REV 7:1-4

NLT ¹ Then I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds so they did not blow on the earth or the sea, or even on any tree. ² And I saw another angel coming up from the east, carrying the seal of the living God. And he shouted to those four angels, who had been given power to harm land and sea, ³ “Wait! Don’t harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have placed the seal of God on the foreheads of his servants.” ⁴ And I heard how many were marked with the seal of God—144,000 were sealed from all the tribes of Israel

⁵ from Judah — 12,000

from Reuben — 12,000

from Gad — 12,000

⁶ from Asher — 12,000

from Naphtali — 12,000

from Manasseh — 12,000

⁷ from Simeon — 12,000

from Levi — 12,000

from Issachar — 12,000

⁸ from Zebulun — 12,000

from Joseph — 12,000

from Benjamin — 12,000

REV 7:1-4

AMP ¹AFTER THIS I saw four angels stationed at the four corners of the earth, firmly holding back the four winds of the earth so that no wind should blow on the earth or sea or upon any tree. ²Then I saw a second angel coming up from the east (the rising of the sun) and carrying the seal of the living God. And with a loud voice he called out to the four angels who had been given authority and power to injure earth and sea,
³Saying, Harm neither the earth nor the sea nor the trees, until we have sealed the bond servants of our God upon their foreheads. ⁴And [then] I heard how many were sealed (marked) out of every tribe of the sons of Israel: there were 144,000.

⁵Twelve thousand were sealed (marked) out of the tribe of Judah, 12,000 of the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 of the tribe of Gad,

⁶Twelve thousand of the tribe of Asher, 12,000 of the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 of the tribe of Manasseh,

⁷Twelve thousand of the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 of the tribe of Levi, 12,000 of the tribe of Issachar,

⁸Twelve thousand of the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 of the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 of the tribe of Benjamin.

In the last chapter, we saw that everyone was hiding in the rocks and caves because they correctly saw that wrath or judgment was coming upon the earth from the Lamb. Most may not stay hidden because after the great earthquake and the signs in the sky the other judgments will not come immediately. Before the wrath of the Lamb takes place with the seven trumpet judgments, we will see that there is a short time of calm on earth while the sealing of 144,000 Jews takes place. These Israelites are first sealed so that they will not be harmed by the coming judgments.

After the religious wars, the world religious harlot that rides the world system becomes intolerant of true Christianity because she believes only she has the mandate to prepare for the Christ and the Kingdom of God. Christians that will not join with her are being killed and persecuted for their faith somewhat like in the days of inquisitions. Israel continues in harlotry by joining with this world religion and by signing a seven-year peace covenant with the world political system confirmed by the man that had been riding on the white horse. The seven-year period known in scripture as the time of Jacob's trouble and Daniel's seventieth week of years has now begun.

Verse 1 lets us know that the four winds of the earth are staid by four angels standing on the four corners of the earth. They wind will not blow on the earth, or sea or any tree. Without wind there will be no clouds, and without clouds there will be no rain. This will be a very hot and dry period of time on the earth. Then another angel ascends from the East with the seal of the living God. He tells the four angels not to hurt the earth until the 144,000 are sealed in their foreheads. This is a mark designating they are righteous, and saved. These are Jewish believers out of every tribe of Israel.

HOLDING THE FOUR WINDS



REV. 10

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REV. 11:12

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THE FEET FIRST

REV. 11:14

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Jesus announces to the world with a great earthquake and signs in the sun and moon at the sixth seal that the day of the wrath of the Lamb is imminent. The first part of this seven-year period starts with the sealing of 144,000 Israelites. Jesus will reveal Himself to these individuals supernaturally as He did with the apostle Paul about two thousand years earlier. They will tell Israel and the world the truth that Jesus is the Messiah and that the kingdom promised to the Jews is about to come. Two prophets with supernatural powers will also come and testify this truth to the world. They will have the power to bring judgment and torment on the earth and anyone who tries to harm them will be killed. The details on these two men will be given in chapter 11.

Chapter 7 answers the question, “Is there any hope for those who enter the tribulation?” Daniel’s 70th week, the seven-year tribulation period, starts with the agreement regarding the building of the 3rd Temple (Daniel 9;27). The tribulation is a time of incredible tumult on the earth, unequaled in history and never to be equaled again. How will people come to Christ during this period? Throughout the book of Revelation, we see several oasis’ of salvation in the desert of tribulation, how the saints become victorious. Here in chapter 7, we see God’s plan to reach the lost in the tribulation.

One of the controversies in the book of Revelation is the role played by the Church and Israel. The two main views here are the *Covenant* and *Dispensational* perspectives.

The **Covenant** perspective views the church as the “New Israel”, the church has replaced Israel, because Israel rejected Christ as their Messiah. Verses in the Old Testament and New Testament referring to Israel symbolically mean the church and not literal Israel in scripture yet to be fulfilled. Basically, **Covenant theology** views as God having one covenant, the *covenant of Grace*, from Adam until now, operating under different institutions. The church is now the recipient of this covenant in substitution to Israel. Therefore, references to Israel in the end times are symbolic and actually refer to the church.

Dispensational theology views the Church and Israel as two distinct groups. The word dispensation is translated from the Greek word, *oikonomiva Oikonomia*, meaning the management of a household or of household affairs. The church, for the present time, is responsible for establishing “Salvation” in the earth, by presenting the Gospel to the lost. Prior to the church, Israel was responsible for dispensing salvation in the earth. When Israel rejected Jesus Christ, the Messiah, Israel’s dispensation was placed in suspension until the “Fullness of the Gentiles” (Romans 11;25, Luke 14;15-24). Israel, is not replaced by the church and references to Israel unless otherwise stated apply to Israel. **Dispensational theology** believes that following the rapture of the Church, Israel is restored to its dispensational position.- the place occupied before their fall. (Romans 11:11-12) In the tribulation period, through the ministry of Israel, the Gospel of salvation, dispensed to the lost throughout the earth fulfills Israel’s initial call from God. (Exodus 19:6, Duet. 14:2).

In chapter seven, we see 144,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel, 12,000 from each tribe. The 144,000 has been the subject of great debate in many circles. Interpretations often center on ones view of Israel and the Church. Those who view Israel as “replaced”, view the 144,000 as “Symbolic” and not literal Israel. While those from a dispensational understanding see the 144,000 as literal “Israel”, fulfilling the mission established for the descendents of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The 144,000 are “End time” harvesters who spread the Gospel to the nations.

To understand who this section of scripture is talking about depends on whether scripture is viewed as literal or symbolic. By viewing this section of scripture as symbolic many groups have taken the “144,000” and applied the number to their membership.

Probably the most famous among this is the Jehovah Witnesses. According to the Jehovah Witnesses, the 144,000 are not of the tribes of physical Israel, but “Spiritual Israel” which they apply to their group. This group of 144,000 JW’s, known as the “Anointed class” were part of the *Watchtower Bible and Track Society* (Jehovah’s Witnesses) when their numbers were much smaller. The problem they have today, is most of the members of the “Anointed class” are dead. So the JW’s are forced to change their positions to accommodate these problems.

The JW's are not alone in applying this number to their organization. Many other so-called "churches" apply this select group to their body. The only way this could seem plausible is if "Israel" does not really mean "Israel" and the tribes of Israel do not mean the tribes of Israel.

Once a literal understanding of scripture is applied, there is little choice but to understand this section of scripture as referring to the literal descendants of Israel. When taken in context of scripture, understanding the role Israel plays in the End times is the only option. There are several important points in understanding the role Israel plays. Those who remove literal Israel from scripture will never be able to grasp the book of Revelation and God's plan for the end times. This is because the meaning of "Israel" will always change to fit the current situation. Today, one church is Israel and tomorrow another church is Israel. The question is can we take God at His Word, does He mean what He says? Here, we see the role of 144,000, from the 12 tribes of Israel.

Do we know who belongs to what tribe in Israel today? No, we do not, but God certainly knows who belongs where. Twelve thousand from each of the 12 tribes of Jacob (Israel) represent a select group, descendants of Jacob who will fulfill the role planned for Israel, to be a light to the nations. They will spread the Gospel throughout the earth, and reap an end-times harvest unequalled in the history of the world. Out of all the nations of the Earth, God had chosen the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to be a light to the nations, to be his witnesses (Isaiah 43:10-12). Israel has for the most part failed to accomplish this mission. In the end-of-days, during the tribulation period Israel will succeed where preceding generations have failed. The 12,000 from the 12 tribes will reap a harvest unequalled in the history of the world.

Without understanding the role and plan for Israel in the end times, its hard to grasp the events in scripture. Here are 6 points to consider when we understand the role of Israel and the Church.

1. *God keeps his word.* Throughout scripture, God clearly makes literal promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their descendents. His promises are unconditional, and literal, if God does not fulfill His promises to Israel, why should anybody expect Him to fulfill his promises to others?

Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."

2. *The land was promised to Abraham and his descendents as an eternal covenant.* Today, the land of Israel is the center of political controversy, over half the worlds population claim a link to Israel and Jerusalem. Yet the land was promised to the descendents who number less then 20 million in the world and only 5 million in Israel. Israel's possession of the land was an event foretold about extensively. (See Also Genesis 13:15 17:3,8 26:3 28:13 Exodus 33:1; Numbers 32:11; Deuteronomy 1:8; 6:10 30:20 Psalms 105:9-12; Romans 9:8; Galatians 3:16; 4:28)

And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him Genesis 12:7

And the LORD said unto Moses, Depart, and go up hence, thou and the people which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, unto the land which I swear unto Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it: Exodus 33;1

3. *Israel though disobedient would in the future be an obedient and righteous nation.* Scripture teaches about Israel's fall, but scripture also teaches this fall is only temporary. Israel will recover and be restored to the position of blessing amongst the nations. Israel as a people and nation will again be restored to their land and have a relationship with the God of the Universe.

Deuteronomy 30:3-5 3 That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee. 4 If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee: 5 And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers.

Jeremiah 32:37-40

37 Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely:

38 And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:

39 And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: 40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

4. **Israel is part of God's end time plan** In both the Old and New Testaments, Israel plays a central role in the end times. Armageddon the famous battle known the world over takes place north of Jerusalem in the plain of Megiddo. We are told the nations of the earth will surround Israel. Jeremiah and Daniel, look to a period unequalled in the history of the world, centering around Israel.

Jeremiah 30:7-10 7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. 8 For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: 9 But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them. 10 Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid.

Daniel 12:1-2

1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

5. **Jesus would return to a repentant Israel** Both in the Old and New Testaments, we see Christ returning to a repentant Israel who rejected Him at His first coming, but will accept Him at the second coming. Christ in fact informed Israel, in the Gospel of Matthew, they would not see Him again until they recognized Him as their Messiah.

Zechariah 12:9-10 9 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. 10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Matthew 23:37-39 37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 "See! Your house is left to you desolate; 39 "for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' "

6. *The Church cannot replace Israel* (See also *Jeremiah 31:31*) Paul, in the section of Romans chapters 9-11 makes a clear distinction between Israel and the Church. The Church for the time being has received the covenant blessing of Israel, who rejected Jesus Christ as Messiah. Following the sealing of the 144,000 Jews, “the fullness of the Gentiles” will be complete. Then Israel will be restored to the position they had before they rejected Christ. This time, however Israel will not reject Christ but as a nation will turn to Him and cry out for His coming. Christ will then return, with the armies of Heaven (Revelation 19, Matthew 24:30,25:30, Zechariah 12:9-10) and establish the Messianic Kingdom. The Church is in the “New Covenant” promised to Israel in the book of Jeremiah. This promise was made to Israel, they failed to attain it, and the Church received it, but Israel as a nation will one day receive what God has promised.

Romans 11:25-27 25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27 For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah . 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. 33 "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

The four angels with power to hurt the earth and the sea are told to withhold their assignments until after the seal of God is placed in His servants foreheads. These servants are sealed just prior to the trumpet judgments and they are removed or martyred before the vial judgments. They will probably follow in the footsteps of Jesus and testify for 3 ½ years.

These will fulfill the commission of Matthew Chapter 10. The complete prophetic scripture in Matthew could not have been completely fulfilled by the twelve apostles or by the Church. The commission in Matthew chapter 10 is completely fulfilled in the ministry of those that are sealed here. Like many prophecies there was a partial fulfillment in the time it was spoken but it then goes on to speak of a greater end time fulfillment. Read the entire passage in question yourself and form your own conclusion.



Mat:10,6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. 9 Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, 10 Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat. 11 And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. 12 And when ye come into an house, salute it. 13 And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. 15 Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city. 16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; 18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. 20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. 21 And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. 22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. 23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come. 24 The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. 25 It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

24 The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. 25 It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? 26 Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. 27 What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. 28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. 34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household 37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. 39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

40 He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. 41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

Please note that the Lord isn't saying that we should hate our mothers and fathers and family members, this is only unless they pull us away from Him. These family members that do not love the Lord will eventually turn us over to authorities to see us be dealt with. We must always put God first above anyone that is a believer or non believer, whether it is our parents or our children, or spouse, or friend.

Time is short to get the job done before we see great destruction and devastation come upon the earth.

Time is short to get the job done before we see great destruction and devastation come upon the earth. It appears that with all of the disasters happening, and all of the wars that are currently being fought everywhere, and the floods and earthquakes, birds dying, pestilences and plagues, that we are in the beginning of the tribulation. This is not a time to sit back and enjoy the presence of the Lord without sharing that joy with a lost and dying world before it is too late.

What about you? Do you know for sure that you have an eternal destiny with God? Are you ready to meet the great I AM before it is too late?

What about you? Do you know for sure that you have an eternal destiny with God? Are you ready to meet the great I AM before it is too late?



**Jesus is the ONLY way - Jesus is the ONLY truth
Cross the Bridge and Receive Him
as Savior today!**