

The Saved of the Tribulation Period

Revelation 7:1-17

Introduction: There are many that wonder about those that will go through the tribulation as to whether they can be saved or not. This chapter makes it abundantly clear that there will be many saved during the Tribulation. What is so wonderful about this passage is it shows the power of the gospel message no matter what the age is, and it shows the miracle working power of Christ in saving lost souls – of all ages, of all times.

This portion of the vision takes place between the end of the vision of the sixth seal and the seventh seal vision. C.I. Scofield calls it a “parenthetical,” which is an aptly-put recognition. It’s as if John would have been overwhelmed by what he saw as to what was going to happen on earth and God gave him a bit of a reprieve, if you would, from all the horror on earth, and gave him a glimpse of some of the wonder of eternity with Christ. There are other “parentheticals” like this as John receives the rest of the vision, the rest of the book, which seem to come at times when the sheer horror of the visions would overwhelm him and cause utter despair. I wonder if we have actually stopped to consider, to contemplate, or to meditate upon, the coming horror on earth. Would we think differently if we knew the rapture would take place in our lifetime and some of our family or friends or neighbors would have to go through this horror?

This vision is presented in a way as to cause John to pause and put aside the previous events and put his focus on what was about to transpire.

I. THE PRESENTATION OF THE VISION – VS. 1-3



A. The events given here are not in chronological order with the seven seals. The time period this vision represents would have to have taken place immediately following the rapture, at the earliest. Some think that it takes place at the time of, or immediately following, the "abomination of desolation" that is offered in the Temple by the Anti-Christ – an event that takes place exactly halfway through the seven years we call "The Tribulation."

B. John saw four angels holding the "four

winds” standing on the “four corners of the earth”

1. We still use the term “four corners of the earth” to represent the entire globe
2. These angels were holding the fury of God’s wrath from being unleashed in order to allow for the sealing of the 144,000

C. Vs. 2 records that “another angel ascending from the east” was coming with “the seal of the living God” to “hurt the earth and the sea”

1. This seal that the angel has is the seal used to seal the 144,000
2. The word “seal” is a word that references a signet ring worn by kings and magistrates of Bible times that would be used to imprint wax melted over a scroll to secure it – the emblem of the ring embedded in the wax would show to all those that saw it who it belonged to, or who sent the document
3. “The seal of the living God” was then used to mark the 144,000 – to seal them in a way as all would know that they had the protection of Almighty God upon them

II. THE PROTECTION OF THE WITNESSES – VS. 4-8

A. One of the most important events that will take place after the rapture is the sealing of these saints

1. It is because of them taking the gospel of grace to the “four corners of the earth” that so many millions will be saved

Matthew 24:13-14

(13) But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

(14) 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.

2. It shows the desire God has that all be saved – even during the Tribulation – God “is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9)

B. There is not much difficulty in interpreting the portion of the vision here that deals with the sealing of these 144,000 – some, however, find difficulty in how it is to be applied

1. Those sealed were clearly stated as “of the tribes of the children of Israel” – they are Jews (believing Jews)
2. They were of the 12 tribes of Israel – with a couple of caveats
 - a) In the twelve tribes that inherited the Promised Land, Joseph was not listed but his two sons were (Manasses, or Manasseh, and Ephraim)
 - b) Here, Ephraim is listed but not Manasses, and in his place Joseph is used
 - c) Also, in the inheritance, Levi didn’t receive

an inheritance of land – one of the sons of Joseph was listed for him

- d) That leaves the tribe of Dan out of this listing
- e) No reason is given for any of this – it may be that Dan is left out here because they were the first to go into idolatry and, being the smallest of the tribes, they were just listed with the tribe of Naphtali

3. Revelation 14:1-5 give us more detail on these 144,000

Revelation 14:1-5

(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.

(5) And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

- a) They had their "Father's name written in their foreheads" – vs. 1 – most probable this was the seal of chapter 7
- b) They sang a song only they could sing – vs. 3
- c) They were male virgins – vs. 4
- d) They had no guile – no deceit, no trickery – vs. 5a
- e) They were "without fault before the throne of God" – their testimony was clean – vs. 5b

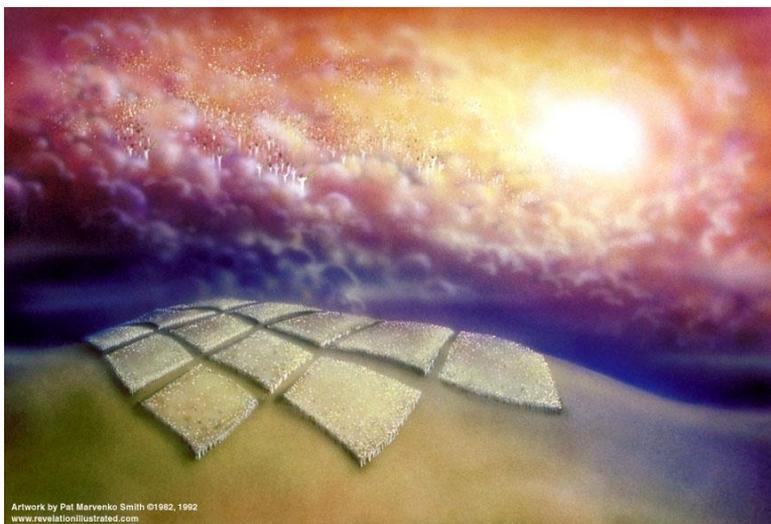
C. The reason they were sealed, the reason they were protected, was so that the Devil and his armies could not kill them. It's not because they didn't want to or didn't try – it's just simply because God would not let them.

III. THE PRESERVATION OF THE SAINTS – VS. 9-17

A. The best part of this vision is found in these verses – that God will save millions during the Tribulation and will preserve them "until the end" – either until they are martyred or until the Millennium begins

B. Vs. 9 – there will be saints there from all nations – from all over the earth – this is because of the work of the 144,000 and then as those that received Christ because of their direct witness went out

***and told others, then more were saved,
and so on***



C. Vs. 10-12 show us the praise given to God by all those that were there – the redeemed of the Tribulation, the 144,000, the angels, the 4 beasts, the 24 elders.

As mentioned, this event is out of order chronologically, and the events of vs. 10-12 could only take place after the Tribulation was over, as the vision shows all those that “came out of great tribulation” (vs. 14) – not just a part of them

D. Vs. 13-17 describe what happens to those that are saved during the great tribulation, and also gives an initial glimpse of what will happen after the Great White Throne Judgment

1. Vs. 13 records a question asked about a certain group of these Tribulation saints that were robed in white – vs. 14 indicates that they are a special group that were martyred for their testimony and for the Word of God (similar to the group of chapter 6, although those were the martyrs of the ages before the Rapture).
2. Vs. 15 shows the special place they will have in heaven
3. Vs. 16-17 show their heavenly bliss specifically – but it also points to the time when all of God's saints of all ages will have that same bliss

Revelation 21:3-4

(3) And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

(4) And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Conclusion: What a wonderful vision this was! God wants people saved; no matter what else happens He wants to save sinners. And even in the darkest days of this earth's existence, God is still saving by His grace.

He was just a little fellow. His mother died when he was just a child. His father, in trying to be both mommy and daddy, had planned a picnic. The little boy had never been on a picnic, so

they made their plans, fixed the lunch, and packed the car. Then it was time to go to bed, for the picnic was the next day. He just couldn't sleep. He tossed and he turned, but the excitement got to him. Finally, he got out of bed, ran into the room where his father had already fallen asleep, and shook him. His father woke up and saw his son. He said to him, "What are you doing up? What's the matter?"

The boy said, "I can't sleep."

The father asked, "Why can't you sleep?"

In answering, the boy said, "Daddy, I'm excited about tomorrow."

His father replied, "Well, Son, I'm sure you are, and it's going to be a great day, but it won't be great if we don't get some sleep. So why don't you just run down the hall, get back in bed, and get a good night's rest."

So the boy trudged off down the hall to his room and got in bed. Before long, sleep came--to the father, that is. It wasn't long thereafter that back was the little boy. He was pushing and shoving his father, and his father opened his eyes. Harsh words almost blurted out until he saw the expression on the boy's face. The father asked, "What's the matter now?"

The boy said, "Daddy, I just want to thank you for tomorrow."

When I think of my past and the fact that a loving Father would not let me go, reached down in his divine providence, and lifted me off of the streets of Harlem, when I think of what he has done for me and then think that he is planning a new thing

for me that will surpass the past, let the record show this night
in this place that Benjamin Reaves testified, Father, I want to
thank you for tomorrow! --Benjamin Reaves, "Living
Expectantly," Preaching Today, Tape No. 65.