



# REVELATION

Revelation 7:1-8 | David Chadwick | March 17, 2024

## Review:

The missing 7 years of Daniel's prophecy

Review of the outline of Revelation:

**Revelation 1:19** *Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.*

This verse provides the outline for the book of Revelation::

**Things that were:** Revelation 1

**Things that are:** Revelation 2-3

**Things that will be:** Revelation 4-22

**Chapter 1:** What John saw, Jesus appearing to him

**Chapters 2-3:** The church takes the gospel to the world. Emphasis: the age and fullness of the Gentiles **Romans 11:25-26**

**Revelation 4:1:** "After this..." and the rapture of the church (notice the sequential history in Revelation and how many times "after this" is mentioned to introduce a new period of history)

**Revelation 4-5:** Worship in heaven. Worthy is the Lamb. The scroll and the 7 seals are broken by the Lamb, Jesus, who alone is worthy to do so:

- **The first seal:** A rider on a white horse. (This is the antichrist who first brings peace. The **3 and one-half years of peace** are then followed by **3 and one-half years of great tribulation** after he declares himself to be God. These are the missing **7 years** of Daniel's prophecy)
- **The second seal:** A rider on a bright red horse is war

- **The third seal:** A rider on a black horse is famine and scarcity
- **The fourth seal:** A rider on a pale horse is death (one-fourth of world dies)
- **The fifth seal:** Martyrdom during the Great Tribulation
- **The sixth seal:** Disasters on earth and in the skies (earthquake, sun blackened, moon to dark red, asteroids fall to the earth, mountains and islands gone)

**Question:** At the end of sixth seal, as people flee these disasters, the question is asked: **Who can stand against the day of the Lamb's wrath?** The answer comes in **chapter 7**. Two groups can stand:

1. The 144 thousand (**verses 1-8**)
2. A great multitude from all the nations (**verses 9-17**) - Next week's message.

There is an **INTERLUDE/LULL** between the 6th and 7th seal judgements in **chapter 7**:

*1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. 2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." 4 And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:*

**Four angels hold back the wind from further destruction.** Something first must be done.

- A group of 144k Jews are specially chosen by God to be evangelists to first the Jews and then the Gentiles during the Great Tribulation
- **Revelation 7: 5-8**  
*5 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed,  
 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben,  
 12,000 from the tribe of Gad,*

**6** 12,000 from the tribe of Asher,  
12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali,  
12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,  
**7** 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon,  
12,000 from the tribe of Levi,  
12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,  
**8** 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun,  
12,000 from the tribe of Joseph,  
12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

Please note that the tribes of Dan and Ephraim are not listed here.

### **Why?**

- More info about this group and why God chose them:

#### **Revelation 14:1-5**

**1** Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. **2** And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, **3** and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. **4** It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, **5** and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

1. They are sealed by an angel on their foreheads for proof of ownership and protection (primarily against the mark of the beast)
2. Their call was to preach the gospel, especially to the Jews, but all over the world as well (they preach along with the two witnesses from chapter 11, the angel evangelist from chapter 14 and the literature left behind after the rapture). This helps us understand **Matthew 24:14** better:

**14** *And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

3. 144k apostle Pauls! With extraordinary fervor and courage. First to the Jew, then to the Gentile.
4. They will have the mark of the Holy Spirit on them and never receive the mark of the beast:

**Ephesians 1:13**

*In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit*

5. One last, great and mighty revival! Jews and Gentiles alike coming to faith in Jesus during the Great Tribulation. A peek ahead to **Revelation 7:9:**

*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,*

6. **One final insight:** When Jesus returns, the Jews will again receive their allotment of the land according to their tribe as originally intended.

And remember **Matthew 19:28** Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

**Application:** God always gives mercy, even in dark times!