

## Revelation Chapter 7

### 3A. THE PROGRAM OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE FUTURE 4:1-22:21

(The things which will take place after this)

1B. The Scene in Heaven 4:1-5:14

2B. The Scene on Earth 4:1-20:15

1C. The Tribulation 6:1-19:21

1D. Opening of the Seven Seals 6:1-8;1

( ) Tribulation Saints 7:1-17

1F. The Sealed Ones 7:1-8

v. 1 - \_After this – Meaning after the Tribulation? (Not likely because what happens here is obviously during the Tribulation) Must mean the next sequence in the Revelation given to John.

Four angels – holding back the four winds of the earth (explained in verse 3)

v. 2 - another angel - *having the seal of the living God*

v.3 - Believers (“servants of our God”) sealed by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30) – Kept/ saved, in spite of the ravages of life.

v. 4 - 144,000 – 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel.

Various listings of the 12 tribes in the Bible vary from time to time, depending on current circumstances of the chosen people, and the purpose of the list.

Priestly tribe of Levi sometimes left out because they did not inherit land, and Joseph was sometimes replaced with his two sons: Ephraim and Manasseh.

In this list Dan was left out because he introduced idolatry to Israel, and Levi was inserted. Dan was not worthy to be represented here, but, because of God’s great grace, his tribe is named in the Millennium.

This seal is for “*the servants of our God.*” Apparently this seal preserves their lives during the Tribulation so they can do their work, just as their predecessors were protected from the plagues in the book of Exodus.

vv. 5-8 – Sealing of 144,000 Jewish believers

These numbers are evidently meant to be taken literally since there is no obvious symbolic value to either the number 12,000 or 144,000.

Since the destruction of the Temple in AD 70, it has been difficult to know which Jewish person belongs to which tribe. A great many know by the oral traditions of their families, or because of the large number of Jewish people who were already dispersed by that time, and who probably had family records with them. In any case, God knows who belongs to which tribe, and He is the one who chooses them.

Jewish believers during this time will acknowledge Jesus as Messiah, God's purpose in protecting them might well be to enable them to go freely about the earth proclaiming the Gospel message to those who have not yet heard. This seems likely because the next section of the Revelation is about a countless number of converts to Christ from every people-group in the world.

Their work is implied in verses 9 & 10--evidently related to the amazing world-wide revival of redeemed and martyred believers.--(See the 5<sup>th</sup> Seal in Chapter 6 about the martyrs).

Christians without this seal will be captured, tortured, and put to death during this time.

**Recap:**

**The Church is gone – not mentioned during the Tribulation**

**Israel is Center-stage during the whole Tribulation - The Time of “Jacob’s Trouble” before their ultimate restoration (Jeremiah 30; Romans 11).**

**From this point on – the focal point is Jerusalem**

**7-year treaty of peace with Israel**

**The Two Witnesses**

**Requires the Rebirth of the Nation of Israel** – (Just observed 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this prophetic event (Ezekiel 36 & 37). – Amazing circumstances, amazing accomplishments, divine protection, Sign of the Fig tree –

*“Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>33</sup> So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! <sup>34</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place– Matthew 24:32-34*

Length of a generation –

“Passing away” of a generation

## **2F. The Saved Ones 7:9-17**

Back in Heaven’s Throne Room – Remember this pattern.

As is often done during this vision, the focus returns to the throne-room of God so that the reader will know that God is in total control, no matter how great the trials become on earth.

### **1G.Enormity of the Multitude 7:9**

A huge, numberless multitude of martyrs is gathered, showing how great the persecution against true believers will be during this time. They are from EVERY nation, tribe, people, and language.

### **2G. Exultation by the Multitude 7:10-12**

*“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”*

Joined in praise by the angels.

### **3G. Explanation about the Multitude 7:13-17**

Parallel to the 5<sup>th</sup> Seal in Chapter

They are seen again in white robes, described here as symbolic of their cleansing from sin by the blood of Christ. They are no longer subject to physical needs or difficulties.