

Revelation: The Time is Near

## A Great Multitude

Revelation 7

Reading through Jeremiah again, this reminded me of our recent study with the four horseman

### Jer 15:1-4a CJB

**1 Then ADONAI said to me, "Even if Moshe and Sh'mu'el were standing in front of me, my heart would not turn toward this people! Drive them out of my sight, get them out of here! 2 And when they ask you where they should go, tell them that this is what ADONAI says: 'Those destined for death - to death! Those destined for the sword - to the sword! Those destined for famine - to famine! Those destined for captivity - to captivity!' 3 "I will assign them four kinds [of scourges]," says ADONAI, "the sword to kill, dogs to drag away, birds in the air and wild animals to devour and destroy. 4 I will make them an object of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth**

### Revelation:

- John on Patmos, revealed Jesus in glory
- 7 churches / lampstands / stars / messages
- 7 Spirits of God, Creatures/Angels/Throne, 24 Elders
- Scroll written on both sides, sealed 7 times
- No one above, on or beneath could open (John wept)
- Lamb in the midst of the throne who was slain, 7 horns, 7 eyes - He could open
- 7 number of completion, perfection

### Previously:

- 1st four seals broken
- Four horsemen:
  - 1 - white horse, rider bow and crown
  - 2 - fiery red horse, rider large sword
  - 3 - black horse, pair of scales
  - 4 - pale green, corpse color
- Fifth seal: martyrs slain for the word of God and their testimony - white robe, wait a little while longer until the number is complete

**Sometimes we must wait for the answer or deliverance of God as in the bigger picture the time isn't complete yet**

- Sixth seal: signs in heaven: great earthquake, sun like sackcloth, moon like blood, stars of heaven fall, sky recedes like scroll

**Again in some way I believe these scrolls show a larger outline of the times while the other judgments zoom in for specifics during time periods** Again, John is seeing future history from his perspective while it is current history while he's in eternity seeing it from heaven's perspective.

- Everyone hides but doesn't repent...they want the mountains to fall on them instead. Death won't save them.

**A lot of controversy and cults from a verse coming up in our study today...let's not get sucked into it or start a cult. Agreed?**

**:1-8**

v1

**Think of this...four angels in the north, west, south and east...holding the wind back.**

**This has to be supernatural.**

The winds blowing and circulating is based on many factors: sunlight heating parts of the earth differently than others creating convection currents. Cooler air rushing in to fill the space left by warmer air rising. The poles, the night side, summer zones, winter zones.

Add on top of it the rotation of the earth with the ground moving and the air moving and spinning. Jetstreams, hurricanes, storms, weather patterns.

*We generally get storms from the west and southwest blowing a little north.*

**All of this will stop.**

*Reading about glassy-sea conditions...sometimes rare in parts of the ocean but seen by mariners. Something usually more for a lake than the ocean but it happens. When the wind comes you can see a line of waves form on the glass.*

Weather patterns stop. Waves stop. Things would get stale. Pollen not spread. Things would heat up. Cool down. Add in the sun darkened and moon, things look different outside, temperatures change.

**V2-3**

**Another angel from the East.** My guess near Jerusalem.

We're seeing that there are angels on the earth. We know from Job that they go to and fro from earth to heaven to give an account. Jacob's ladder as well. Here they are dispatched to and from precise locations on earth.

This guy is the boss for this occurrence. The spiritual goal of marking the believers during this time must happen. God is providing **protection from judgment** even now to some degree to those who come to faith during this time.

**Antichrist's followers receive his mark, believers receive God's mark.** Clear, visual distinction during this time. Although believer's mark may be spiritual, I believe there may even be a physical mark on them as we're back to a very visceral time while we live in a very spiritual time now.

**[2Co 1:21-22 NKJV] 21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us [is] God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.**

**In our age of grace, the Holy Spirit is our mark, our guarantee,** the proof of our salvation and being set apart. It's not a physical mark, but a spiritual one that if you look at someone's life, you can see if it's there or not.

#### **1 John 3:1-10 CJB**

**1 See what love the Father has lavished on us in letting us be called God's children! For that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it has not known him. 2 Dear friends, we are God's children now; and it has not yet been made clear what we will become. We do know that when he appears, we will be like him; because we will see him as he really is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in him continues purifying himself, since God is pure. 4 Everyone who keeps sinning is violating Torah - indeed, sin is violation of Torah. 5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and that there is no sin in him. 6 So no one who remains united with him continues sinning; everyone who does continue sinning has neither seen him nor known him. 7 Children, don't let anyone deceive you - it is the person that keeps on doing what is right who is righteous, just as God is righteous. 8 The person who keeps on sinning is from the Adversary, because from the very beginning the Adversary has kept on sinning. It was for this very reason that the Son of God appeared, to destroy these doings of the Adversary. 9 No one who has God as his Father keeps on sinning, because the seed planted by God remains in him. That is, he cannot continue sinning, because he has God as his Father. 10 Here is how one can distinguish clearly between God's children and those of the Adversary: everyone who does not continue doing what is right is not from God. Likewise, anyone who fails to keep loving his brother is not from God.**

#### **V4-8**

**144,000 of all the tribes of Israel (12 tribes, 144,000 is a multiple)  
Key takeaway: GOD IS NOT DONE WITH ISRAEL.**

**There will be, even out of the tribulation, many ethnically Jewish people who come to faith in the Messiah.**

I love seeing Messianic Jews. What a fulfillment for them in so many ways.  
 Yet us Gentiles who turn to YHWH are equally as special.  
 We are grafted in together.

**Now is the age of the Gentiles, in a way, to cause them to be jealous to turn back to God.**

**Tribes:**

**Judah**

**Reuben**

**Gad**

**Asher**

**Naphtali**

**Manasseh**

**Simeon**

**Levi**

**Issachar**

**Zebulun**

**Joseph**

**Benjamin**

**Remember, at this point, tribal ancestry is a little lost. Trying to determine who can be priests.**

*David Guzik Commentary:*

*In this listing of the tribes, the tribe of Dan is left out. Some think this is because Dan is the tribe of the Antichrist, based on Daniel 11:37 and Jeremiah 8:16. This may or may not be the case, but without doubt, Dan was the tribe that introduced idolatry into the nation of Israel (Genesis 49:17; Judges 18:30).*

*i. There is a wonderful redemption for the tribe of Dan. Dan is the first tribe listed in Ezekiel's millennial role call of the tribes (Ezekiel 48).*

*This list is also interesting in the way that the tribe of Ephraim is referred to, but only indirectly. The tribe of Joseph is mentioned, but Joseph was represented by two tribes: Ephraim and Manasseh. Since the tribe of Manasseh is mentioned, by elimination, the tribe of Joseph must mean the tribe of Ephraim – who is listed, but not by name.*

*i. Perhaps Ephraim was slighted because the tribe of Ephraim was also associated with great idolatry (Hosea 4:17).*

**I want to read this commentary on the 144,000 as I think it says it better than I could articulate:**

*Who are these 144,000?*

*a. Many different groups have claimed to be the 144,000. For example, the Jehovah's Witnesses once said their entire group was, until they surpassed 144,000 in number. Now they say that the 144,000 are only a select group of Witnesses who go to heaven.*

*i. Most Bible scholars either regard the 144,000 as the church or as converted Jews, who are still identified as Israelites in some manner.*

*ii. It is an important issue. If they are a symbol of the church, then the church is definitely in the Great Tribulation, but sealed for survival through the Great Tribulation.*

*b. Some facts about the 144,000 from Revelation 7 and Revelation 14 give us insight regarding their identity.*

*i. They are called the children of Israel (Revelation 7:4).*

*ii. Their tribal affiliation is specific (Revelation 7:4-8).*

*iii. They seem to be protected and triumphant through the period of God's wrath, meeting with Jesus at Mount Zion at His return (Revelation 14:1).*

*iv. They are celibate (Revelation 14:4).*

*v. They are the beginning of a greater harvest (Revelation 14:4).*

*vi. They are marked by integrity and faithfulness (Revelation 14:5).*

*c. Taken together, these facts make it difficult to say that the 144,000 are a symbolic picture of the church.*

*i. Israel is a term never specifically applied to the church in the New Testament, and never by any Christian until a.d. 160*

*ii. Their tribal affiliation is emphatic and known to God. Even if God only knows it, there is absolutely no reason to regard their tribal affiliation as symbolic, not literal.*

*iii. It is difficult to imagine the entire church surviving through the tribulation without martyrdom and remaining celibate through the period, something that was never required for the church as a whole (1 Corinthians 7:1-6).*

*iv. If the 144,000 are a symbol of the entire church, what greater harvest are they the beginning of?*

*d. It is best to see the 144,000 as specifically chosen Jewish people who come to faith in Jesus, protectively sealed throughout the tribulation as a sign.*

*i. They are the beginning harvest of the salvation of Israel (Romans 11:1, Romans 11:26, Matthew 23:37-39).*

*ii. "They are not a part of the Church proper; for their repentance comes too late for that. They are a super addition to the Church – a supplementary body – near and precious to Christ, but made up after the proper Church has finished its course." (Seiss)*

**Personally, while it's a specific number and it may be that way, I'm also inclined to fall back to what I know about God...he is perfect. What he does is good and perfect. That the number of Jewish people from the tribes saved here is a PERFECT number. Showing that they are perfected in him. Protected in him. No matter the physical number.**

**But what I do know, is that this hasn't happened yet. At large among the Jewish people, there hasn't been a mass awakening.**

**It's not us in the Age of Grace.**

**It's not the JW's. What an arrogant thing to think there would only be 144,000 going to heaven out of the billions of people and only in the end times after they came about. And how exclusive that only 144,000 of the JW's would be saved. They really took this one out of context. As with all cults.**

**Read the word in its entirety. Let scripture interpret scripture. The word is specific.**

**:9-12**

**Here we go! A GREAT MULTITUDE WHICH NO ONE COULD NUMBER.**

This is heaven gang! So many people don't even try to count. And room for everyone.

Now, we'll see that this specific group is from the Tribulation, martyred...but it does show that anyone and everyone can be saved and is in God's plan of redemption.

**ALL NATIONS. ALL TRIBES. ALL TONGUES.**

BLACK. WHITE. YELLOW. BROWN. RED.  
 ENGLISH. SPANISH. LATIN. AMAZONIAN. ITALIAN. ABORIGENE.  
 1920s CANADA. 2,000 B.C. EGYPT, ROMAN EMPIRE, MING DYNASTY, FEUDAL JAPAN.

**Not that those nations loved God or are there because they existed...but undoubtedly people in every time and place in history have come to faith in the true and living God.**

**After all...Abram was from Ur of the Caldeez...the Jews hadn't even existed yet until God called this man out of ancient Iraq.**

**Palm branches! Remember the Triumphal Entry?**

**One voice together: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"**

**That's our unification. Jesus. Being saved by him.** Best part of being a believer, in some ways, is the people you meet, fellowship with, love, are a family with...so many times not like you in so many ways physically, but the spiritual bond is so full of commonality and unity.

Huge worship session...the multitude, the angels, the elders...all worshipping.

Almost a call and response between the multitude and the group around the throne:

"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

""Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom,  
 Thanksgiving and honor and power and might,  
 Be to our God forever and ever.  
 Amen.""

**:13-17**

**I love how John doesn't assume anything here. He wants the heavenly answer for what he is seeing. And so should we.**

**Different role for the Tribulation Saint**

**""Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple""**

**They are equally in heaven. Just as happy and fulfilled. But since they waited until the end. After the age of grace. In a sense, they have a different role in heaven. One of**

**service in heaven while ours is a role of rest. (Their service, like the priests, is meant to be restful, though)**

**No more pain. Tears. Thirst. Hunger.** All the trials of the tribulation are over for them. They are protected. Shepherded. Cared for forever.

**You don't want to be around for the Tribulation. This is what woke me up to come back to Jesus.**

[brief testimony, salvation prayer]