# Behold the Lamb of God

# God's Servants in the Great Tribulation Revelation 7 Lesson 7

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School February 13, 2011

## Revelation: Grace and Peace

- Glory and dominion forever to Jesus Christ
- ► A kingdom of Priests to God the Father
- ► He is coming for all to see
- ► A message of victory

## The Divine Plan

- Creation communion and dominion
- ► The Fall promise Seed of the woman
- Everlasting Covenant salvation (Genesis 9)
- ► Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12)
  - The great nation Israel
  - The nations
  - The Seed of the woman is the Seed of Abraham
  - Later: a King on David's throne (2 Samuel 7:12-13)
- King of Israel is the Savior of the world

# **Divine History**

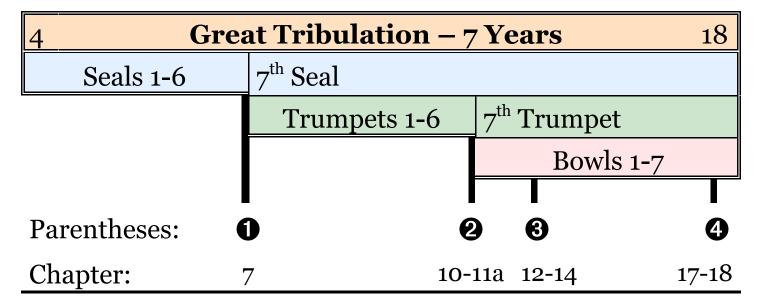
- ► Old Testament the promise of a great nation
  - Rebellion and wrath
  - The Promise is re-affirmed by the prophets
  - A future hope King Messiah
- ► New Testament the great nation disappears
  - The Church is mostly Gentile
  - Is the great nation a metaphor?
  - The Promise is reaffirmed (cf. Romans 9-11)
- Revelation the great nation is formed

#### **Revelation – overview**

#### I II III

1	2-3	4	22
C H R I S T	Letters to Seven Churches	Prophecy of Things to Come	

III Prophecy of Things to Come				
4 18	19	20	21-22	
Great Tribulation – 7 Years	Return of Christ	1000 Year Reign	Eternal State	



- **1** − the elect of God preserved
- **2** John and the 2 witnesses
- **3** − Spiritual realities
- **4** − Babylon the Great

## Part 3 – Revelation 4-22

- ▶ Begins in the throne room of God (4-5)
  - God on the throne
  - The Lion and the Lamb
  - The sealed book
- ► Opening the seals (6)
  - Seals 1-6 "panorama of coming events"
    - Victory
    - Anarchy
    - Famine
    - Death by sword, famine, pestilence, wild beasts
    - A Day of Vengeance
    - The wrath of the Lamb
- ► Seal 7 7 trumpets and 7 bowls (8:1)

# Revelation 7 – a pause in history

- ► The people of God in the Great Tribulation
- ► The 12 tribes of Israel
- ► A multitude from all nations, tribes, people and languages

## Who can stand?

- ► Revelation 6:16-17
- ► The great Day of wrath
  - Revelation 6:12-14; 16:17-21; Isaiah 2:10-22; 13:6-16; Ezekiel 30:3;
     Joel 1:15-18; 2:1-11, 30-31, 3:14-16; Amos 5:15-20; Obadiah 15-16;
     Zephaniah 1:15-18; Zechariah 14:1-15
  - Matt. 24:22 if days not cut short, no flesh would survive

#### Survivors

- The 144,000 of Israel are sealed (7:1-8)
- The great multitude from the nations (7:9-17)

# Sealing 144,000 of sons of Israel

- Four angels and four winds
  - Angels are ministering spirits (Hebrews 1:14)
  - Winds of wrath (Jeremiah 49:36; Daniel 7:2)
- Another angel with the seal of the living God
  - Name of God and Christ (14:1)
  - Wrath delayed
  - Servants of our God
  - Protection from Divine wrath (cf. Ezekiel 9:4-6; Revelation 9:4)

## Who are the 144,000?

- ▶ The Church of Jesus Christ?
- Numeric nonsense
- ► Redeemed Revelation 14:3
- ▶ 12,000 from each of 12 tribes of Israel
  - Dan not mentioned
  - Joseph instead of Ephraim

# 144,000 sons of Israel

- Undefined role
- ► Seal is not limited to the 144,000 (Rev. 22:4)
- Highlights the place of the Great Nation

# A great multitude from every nation

- ► A scene in heaven
- ► Too many to number
- Every tribe, people, language
- White robes and palm branches
  - White robes righteousness blessing (cf. 6:11)
  - Palm branches praise (Leviticus 23:40)
- Salvation belongs to our God and to the Lamb
  - Victory (12:10; 19:1 Psalm 3 and Jonah 2)
  - Personal deliverance from sin
  - Universal personal and for creation (Rom. 8:20-23)
- ► The blessings for Gentiles by the restoration of Israel
  - Romans 11:12

# Angels, Elders, 4 Living Creatures

## Worship God

- Rev. 4 tells us they are dedicated to continual worship
- Ephesians 3:10 manifold wisdom of God made manifest to heavenly authorities
- Adoration of God's wrath and goodness

## Who are these before the throne?

- ► Saints washed their robes in the Lamb's blood
- ► Martyrs came out of the Great Tribulation

## The Saints' Reward

- ► In heaven a taste of final glory
- ► The throne of God Revelation 22:1-5
- ► The temple Revelation 21:22
- ► The Lamb will shelter them with His presence
- No hunger, thirst or scorching heat
- ▶ The Lamb will shepherd them
- God will wipe away their tears

# The Day of the LORD

- ► The wrath of God
- ► Israel becomes the great nation
- The nations blessed
- ► A great salvation acclaimed on heaven & earth
- ► Philippians 1:29 to believe and suffer
- ► Hebrews 12:2 anticipating joy