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

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- **C H R I S T**
  - Letters to Seven Churches

#### Prophecy of Things to Come

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- **Great Tribulation – 7 Years**
  - Return of Christ
  - 1000 Year Reign
  - Eternal State

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Parentheses:  

- 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
  - 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