

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

4	Great Tribulation – 7 Years			18
Seals 1-6		7 th Seal		
		Trumpets 1-6	7 th Trumpet	
		Bowls 1-7		
Parentheses:	①	②	③	④
Chapter:	7	10-11a	12-14	17-18

- 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