

SALVATION IN TRIBULATION

TEXT: Rev. 6- 7

INTRODUCTION: We will briefly regress in order to gain a broad perspective of the book of Revelation which is the single most important source of information in our study of eschatology. Here is an abbreviated outline of the book of Revelation:

The Source of the Revelation	1:1
The Content of the Revelation (what _____, what is, and what is to _____)	1:19
What was (the eternal Christ)	Chapter 1
What is (_____ to the churches)	2-3
What is to come (God's plan for the _____)	4-22
Rapture - Believers taken to heaven	4
Christ Opens the Scroll Sealed with Seven Seals	5
The Seal Judgments	6-7
The Trumpet Judgments	8-9
Details of events during the first half of the tribulation	10-14
The Bowl Judgments	15-16
The end approaches	17-18
Christ returns	19
The Millennial Kingdom	20
The Eternal Kingdom	21-22

Chronologically in our study we are in Rev. 6, in the _____ of the seal judgments. However, we are going to look forward at some events that take place during the seal judgments but which are not described until Rev. 9 and 11.

I. GOD PROVIDES FOR THE PROCLAMATION OF THE _____.

A. God sends the Two _____

Revelation 11:3-6 3 And I will give *power* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.

4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God

of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. 6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

1. The two witnesses begin their ministry at the start of the tribulation. (11:3 1,260 days = _____ years.) They are killed and resurrected at the midpoint of the tribulation.
2. The most common candidates: _____, Elijah, Moses (Why Moses, why Enoch and Elijah?)
3. God gives them supernatural powers as authentication that they are His witnesses. Their coming is prophesied in **Zechariah 4:11-14** 11 Then I answered and said to him, "What are these two olive trees—at the right of the lampstand and at its left?" 12 And I further answered and said to him, "What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?" 13 Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." 14 So he said, "These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth."

B. God sends the 144,000 (7:1-8)

Revelation 7:1-8 1 After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. 2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed: 5 of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed; 6 of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed; 7 of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed; 8 of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.

1. All _____, 12,000 from each tribe.
2. These Jews all get saved.
3. They are sealed with the name of God on their foreheads.

4. They are _____ from plagues and from the antichrist.
5. I believe their purpose is to spread the _____ throughout the earth during the first half of the tribulation. This is necessary because the _____ has been taken out of the earth. We will see the results of their witness for Christ in chapter 7.

II. GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS SOVEREIGNTY THROUGH JUDGMENTS.

A. First Seal: Rise of _____ (6:2)

B. Second Seal: War, likely the War of Gog and Magog (6:3-4)

C. Third Seal: _____ (6:5-6)

Revelation 6:5-6 5 When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

1. A denarius was _____ day's wage for one person.
2. A quart of wheat or three quarts of barley are considered a subsistence level of food for a single day.
3. Therefore it requires the _____ income of a person just to feed themselves, not considering other life expenses or others in the family. This pictures the severity of the famine.

D. Fourth Seal: Death (6:7-8)

Revelation 6:7-8 7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." 8 So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

1. One-_____ of the earth dies by the end of this seal.
2. Hades follows after death because the people of the earth are _____ and going to hell as they die.
 - a. Death not only comes from the hunger of the famine
 - b. but also by fighting (sword), and by wild beasts, indicating that the famine has caused them to seek _____ prey.

E. Fifth Seal: Martyrdom of Believers (6:9-11)

Revelation 6:9-11 9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were*, was completed.

Notice two important things.

1. All of a sudden, there are believers coming to _____, being given their white robes. And more believers are coming, for the number of their fellow servants, their brethren are not yet complete. Remember that the church has already been raptured. So how are believers now coming to heaven? Lost men and women in the _____ are being saved! They are responding to the testimony of the Two Witnesses and of the 144,000!
2. There is however a sad side to this. Many, if not all, of those who are being saved are being _____, martyred for their faith.

F. Sixth Seal: Cosmic Disturbances (6:12-17)

Revelation 6:12-17 12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. 13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. 14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. 15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, 16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

1. Great earthquake, putting sufficient dust in the atmosphere to darken the sun and redden the moon.
2. Many _____ or meteors pummel the earth. (The word translated stars is used of many different heavenly bodies, not just what we technically label as stars in our scientific language.)
3. Shift of earth's _____
4. Atmospheric consequences

G. The _____ **Purpose of God in the Seal Judgments:** to draw the lost to Himself by the demonstration of His might, power, and holiness while the gospel invitation remains open.

Ezekiel 39:7 "So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

Isaiah 2:10-11 Enter into the rock, and hide in the dust, From the terror of the LORD And the glory of His majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, The haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, And the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Revelation 6:15-17 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

III. GOD DIVIDES THE PEOPLE ACCORDING TO THEIR RESPONSE

A. A Great Multitude Is _____ (7:9-17)

Revelation 7:9-17 9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *Be* to our God forever and ever. Amen." 13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" 14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. 16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

1. _____
2. From every tribe, nation, language
3. Came out of the period of the _____
4. Saved by faith in Jesus - "washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb."
5. Most of these are _____!

B. An Even Greater Multitude _____ Lost

Revelation 9:20-21 20 But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. 21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

1. They would not _____.
2. They would not believe (trust, commit their life to) Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION: Why do people refuse to repent and trust Christ today?

1. _____ - They do not want to admit to others that they have been going the wrong direction, that they are a sinner in need of a Savior.
2. Privation - They are afraid they will have to _____ _____ something they want to keep or God will take something away they do not want to lose.

Psalm 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.

3. _____ - If you ask people
 - a. Do you need to be saved? Many say, "Yes."
 - b. Do you want to be saved? Most say, "Yes."
 - c. Do you plan to be saved? Almost all say, "Yes."
 - d. Do you want to be saved right now?