

Revelation 7 Part 1

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, looking at chapter seven of the book of Revelation, unit seventeen in the study of the book.

And verse one, 'And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.'

This is a picture of the beginning of the end of times, if you like. The first world war, it could have finished up with basically countries completely destroying each other, and in the end it was stopped, an armistice was agreed and it was no real victory as far as armies were concerned. But anyway, it was all stopped because the end is not yet. There is still more to happen.

'And 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 given to hurt the earth and the sea.

'Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

'And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.'

These, of course, are Jews. There's twelve tribes, and there's twelve thousand from each tribe. For example in verse five it says, *'Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.'* And so it goes through all the tribes.

These are Jews who will receive a message after the true church has been raptured, as the judgement begins to come on the earth so there will be two witnesses which we'll catch up with in chapter eleven of Revelation, who will preach the Christian message, the message that we are preaching right now. And twelve thousand from each tribe of Jews will accept that message and will become Christians.

But there's more.

We'll pick it up at verse nine, *'After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;*

'And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

'And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

'Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

'And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

'And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

'Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.'

These are people who die in the Great Tribulation.

Now, many people think that all the church goes up in the rapture. Not true. That's not true. There is the church and from the church comes the Bride of Christ. They are a people within the church. They are not any particular denomination or any particular group, these are people who are walking with Christ, who have Christ as their main aim. They worship Him, not their denominations, not their organisations, not their pastor, not a bishop or a pope or anything else. They worship Christ. And Christ comes first, and His Word comes first. They go in the rapture. They are taken out before the judgement. They are the perfect ones.

However, there's a whole group who in many ways were almost identical to those, who yet wanted a little bit of denominationalism, who wanted a little bit of church organisation, believe that the unity of churches under the control of man was a good thing for the earth. They have been tricked. But they are genuine in their faith in Christ. It's just that they've put the other side ahead. Well, they will have to die for their testimony. There will come a time when that church insists that they make their allegiance to the church and not to the bible, not to Christ. They will have to die for their testimony.

The hundred and forty-four thousand Jews, they're in exactly the same place. If you remember in the fifth seal the people were crying out 'Why don't You avenge us?' and God says 'Well, you've got to wait until your fellow brethren should be slain.' Here they are. The hundred and forty-four thousand. They have to die for their testimony too. That's the only way they can make it, but, praise God, they do. They hang on. They have the strength of character, the determination to believe in Christ no matter what, and they will make it.

And they will be serving the throne, and pick it up at verse sixteen, *'They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.'*

Verse seventeen, *'For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.'*

They're going to be happy. They're going to be in perfect state for themselves.

The Bride, of course, is reigning with Christ on the throne. But the church and the hundred and forty-four thousand are there serving, and, believe me, perfectly happy.

That's the end of chapter seven.

May God bless you, it's great being with you. Goodbye from Richard Oliver.