

Revelation 7

5-10-20

Judgment Intermission

Last week we began looking at the opening of the Seal Judgments and examined the first 6 seals.

(Review seal significance and 6/7 pattern)

Today we'll look at our first "Judgment Intermission".

The Sixth Seal in Rev 6 has an interesting question:

Rev 6:12 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.

Rev 6:13 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.

Rev 6:14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

Rev 6:15 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,

Rev 6:16 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!"

Rev 6:17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

That question is answered here in Chapter 7.

Rev 7:1 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.

The earth is an engine! God has designed it to self-sustain by various systems. We have atmospheric, hydroponic, gravitational, magnetic, geothermal, and a myriad of other systems that work together to keep the planet functioning to support life.

One of those systems, the atmospheric system, requires circulation of the atmosphere around the globe through the mechanism of wind.

These angels shown here are holding the wind from blowing on the earth. This is global!!! "that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree."

We've all heard the term "the calm before the storm", this is a BIG one!

The biggest calm the earth has ever seen is to be followed by the biggest storm the earth has ever or will ever see!

Rev 7:2 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,

(These angels have significant power to harm the earth and sea. Keep that in mind as we continue!)

Rev 7:3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

"Till" we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

The storm that destroyed the earth with water in Genesis 6 did not occur until God selected, prepared, and sealed a surviving remnant (Noah and his family) to do His work. God Himself closed the door of the ark and sealed them in so that they would survive the coming flood of judgment and continue His plan of redemption culminating with the coming Son of Man- Jesus!

Likewise, during this calm before the storm of destruction, fury, vengeance, and wrath that will decimate the earth, God selects, prepares, and seals His servants who will do His work.

Rev 7:4 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:

In case we miss the point:

Rev 7:5 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.

Rev 7:6 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.

Rev 7:7 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.

Rev 7:8 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.

Let's read it a slightly different way:

Rev 7:4 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:

- of the tribe of Judah
- of the tribe of Reuben
- of the tribe of Gad
- of the tribe of Asher

- of the tribe of Naphtali
- of the tribe of Manasseh
- of the tribe of Simeon
- of the tribe of Levi
- of the tribe of Issachar
- of the tribe of Zebulun
- of the tribe of Joseph
- of the tribe of Benjamin
- 12,000 of each of these tribes were sealed.

There are many different interpretations, doctrines, theologies, and ideas of who these people could represent, but there is only ONE thing that is true; These people are actual, physical, flesh and blood, living descendants from each of the listed tribes of the children of Israel!

They are NOT the Church - Col 3:11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

They are NOT sons of Ishmael- Rom 9:6 But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,

Rom 9:7 nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "IN ISAAC YOUR SEED SHALL BE CALLED."

Rom 9:8 That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.

Rom 9:9 For this is the word of promise: "AT THIS TIME I WILL COME AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON."

They are NOT Jehovah's Witnesses who have obtained a special level of holiness by works AND They are NOT lost!

Every theory of who they are that doesn't reach the conclusion that they are of the Children of Israel has at its root either deliberate deception (Did God really say), or misunderstanding.

Granny's story- "We don't understand how... Do you mean to tell us...?"

If you want to know what God is thinking, find out what He SAID!

Last week we discussed different categories of martyrs, which naturally leads to the question "If there are different categories of martyrs, are there different categories of 'Saints'"?

Anti-diluvian saints- before the flood

Pre-Law saints- prior to the giving of the law OT saints- from the giving of the Law to the coming of Christ

NT saints- the Church

Tribulation saints- those who survive the Tribulation and live into Millennium- mortal

Israel- post tribulation, mortal,

Rom 11:25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Rom 11:26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "THE DELIVERER WILL COME OUT OF ZION, AND HE WILL TURN AWAY UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.

Rom 11:27 FOR THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."

Rom 11:28 Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers.

Rom 11:29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Family reunion analogy:

Back to Revelation 7

Rev 7:9 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, (where are they at and what are they doing??) clothed with white robes, (what does this symbolize?) with palm branches in their hands, (feast of First fruits)

Lev 23:39 'Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days; on the first day there shall be a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest.

Lev 23:40 And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days.

Lev 23:41 You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

Lev 23:42 You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths,

Lev 23:43 that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.' "

Joh 12:12 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

Joh 12:13 took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him and cried out: "Hosanna! 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!' The King of Israel!"

Rev 7:10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Rev 7:11 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,

Rev 7:12 saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Rev 7:13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" (2 Questions, answered below in reverse order...)

Rev 7:14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So, he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, (where they came from) and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (who they are)

These are tribulation martyrs, first seen at the breaking of the fifth seal, now seen in the future at the end of the tribulation, clothed in white robes, praising God in a very specific manner. It's now the full group.

Rev 6:11 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.

Rev 7:14 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.

Rev 7:15 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.

Rev 7:16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat.

Rev 7:17 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."