

Sunday, May 26, 2024

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Title: Two Distinct Groups of People

Series: Revelation ... 13

Text: Revelation 7:1 - 17

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation of the difference between the 144,000 in Chapter 7 of Revelation and the great multitude in verses 9 – 17.

Introduction:

Last week we concluded our considerations of the six seals in the sixth chapter of Revelation; specifically the sixth seal: verse 12, “When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, (13) and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale.”

This event is more than the moving of tectonic plates, it also involves cosmic events that coincide with or even cause the great earthquake!

- 1) Consider the Various References;
- 2) Compare the Language Used to Describe the Event;
- 3) Consider What Modern Science Suggests;
- 4) Consequence of Such an Event

~ In chapter 7 there are two distinctly different ‘seeings:’ 1) vs. 1, “After this I saw...”; 2) vs. 9, “looked...” Some regard this, and most of Revelation as linear: that is, “arranged in or extending along a straight or nearly straight lines. Linear arrangements. Progressing from one stage to another in a single series of steps, sequential, “a linear arrangement”” That is not the position that I adhere to.

~ The notes in the “Fire Bible” state that chapter 7 is an interlude or pause between the sixth and the seventh seals.

1. The 144,00:

~ vs. 1 & 2: Notice the location – earth
Instruction to four angels at the four cardinal points of earth – north, east, south, and west.

Instruction given by an unidentified fifth angel.

~ vs. 3, “saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.””

The “servants of God on their foreheads.” This is a term frequently associated with Israel (Deuteronomy 32:36 and Isaiah 61:6).

~ Ezekiel 9:4, “And the LORD said to him, “Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it.” Also verse 6.

~ “mark” is the word *tav* (3 times, here and Job 31:35) this is *tav* the Hebrew letter (Picture)

~ vs. 4, “And I heard the number of the sealed, 144, 000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel.”

Is this the time of Jacob’s trouble? Jeremiah 30:7, Matthew 24:15 – 36, Daniel 9:24 – 26 and Daniel 12:1–13

~ The seal of Revelation 7:3; 9:4 and Ezekiel 9:1- 6 stands in contrast to the mark of the Beast in Revelation 13:17; 14:11; 16:2; 19:20

~ The seal of Revelation 7:3 compared to the seal of Christ Jesus our Lord: 2 Timothy 2:15 – 19 and Ephesians 1:13

~ The tribes: Levi is added as is Joseph and Dan and Ephraim are omitted.

2. Behold, a Great Multitude:

~ vs. 9 and 11 the location is NOT earth but the throne of God

~ vs. 9 the multitude is from every nation...

~ vs. 10, “and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

~ vs. 11 – 14 believers from the ages, many of whom suffered for their faith.

~ vs. 12 giving glory to God

~ John 16:33, “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

~ vs. 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 shelter them with his presence.”

~ vs. 16, “They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.”

~ vs. 17, “For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

~ My understanding is this is the raptured church in the eternal presence of our Savior King Jesus Christ!

~ The church of the redeemed of the Lord Jesus Christ is not appointed to wrath: 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and 5:9

Conclusion:

2 Peter 3:11 – 12, “Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, (12) waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn.”