

The 144,000 and the Evangelistic Harvest of the Tribulation **Revelation 7:1-17**

Revelation 7:1) After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, restraining the four winds of the earth so that no wind could blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.
2) Then I saw another angel rising up from the east, who had the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were allowed to harm the earth and the sea: 3) *“Don’t harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we seal the servants of our God on their foreheads.”*
4) And I heard the number of the sealed: 144,000 sealed from every tribe of the Israelites:
5) 12,000 from the tribe of Judah, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad,
6) from the tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,
7) from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,
8) from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 sealed from the tribe of Benjamin.

The first interval (interlude) in Revelation occurs between the opening of the sixth and seventh scroll seal. This interval reveals the great evangelistic harvest that will sweep over what remains of Earth after the Rapture and the chaotic and catastrophic events of the Tribulation.

“Four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, restraining the four winds of the earth.”
= A picture of God’s messengers “holding back” the winds of judgment and evil.

“Another angel.... “Don’t harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we seal the servants of our God on their foreheads...the number of the sealed: 144,000 from every tribe of Israel.”

- Sealed servants. Three functions of seals: possession, protection, and preservation. God has a special assignment for them and they must be kept safe.

- God on their foreheads. Revelation 14:1 – *“Then I looked, and there was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him were the 144,000 who has his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads.”* Physical brand or spiritual evidence? As Christians, we are sealed: *“Don’t grieve God’s Holy Spirit. You were sealed by him for the day of redemption.”* (Ephesians 4:30). Our seal is a spiritual seal and our lives are evidence of that brand.

- 144,000 from every tribe of Israel - 12,000 from every tribe of Israel. God’s promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:2 now fulfilled – *“I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.”* The nation of Israel formed from Abraham’s blessing, through son Isaac and grandson Jacob. The tribes of Israel headed by the 12 sons of Jacob. Peculiarity of the list: tribe of Dan missing, replaced by Manasseh, oldest son of Joseph.

Will Jews survive the Rapture? No one gets to heaven without an encounter with Jesus (John 3:16). Only Christian Jews will survive the Rapture. The Rapture does not end Israel, but saves Israel.

Will Jews be saved during the Tribulation? Obviously so – in fact, at least 144,000 of them will be sealed for a special assignment. (Disappointing to the Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Seventh-Day Adventists, the Sabbath-Keepers).

Revelation 7:9) After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. 10) And they cried out in a loud voice: *Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!* 11) All the angels stood around the throne, and along with the elders and the four living creatures they fell facedown before the throne and worshiped God, 12) saying, *Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen.* 13) Then one of the elders asked me, *“Who are these people in white robes, and where did they come from?”* 14) I said to him, *“Sir, you know.”* Then he told me: *These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.* 15) For this reason they are before the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple. The one seated on the throne will shelter them: 16) They will no longer hunger; they will no longer thirst; the sun will no longer strike them, nor will any scorching heat. 17) For the Lamb who is at the center of the throne will shepherd them; he will guide them to springs of the waters of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Will survivors of the Rapture be saved during the Tribulation?

- a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: *Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!* As a result of the witness of the 144,000, a great revival, perhaps the greatest revival in the history of humanity, will occur in the Tribulation. Every tribe, people, and language = ethnically distinct from the from the Jewish evangelists and ethnically diverse from one another.

- *“Who are these people in white robes, and where did they come from?” “Sir, you know.” These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.* White robes = the spiritual clothing of the tribulation saints – made white through washing in the blood of the Lamb.

- ✓ Worship and Serve God day and night.
- ✓ Protected from physical distractions
- ✓ Shepherded and guided by the Lamb – the Good Shepherd
- ✓ Tears wiped away from their eyes – tears of suffering

If all of these people get right with God and experience salvation in the Tribulation – I’ll just wait. Foolish thinking.

- What if you die before the Tribulation? Straight to hell without Jesus.
- Even if you survive after the Rapture, you will not believe if you refuse Jesus in this life (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12)
- Even if you could be saved during the Tribulation, do you want to endure the sorrow, horror, pain, and perhaps decapitation?
- You will miss knowing Jesus today. Get right with Jesus – and live for Him now.