



# **THE FUTURE TODAY!**

**Prophecy Meetings**

**Sealed to Save!**

**Revelation 7:1-10**

**Sermon given on May 5, 2019**



**Sunday Evening Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# Sealed to Save!

## *Revelation 7:1-10*

### Opening Comments

- Welcome to the **FUTURE TODAY** prophecy meeting
- In Revelation 6, Jesus opened the first six of seven seals
- The seventh seal will be opened at the beginning of chapter 8
- Chapter seven serves as something of an interruption in the sequence of events of the Tribulation
- On the earth, millions of Christians suddenly vanish = chaos
- The Antichrist has gone out conquering and to conquer, war and rumors of war are disrupting the peace of the world
- People are struggling to live as food becomes scarce
- And with death everywhere, disease starts to ravage humanity
- The world turns in its anger and fear against people who have accepted Christ – many are martyred
- And then, great natural disasters rock the world
- All the people on earth seem to acknowledge this is the ‘wrath of the Lamb’ – God’s judgment
- Chapter 6 ends with the question ‘...who is able to stand?’
- Chapter 7 answers that question
- Let’s pray and get into our text for today
- **Pray**

### Teaching

- **The Power of the Gospel!**
- Our first point – **Sealing God’s Preachers**
- **Revelation 7:1**
- There is no reason for us to interpret this spiritually
- We know God controls the elements including wind, because Jesus did it
- Four angels are dispatched to keep the wind from blowing on the entire planet
- A supernatural stillness descends upon the earth – God is about to do something important

- **Revelation 7:2-3**
- Turn to **Ezekiel 9** where we see a similar command given
- A seal designates ownership and authority
- In the first judgments in chapter 8, the land, the sea, and the trees are harmed
- The OT prophet Ezekiel received a similar vision concerning impending judgment
- **Ezekiel 9:1-5**
- Turn back to **Revelation 7**
- Ezekiel was predicting judgment upon the nation of Judah
- But before that judgment fell, God sealed those who would be protected from the destruction of judgment
- In Ezekiel's vision those who were bothered by the sin and wickedness around them who were sealed
- Here in Revelation 7 it is the 'servants of our God'
- This seal will be a visible mark of the forehead of these servants
- When we think of a mark on the forehead, we probably think first of the 'mark of the Beast'
- As in all things, his mark is a counterfeit of God's mark
- Then John hears something about those who will be sealed
- **Revelation 7:4-8**
- There are some who try to make this out to be the church
- Never, in the Bible, is the church called Israel
- The children of Israel are the literal, biological descendants of Jacob/Israel, Abraham's grandson
- Not only are these Jews, Revelation 14 says they are men, and virgins
- This reminds us that God's plan for the Tribulation period includes the Jews and their salvation
- This seal serves to mark them as belonging to God, as well as seals them from the judgments and persecution of the Tribulation
- Nothing can touch these 144,000 servants of God – invincible
- Even though their mark appears to be a visible thing, no one can touch them – not even the Antichrist
- If the Antichrist denies them food, God can provide food like He did for Elijah in the wilderness

- If God’s enemies try to attack them, He can protect like He did Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego
- If they try to lock them up, God can deliver them from prison like He did Peter in Acts
- Or He can use them from prison to minister, like he did with Paul
- They are to serve God until Jesus returns – preaching the gospel to the whole world
- Speaking of the Tribulation period, Jesus said **Matthew 24:14**  
**And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**
- This is one of the ways Jesus is going to fulfill this prophecy
- **Are they alive today?** – If we are close to the time of Christ’s return, then the answer is yes
- **Where are they?** – Since the first exile in about 600 BC Jews have been scattering to the ends of the earth
- If, as Jesus says in Matthew 24:14, they will be “a witness to all the nations” then they must be scattered to all nations
- **How will they get saved themselves?**
- Turn to **Acts 9** – the simple answer is, we don’t know
- Though because of the ministry they are being called to, could be like Paul
- **Acts 9:3-6, 15-16**
- Jesus could cause 144,000 Damascus Road experiences around the world
- Because of the specific nature of this group, 144,000 Jewish virgin males, 12,000 from 12 tribes = miraculous
- **Why should we care about the 144,000?**
- Turn back to **Revelation 7**
- Before the 144,000 start their ministry, Jesus is going to come and take His bride, the church out of this world
- If you are a believer in Jesus today, that is good news
- Only true believers in Christ will go in the Rapture
- Left behind will be all the people who claim Christ but aren’t His
- Also left behind will be all unbelievers
- Included in those left behind will be people that we know and love

- Every person left behind deserves God’s eternal judgment – no matter how “good” they were
- God would be just and right let every one of them die in their sins and be eternally separated from Him – rejected salvation through Jesus
- But God loves them, and so, as an act of amazing grace, He offers salvation, even as He pours out His wrath upon the world
- The 144,000 serve God by sharing the everlasting gospel with those who have been left behind
- Immediately after the introduction of the 144,000 is this
- **Revelation 7:9-10**
- We should be busy praying for our lost friends and neighbors and we should take every opportunity to show them the love of God and to share the hope of the gospel of Jesus
- But if we are caught up before they respond, my hope and prayer is that one of the 144,000 finds them and helps them to meet the Savior of their souls
- The Tribulation will be a horrible time to be on this earth
- But it would be better to get saved during it and then have to endure it than to spend eternity in a place that is infinitely worse
- The 144,000 is another reason we should love, pray for, and support the Jewish people
- It is also another reason to love God and praise Him for His amazing grace and love