

Chapter 7: The 144,000

Who are the 144,000?

They are the 144,000 Jews sealed by the Lord, 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel.

What is the Seal they receive?

Ephesians 1:13-14 gives us insight into the Seal they receive. “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.” The Holy Spirit is God’s seal that we belong to him and his deposit guaranteeing that he will do what he promised. In the Greek, this word is translated _____ also meaning engagement. The Holy Spirit figuratively places upon believers an engagement ring indicating we are his purchased possession and that His presence in our lives is that seal that guarantees our receiving the full inheritance.

Who is the Great Multitude?

Here a second multitude is seen in Heaven with the imagery of the Feast of Tabernacles. The Feast is celebrated by both _____ and _____. During the Feast, palm branches are used to wave and cover the brass altar. The last day of the feast is called HASHANAH RABAH. The multitudes cry out for “Hosanna” or “God save us.” Here the multitude is crying out “Salvation to our God... and unto the Lamb.” This is called the great Hosanna of Heaven.

Notice in verse 9 that John sees a “great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language...” There are 2 main schools of thought of who this multitude is: the martyrs under the altar and the tribulation. The second is that it is all the believers from the rapture and all the martyrs from under the altar and the tribulation.

Chapter 8: The Seventh Seal

Just to recap for a moment: we have Jesus open 6 seals, then the sealing of the 144,000 Jews, a great multitude is seen worshipping God. Now we have Jesus opening the seventh seal. This seal being opened reveals _____ judgements. These judgements serve 3 purposes: 1) to warn that judgement is certain 2) to call the forces of good and evil to battle 3) to announce the return of the King.

The First Trumpet: (vs. 7) This angel unleashes hail and fire mixed with blood that burns up 1/3 of the earth, the green grass, and the trees. If we could wrap our minds around this by imagining we lost the amazon rainforest and asking ourselves how would that change the earth? 1) global climate change. No trees, no carbon dioxide absorption, no oxygen exchange. 2) more darkness from fires changing the atmosphere making harder to breathe and see. 3) unpredictable rainfall patterns and droughts. (World Atlas article)

The Second Trumpet: (vs. 8) 1/3 of the sea is turned to blood, 1/3 living creatures in the sea die, and 1/3 of the ships are destroyed. Its not hard to imagine that if we had lost 1/3 of all ships that would have a drastic affect on world wide shipping including goods, commodities, oil, and gas. That would create and set up a need for a streamline economy centralized on one global economic system.

The Third Trumpet: (vs. 10) A star or meteor named "Wormwood" crashed to earth causing 1/3 of the rivers and springs turned to bitter water killing many people. Wormwood is a bitter tasting plant representing the bitterness of God's judgement.

The Fourth Trumpet: (vs. 12) Next we see the Sun, Moon and 1/3 the stars are turned to dark or struck so that they lose 1/3 of their light.

Chapter 8 ends with John seeing an eagle flying over the earth and pronouncing woe to the inhabitants because of the last three trumpets yet to come