

## **The Book of Revelation**

By

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### **CHAPTER SEVEN**

#### **THE TWO COMPANIES**

**"And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth" (vs. 1).**

When I was in college, a professor took part of the chapel hour to convince the students how ignorant the old Hebrews were. They even believed the earth was flat and square. But probably that professor had never read the Old Testament; especially where it says, "**It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth**" (Isaiah 40:22). It is common language with us to say "**the four corners of the earth**" when we speak of the four directions.

These angels control the winds. Another angel has charge of the waters (ch. 16:5); while another has power over fire (ch. 14:18). No doubt there is more about us in control of angels than we can realize. Here, as well as in the former chapter, the fruit trees are protected, but soon the storms will be let loose to work great havoc to this source of human food supply.

#### **The Seal of GOD**

**"And 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 given to hurt the earth and the sea" (vs. 2).**

Just what this seal is, we are not told. When a person is born again, he is sealed with the HOLY SPIRIT (Ephesians 1:13). So here this sealing may mean a special anointing of the HOLY SPIRIT for a special purpose. "**Saying, hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of God in their foreheads**" (vs. 3).

There is a lull in the judgment between the sixth and seventh seals, to give time for this sealing. This may be a visible mark in the forehead for it will be during the time when others will wear the mark of the beast in their foreheads. This mark is the Father's name, and will thus set them aside, as they move among men, as followers of the true and living GOD (ch. 14:1). Also under the judgment of the fifth seal, the infernal creatures of the pit are able to see and distinguish those who wear this mark.

#### **Keep on Sighing**

Because of the wickedness in Jerusalem, the Lord sent one to **"set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof."** When the wicked were slain, the slayers were to **"come not near any man upon whom is the mark"** (Ezekiel 9:4, 6).

Many a righteous soul is tortured with the wickedness of the times in which we live. Great billboards screaming out the advantages to the nerves and digestion of those who will smoke a certain brand of cigarettes; other signs announcing the theater and the movie with pictures bold and full of adultery, and trampling under foot every virtue held dear by those who love the Lord.

It may seem useless to thus **"sigh and... cry for all the abominations,"** but there is a GOD in Heaven who takes note of every attitude of heart and soon a day will come when He will speak. Thus in face of seeming failure, let the righteous still cry out against the daughters of our land who **"walk with stretched forth necks... making a tinkling with their feet... the chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers... and the ornaments of the legs... the mantles, and the wimples, and the crimping pins"** (Isaiah 3).

True, they will be marked and shunned, but close by their side, and just behind the scenes, there walks the Lord of glory.

### **The 144,000**

**"And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel."**

If a Seventh Day Adventist or Jehovah's Witness cultist should claim to be a member of this throng, let him give proof to which tribe he belongs. They are all Israelites, not a Gentile among them.

A time is coming when Israel **"shall declare my glory among the Gentiles"** (Isaiah 66:19). CHRIST, speaking of the end time said, **"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come"** (Matthew 24:14).

CHRIST sent out His twelve apostles with directions to **"Go not into the way of the Gentiles... but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand... Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come"** (Matthew 10).

These last words no doubt leap forward to the preaching of the remnant during the tribulation period. Their gospel will be the same as John the Baptist and the apostles - the gospel of the kingdom of Heaven.

The gospel of the grace of GOD was given to Paul by special revelation (Ephesians 3:2, 3). It is the good news of salvation by grace through faith alone and is characteristic of the church age. The gospel of the kingdom of Heaven, that was proclaimed by the apostles and that is to be again proclaimed before the **"end come,"** is a call to repentance because the king is ready to set up His

kingdom.

The Jews of our day are most certainly being prepared for such a ministry. They are in every nation under Heaven; they know the language and the customs; they are used to the food and climate. Let them receive a special outpouring of the HOLY SPIRIT and the entire world will be evangelized in a short time. Turn one hundred forty-four thousand John the Baptists or apostle Pauls loose and the world would be evangelized in short order.

### **Preaching of the Remnant**

The twelve apostles, representing the remnant of their time, had a special endowment to preach this gospel, and so in the end time the faithful remnant of the one hundred forty-four thousand will have a special seal in their foreheads.

**"When the Son of man shall come in his glory... then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats"** (Matthew 25:31-32).

Here we see that at the close of the tribulation period, CHRIST will gather the living nations and judge them. He **"shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire... Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father"** (Matthew 13:41-43).

The standard of this judgment will be **"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me"** (Matthew 25:40). As the apostles went about the **"cities of Israel,"** the standard of judgment was the treatment given them. Let a city reject them and it rejected its GOD; let them refuse to hear and **"it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city"** (Matthew 10).

So here, the one hundred forty-four thousand go forth with a call of repentance to all the nations. People do not become righteous by feeding these messengers, rather do they feed them because they are righteous. A righteous person will receive GOD's people with peace and will enter the Kingdom Age. The unrighteous will hate and persecute them and will be cast into a furnace of fire.

### **Judgment of Individuals**

This judgment of living nations in Matthew 25, is often misunderstood.

The nations are not judged as nations, but as individuals. It will be the unrighteous individuals who are cast into a furnace of fire. There are righteous in all nations, and GOD will not deal thus with them because their leaders are evil.

In the Kingdom Age, there will be no nations as we know them today, for they will be dashed in pieces as a potter's vessel (Psalm 2). The Gentile nations will become **"like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors"** and pass into oblivion (Daniel 2:35). The Kingdom of our Lord must fill the whole world and the law of the whole earth must go out from Zion.

## **An Innumerable Company**

**"After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations... stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands" (vs. 9).**

As these 144,000 Israelites thus appear upon the scene in the interest of the GOD of Heaven, it will bring fearful persecution. They will be hungry, thirsty, lonely, in need of clothing, become sick and be cast into prison (Matthew 25). There is no mistaking their identity; their mark is in their forehead. To persecute them is to persecute their Lord; to love them is to love their king.

We do not know how long their ministry will last, but an innumerable company of every nation under Heaven will hear and turn to the Lord. They will stand before the throne, clothed in white raiment and have palms in their hands.

White robes stand for divine approval and unspotted righteousness through the blood of the Lamb. Palms bring to mind joy and victory. Though their faith meant death, it was a victorious death and now with unmingled joy they cry **"Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."**

There are those who would have us believe we are saved by our own good works plus CHRIST's death; others tell us that we are saved by CHRIST but must keep ourselves saved by our good behaviour. But here in Heaven the honor for our salvation is all accredited to GOD and the Lamb.

As these shouts from the white robed multitude vibrate about the throne, another company takes up the strain and echoes back in blessing and glory and honor **"unto our God for ever and ever" (vs. 11, 12)**

## **Unselfish Angels**

We may well marvel at their unselfish interest.

There is not a selfish note in all their praise. Ages and ages ago these mighty sons of GOD stood by as their creator formed the sun and moon and threw out into boundless space the stars and constellations.

The foundations of our earth are in the sun, and our sun is anchored to another sun and on and on. Thus GOD laid the foundations of our earth when He created the material universe. It was when GOD thus displayed His unlimited power that **"all the sons of God shouted for joy" (Job 38:7).**

But one time evil entered among the heavenly host and many sinned. Many of these great and shining sons of light marred their glory, tarnished their crowns and spotted their garments. **"God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell" (II Peter 2:4).**

As far as we know, there was no offer of salvation to sinning angels. But here are all the angels about the throne: angels that saw their own kind cast down to hell, but here they are rejoicing at the salvation of sinful man.

### **Comfort and Assurance**

**"And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes, and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (vs. 13, 14).**

Here we have one of the many times where our Lord stops to give comfort and assurance before revealing some fearful judgment. Although this great innumerable company comes up out of The Great tribulation, yet we see them safe and in Heaven before that fearful time comes upon the earth. For although we are in Daniel's seventieth week, it is the last half of that week that the Great Tribulation runs its course.

### **Safe for Evermore**

Life was not easy for them as they played their part in life's drama. They were put through great distress as the dogs of hell hounded their every step. They were starved and scorched and burnt, but now they are safe and their sorrows are over forever. **"They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more, neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of water: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes" (vs. 16, 17).**

To be free from sin; to be clothed in spotless purity; to know that all is well for eternity; this fills the deepest wish and longing of the child of GOD. Never thirst - that fountain of living waters will quench every thirst and longing of the human soul. Never again will tears dim those eyes nor a sigh escape those lips. Verily, what boundless and untold joys await those who love the Lord.

~ end of chapter 7 ~

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