

## Revelation 7

**Read Revelation 7:1-4:** God is protecting us in more ways than we can imagine. Those protections extend from our bodies to the universe around us. The earth is the only planet not covered with craters. There are things coming at us from every direction. That might be why some angels have eyes facing every direction simultaneously. Sometimes we are led to pray from things that we fear *could* happen. We are protected from having too much spiritual knowledge for a reason. Seeing and knowing everything would cripple us with fear.

-And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" -So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." -And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. (2 Kings 6:15-17)

Are our momentary spikes in our fears there to prompt us to send for help? Our prayers bring in to touch with spiritual realities. Have you been led to pray right away for something; which still appeared normal? I believe that our seemingly-random experiences are bridges to lead us in certain directions. Perhaps our irrational or seemingly-displaced fears are for a reason. Nervous and intrepid people are likely to pray more.

There are all kinds of grand schemes in play designed to destroy us all. It has been that way from the beginning. That is at both a human level and spiritual level. Revelation is the gradual reducing of protections which God meticulously allows. Even this chaos and anarchy have a precise level of control. Men will want to commit suicide; but they will be unsuccessful! You really do not know how good you have it until things unravel. The trials are about bringing about repentance.

This chapter is about God going the extra mile to save hardened sinners. He keeps skimming off the converts; and then turning up the heat. Some popcorn won't pop until it almost catches fire.

The whole world is affected by God's people (good or bad). There is currently common grace extended to God's people in which unbelievers benefit from. On

the other hand; the whole world suffers when God's people fall away. Jeremiah was faithful; but he was very-much affected by his fallen culture.

He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (Matthew 5:45)

Our fellowship with God affects everything from North Korea, to world financial markets, to the avian flu and asteroids. We are put in the middle of it so that we pray about it. "*Please LORD, send help again!*" We all know that we only engage in pray when we have *skin in the game*. The hardships and trials are not only to save the lost. They are to wake up God's people.

When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, -if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:13-14)

Our world is like a protected cradle. God still has to pull back some existing comforts and protections for worldwide repentance to come about. The people have to be wakened. It is too bad that we cannot have a smooth and comfortable life; while drawing closer and closer to God.

We do not need to wait for signs. Our signs are seen daily. All true Christians sense that we are being increasingly polarized against this world. We can all see the culture moving away from us. There are two influences on the souls of men in the universe. Why do you think that believers in fellowship begin to experience the same highs and lows (in differing circumstances)? We share the same spiritual influences. Believers are in a spiritual rhythm. Unbelievers are similar in their own way; like leaves blowing in unison from the demonic winds.

We see a tip of the iceberg. Our life circumstances can have ties to spiritual realities. God chooses to use angels to handle some of that responsibility. There are angels who watch over us individually. There are also angels who watch over countries. There are also angels who watch over planets and forces of nature.

The winds in the bible can represent unseen demonic forces. It is unseen, but felt. There are angels holding the demons in check. God is ready to let the inhabitants of the earth feel the forces of wind and nature after he seals the 144,000 Jews who

ae his servants. The angel is sealing God's servants for salvation. I have speculated that some scriptures indicated that we may be born saved (until the age of accountability); and then can become blotted out of the Lamb's Book of Life as we reject Christ.

He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. (Revelation 3:5)

This chapter clearly indicates that people are sealed at a specific time for salvation during their lives.

**Read Revelation 7:9-16:** Is the tribulation all bad? In a sense, it is the best time in history. The massive numbers of people saved in the tribulation are now standing before the throne. Revelation 6:9-11 described martyrs praying to stop the persecutions. The situation is a matter of perspective. This group wants more violence on the earth after they are gone to avenge those who showed hatred and cruelty towards them. It is far better to reach out now to save souls, than to let them go through this fatal salvation path.

Then He said to them, "The harvest truly *is* great, but the laborers *are* few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves. (Luke 10:2-3)

We should never wish evil upon others. Even so, bad times are like a brake on the runaway train. 9/11 and Columbine brought prayer back into congress for a time. We need continual reminders of what happens when we make bad decisions.

This is about the greatest harvest of all times. There have never been so many people saved in such a short period. The scriptures indicate that people are more *savable* if they are completely disconnected from God; rather than to take comfort in some kind of a moral or religious upbringing. Experimenters and *tire kickers* believe that they have already explored the benefits of faith. You could attend church your whole life and not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Those folks need a lot of force to humble themselves to sincerely ask God for help. The wayward world has a chance to meet Jesus all over again. Amazingly, our culture has people who do not know who Jesus is. A great falling away precedes the great salvation.

But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:20-21)

We are almost un-savable if we are too satisfied with this life.

Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted...(Matthew 5:4).

Consider the fisherman. He has happiness when he catches a fish. The fish is at its wits end in fear as the net comes up around him. In the same way, we are to be fishers of men. The lost souls are darting here and there, and are scared to death of God. We know that we only have to come to God. He controls all things. They do not believe this yet. God is making it more obvious.

The palm branches held by the martyrs in heaven are much like those used on Palm Sunday. They can represent men with upstretched arms in praise.

The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" (John 12:12-13)

Hosanna means 'save us now'. They are all tribulation martyrs. These people pay the ultimate price for their faith. Life is much different in the tribulation. There are no standing structures. There is no music. There is no way to farm without power. The weather also prevents any normal growing season.

The city of confusion is broken down; Every house is shut up, so that none may go in. -There is a cry for wine in the streets, All joy is darkened, The mirth of the land is gone. -In the city desolation is left, And the gate is stricken with destruction. -When it shall be thus in the midst of the land among the people, It shall be like the shaking of an olive tree, Like the gleaning of grapes when the vintage is done. -They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing; For the majesty of the LORD They shall cry aloud from the sea. (Isaiah 24:10-14)

They are described as not having to be hungry, thirsty, or sun scorched again. They have gone through famine, a lack of potable water supply, and solar flares. Jesus gives the tribulation saints the full benefits of heaven just like those laborers hired in the last hour of the day in the *parable of the vineyard* workers. They will not cry anymore. There was surely a lot of crying during the tribulation. It is also

interesting to see the angels and the saints all fall on their faces and agree with the salvation praises for thee tribulation saints.

Chapters 6 and 7 are an overview of the rest of Revelation. The great tribulation has not been described specifically yet; but these new souls are saved out of it. There are angels standing ready to shake things up. Their power is far beyond what we can imagine.

We are told of 144,000 Hebrews who are saved here. There are 12,000 from each tribe. I am curious how that will happen. Most Jews do not know which tribe that they are from. DNA testing can only identify some Levitical families. Most Jews are probably also mixed among many tribes by now.