**THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

**Opening the Seals, No. 5**

**6:1 – 7:17**

**The Text:** Rev. 7:1 – 17; Part Two.

**The Background:** The Church Age ended when Jesus Christ took up the Church into heaven. In chapters 4-5, we had the privilege of peeking into heaven and experiencing John’s eyewitness account of what he seen and heard. The Church is worshipping the wondrous & awesome Lord Jesus Christ with Him in Glory.

Today, our focus is back on Planet Earth. God is beginning a Judgment like the Earth has never seen. This Judgment is the Great Tribulation that will span for seven years. This Bible Study will follow John MacArthur’s outline in **REVELATION: The Christian’s Ultimate Victory**, which includes: *Opening the Seals*, 6:1-7:17; *God’s Trumpets*, 8:1-9:21; *The Two Witnesses* 10:1-11:19; *The Terrible Triumvirate*, 12:1-13:18; *Victorious Voices*, 14:1-16:21; and *Destruction and Devastation*, 17:1-18:24.

**T R I B U L A T I O N**

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Seven Years

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[Seals 1 to 4 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .(Seal 5) . . . . . . . . . (Seals 6 – 7) . . . . . . . . . . . ]

 Beginning ----------------------------------Mid – Trib------------------------------------------End

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The Context: See p. 43

Keys to the Text:

 The Seals-

 Review “REVELATION: The Christian’s Ultimate Victory,” p. 44a.

 Great Tribulation-

 Review “REVELATION: The Christian’s Ultimate Victory,” p. 44b.

**The Exposition:**

Verse 1

 Four Corners

 ILL: Compass- has four quadrants

 Like Washington D.C.; NW / NE / SW / SE

 Four Winds

Vss. 2-3

 Seal of the Living God (2)

 3:12

 9:4

 14:1 The Seal of God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 “It is antithetical to the mark of the Beast (13:16) and symbolizes God’s ownership and protection of his people,” (Rev. 7:1-3 footnote, ESV Study Bible, p. 2473).

 on their foreheads (3)

 13:16-17 ESVSBftn.

 Deut. 6:8. Read / discuss Deut 6:7-9 ESVSBftn.

 Deut. 11:18

 ILL: Jewish Phylacteries on Amazon (Handout)

 ILL: Ezekiel 9. Notice vss. 4-6

Vss. 4-8

 One hundred and forty-four thousand (4)

 Mentioned 3 times: Rev. 7:4, 14:1; and 14:3

 Zech. 12:10

 Romans 11:25-27

 11:25 ESVSBftn.

 11:26 ESVSBftn.

 All the tribes of the children of Israel (4)

 12,000 @ of 12 Tribes = 144,000

Vss. 9-12

 A great multitude (9)

 Glorious Salvation in the Tribulation

 Isa. 11:10 & 11:10 ESVSBftn.

 Romans 15:8-13 Paul quoting Isa. 11:10 (and 3 other OT passages).

 Principle of Double Fulfillment by John in Revelation.

 1st. Century & Future; “Final” Century, Rev. 7:9.

 "Perhaps Dwight Pentecost has stated the case in favor of the

 "double-sense" principle better than any other: Few laws are more

 important to observe in the interpretation of prophetic Scriptures than the law of double interpretation. Two events, widely separated

 as to the time of their fulfillment may be brought together into

 the scope of prophecy. Other men who have agreed with Pentecost

 as to the legitimacy of this principle are: Berkeley Mickelsen, Bernard Ramm, C. L. Feinberg, Charles Ryrie, and John Walvoord,” *The Principle of Double Fulfillment in Interpreting*

 *Prophecy*, David Jeremiah,

 <https://www.galaxie.com/article/gj13-2-02>

 all nations, tribes, peoples,

 and tongues (9)

 palm branches (9)

 Leviticus 23:40

 Lev. 23:37-44 ESVSBftn. See also John 12:13.

 Salvation belongs to our God (10)

Vss. 13 – 17

 The great tribulation (14)

* **Pre-rapture Converts**: The “born-again” church of yesterday & “today,” both Jew & Gentile, bond and free, I Cor. 12:13, (Present).
* **Post-rapture Converts**: The “post-church” believers of “tomorrow,” (Future). These are the *Tribulation Saints* who, by God’s sovereign grace, trust Christ during the

7-year period following the rapture.

* John 17:20, 24 Notice that Jesus prays for two groups of people.

 Washed their robes (14)

 Pointing to Salvation’s cleansing

 Rev. 19:8

 Psalm 51:7

 **ILL:** ***WHITER THAN SNOW***

 “Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;

I want Thee forever to live in my soul.

Break down every idol, cast out every foe;

Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

(Refrain)

Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow.

Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

 *The Celebration Hymnal: Songs and Hymns for Worship*

 Word Music and Church Resources, 1997, p. 653.

 Blood of the Lamb (14)

 Rev. 5:9; 12:11

 I Peter 1:19

 His temple (15)

 Rev. 11:19 and ESVSBftn. On 11:19

 Dwell among them (15)

 Rev. 21:3

 Shepherd (17)

* Good Shepherd John 10:11

* Great Shepherd Heb. 13:20
* Chief Shepherd I Peter 5:4
* Soul Shepherd I Peter 2:25

Your Reflections & Responses?