

Guide & Record of your thoughts

2/28/2010 Week 14 - Revelation 7:1-8

Following the Message:

1. Israel's very existence today is undeniable evidence of the infallibility of God's Holy Word. God will not let the world forget Israel because He has a great future for the Jewish people.
2. The brief moment of calm that exists at the beginning of Chapter 7 is significant – it offers insight into God's nature.
3. The scriptures continually show that, even in His awesome display of wrath, God's mercy is still present. He will still bring men to Himself.
4. The Tribulation begins with only unbelievers, and God, true to His nature, now in Chapter 7, selects and prepares His witnesses of the truth. (Only true if rapture is just before the Tribulation; however, it could be earlier, and this would not be true)
5. (7:1) The four angels are standing at the four corners of the earth (an idiom for the four quadrants of North, South, East and West) restraining a great storm that is about to burst on the world.
6. (7:2-3) The seal of God is an indication of ownership and protection. Every believer in Christ is sealed by the Holy Spirit.
7. (7:2-3) The 144,000, who are to be sealed, are being protected so they can continue to proclaim the Word of God.
8. (7:2-3) These 144,000 are men, not angels, but men who become:
 - a. invincible warriors of God (not servants of the beast)
 - b. NOT, secret service believers, but believers with an identifiable name written on their foreheads.
9. (7:4) These 144,000 are believing Jews and part of a much larger group who would turn to God during the Tribulation.
10. (7:5-8) The Church, the believers in Christ now, is the witness to the nations. After the rapture of the church, the 144,000 will be the "Witness Nation."

Greek words used today:

Matthew 10:22; hated. **miséo**, *mis-eh'-o*; to detest (especially to persecute)

Revelation 7:1; holding back. **krateo** *krat-eh'-o*; to use strength, i.e. seize, grasp (literal):-hold (fast), lay (hold) on, obtain, restrain.

Revelation 7:2; seal of the living God. **sphragis**, *sfrag-ece'*; a signet, (as fencing in or protecting); by implication the stamp impressed (as a mark of genuineness): - seal

Revelation 13:16; a mark. **charagma**, *khar'-ag-mah*; a scratch or etching, i.e. stamp (as a badge of servitude)

Reflecting on the Text

Knowing that it is possible to be an effective witness FOR THE KINGDOM even in the midst of the tribulation, how does that affect my attitude regarding being an effective witness during a peaceful time?

Imagine 144 thousand totally committed, sold-out Jews who:

- understand who their Messiah is
- are devoted to Him
- are holy, godly and pure
- already know the language and culture of nations around the world and need no language or culture study to witness, and
- will be instrumental in the salvation of many.

THAT IS THIS GROUP!

What does this passage tell me about God and how faithful He is to His word no matter how complex and difficult the circumstances?

What does it mean to wear the label – God's people? More specifically, what does it mean to say: "I belong to Jesus Christ and have His stamp of approval on me?"