

97-06

Evangelism & the Tribulation

Understanding God's Great Evangelistic Campaign

7:1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. 2 Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: 3 "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."

4 Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. 5 From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, 6 from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000, 7 from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000, 8 from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, from the tribe of Joseph 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.

9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no-one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 11 All the angels were standing round the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, 12 saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

13 Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" 14 I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. 16 Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. 17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (NIV)

1. The Setting for God's Outreach Program (vv.1-3)

A. *What Has Already Happened...*

B. *What's Just Around the Corner...*

2. God's Star Evangelists (vv.4-8)

A. *Their Identity:* _____

B. *Their Mission:* _____

C. *Their Seal:* _____

3. Converts of the Tribulation (vv.9-17)

A. *Their Number:* _____

B. *Their Ethnicity:* _____

C. *Their Response:* _____

Discussion Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message and to prepare you for participation in one of our small group studies. If you need more information about when and where CARE groups are meeting this week see the display in the lobby c

1. If you are a Christian, how often do you think about that fact that you are "saved from the coming wrath"?

Has this changed much over the past few weeks as we have been studying through the Book of Revelation? Explain the changes in your thinking.

How do you think your perspective would change if you were one of the people saved during the Tribulation?

In what practical ways do you think you could adjust your perspective and keep it adjusted now?

2. Who do you know that is of Jewish descent? Who do you know that practices Judaism?

Again we see in our study this week that God will turn his attention to Israel to fulfill his ancient promises. God has chosen not only to save Jews from every ancestral tribe of Israel, but he has chosen to use them to evangelize many. How does this affect your view of God and his faithfulness?

How does this affect your view of Jewish people in our world today?

3. Our study this week is really all about God's grace in re-gathering Israel and at the same time leading many non-Jews to the place of repentance and faith. What does all this focus on evangelism do to your view of evangelism?

How could our study this week be wrongly used to "put off" our current responsibility to evangelize during the church age?

What is the problem with this thinking?

4. What will you do to rekindle your efforts to share the message of Christ with your neighbors and coworkers?