



REVELATIONS FROM CRISES

REVELATION 7

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Verse 1-3, The Preparation of God's People

Angels holding winds until God's people are sealed

Preparation does not mean exemption but strengthening and protection

God will not allow some things to happen until we are prepared by

His written and prophetic word (John 16: 1-4)

Our own experience and maturity (I Corinthians 10: 13)

The angel from the rising sun and the birth of the Lord Jesus (Matthew 2: 2)

The Living God

Our God is living not some good luck handmade idol or lucky charm (Isaiah 44: 9-17; Psalm 135: 15-18)

We have a living God for living demons

Our greatest fulfillment does not come from things but relationship with living God (Psalm 42: 1-2)

Verses 4-8, Sealing of the 144, 000

Background: Ezekiel 9: 1-11 (emphasis verse 4)

Sealing:

Seal was official sign of authentication and authority of monarch (Genesis 41: 42; Esther 3: 10; 8: 2; Daniel 6: 17)

Sealing also indicated possession. Merchants would seal packages; owners of vineyards would seal jars of wine to show they belonged to him.

Baptism as Seal; Holy Spirit as Seal (Ephesians 1: 13-14)

The perfect number of 144,000

Not exclusive but inclusive; not limiting but exhaustive

The Church as New Israel

Judah as tribe of Christ is listed first

Tribe of Dan is missing (Genesis 49:17; Judges 18: 30; I Kings 12: 29;

Jeremiah 8: 16, ancient prediction associated with anti-Christ)

The listing of Manasseh (Genesis 48)

Application:

Israel had a troublesome tribe

Families have troublesome children

Jesus had a disciple who betrayed him

Early church had troublesome members, Acts 5: Ananias and Sapphira

No troublesome persons stop the function of the whole

God finds replacements for those we lose

God will send us other children and persons we lose

Matthias replaced Judas

Priscilla and Aquila replaced Ananias and Sapphira

Verses 9-12, The Praise of the Faithful

From Genesis Through Acts to Revelation

Genesis 11: 1-9; Acts 2: 5-11; Revelation 7: 9-11: God glorifying praise overcomes *all* barriers

After trouble, focus is on power of God to save

The sevenfold Spirit of God (Isaiah 11: 2) and the sevenfold praise from hosts of Heaven (blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might)

Verses 13-17, These Are They

The Twofold Reason for Praise of Saints:

1. Troubles and *The* Great Tribulation

Certain experiences refine, sharpen and give specific character to our faith, testimony and praise

2. The Blood of the Lamb: Uniqueness of the Christian Faith

Blood was act of loving sacrifice

Loving sacrifice cleanses and purifies

From Getting to Giving:

Basis of faith is giving that is based upon the great sacrifice of Christ

We must move from *me* focus to God glorifying focus

The Reward of Those Who Sacrifice

Abiding in the Eternal Glory of God, FOREVER