

## REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 13 (7:9-17) "Converts of the Tribulation"

**Introduction:** Chapter 1 is the Introduction, 2 and 3 are the history of the Church age, 4 and 5 are the Church in heaven, 6 is the summary of the 7 years of Tribulation, 7 goes back and begins to fill in the 7 years.

In the last study it was revealed that 144,000 Jewish evangelists will be preaching during the Tribulation. In today's time, if a Jew is ever converted to Jesus, he/she will be one of the best witnesses ever.

God began with a family, Adam and Eve. They believed God, received His gift of clothing which He provided. Their son killed his brother and thus the "saved and the unsaved" began. The unsaved almost took over the world and only 8 (Noah, his wife and their three sons and their wives) were saved from the flood. God started over again with a new plan - Evangelize the world with a family and thus Abraham, not a Jew, but a Gentile who believed God and was converted and thus "crossed over" which is what "Jew" means. The Jewish race was built on regeneration but left the original plan of God. Many were not regenerated and failed to spread the "gospel" and were thus scattered over the earth. God then raised up the Church and the Church is God's instrument in the world today.

Many reporters don't know how to report about those who have been "born again" for they know nothing of the new birth which they often make reports on. One can't know God by any other means than re-birth. We can't even as much raise a finger but God does it all. The Church is to carry that message to the world. When the Church membership is completed, Jesus will take HIS Church (us) from this earth.

Review the relationship the Jews had with God and the promise of 490 years in their promised land and how it was cut short 7 years by the Cross.

What about the people who never heard the Gospel? They are going to hell without ever getting a chance to hear the Gospel. NOT SO! Here are five points on Heathenism:

1. God in His character is fair. One of the essence points of God is that He is just and will never damn a person to hell unjustly/unfairly. God isn't that kind of a God. If anybody ever goes to hell and millions have and will, they will do so in spite of the fact that God has done everything He could to save them and will not damn them indiscriminately to hell or because somebody failed to carry the gospel to them. The fairness of God of God demands that no one will ever be lost without being given a chance IF that person is WILLING to believe.
2. Unlimited Atonement. Jesus Christ died and paid for every sin of every person in the world (1 John 2:2). You don't have to wonder as you go out to witness "did God die for this one and not that one?" Don't worry, Jesus died for every person that shall ever live. Never shall there be a person live that Jesus has not already paid for all his/her sins. Jesus paid for all the sins of Judas, but he never collected. Jesus paid for all the sins of Hitler, but he never collected. Every sin has been paid for. The saved and the lost have had their sins paid for on the Cross. THAT'S UNLIMITED ATONEMENT. Jesus died for the sins of the entire/whole world.
3. It is not the will of God that any should perish. (2 Peter 3:9). God doesn't want any person to go to hell. Some preach that God is delighted to burn people in hell. THAT'S NOT SO! God doesn't want anybody to go to hell. It is not His will that anybody be lost. If anybody dies and goes to hell, it is in spite of the fact that God has done everything He can do to reach that person. THIS IS GOD'S SIDE - Now take a look at the human standpoint:
4. God Consciousness. There is within every normal person who has ever lived what is called a "God consciousness. No matter how remote a place, there has never been a person who was not God conscious. When people become God conscious, God assumes the responsibility of getting the message to them and WILL DO SO. People in foreign countries (or even our own country) may shake their fists at God saying "We don't believe in God" and their children at school may say it three times every morning "There is no God," and there are millions like that. Millions have gone on NEGATIVE VOLITION saying they don't want anything to do with God. BUT, there are many who will go POSITIVE VOLITION, even those nations who once said "there is not God but there is a change of heart attitude and they have said within their hearts, "I want to know God."

God begins to work out a plan, pamphlets, newspapers, radio, television broadcasts, missionaries, somehow God gets the message to them and that's what we call MISSIONS. When you go into the world witnessing, you don't know who God is sending you to but God is getting somebody ready. You go witnessing and they are conscious of God and on "positive volition" they will believe the gospel when they hear it.

5. Heathen are Heathen not because they have never heard the gospel, but because they go NEGATIVE VOLITION at God consciousness. "If any man is willing to do the will of God, he shall know..." (John 7:17. Any person, anywhere who is willing to believe, GOD WILL SEDE TO IT that he/she gets the gospel message before he/she dies. ISN'T THAT THRILLING? To know that our God is righteous, that He is jsut, that He is fair, that He knows what He is doing in the world and that He isn't going to condemn somebody in an unfair way. KNOWING THAT, PERHAPS YOU CAN NOW BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND THE SCRIPTURE WE ARE ABOUT TO STUDY.

During the Tribulation period, there will be 144,000 Jewish eveabngelists begin to preach all over the world. This will be the most intense evangelistic era of the history of the world. Millions and millions will be converted. How great is our God and how just He is.

v9 - "after this" - the witnessing of the 144,000

- "number" - arithmao, arithmetic, system of numbers. Only God knows who and how many, no person can count them.
- "all nations" - ta ethna - NOT nations, but all GENTILES. Turn to Matthew 25:31. Here in Matthew we will find out what "ta ethna" means. This is one of the most abused scriptures. It is often used to raise money for clothing and food,e tc. for the poor an needy. This scripture is taken out of context and used as some want to...NEVER, NEVER DO THIS.

Matthew 25:

v31 - "come - second coming

- "holy angel" - They want to see the end of the angelic conflilct (between God and Satan)

v32 - "all nations" - ta ethna, the same as the Revelation 7 passage. It is a technical term for ALL GENTILES Jesus is distinguishing Gentiles from Jews. NON-JEWISH people....not the two classes.

V33 - "sheep" - believers....goats are non-believers.

v34 - Remember that at the end of the Tribulation, when Jesus comes back (the second coming) there will be millions of converted Gentiles, won by the 144,000 Jewish evangelists. (On the day of Pentecost, those who were in the upper room came out speaking in other languages/tongues - GENTILE tongues)  
- "come" - command to enter - the millineum kingdom to rule and reign with Jesus. It is a strong invitation by Jesus. Many use this passage to go out and feed the world. NOTE what Jesus is talking about - He is talking about the TRIBULATION PERIOD. "ta ethna", the converted Gentiles.

v35 - "hungered, thirsty, took me in" - during the Tribulation. It will be very hard on those refusing to bow to the Dictator or worship his god. If they won't then no identifying stamp on the hand or head and thus not able to buy or sell at the market and millions will starve to death. Also the 144,000 Jewish evangelists will be persecuted. The Gentile converts will aid the 144,000 giving clothes, food, shelter, etc.THAT'S WHAT JESUS IS TALKING ABOUT, not a general truth to be followed here and now. BEGIN TO SEE IT NOW?

v37 - "righteousness" - converts during the tribulation.

v40 - "king" - Jesus Christ

- "these My brethren" - Jesus was a Jew! Here He is talking about JEWISH BRETHREN, the 144,000 Jewish evangelists. It is very clear, Jesus says "when you converted Gentiles cared for these Jewish preachers during the Tribulation, you were doing it to me.." DON'T TAKE OUT OF CONTEXT.

v41 - "cursed" - perfect tense - the curse started when they said "No" to Jesus and they became cursed at the moment of unbelief and will remain cursed throughout eternity. Nobody is cursed because they refused to aid Jewish preachers but their refusal to aid the Jewish preachers was the RESULT of being already cursed (NEGATIVE VOLITION).

- devil - note that the fire in hell has been prepared for HIM, for the devil, Satan.

v45 - "least of these" - (my brethren) - the Jewish preachers

- "not to me" - Remember Paul's conversion? WHO was Paul actually persecuting? Remember the conversation between Paul and Jesus at the roadside scene?

- To touch a Christian is to touch Jesus.

BACK TO THE REVELATION 7 STUDY NOW:

v9 - "stood" - they believed back there and are now standing and will continue to stand - eternal security is the through here.

- "white robes" - stands for the righteousness of God. One day you and I (all Christians) will wear white, clothed in the righteousness of God forever and ever.

- "palms" - long ago after a victory by the army, everybody got palm branches and waved them as the victorious soldiers marched through the city. Jesus also rode through the city on an ass and people waved palm branches as He rode "victoriously" through the streets.

v10 - "salvation" - they had their doctrine straight. Many say they're saved by this or that, by doing this or that, by being this or that. "Salvation belongeth to our God.." They had that right! YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT GOD DOES IT ALL!!!

v11- "beasts" - living creatures

v12 - "amen" - "I believe it!" NOTE seven (7) things they sang or said:

1. "blessing" - every blessing comes from God. God's character is to bless and we can do nothing to ever deserve His blessings or favor.
2. "glory" - the perfect plan of God. Everything He does is right.
3. "wisdom"- God knows everything, thus all God does is planned out and perfect.
4. "thanksgiving"- our response to God since God is who He is.
5. "honor" God [provides everything of real value for mankind.
6. "power"- God has all power.
7. "might" - now, we can appropriate the power God has.

v13 - "who" - the ruling angels asks John a question.

v14 - "thou knowest" - John gets smart here and ventures an answer.

- "great tribulation" - Tribulation and GREAT Tribulation. The GREAT is the last 3 1/2 years which is much more severe than the first half especially on the converts and the preachers.

- "blood of the Lamb" - 1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5; 1 Peter 1:18, 19; Ephesians 1:7, etc. speak of the cleansing power of the blood. We have never actually touched the blood of Jesus Christ, but it still has the power to cleanse. These are onverts of the Jewish Evangelism. NOTE: IT IS NOT WHERE THE THRONE IS, but the principle, the idea behind the verse.

These last three verses are a picture of Heaven:

v15 - "sitteth" - Jesus Christ

v16 - "sun" - there will be NO sun, thus no heat. Jesus will light the universe.

v17 - John 1:29 speaks of the Lamb - Jesus Christ is both Lamb and Shepherd.

- "feed" - the rold of a shepherd and "lead" is another rold of the shepherd.

- "waters" - it is plural waters of salvation, waters of the Holy Spirit, waters of the Word of God. Waters refer to cleansing, power.

- "wipe tears" - there will be no tear ducts in our new bodies for we won't need them. There'll be no reason to cry. All will be joy and perfection.

THIS IS A GLORIOUS DESCRIPTION OF WHAT HEAVEN WILL BE LIKE.

Look forward to the next study as more will be revealed.