

Revelation 7: The Great Multitude Before the Throne

Revelation 7:4–17 | Sunday, May 24 | Revelation Series

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OVERVIEW

Hal finishes Revelation 7 by reading the roll of the sealed — twelve thousand out of each tribe of the sons of Israel — and then asking the room who is missing. Ephraim and Dan are not there, and the answer sends him back to Genesis 49, where Jacob gathers his sons to tell them what will befall them in the last days. Dan, Jacob says, will be a serpent in the way, a viper in the path that bites the horse's heels so that his rider falls backward. That, Hal believes, is why Dan is left out: someone from that tribe will be the second beast of Revelation 13, the false prophet who leads Israel to fall away backward. From there he answers the folklore of the ten lost tribes, gives four reasons God created the people and nation of Israel, and argues that these evangelists will do in seven years what Israel never did in its whole history. Verse 9 is the report: a multitude too great to be numbered, out of the Great Tribulation, standing before the throne in white robes.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 7:4–8 — The roll of the sealed — 12,000 out of each tribe of the sons of Israel

Genesis 49:16–17 — Jacob's prophecy over Dan: a serpent in the way, a viper in the path

Revelation 7:9–12 — A great multitude no one could count, in white robes with palm branches

Revelation 7:13–14 — These are the ones who come out of the Great Tribulation

Revelation 7:15–17 — The Lamb will be their shepherd and God will wipe every tear from their eyes

Revelation 13 — The two great personalities Satan uses — the beast from the sea and the beast from the land

KEY TERMS

The 144,000 — 12,000 sealed out of each tribe of the sons of Israel — brought to faith miraculously right after every believer is taken out of the world

Dan — the tribe left off the list of the sealed; Jacob's prophecy in Genesis 49 makes it the tribe of the serpent

Ephraim — also missing — the tribe Hal says caused the ancient civil war that divided the kingdom

Serpent — the word in Genesis 49 is viper, a deadly snake; traced through the Bible it is a vehicle of Satan that draws people away from God

The beast from the land — the second of the two personalities of Revelation 13, also called the false prophet; the land is Israel

Judah — the southern kingdom after the division — “Jew means Judah”

The Gospel of the kingdom — not the good news preached now; its focus is the thousand-year kingdom the Messiah will establish on earth

The great multitude — the harvest of verse 9 — out of every nation, tribe, people and tongue, and too many to number

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer from the message itself. Every answer is in the teaching.

1. Why does Hal say the sealing of these evangelists is proof the Church is already gone?

2. How many are sealed out of each tribe, and how many tribes are named?

3. Which two tribes are missing from the list, and which one does Hal say we already know the reason for?

4. What happened to the kingdom after that division?

5. Why does Hal turn to Genesis 49, and which translation does he prefer there?

6. What does Jacob say about Dan?

7. What does Hal believe that prophecy predicts, and how does he say it?

8. What does Hal say about the ten lost tribes?

9. For what four reasons does Hal say God created the people and nation of Israel?

10. Which book of the Bible was not written by an Israelite?

11. How does Hal read “this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world”?

12. Who is the great multitude of verse 9, and where do they come from?

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. Hal says that today there is no difference between Jew and Gentile in God's sight, and that in this chapter there plainly is. What does that difference tell you about where this chapter sits in time?

2. Dan is left out of the list because of something predicted centuries before. How do you feel about God knowing in advance what a people, or a person, will become?

3. These evangelists are brought to faith with no one left to lead them to it. Where have you seen God reach someone with no obvious human help?

4. Hal hopes something he said, or something in one of his books, will come back to someone after he is gone. What have you said or done that you would want to still be working after you are out of the picture?

5. The multitude before the throne comes out of the worst period the earth has ever seen. What does it do to your idea of a hard season to know a harvest can come out of one?

6. Hal says you can never earn salvation, can never be good enough, and do not have the power to change your own life. Which of those three is hardest for you to accept?

MEMORY VERSE

"For the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to the springs of water of life, and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes."

— Revelation 7:17, as Hal reads it in this message