

THE 144,000

Revelation 7 - Revelation 14:1-5

The Book of Revelation is really simple in it's **structure** and **outline**.

It is **not** a "*dark*" book **nor** is it difficult for us to understand.

The Book of Revelation is **what it's** name implies.... it's a revelation.... and clearly gives us teachings of **future events** in God's program.

Again... it is a clear outline of "things to come."

For instance.... **Chapter 1**, gives us a **vision** of The Messiah Jesus as He comes in **glory**.

He is the **center** of the book and we must **never** lose sight of Him as we're taught all the events that surround His Second Coming.

Many people have been so "caught up" with His **coming**, that they have forgotten **Him**.

You see, prophecy doesn't deal so much with future events **but as** with the **future** of a **Person**,..... the **Person** of the Lord Jesus.

Therefore the opening Chapter of Revelation is devoted to **Him** who must from beginning to end hold the **central place** in our study.

Chapters 2 and 3..... describe the course of the professing or "*religious*" Church in **this** dispensation **ending with** the Church of Laodicea.

In the midst of professing Christendom or "*religious*" Christendom is the **True Church**.... the body of Messiah.... those who have been "**born again.**"

And at the close of **Chapter 3** we see the **Church** "*lukewarm*" and indifferent.

Chapter 4 of Revelation opens with a discussion of the **Rapture**.... The "*snatching away*" of the **True Body** of Messiah from professing ..."*religious*" Christendom.

The **remainder** of **Chapter 4** and all of **Chapter 5** are a description of **what John** representing the Raptured Church, **saw** in heaven.

With the beginning of **Revelation 6**..... the **scene** returns to earth.

What follows in the remainder of the **Book of Revelation** through **Chapter 19 verse: 11**

....**which** concerns God's **judgments** on the earth during the "*Time of Jacob's Trouble,*" the Great Tribulation.

And during the "*Time of Jacob's Trouble,*" the **True Church** is with her Lord in heaven.

Chapter 19.... by-the-way speaks of the **return** of the Lord.... followed by the **Millennium**..... the **Last Judgment** and the **Eternal State**.

In brief.... this is the **simple** outline of the Book of Revelation

Revelation..... is **not only** instructive and interesting..... but **quite easy** to understand.

So far in the Book of Revelation.... **SIX seals** have been broken by the Lamb of God.

The **Antichrist** is revealed... He is revealed as the **promiser** of a false and brief peace covenant under the symbol of the **white horse**...

...followed by the **red horse** of war..... the **black horse** of famine and the **pale horse** of pestilence and death.

The **FIFTH seal** revealed that in the midst of all this tribulation....

.....there was a **faithful remnant** who had been martyred for their faithfulness and **who will share** in the Kingdom glory.

The **SIXTH seal** gives us a graphic picture of the terrible time of **sorrow** and **death** upon the earth.....

..... **this is due to** a **fourth** of the population on earth that will perish in war by hunger and pestilence.

So after a very brief summary of the first six chapters of Revelation.... we'll now take an in depth look at **Chapter Seven**.

Chapter 7 of Revelation is a pause..... it's a parenthesis between the **Sixth** and **Seventh** seals.

The 7th chapter of Revelation is actually a continuation of the description of the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble”..... “The Great Tribulation.”

When the **Seventh seal** is to be opened it will usher in judgments so **terrible and destructive** that as the Lord tells us....

“...unless those days should be shortened, no life should be saved.”

This Seventh Chapter of Revelation records **how** God is going to **keep** and **protect** His people, the Jewish people in the **midst** of the Tribulation.

Judgment will be **suspended** for a brief time and the Tribulation will be held “in check” until these faithful ones have been **sealed**.....

....**this** is the meaning of the opening verses of **Revelation 7...**



Revelation 7:1 - 3 (NASB) ¹After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. ²And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a

loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, ³saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.”

Picture the situation if you would....

.....The **believing Church**.....the **True Church** has been Raptured away..... **Satan** is loose on the earth..... and the **Antichrist** is doing his best to **defeat** God.

In the “*Time of Jacob’s Trouble*”.... the Tribulation Period..... **Satan’s** greatest hatred is **against** God’s Covenant People.... Israel.

But during the **dispensation** in which you and I live.... his **hatred** is against the **True Church**..... all those who have **trusted** Jesus for their salvation.

....**but** after the Church is taken out of this world..... **Satan** will focus his attention **entirely** on the Jewish People.

Satan knows that **Israel** is God’s Covenant Nation.... and even though the Jewish People now **reject** the Messiah Jesus.....

.....there is a day coming.....

when Israel will turn to God and **receive** her Messiah.....

In **that day** all the **promises** of their **Kingdom** and their **re-establishment** in the Promised Land will be fulfilled.

Satan seeks to **thwart** God's program and **so** he sets out to **destroy** all Israel and thus **defeat** the program of God.

He attempted this through **Pharaoh**..... **Nebuchadnezzar**..... the **Assyrians**.... the **Greeks**.... and the **Romans**.....

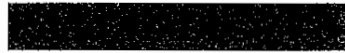
And more recently.... through **Mussolini** and **Hitler** and a host of **other** inciters of race hatred.

As Satan has failed to destroy the Jewish People in the past because of God's intervention.... so he will fail again!

In the past the Lord raised up **Moses**..... **Nehemiah** and **Mordecai**.....

..... and so in the Tribulation..... He will again **raise up** men of **His** **choosing** to protect His faithful remnant.

Beginning in verse:4 of **Revelation 7**.... we are given a very clear description of our study of the **144,000**....



Revelation 7:4 - 8 (NASB) ⁴And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: ⁵from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand *were* sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, ⁶from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, ⁷from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, ⁸from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand *were* sealed.

In this passage the **identification** of those who are **sealed** is explicitly specified as being **144,000** Jews

And as **strange** as it may seem.... there are **differences** of opinion among Bible students regarding the **identity** of the **144,000**..... we'll address that in a moment.

If you remember..... we read in **verses:1-3**, that the Four Angels are **commissioned** to bring **judgment** on the earth.....

....**but** at the same time they are commanded to **hold off** their destruction **until** a specific number of servants are sealed

Sealing was done for **two** reasons..... service and protection.....
both reasons **apply** here.

The **144,000** are **sealed** for **protection** so that they **cannot** be hurt by **either** the judgments poured out by God.....

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The **144,000** are **sealed** for **protection** so that they **cannot** be hurt by **either** the judgments poured out by God.....

.....**or** by the persecutions against believers.

They are also sealed for service.....

.....for **they** are the ones **who will proclaim** the message of the gospel during the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble”..... the Tribulation.....

The message of those 144,000 who have been sealed by God.....

..... will be the **same message** that was proclaimed by the ***John the Baptizer*** in **Matthew 3:2**

It will be the same message that our ***Lord’s disciples*** proclaimed in **Matthew 10:7**

It will be the same message that was proclaimed by the ***Lord Himself*** in **Matthew 4:17...**

....it will be the **message** of the **Kingdom**.....

“REPENT; REPENT FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND!”

As we mentioned just a moment ago..... we are **told** in this passage that there were **12,000.... sealed..... from each of the **12 Tribes of Israel****

John mentions **each** Tribe by name and gives us the **number** from each Tribe from **Judah** to **Benjamin**.

Such careful delineation definitely indicates that these **144,000** are **JEWISH...**

.....they can be nothing else but Jewish..... but in spite this there is much speculation to the **contrary**.

The emphasis given to us by **John**..... is on the **JEWISHNESS** of the **144,000**.

Yet again..... many scholars..... many whose education it seems has **exceeded** their intellect have **misinterpreted** the identity and meaning of the **144,000!**

They have **stolen** all the **promises** given by **God** to the Jewish **People**.... and have **left** the Jewish **People** with only God's **curses!**

As **Dr. Charles Halff**, founder of The Christian Jew Foundation puts it:

"They are spiritual thieves!"

Theirs is a **dangerous** but **common** error of **spiritualizing** the Scriptures.....

....they have made **Israel** the **Church**..... and the **Church**..... **Israel!**

This is what is known as **"REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY!"**

And this **lie** is being taught in **pulpits** throughout this country and the world.....

It is being taught on **television**.... it is being taught in **Christian** **Schools**..... **Seminaries** and **Bible Colleges**

....and is being taught by many admired **Christian** **authors!**

They have confused **Law** and **Grace**..... they have confused **Israel** and the **Church**.....

..... they have confused the **Church** and the **Kingdom**!

The **result** of their **failure** to read and believe the Bible **literally**.....

.....the **result** of their **insistence** upon spiritualizing the Scriptures is that **apathy**....

ignorance.... and **confusion** has gripped Christians everywhere!

If they would just learn to read the Bible as they read **any other** book - **literally** - all **confusion** and **ignorance** would disappear!

One of the **by-products** of this confusion and ignorance that is due to the **human** interpretation of the Scriptures.....

..... is that many groups **claim** that they are the **144,000**!

The **Seventh-day Adventists** claim that the **144,000** pertains to their communion.....

....and when the Lord comes again.... **they** will be found observing the **Jewish Sabbath**, and will be Raptured up to glory.

The **Jehovah's Witnesses** say that these **144,000** belong to them.

They are the ones to be saved at the end-time.

They are the great "**Over-comers**"

Each Jehovah Witness is **trying** to be one of that **select number**.

That's why you see them on street corners..... that's why you see them going **door- to-door**.... from **house- to- house**.

Each one is **striving** to be one of that **elect group** in order to be caught up to heaven.

And once again I mention to you.... that many theologians are identifying the **144,000** as the **Church**.

They say that God no longer deals with **literal Israel**..... and they **maintain** that the **Church** is now **Spiritual Israel**.

Consequently they claim for themselves the ***Abrahamic Covenant*** and declare that **Jerusalem** is the **Church**....

They **teach** that all the prophecies of the **restoration** of **Israel** to her Land of Promise **must be spiritually interpreted** as **applying** to the **Church**.

So I repeat to you.... that the **Spiritualizing** of the Scriptures is **one of the most serious evils** that has come upon the Church.

Begin with this rule in your interpretation of God's Word.....

.....**God means what He says!**

Even though we find **types**.... **symbols**..... and **figures of speech** in the Bible.... as we do in every other book.....

.....it is written that **simple people** like you and I can understand it.

If only we would **read** and **believe it** as it's written..... if only we **wouldn't twist** the meaning to **fit our** preconceived ideas.

How much easier it is to **read** the Bible as it's written and then **simply believe it!**

Let's try this as we read again verses: 4-8 of Revelation 7:

Read Passage:

⁴And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: ⁵from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, ⁶from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, ⁷from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, ⁸from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.

This passage states so plainly that even a child can understand it....

..... that during the Tribulation Period God will remember His Covenant with Abraham...Isaac....Jacob.....David.....and Solomon.

This passage states so plainly that God will remember His promises of Israel's restoration in Isaiah..... Jeremiah.....Ezekiel..... Daniel and all the other prophets.

God will remember His Covenant and Promises before the **Antichrist** can destroy the Nation of Israel.....

God is going to **save** a remnant of 12,000 each from the **12 Tribes** of the Sons of Jacob and **seal** them for **Himself**....

.....**seal them** to escape destruction of the **Antichrist** and **seal them** to become His **witnesses** during the "Time of Jacob's Trouble".....

.....and the **result** will be that a great multitude of both **Jewish** and **Gentile** people will be saved because of the **testimony** of this Redeemed Remnant.....

....the **Redeemed Remnant** from the **12 Tribes** of the Nation of Israel.

By the way... it's **no coincidence** that **12,000** from each of the **12 Tribes** of the Children of Israel are to be **sealed**.

The word **Twelve** in the Bible **with reference** to the people of the **Lord** always..... always **refers** to Israel!

Twelve is their number!

.....There were **12 Tribes**....

▶ Concerning the Number 12 we hear our Lord teaching His **Jewish Disciples** this:

▶ Our Lord says that **12 Apostles** will sit on **12 Thrones** judging the **12 Tribes** of Israel.

▶ The Jewish High Priest had a **breastplate** on which were **12 precious stones**... the **12 stones** representing the **12 Tribes** of Israel.

▶ On the Table of Shewbread were **12.... holy..... consecrated loaves..... 12 holy loaves** representing the **12 Tribes** of Israel.

▶ There are **12 Gates** in the City of God..... the **12 Gates** representing the **12 Tribes** of Israel.

My brothers and sisters..... all through the Bible..... from it's beginning to it's end..... the **Number 12** refers to the Children of Israel..... the Jewish People....

So it is here in Revelation the **7th Chapter**..... there are **12,000..... sealed.....**

elect.....and called....from the **12 Tribes** of Israel..... **Not the Church!**

And as long we're **briefly** defending the position that Israel is not the Church and the

Church is not Israel... turn with me to: **Revelation 14 verses:1-5**



Revelation 14:1-5 (NASB) ¹Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like *the sound* of harpists playing on their harps. ³And they sang* a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth. ⁴These are the ones who [£]have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.

Let me give you the **scenario** up to this point.....

....the Church is **no longer** on the earth..... the Church has been **Raptured**.



³And they sang* a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth.

John writes what he sees..... he sees **144,000** standing in the presence of those Elders who represent the Church of Jesus the Messiah.

It's interesting.... **each group is there**..... the **Church** which is represented by the **Elders**....

..... and the **144,000** from the **12 Tribes** of Israel.....

..... **each** in his **own** character..... **each** with his **own** blessing..... **each** in his **own** place.

The **two groups** are **not** the same..... but John sees them together.....
one in the presence of the **other**.....

..... the **144,000** in the presence of the **Elders** who represent the
Redeemed Church of the Messiah.....

..... those who were Raptured.

So... I ask you..... is the Church Israel?

Before we move on to see **WHY** God chose **144,000 Jewish men** to be
His **witnesses** during the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble” The Great
Tribulation....

.....Before we do this..... I’d like to **briefly** address some **questions**
concerning the **12 Tribes** that are mentioned here in our text.

As we looked at the **list of Tribes** in our passage..... some may wonder
WHY the **Tribe of Ephraim** is left out..... but actually this **isn’t** the case
at all.

In **verse:8**...in place of the name of **Ephraim** there is the name of his father Joseph.....

..... **it's the very same Tribe.**

There **arises** another **question**..... "why is **one Tribe** ~~is~~ left out.....namely the **Tribe of Dan**."

Neither in this text or anywhere else in the Scriptures is the reason given.

And **due to** the Tribe of Dan not being mentioned..... a great deal of **speculation** and **guess work** has developed.....

.....**mainly** that the **Antichrist** will come out of this Tribe.... **with the result** being that the coming **Antichrist** will be Jewish.

Not so! The **Antichrist** will be a Political Leader.... a **GENTILE** Political Leader!

Others claim that the **False Prophet**..... the Jewish Religious Leader will **arise** out of the Tribe of **Dan**.....

.....and **that's** WHY the Tribe is left out.

But this too is pure speculation!

There is **nothing** in this text or **anywhere else** that suggests either of these suppositions!

The text itself does **not state** the reason why the Tribe of Dan is **left out**.....

.....so where the text is **silent**.....I'll be **silent** as well!

Besides having **one** Tribe missing is **not peculiar** to the Book of Revelation.....

.....in **Deuteronomy the 33rd Chapter**..... **Moses** addressed each **Tribe**... one - by - one.

Every Tribe is named **but one**..... the Tribe of **Simeon**..... let's move on..

There are always **great spiritual reasons** why God does what he does.....

.....**and** there are **great spiritual reasons** why God **chose** and **sealed** these **12,000** from the **12 Tribes** of Israel.

Why were these particular men chosen?

I believe that **one** of the **reasons** why they were chosen by God is because of their **deep moral... spiritual characteristics**.

In the **14th Chapter of Revelation....** they are said to be “**chaste.**”..... they are “**virgins!**”

Please turn once again with me to Revelation the 14th Chapter



¹Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like *the sound* of harpists playing on their harps. ³And they sang* a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth. ⁴These are the ones who [£]have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These *are* the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been

purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb.
⁵And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.

These **144,000** being “virgins” would have no successors.

They would have no children..... they would **not** multiply themselves.

These are men who are **chosen** by God..... **chosen** by God for a **very** definite reason.....

.....the **elective purpose** of God.

These men are **those** who have **given themselves** to the ministry of the God Most Highthrough the Messiah.....

.....they've done this **while** the **rest of the world** around them is

blaspheming.....**cursing**.....and **wallowing** in the sea of
filth.....**dirt**.....**sin**..... and **unbelief!**

BUT these are men of **unusual** spiritual stature.

They are described as **being** undefiled in the **midst** of a defiled world.

They live in **purity** in the **midst** of an impure world.

They are **fearless** and **brave** in their testimony to God.....in the midst of a world that

....**blasphemes** the Lord Jesus and **damns** the Name of Heaven.

These **144,000** all Jewish.....**physical descendants** of **Abraham**...
Isaac..... and **Jacob**.....

.....these 144,000.... “**chaste**”.....”**pure**”.....and “**blameless**”.....
chosen from the **12 Tribes** of Israel.....

.....will **become** God’s **missionaries** during the “Time of Jacob’s
Trouble”..... the Great
Tribulation.

Looking at this from a **human standpoint**.....

...there is decided advantage in using Jewish men as **missionaries**
during this short period of **3 1/2** years.

In the present system of **training missionaries** for the work of **evangelism in a foreign field**.....

....the missionary must **first study** the Scriptures in a **Bible School** or **Seminary**.....

.....**either of which** might take **3 - 4 years**.

But while the Bible School or Seminary graduate may be prepared to **teach** the Word of God in his own nation.....

.....he is **still not** prepared to minister in a **foreign field**.

The next 2 - 3 years or so **must be spent** in language study.....

....for he has to learn the **language** of **another country** in order to communicate the Word of God there.

The modern missionary.... **then**..... must spend approximately **6 years** in preparation.....

.....**6 years** in preparation **before** he is fully equipped to **present** the Gospel in a language **not** his own.

We **know** that the ministry of these missionaries will be conducted in the **first 3 1/2 years** of the **7 year Tribulation Period**.....

..... so there **won't be much time** for training.

So this is where there's a decided advantage in using Jewish people.

First of all..... the Jewish people are **scattered all over the world**.

And all the major languages and most of world's minor languages are **spoken by some** Jewish People..... somewhere.

And it's interesting..... **except for** American Jewish People..... **most** Jewish People are **bilingual**.

Secondly..... with **most** American Jewish People being the **exception**.....

..... depending on their **background**.....

...**many** Jewish People in **other** parts of the world.....

.....**have a good or basic understanding** of the *Older Testament*.

Consequently.....sometime **after** the Rapture of the Church.....

..... the Lord will save **144,000** Jewish men from the **12 Tribes** from around the world.

These Jewish men will **already** speak the languages needed.

They will **already** have the **basic knowledge** of the *Older Testament*.....

..... All they'll **need** will be a **short-time** to learn the **content** of the *New Covenant*.....

During the **first** 3 1/2 **years** of the "Time of Jacob's Trouble"..... the Tribulation.....

.....**God** will **evangelize** the world by the **means** of the **144,000** Jewish men that He has **chosen**.....

These 144,000 Jewish Evangelists will thus **fulfill** the prophecy found in **Matthew 24:14**

Turn with me to Matthew 24:14: [REDACTED]:

Matthew 24:14 (NASB) ¹⁴“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Many who misinterpret this verse -

.... whether purposely or through **lack of knowledge**....

...would have us believe that this verse teaches that it will be the **Church who will be**

.....**evangelizing** the Nations **before** the Second Coming of the Lord

But as I stated earlier - the Church will not be here!!

The **Church** has **already been Raptured** and is **with** the Lord!

This verse is the **fulfillment** of **Revelation Chapter 7**.....

It will be the **144,000** who have **been chosen** and **sealed** by God who will carry the

...Kingdom Message to the **ends of the earth**.

As a result of their preaching and testimony.....

....there will be a **great number** saved from the **Gentiles**..... or as Revelation 7:9 states:

“...from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues....”

Another reason that I personally take for God choosing Jewish men to evangelize the world.....

.... is that when a Jewish Person receives Jesus as their Messiah.....

...when a Jewish Person comes to faith and is “**born again**”....

.....you **don't have** just another believer..... you have another evangelist.....

.....**that's what** God had called us to do We're just fulfilling God's calling!

A man who I dearly admire and respect..... Dr. W. A. Criswell....

.....Pastor of the renowned **First Baptist Church** of Dallas, Texas.....

.....distinguished speaker..... outstanding expository
preacher.....teacher...and... evangelist

.....wrote this concerning the reason why God chose Jewish
People to be **His witnesses**....now and during the Tribulation:

“I have never seen one genuinely devout, believing Jew who did not put many Gentile Christians to shame. The Jews are an amazing people. When they turn, they turn completely. We have a marvelous Christian in this church by the name of Lilli Wolff. I want you to get the pamphlet that tells the story of her becoming a believer in Jesus. It reads like another chapter in the Acts of the Apostles. A Jewish preacher, wherever he is, has a certain power with him beyond anything that a Gentile could ever possess. Those twelve apostles, the eleven along with Matthias, were visited with the Holy Ghost of God at Pentecost, and the whole world shook under the impact of their testimony to Christ. We are to see the same thing again. We are to have the Pentecostal baptism of unction and power upon these twelve thousand from each of the elect tribes of Israel, and they are going to witness to the grace of God in such power as the world has never known.”

In summary.....

.....after the 6th seal.... and before the 7th..... God..... who **knows what**
lies ahead.....

..... **saves and seals 144,000 missionaries** from the Jewish People.....

....these Jewish missionaries will be preaching the Gospel during the
remainder of the Tribulation.

Again.... the result will be that a great multitude will be saved.....

....the **saved will be martyred** for their faith..... and will be **added** to the
glorious Company of the Church when the Lord Jesus **returns.**

They will be safe from the "*Awful Day Of The Lord*"..... and will **await** the
Coming of the Messiah in power.

In the meantime..... they stand before the Throne of God..... in
perfect joy..... the "fruit" from the Gospel "Harvest!**"**

We see a wonderful description of their bliss in verses:15-17 of Revelation 7.....



Revelation 7:15 - 17 (NASB) ¹⁵“For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. ¹⁶“They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”

What a wonderful picture of peace.....and joy!

I firmly believe that the fulfillment of the prophecies which we've discussed are near.

Soon the Lord will come to “call out” His own.....

.....all those who look to Jesus and trust Him for their salvation....

And **because** the “Last Trumpet” will **sound shortly**.....

..... **because we who know the Lord will meet Him in the air very soon.....**

....there **must be** an **urgency** in our lives to reach the lost.....

..... we **must** concentrate all of our **time** and **energy** in sharing our faith

....**beginning with** God’s Covenant People....

When we lived and ministered in **Chicago**..... I was standing handing out tracts on the corner of **Devon** and **Western**.

This area is **quite populated** with *Chasidic* Jewish People.

The **tract** I was handing out was **entitled**..... ***“Why Messiah Had To Die?”***

Some people **took** the gospel tracts from me..... **others** just looked at me with **disdain**.

But... all of a sudden..... “Chader”..... Hebrew School let out for the day....

... in a “**flash**” I was surrounded by **20 to 30** young “*Chasidic*” boys.

Each one was reaching for “whatever it was” that I was handing out.

.....One - by - one... I handed each boy a tract.....

....some began reading it right there on the spot..... then **folding it up** and **putting it** in their pockets.....

...**others just grabbed the tract** and ran off home.

Later that evening..... I thought about the incident with the young Jewish boys...

..... my heart “leaped with joy” as it dawned on me that I might have given a gospel tract

to a Jewish boy **who someday might be one of the 144,000!**

Far fetched..... I don't think so.

I am convinced that alive this very day..... throughout the world..... are those **12,000 from the **12 Tribes of Jacob**.....**

My brothers and sisters..... we **don't know how God will use our testimony as we share our faith.....**

..... we don't know..... if that person who we're witnessing to or one that they'll witness to

...will eventually be one of those who will be "called" and "sealed" by God to be His witness during the "Time of Jacob's Trouble"

Ours is but... to be obedient to God.....by proclaiming the message:

"REPENT; REPENT FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND!"

..... to the Jew first and also to the Gentile."