



Brief Review

- We have completed a study of the seven messages that Christ has given to *the Church of God through the ages*.
- These messages also highlight *attitudes* which may be prevalent among us.
- Christ gives us warnings to repent and encourages us to overcome till the end.
- We also studied the major prophetic markers to show us He is in control.
- In the end He will wipe away every tear and will reward the ungodly for their deeds with the second death in the lake of fire (**Rev 21:4, 7-8**).
- It is necessary to watch and pray that *we may be counted worthy* to escape and stand in the presence of the Son of Man (**Luke 21:36; 2 Thes 1:4-5**).
- Part of the Church is protected *before the 5th seal* (before the Great Tribulation).

Brief Review

- The heavenly signs, *the 6th seal*, are the signs which warn mankind of *the coming of the great and terrible Day of the Lord, the wrath of God* (**Rev 6:16-17; Joel 2:31**).

[The Day of the Lord also has an additional meaning: **2 Pet 3:8-10**].

- *Before the 7th seal*, God will protect those who repented *during* the Great Tribulation period.
- *The 7th seal* consists of **7 Trumpets** which last for one year.
- The seventh and last Trumpet symbolizes Christ's coming (**Rev 11:15-19**).
- We studied the brief history of the Church and how it was and is persecuted by Satan (**Rev 12**).
- We studied the two beasts of the end time: One "*rises up out of the sea*" (civil) and the other "*comes up out of the earth*" (religious). **Rev 13:1, 11**.

Revelation 7 – The first 144,000

- If a person speaks of **“the twelve,”** *which twelve* is he referring to?
- Twelve apostles? The twelve tribes? The twelve members of the Council?
- We need to consider the context to determine *which twelve* he is referring to.
- **Context of Rev 7:** God's wrath which begins with the 4 **winds** of the first 4 trumpets is held back till **the sealing of the servants** of our God (Rev 7:1-3).
- These 144,000 are sealed (protected) answering the question **“who is able to stand”** during **“the great day of His wrath”** (Rev 6:16-17).
- The first group of 144,000 mentioned in Rev 7:4-8 is specifically and literally referred to as **physical** descendants of the tribes of Israel, **except the tribe of Dan** (vv. 5-8).
- This **number of Israelites** is presented together with a great multitude which **no one could number of all nations (Gentiles – v.9-12)**.
- “No one could number.” Why?
- Could it be because they are free moral agents and it is up to them to repent or not?
- These are **physical persons**, which come out of the great tribulation (V14).
- “Washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb” (V14; Acts 2:38).



Revelation 7 – The first 144,000

- They have access to God's throne like you and I in a **new and living way** (Rev 7:15; Heb 10:19-20).
- They are protected (Rev 9:4) during the Day of the Lord (God's wrath).
- In **Revelation 13** we see the beasts (civil and religious) influencing and convincing the merchants of international trade, to the point that **“no one can buy or sell except he who has the mark...”** (Rev 13:17).
- These **“shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore, the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. . .”** (Rev 7:16-17).
- Quotation from **Isaiah 49:10:**
- “They shall neither hunger nor thirst, Neither heat nor sun shall strike them; For He who has mercy on them will lead them, Even by the springs of water He will guide them.”
- And its context is the **second Exodus:**
- “Surely these shall come from afar; Look! Those from the north and the west, And these from the land of Sinim” (Is 49:12).



Revelation 14 – The second 144,000

- The story flow of Revelation now picks up in **Rev 14** from **Rev 11:15-19**.
- **Rev 11:15** is the seventh trumpet. Christ takes over **“the kingdoms of this world”**.
- **Rev 11:18** highlights **three major sets of events** during Christ's coming:
- (1) the dead are judged; (2) the reward of the saints; (3) destruction of those who destroy the earth.
- **Rev 14:1** – They are standing on Mount Zion – Therefore they are resurrected.
- Christ is in the middle of them. They are counted worthy to stand before the Son of Man (Luke 21:36).
- The 144,000 belong to the Father; they have the Father's name.
- **Rev 14:2-3** – a song before the four living creatures and the [24] elders (Rev 5:8).
- Will they have access to heaven??? [Gen 28:12; Job 1:6-7; 2:1-3].



Revelation 14 – The second 144,000

- **Rev 14:4** – The 144,000 were bought back (redeemed) from among men (**Rev 5:9**)
- Includes Gentiles.
- Certainly includes Samson (**Heb 11:32**) who was of the tribe of Dan.
- They are **spiritual beings** after resurrection/transformation.
- They are **not physical beings** being protected from the Great Tribulation.
- They are the firstfruits (**James 1:18**).
- For these reasons (among others) these 144,000 of **Rev 14** cannot be the same as the 144,000 of **Rev 7**.
- If those who will rule with Christ are really **only** 144,000, that number is *very small* since the time of righteous Abel.
- **Rev 14:5** – That's why we really need to be "**spiritually pure**", that is, not to be contaminated with the love of this world or to "give in" to sin: We need to keep ourselves morally pure – with no fault before God.
- Are we counted worthy? These overcomers are the true followers of the Lamb!



Revelation 14 – the three angel messages

– Before the destruction of those who destroy the earth...

- **Winners and losers are identified in divine messages given by angels.**
- The good news that judgment has come is openly proclaimed around the world.
- **Rev 14:6-7** - ... All nations will receive the message of the everlasting gospel.
- The good news that God is about to deal with the world with justice, and will now establish His sovereign rule over the world.
- **Rev 14:8** – The imminent fall and destruction of Babylon the Great (**Rev 17-18**) is due to occur now.
- **Rev 14:9-11** – the **losers** of the war for the spiritual control of humanity are identified.
- Their judgment, long awaited by God's servants, will bring an end to God's wrath, (**V 10**) before the holy angels and before the Lamb.



Our perseverance and victory

- **Rev 14:12** – A little message of encouragement to "**hold on**" to the saints. The saints have every reason to be confident of final victory.
- **Rev 14:13** - For now the trials continue, Satan will continue to use his human instruments to deceive, persecute and kill those who really try to obey and serve God (**2 Tim 3:13; Rev 12:11**).
- **Rev 14:14-16** – Re-emphasizes that the saints receive eternal life at this time.
- **Rev 14:17-20** – The wicked and their iniquities will also be removed, as a farmer removes grain from a field with his sickle. And those harvested are thrown "**into the great winepress of the wrath of God**".
- **Rev 15:1** – The seven last plagues complete the wrath of God.
- These seven last plagues are part of the third Woe (**Rev 11:14**).
- Poured out in full strength in the presence of the Lamb (**Rev 14:10**).
- These plagues are comprised of several events, including the gathering together of the kings of the whole world at Armageddon, for the battle of the great day of Almighty God in Jerusalem (**Rev 16:12-16; Zec 14:1-4**).
- **Rev 15:2-4** - The seven last plagues will complete the destruction of Satan's system in this world – Babylon – and "**all nations shall come and worship before God**".


