

Courage for the Great Tribulation

Revelation 7; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 2-27-2022

So how do we apply the gospel to current events?

- God is good:* God is the Supreme Good who created us to be holy and happy like He is.
- Man is bad:* Man is an idol worshiper who rejects the true God and deserves a just punishment.
- Jesus is the key:* Jesus is the double cure who lived and died to deliver us from the penalty and power of sin.
- Faith is essential:* Faith is trust in the promises that rests in Jesus and hopes in God.**
- Love is the goal:* Love is the obedience of faith that desires the good of others and the glory of God.

The Pregnancy of History

It is challenging to understand the flow of history, but one picture can be helpful: pregnancy and its stages.

- The Birth of the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth* (Revelation 21-22)
- Birth Pangs of Early Labor* (Matthew 24:1-7) This is seen in Revelation with the 7 Seals.
- Transition* (Matthew 24:9-26, 32-35). This is seen in Revelation with the 7th Seal which is the 7 Trumpets.
- Pushing* (Matthew 24:27-31, 36-41). This is seen in Revelation with the 7th Trumpet which is the 7 Bowls.
- Be Alert* (Matthew 24:42-51; Luke 21:28)

The Judgment to Come

Revelation 7 is about protection from the wrath of God and from the suffering that comes from identifying with Christ.

- The Four Angels and the Seal of the Living God* (Revelation 7:1-3)
- The Question: Who is able to stand?* (Revelation 6:12-17)
- The Silence before Judgment Falls* (Revelation 8:1-6)
- Application: "I'm OK, You're OK ... Not!"* (Proverbs 30:20)

The Counted Church on Earth

If we have turned from our sin (repentance) and trusted the Lord Jesus as our Lord and Savior (faith), then we do not need to fear the wrath and judgment of God. (Romans 5:6-11)

- *The Counted Israelites and the Preservation of God's People* (Revelation 7:4-8)
- *Numbered Hairs* (Matthew 10:24-39)
- *The Definite Number of the Elect* (Matthew 24:31; 2 Timothy 2:19)
- *Application: Abandonment by Fathers* (1 Peter 5:7)

The Countless Church in Heaven

- *The Great Multitude and the Victory of God's People* (Revelation 7:9-12)
- *The Victory of the Sealed: Overcame by not Loving Their Life* (Revelation 12:7-17)
- *Dying but not Perishing* (Luke 21:12-19)
- *Application: The Testing of Faith* (Daniel 3:13-27)
- *Tested but Protected* (1 Peter 1:3-9)
- *The Greater Victory of the Lamb: Like the Countless Stars in the Heavens* (Genesis 15:1-6)
- *Like the Sand on the Seashore* (Genesis 22:13-18)
- *Believers in Jesus are Sons of Abraham* (Galatians 3:6-9, 26-29; Colossians 1:15-20)

The Great Tribulation and the Greater Joy

- *The Joy Set Before Us* (Revelation 13:17)
- *The Path of the Cross to the Crown* (Romans 8:16-17)
- *Light Affliction and a Weight of Glory* (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)
- *Standing with Great Joy* (Jude 1:24)
- *The Joy of the Baby Eclipses the Pain of Labor* (John 16:20-22)

Holding to the Promises of Sovereign Mercy

The Lamb and the Throne (Revelation 7:17) What has God promised us in Jesus?

- **Peace:** *God is for us!* (Romans 5:1) *For His Suffering People* (Romans 8:31-39)
- **Provision:** *God is with us!* (Romans 5:2a) *With Us* (Matthew 28:19-20) *To Strengthen Us* (2 Corinthians 12:7-10), *To Meet Our Needs* (Matthew 6:25-33), and *To Enable Us to Suffer Well* (Philippians 4:10-19)
- **Pleasures:** *God will be with us!* (Romans 5:2b) *He Will Dwell with Us* (Revelation 21:1-4), *He Will Satisfy Us* (Revelation 22:1-5), *Our Hope is Full and Forever Joy in God* (Psalm 16:1-11)
- **Purpose:** *God is working for our joy!* (Romans 5:3-4) *Working for Our Christlikeness* (Romans 8:28-30), *Working for Our Joy* (James 1:2-4)
- **Perfect Love:** *God loves us fully and forever!* (Romans 5:5) *Just Like He Loves His Own Son* (John 17:23), *Fearless Love* (1 John 4:18)