

SERMON OUTLINE

In Revelation 7:1-8 we are shown 3 realities of God's seal as placed on True Israel, the church of the living God.

- I. God's seal is placed on True Israel before God's judgment is released (vs. 1-3a).
- II. God's seal visibly marks all God's servants as part of True Israel (v. 3b).
- III. God's seal marks every member of True Israel (vs. 4-8).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 29, 2018

Passage: Revelation 7:1-8

Memory Passage: Revelation 6:1-3

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ezekiel 9 & Revelation 7:1-8.** Why does God intend to judge His people (cf. chapter 8)?
- (b) What must one do to escape God's wrath, and how will the executing angels know who should escape (vs. 4-6)?
- (c) With whom is Ezekiel concerned and what is God's response (vs. 8-10)?
- (d) What similarities do you find between Ez. 9 & Rev. 7:1-8 and in what ways are these helpful for understanding 7:1-8?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 7:1-8.** What does the number "4" often symbolize in apocalyptic, and does it have that symbolism here?
- (b) To what do the "four winds" correspond? Where have you already encountered them? Remember: the events portrayed in Revelation are not necessarily presented in chronological order and the "after this" in v. 1 refers to the next part of the vision John saw rather than the timing of the next event represented by the vision, so keep vs. 7:1-8 in the context of 6:1-8:5.
- (c) Who gave the 4 winds "power to harm earth and sea," and inflicting their harm?
- (d) In Revelation, to whom does "servant" always refer (cf. 1:1; 2:20; 6:11; 7:3; 10:7; 11:18; 15:3; 19:2, 5, 10; 22:3, 6, 9)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 7:1-8.** With what are God's servants sealed and why is it necessary (cf. 9:4; 13:16-17; 14:1-5, 9-11; 22:4)?
- (b) What do you learn about believers being sealed from these passages: 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Ephesians 1:13-14, & 4:30?
- (c) Combining what you have learned from Ez. 9 (Day 1), and today's study, summarize in one paragraph what sealing means, why it is important, and its purpose specifically in Revelation.
- (d) Consider the fact that you are a sealed believer. In what ways should this give you courage? In what ways should this give you comfort? In what ways should this cause you to rest? In what ways does this help you keep your priorities straight?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 7:1-8.** Is the number "144,000" to be taken literally or symbolically? Explain and support your answer.
- (b) Compare 7:4-8 with the list in Genesis 35:22b-26. What differences do you see, and what might be the significance of each difference in the context of Revelation (e.g., Judah is listed first, Dan is omitted, etc.)?
- (c) What group does the 144,000 represent? Defend your answer!

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 7:1-8.** In Revelation, the sealing proves God's servants are His (possession) and will be protected spiritually (i.e. will not walk away from their faith but will conquer). Are you sure that you are God's servant, truly saved and on the road to conquering (Romans 8:16)? The following questions are adapted from Greg Beale's *Revelation: A Shorter Commentary* (p. 152), where he helps us consider this question from the context of Revelation: (1) Have you truly believed that the Lamb has purchased you by the price of His blood (Rev. 5:9; 12:11)? (2) Do you desire to keep God's commandments (2:26:12:17; 14:12; 22:3)? (3) Are you so convicted of sin that it leads to repentance and renewal of your relationship with Christ (2:4-5; 3:17-19)? (4) Are you willing to bear witness to the Lamb in the midst of pressures to compromise your faith (6:9, 12:11, 17; 19:10)? "The responses to these four questions have a cumulative effective on one's perception of assurance."

DATE: July 29, 2018

PASSAGE: Revelation 7:1-8

The Saints are Sealed!