

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture texts: **Revelation 7:13-17**.
And one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?" And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. "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 shall spread His tabernacle over them. "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes."
- B. The book of Revelation, which was written in the midst of great persecution, gives us a little picture of victory in chapter seven.

I. THE WORLD LIVES IN TRIBULATION AND GIVES TRIBULATION.

- A. Jesus spoke of the world being a place of tribulation for all (Jn. 16:33).
"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."
- B. Without God, the world is not a very nice place to live. "An atheist may live among believers, but a world full of atheists is too horrible to contemplate" (Bert Thompson).
- C. We are not to be like the pattern of the world (Rom. 12:2).
And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- D. This pattern is told us, by Paul to the church in Ephesus (Eph. 2:1-3; 4:14).
(Eph 2:1-3) And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.
(Eph 4:14) As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;
- E. Jesus said that the world will give us troubles because it gave Him trouble (Jn. 15:18-19).
"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."
- F. Some of the tribulation Xians experience is because they are in X (Rev. 1:9).
I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos, because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

II. WE ESCAPE THE TRIBULATION OF THE WORLD BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.

- A. Not only is there persecution in X, but also the deliverance is there (Rev. 1:9).
- B. There is no escape of the ultimate tribulation of eternal death, except by JC (Heb. 2:3).
how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,
- C. We are transplanted from one kingdom to another when we are baptized (Col. 1:13-14).
For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- D. We have been saved, while sinners, by the blood of X (Rom. 5:9-10).
Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.
- E. Interesting note about Rev. 7:14. It cannot be interpreted literally due to nothing washed in blood comes out white!

III. IN CHRIST WE ENJOY MANIFOLD BLESSINGS.

- A. Revelation 7:15, 16, 17 are parallel to the three great blessings of Chapters 21 and 22.
- B. When one comes to X, leaving the world, they experience three great blessings from God; fellowship, provision, and protection.
- C. Rev. 7:15 speaks of God's fellowship with man. We will reside with Him in the tabernacle.
"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 shall spread His tabernacle over them."
- D. Rev. 7:16 speaks of God's provision for man. We will have all of our needs satisfied.
"They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun beat down on them, nor any heat;
- E. Rev. 7:17 speaks of God's protection of man. We will no longer fear and persecution or tribulation.
for the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes."

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The verb tense used in 7:14 is that of the present. Meaning that even today, like in the first century and every century in between, many are coming out of the great tribulation. Many are coming out of the world.
- B. They are doing so by washing their robes (lives, see Rev. 19:8) in the blood of Jesus.
And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.
Baptism is where we contact the blood of X, and wash our sins away (Rom. 6:3-4; Ac. 22:16).
(Rom 6:3-4) Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
(Ac 22:16) 'And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'
- C. We invite you, by X's invitation to come out of the world today.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.