

DAY 22: THE FUTURE AGE-ENDING PERSECUTION OF JEWS AND CHRISTIANS

I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

- A. [Revelation 7](#) heavily relies on the prophecies of the Old Testament
- B. It does not provide new information, rather a new way of compiling the information so that we may better understand it
- C. The main themes of [Revelation 7](#) is the preservation of God's people during the final persecution of the Jews and Gentile believers who stand with them
 - 1. Our love and identification with the Jewish people is because of our love and identification with Jesus
- D. Preservation does not mean escape or protection from suffering
- E. We are marked to be saved through suffering
- F. Similar to [Exodus](#), the people of God will be preserved from judgement events are being poured out on the Antichrist and his armies

II. A FRAMEWORK FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ISRAEL

- A. As the Antichrist is attacking Israel, God is pouring out judgement events on the Antichrist, similar to what we see in [Exodus](#)
 - 1. A tyrannical leader is persecuting the Jewish people, the Lord pours out judgement events on the Earth, while also protecting His people
- B. Even though we are not the target of the judgement, we will most certainly be affected by them
- C. The 144,000 are the first fruits of the redeemed ([Revelation 14](#))
 - 1. During the judgement events, they will marked with the power of God
 - 2. First fruits: redeemed, Jewish people
- D. Context of preservation:
 - 1. [Jeremiah 30-33](#): Jacob's trouble
 - 2. [Zechariah 14](#): all nations attempting to destroy Jerusalem
 - 3. [Isaiah 4](#): All who survive will be made holy
 - 4. [Zechariah 12](#): mourning in the land
 - 5. [Daniel 7-9, 11-12](#): the rising up of the little horn who seeks to destroy Israel
- E. Although there are 144,000 mentioned, it is unlikely that is is the exact number that will be marked
 - 1. Since they are called the "first fruits," there are more that follow

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2. 144,000 being marked is a threefold statement about the preservation of Israel's identity
 - a) National
 - b) Ethnic
 - c) Territorial
3. The harvesting of the first fruits (Israel) gives way to a massive harvest of Gentiles

III. THE FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES AMIDST JACOB'S TROUBLES

- A. The fullness of the Gentiles will come into the fullness of Israel ([Romans 11](#))
- B. "The fullness of the Gentiles" comes first from [Ezekiel](#) ([Luke 21](#), [Romans 11](#))
 1. Quantity: numerical, massive ingathering ([Revelation 7:9](#))
 2. Quality: describes who the people are that are coming in ([v. 13-14](#))
 - a) People who have counted the cost and paid it
- C. We are called to Biblical realism
 1. Amidst great persecution, there will be massive harvest
 2. When we see these events start to play out, we know how to move forward, we already have the instructions
- D. Out of Jacob's trouble (tribulation) come saints clothed in white robes ([v. 14](#))
 1. [Daniel 7, 11](#)
 2. [Jeremiah 30-33](#)
 3. [Isaiah](#)

IV. THE CHURCH AT THE END OF THE AGE

"They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; for they did not love their lives to the point of death." ([Revelation 12:11](#))

So the dragon was furious with the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring[[g](#)][—](#)those who keep the commands of God and hold firmly to the testimony about Jesus. ([Revelation 12:17](#))

- A. "The woman" = Israel
- B. The devil, at the end of the age, will have "great fury and wrath" is a direct quote from [Daniel 8](#)
- C. [Revelation 7](#) teaches us that there is a plan for every tribe of the Nation of Israel, and every tribe, tongue, and nation worldwide during the Great Tribulation
- D. As believers, we are called to stand with the Nation of Israel when they are the center of persecution at the End of the Age
- E. Obedience is the love language of Jesus
- F. The Lord is calling us to love His people, Israel, to pour out our lives with them