Sermon Series: **Israel: Past, Present, Future**

11/15/26, "Great Incoming," Revelation 7:1-8, 9-17, NLT

INTRODUCTION *If you knew Satan were trying to separate you from Jesus—by frustration, distraction, fear—what would you do?*

Ch. 7 an interruption between events of chs. 6 & 8

Ch 6: Lamb opens 4 seals: 4 horsemen of the apocalypse

5th seal: martyrs under altar

6th seal: great earthquake, sun black, moon blood red, stars fall; men (great & kings) hid in caves, "Hide us from the wrath of the Lamb"

7th broken in ch. 8: silence leading to 7 trumpets

MAIN IDEA: Love Jesus more than anything else. Why? Here are three reasons.

I. First, He suffers with us (1)

A. restrains from pouring out His wrath

NOW B. so more can be rescued by faith

C. testing faith…*proving to us our faith*

D. testing our hearts…*a heart after God (David vs. Saul)*

THEN E. so that His own can be sealed for protection

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, He seals His people (2-3)

Sealed (*sphragizo*): to close up & make fast; for security; identifies authenticity & being approved (***spiritual***)

A. believers sealed today (**Eph. 4:30**)

B. Jews in that day (4-8)…*Messianic Jews*

1. keeping His promise to Abraham (*many saved*)
2. some believe all Israel, but I & others believe some
3. 144,000 represents God's saved people, not limited to that number

C. sealing protects

1. from God's judgment
2. from demonic forces released (**Rev. 9:1-10**)
3. from demons today (*possession, authority over*)
4. does not protect from suffering physically

D. as opposed to Satan's marking (666, **Rev. 13:16**)

Mark: a badge of servitude; to engrave, cut in or stamp (***physical***)

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Third, He brings us home (9, heaven)

A. from all over…*now & during great tribulation*

1. 3½ years God judges world that has rejected Him
2. world ruled by antichrist (*spirit of antichrist today*)
3. Satan will kill Jews & Christians
4. we are unsure if these died, raptured, lived through

B. God cares for His children in His presence (heaven)

1. wash clean/white by Jesus' blood
2. reward as victors (palm branches)
3. provide shelter
4. quench hunger & thirst
5. protect from the sun
6. shepherd
7. give living water
8. wipe away tears

C. all will worship Him & celebrate Him (10, 12)

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

We will enjoy this care from God if we hold fast to Jesus until we die. We are sealed for God's same purpose today.

ALTAR: "Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Let us worship & celebrate our God