

9/24/23 “Soul Saving Continues,” Revelation 7, MEV

INTRODUCTION: Know people who fear God’s rejection?

Girl: conflict in home growing up, believes her life is a mistake, destined for pain all her life

MAIN IDEA: Think often about salvation. Why? Because it is each person’s greatest need & God’s greatest concern. Here are three facts about salvation.

I. First, God seals those who are saved (1-8)

Ephesians 4:30, MEV: And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you are sealed for the day of redemption.

- A. ensures deliverance from His judgment
- B. protects against demonic forces (not their influence, tempting, lying, or persecution)

Who are the 144,000?

1. Indicated here, Jews from the 12 tribes (no one knows why tribes named here different from other lists...Dan left out).
2. Represents a perfect number...may be literal, may be symbolic.
3. Some think includes church.
4. Beware of antisemitism. God still loves Israel.

Romans 11:25-26, MEV: a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved

REASON IT MATTERS: REASSURES US

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, God saves people from all backgrounds (9-14)

Salvation: *soteria* = safety, deliverance, preservation from danger or destruction (*Zodhiates*)

- A. from His judgment...condemnation
- B. multitudes will be saved during the great tribulation (not some fixed number excluding some)

Tribulation: literally means pressure (*Strong’s*)

1. Tribulation: 7 years

Daniel 9:27, NLT: The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration...

2. Great Tribulation: 3½ years
- C. God will use this “pressure” to save (wash people)
 1. will make mortality more immediate
 2. will emphasize the need to decide

Can those be saved who refused Jesus before the rapture? Differences of opinion.

1. Clear that some are so hard-hearted that they will not be (Rev. 9:21, 16:9, 11, 21)
2. Some before Tribulation are this hard-hearted (2Thess. 2:10-12)
3. These scriptures do not discount that most hear the gospel more than once before receiving Christ. I do not believe that this “work” of the Spirit will cease with the Rapture.

REASON IT MATTERS: OFFERS HOPE TO ALL

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Finally, God comforts His people (15-17)

- A. we are accepted (He will live with us)
- B. we will have purpose...serving Him
- C. our needs will be met: no hunger, thirst; protection from sun (not strike nor scorch); shepherded (protected, taken care of, provided for); comforted & healed of our sorrows

REASON IT MATTERS: ENCOURAGES US TO PERSEVERE

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

ALTAR: Salvation? Fear being rejected, come to altar. Rejoice