

**“TRIBULATION INTERLUDE: SALVATION”**

There is something else that is very interesting and powerful **in the different order of the names of these tribes in Revelation 7.** And this becomes all the more interesting ... when exploring and unlocking the meaning of their names ...

<b>Birth Order (mother)</b>	<b>Rev Order / Meaning</b>
Reuben (Leah)	Judah <b>Gen 29:35</b> 'Praise the Lord'
Simeon (Leah)	Reuben <b>Gen 29:32</b> 'Behold a Son!'
Levi (Leah)	Gad <b>Gen 30:11</b> 'Good fortune'
Judah (Leah)	Asher <b>Gen 30:13</b> 'Happy & blessed'
Dan (Bilhah)	Naphtali <b>Gen 30:8</b> 'Wrestling & struggles'
Naphtali (Bilhah)	Manasseh <b>Gen 41:51</b> 'Caused me to forget'
Gad (Zilpah)	Simeon <b>Gen 29:33</b> 'Heard'
Asher (Zilpah)	Levi <b>Gen 29:34</b> 'Joined / associated with him'
Issachar (Leah)	Issachar <b>Gen 30:18</b> 'Rewarded'
Zebulan (Leah)	Zebulun <b>Gen 30:20</b> 'A dwelling / habitation'
Joseph (Rachel)	Joseph <b>Gen 30:24</b> 'Adding'
Benjamin (Rachel)	Benjamin <b>Gen 35:18</b> 'The Son of the right hand'

**As we previously stated, historically it was always the role of the Jews to be a witness for God to the nations.** They were to be a light as the people of God ... but they failed in that task. God, however, has a long memory and has ways of fulfilling His plans despite our failure. So, God isn't through with the Jews. **They will fulfil the mission God has for them ... in the coming Tribulation period.**

*WHAT IS THE MESSAGE FROM GOD TO THE WORLD ... that will be coming from the sealed 12 tribes of Israel during the Tribulation period?*

Revelation 7:5-8 (NIV) ... **“From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, (6) from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000, (7) from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000, (8) from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, from the tribe of Joseph 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.”**

**SO, WHAT STORY DO THEIR NAMES TELL ... WHEN THEY (YOU) RECEIVE THE GOSPEL PERSONALLY – BY FAITH?**

**“Praise the Lord! Behold a Son! (What) good fortune! (I am) happy and blessed! (My) wrestling and struggles, (He) caused me to forget. (He) heard (me). (I am) joined and associated with Him. (I am) rewarded (with) a dwelling and habitation (with Him), adding (to me) the Son of the right hand!”**

 **“SHOUT CUE”!!!**

**That is every Christian's story is it not?** We have all gone through struggles, we have all wrestled with dark situations. Yet, those difficult times from the past fade away when we come to know the Lord. We come to know ... that we are joined to Him, we are rewarded in Him, and have an everlasting dwelling with Him!

Imagine also for a moment ... the experience of these 144,000 Jewish believers **when they finally come to know Yeshua (Jesus), as their Messiah and Savior!** The difficulty they experience will be eclipsed by knowing that they have experienced salvation and found the purpose for living-knowing Jesus Christ, their Messiah!

**Think also of what the nation of Israel will experience as a whole ... when they look to the One they pierced and experience salvation at the end of the Tribulation.** They will finally understand their last 2000 years of history as a people. They will understand why ... they were scattered amongst the nations, why they were persecuted, why they haven't been allowed to find rest **until they found their rest and dwelling in the Redeemer and Messiah ... the Lord Jesus Christ!**

## The Result of Their Work - The Great Multitude

Revelation 7:9-12 (NIV) ... “After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. (10) And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” (11) All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, (12) saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

This passage is tied to the start of Revelation 7 and can be seen as the result of the work of the 144,000 Jews. From 70 A.D, Jews were scattered, and are now found, in all the countries of the world. Some have felt the compulsion to go back to the land of Israel ... but the Bible teaches that many will remain in the nations **and be regathered at the end of the Tribulation.**

- **WARNING:** REMEMBER THE WORDS OF JESUS in (Revelation 3:9) ... *“Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie — indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.”*

So these 144,000 Jews of Revelation chapter 7 will be evangelists in all the nations ... and will fulfill the word spoken by Jesus where He says: **“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”** (Matthew 24:14)

## Identity of the Multitude

Revelation 7:13-14 (NIV) ... “Then one of the elders asked me, ‘These in white robes -- who are they, and where did they come from?’ (14) I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

**So, who are these ones in heaven and where did they come from?** That is the question of the elder to John, and yet John doesn't know the answer. He doesn't recognize them so he can only say ... *'um, Well, you know'*. The answer is that they have come **out** of the Great Tribulation. They didn't come out **before it** ... but from within it.

***So this multitude are tribulation saints ... from every nation that have given their life for their belief in the Lord Jesus having rejected the mark of the beast.*** They are martyrs ... who believed the message preached and did not bow down to the Antichrist. They are now arriving, one after the other in an ongoing manner, into heaven. And their arrival will continue right throughout the Great Tribulation period.

## **Graduation - Anticipating The Eternal Rest**

Revelation 7:15-17 ... **“Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. (16) Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. (17) For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”**

As we read this passage, think about the contrast for these saints. Like I mentioned earlier, they have just come out of the Great Tribulation ... so this will literally be their experience:

- They have come from the most dramatic and fearful time ever known on earth, to now stepping into the eternal peace of heaven, never to experience fear again!
- They have come from not being able to buy and sell, to having all they will ever want or need!
- They have come from being hungry and thirsty, to never thirsting or suffering hunger ever again!
- They have come from being alone and on the run, to standing in the presence of the Great Shepherd, the Lamb and myriads of heavenly saints and angels!
- They have come from tears, sorrow and heartache on earth, to God wiping away every tear from their eyes in heaven... and for all time!

***What a contrast they will experience! But also what a contrast we, as believers today, will experience.*** Their hope, destination and heavenly experience ... is the same hope, destination and heavenly experience of every true believer!

## **Conclusion**

So what have we seen? We've seen that Revelation chapter 7 is an answer to the question raised in the last verse of chapter 6 - ***'...the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?'*** It is an overview of salvation and what we have seen is that **two groups will be able to stand.** There are 144,000 Jews specifically sealed, protected and given a ministry as servants of the living God. **God is not through with the Jew, and the tribulation will lead to the salvation of the Jewish nation.**

And these 144,000 who have come to know Yeshua (Jesus) as their Messiah ... will be used mightily during these dark days to lead many to Christ and eternal life. ***Finally fulfilling, their original purpose and calling ... for being chosen by God!***

## **GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE \*\*\***

### **1. Chosen to Be God's Special People (Covenant Relationship)**

👉 Purpose: God chose Israel to belong uniquely to Him—set apart in relationship, not because of merit, but because of His love and covenant faithfulness. Deuteronomy 7:6–8, Exodus 19:5–6, Leviticus 20:26

### **2. Chosen to Be a Light to the Nations**

👉 Purpose: Israel was chosen to reveal God to the world—to be a living testimony of His truth, character, and salvation. Isaiah 42:6, Isaiah 49:6, Zechariah 8:23

### **3. Chosen to Display God's Glory**

👉 Purpose: Israel exists to bring God glory, reflecting His name, fame, and praise in the earth. Isaiah 43:7, Isaiah 43:21, Jeremiah 13:11

### **4. Chosen to Receive and Preserve God's Word**

👉 Purpose: Israel was entrusted with the oracles of God—to receive, live out, and preserve divine revelation. Romans 3:1–2, Psalm 147:19–20, Deuteronomy 4:5–8

### **5. Chosen to Bring Forth the Messiah**

👉 Purpose: Through Israel, God brought Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world—the ultimate fulfillment of His redemptive plan. Genesis 12:3, Isaiah 11:1, Romans 9:4–5

### **6. Chosen to Demonstrate Holiness and Righteous Living**

👉 Purpose: Israel was to model holy living, showing the nations what life under God's rule looks like. Leviticus 19:2, Deuteronomy 28:9–10, Exodus 19:6

### **7. Chosen to Bless All Nations**

👉 Purpose: Israel was never chosen for exclusivity alone—but to become a channel of blessing to the entire world. Genesis 12:1–3, Genesis 18:18, Psalm 67:1–2

### **8. Chosen to Demonstrate God's Faithfulness**

👉 Purpose: Through Israel's history, God reveals that He keeps His promises—even through human weakness. Deuteronomy 7:9, Joshua 21:45, 1 Kings 8:56

***The Result of This Revelation Fulfillment ... is the other group that 'stands' (the rest of the redeemed of the Gentile world) ... who come from every nation and tribe and tongue!***

They stand strong in the faith and though they will lose their temporal earthly life ... ***they will find eternal life and their graduation to heaven will see them stand before the Lamb, in perfect spotless garments, receiving a great eternal reward!***

- J. Vernon McGee speaking of this time wrote ... *“the greatest days of God's salvation are in the future.”*

**That is true. There is salvation in Tribulation. Praise God that He never stops saving, even if it comes in the darkest of days!**

***NEXT ... REVELATION CHAPTER 8 ...***