

SAFE!

Part 4 of THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN. Revelation 7:1-8.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. March 5, 2023.

INTRODUCTION: REVIEW

Today's message is: We are kept safe through the hard times.

REVELATION 7:1-10

God's powerful angels: After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. 2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

God's people are sealed: 4 And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: 5 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad, 6 12,000 from the tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh, 7 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar, 8 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

God's people worship: 9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

WE ARE SAFE. BECAUSE ...

1. We are safe because God is supreme - verse 1.

- We may misunderstand the authority of Satan and his minions.

- Satan does exactly what the one supreme God allows.

Revelation 7:1 (ESV) After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree.

- God's angels have more authority than evil angels.

- We're safe in Christ and have authority over Satan and the evil powers.

Ephesians 2:6 (ESV) ... and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus ...

James 4:7 (ESV) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Ephesians 6:11 (ESV) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

2. We are safe because God has sealed us - verses 2-3.

- The seal is a mark of ownership. We belong to Jesus.

Revelation 5:9 (ESV) you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God ... (See also 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

- The mark on our forehead is the name of Jesus and the Father:

Revelation 14:1 (ESV) Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

- We're sealed by the Holy Spirit who works resilience into us:

Ephesians 1:13-14 (ESV) you ... when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

- Imagine you're one of those first century Christians in Turkey ...

Isaiah 43:1-3 (ESV) Thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. 3 For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

3. We are safe because we are God’s covenant people - verses 4-8.

- The 12 tribes of Israel are symbolic of the church - see parallel in verse 9.
- 12 tribes tells us 1) this is the whole church, 2) we are God’s covenant folk.

Revelation 21:7 (ESV) The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son (cf. Hebrews 8:8-12).

- In Revelation 14, the 144,000 are obviously Christian believers:

Revelation 14:1-5 (ESV) Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads... 4 ... It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed ...

- The number 144,000 is symbolic of totality = the whole church. Huge:

Revelation 7:9-10 (ESV) After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages ...

CONCLUSION: GOOD NEWS!

- **Chapter 7 is such good news for every Christian.**

John 10:27-29 (ESV) “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.”

- **Stand firm knowing you are sealed and kept safe.**

CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

Review Sunday's teaching on Revelation 7:1-8.

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Summarize the main ideas in your own words.

Prayerfully apply the teachings of Revelation 7:1-8.

- How will Peter's interpretation of Revelation 7 help you endure in faith through the hard times?
- In what ways does Revelation 7:1-8 help you lean more on Jesus and less on yourself to weather the storms of life?
- Seals and slavery are not necessarily an "acceptable" way to talk in our culture. What symbols or pictures might be more helpful in communicating with a modern audience about being safe in Jesus.

Pray together. Be bold.

Great, redeeming, Savior God, we praise you for the Lamb of God who has redeemed us from sin and Satan by his blood. Thank you for sealing us and writing your name on our foreheads to guarantee that we belong to you, and that you are protecting us. You have bound yourself to us by an unbreakable covenant, and you will ensure that we prevail in faith through every hardship of life. Please give us more grace to stand firm in faith and to never compromise our commitment to Christ. We pray these things in Jesus' name and for your glory. Amen!

Preparation for Next Sunday.

- Blessed: Chapter 5.
- William Still: <http://tapesfromscotland.org/Audio4/4234.mp3>.