

PASTOR: Kip McCormick

DATE: August 18, 2024

SERIES: Rev'd Up

SERMON: Sealed and Protected

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Revelation 7: 1-17 (NASB)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE: Genesis 13:14-15; Matthew 19:28; Acts 1:6-8;
Romans 11:25-26,29; Ephesians 1:13-14; Isaiah 41:10

MESSAGE TAKEAWAY: During times of tribulation and difficulties, God always protects His people.



SUPPORTING THOUGHTS:

- Revelation 7's Interlude: The interlude reminds us that God is good and sovereign; that He'll protect His people.
- The four points of the compass combined with the four winds of the earth symbolize God turning off, for a brief intermission, His judgments that affect man, land, and sea.
- The seal would show three things: 1) Identification (this was from the king himself); 2) Ownership (the king owned what was sealed); and 3) Protection (the contents that were sealed were protected).
- First Group to be saved is 144,000: a hyper-evangelist group of redeemed Jews who are instrumental in the salvation of the rest of the world remaining in the Tribulation.
- Their mission: to 1) evangelize the post-rapture world and 2) proclaim the gospel during the tribulation period.
- From Genesis to Revelation God uses 12 tribes with various names and orders. The existence and distinction of the tribes is not eliminated after the resurrection of Jesus. God is not done with Israel.
- Second group to be saved is too big to count, from every nation, tribe, people and language.
- Palm branches represent celebration, deliverance and jubilation.
- Royal imagery in Revelation: that Christ is King, He's worthy to open the seals, He has sealed us with His Holy Spirit, and the result is that we should worship Him.
- The martyrs will not face God's wrath. They'll face the wrath of those who hate God.
- Jesus, the Good Shepherd, gives us daily care, guidance and provision. Because He's the source of living water, we'll never thirst in His presence.

SUPPORTING THOUGHTS (CONTINUED):

- ¹³ *In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14)*
- Sealed: God marks us as His own.

CHALLENGE: Remember that you are sealed. *“Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10 (1984 NIV)*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What part of Kip’s teaching challenged you?
- What is the significance of the sealing?
- Why is it important that the 144,000 are sealed on the forehead?
- What does this passage show us about the nation of Israel?
- What if the rapture of the church didn’t occur. How could this passage give you hope?
- Read Ephesians 1:13-14. If a seal can’t be removed, how does that motivate you to live your life no matter how good or difficult the circumstances?
- Discuss our Revelation series thus far. What has this series motivated you to do...or not do? Have you seen changes in your life/outlook/character because of this amazing letter? Share with the group.

Sources: **Eliyahu Lizorkin-Eyzenberg**, Israel Bible Center (multiple books and commentaries); **Gotquestions.org**; **Michael Heiser** (Naked Bible Podcast; *Unseen Realm* and multiple books); **Life Application Study Bible** Commentary, Revelation; **John MacArthur** (multiple books, sermons, study bible; Grace to You Ministries); **Chuck Swindoll** (New Testament Commentary – Revelation); Through the Word Bible App.