

REVELATION: Lesson 83
Chapter 7: 1-8, Who Are the Tribulation Witnesses?

22 June 2020

Old Testament prophecies Speak of the Time When Israel Will Obey God's Command to Witness:

Jonah: The story of Jonah is a complete picture of the Jew's commission to preach to the Gentiles.

Habakkuk 3:1-2 Key words: "Revive thy work in the midst of the years." "In wrath remember mercy."
The Jews receive their commission in the midst of the opening of the seals between the 6th and 7th seal in Revelation 7.

FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH. (Rev 7:1, Isa 11:12, Ezek 7:2)

North The Earth is spherical (Isa 40:22), but the land on the earth has 4 directions, and therefore
East 4 corners.
West
South

FOUR WINDS OF THE EARTH (Rev 7:1)

Wind is used by God as an instrument of judgment:

Job 1:18-19, 38:24	Daniel 7:2, 8:8, 11:4
Isaiah 41:16	Zechariah 2:6
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 18:17, 49:32-36	Matthew 24:31
Ezekiel 5:2, 12:14	

God's angels control the **wind** (Rev 7:1), **fire** (Rev 14:18, 16:8), and **water** (Rev 16:4-5). Mother Nature is a myth.

THINGS THAT COME FROM THE EAST (Rev 7:2):

Civilization of the whole earth:	Genesis 11:1 , mankind came from the east to the land of Shinar where they attempted to build the Tower of Babel. Genesis 3:22-24 , Adam and Eve were driven out of Eden toward the east. That is why civilization came from the east (Gen 11:1) toward Shinar.
The false prophet Balaam:	Numbers 23:7 , Balaam traveled from the east to curse Israel.
False religions from the east:	Isaiah 2:5-6 , eastern religions corrupted Israel.
The armies of the east:	Revelation 16:12 , at the Battle of Armageddon, the enemy armies come from the east.
The wise men:	Matthew 2:1-2 . Follow the light that God gives you.
Christ at the Second Advent:	Matthew 24:27, Isaiah 41:1-2, Ezekiel 43:1-2 .

THE 144,000 JEWISH MALE VIRGINS ARE SEALED (Vs 4, Rev. 14:4)

Notice that God lists the tribes according to the order of events of the final days before the Second Advent:

- 1) **JUDA:** "Confession" or "praise to God." This is the first thing Israel will do.
- 2) **REUBEN:** "Viewing the son." The Jews will know that Jesus is the Son of God, their Messiah.
- 3) **GAD:** "A company" or "a troop" (Gen 30:11). The Jews will go forth as a group to witness.
- 4) **ASER:** "Blessed by God's grace." God will bless the Jewish remnant.
- 5) **NEPTHALIM:** "Wrestler" or "striving with." The 144,000 will go forth to battle.
- 6) **MANASSES:** "Forgetfulness." The Lord will make reconciliation with Israel (Daniel 9:24).
- 7) **SIMEON:** "Hearing" and "obeying." (The words of their God).
- 8) **LEVI:** "Joining," "cleaving to." (Gen 29:34). The Jews will be with their Messiah in His kingdom.
- 9) **ISSACHAR:** "Reward." The Jews will be rewarded in their land, fulfilling the Abrahamic Covenant.
- 10) **ZABULON:** "A home" or "a dwelling place."
- 11) **JOSEPH:** "Added" or "an addition." God added an additional promise through the Davidic Covenant (Christ ruling and reigning on David's throne).
- 12) **BENJAMIN:** "Son of the right hand" or "son of old age." Speaks of God's Only Begotten Son, the Ancient of days reigning at Jerusalem.

WHO'S MISSING?

DAN: Means "judging." The Jewish remnant will not be judging. The Church will judge (1 Cor 6:2).

EPHRAIM: Means "increase." The Jewish remnant is a fixed number (144,000). They'll not multiply. Also, God's original covenants will be fulfilled. There will not be any new covenants added.

THE IDOLATRY OF DAN AND EPHRAIM

DAN: Judges 17, 18

EPHRAIM: Hosea 4:17-19

If God can't trust you to live right today, He won't take a chance with you tomorrow.

God warned Israel not to worship other gods (Deuteronomy 29:14-18).

God's judgment against idolatry and blasphemy is severe (Leviticus 24:10-16). The blasphemous man was killed and his mother was named and shamed for all eternity (See Proverbs 10:1, 15:20, 17:25).

WHY DOES THE LIST OF TRIBES DIFFER BETWEEN EZEKIEL 48 AND REVELATION 7? Because of Romans 11:29.

- This is not a contradiction.
- Two tribes lost their place of service (Rev 7), but they didn't lose what God promised them (Ezek 48).
- Today Christians can lose their place of service (1 Cor 9:27), but not their eternal life, which is a gift (Romans 6:23).

The sealed witnesses cannot die. This is pictured in **Numbers 31:1-7, 48-49** where none of Israel's troops died.

When the Christian's spiritual battles are over, all will survive. When the Roll is Called up Yonder, I'll be There!