

- **INTRODUCTION**

1. Review - 6th seal - Rv 6:12-17 The 7th seal - 8:1
2. Chpt 7 = parenthesis - to inform & encourage.
  - i. Rv 7:1-8 church on earth: sealed & safe.
  - ii. v9-11 heaven - great multitude in white robes w/ angels: worship
3. An elder asks Jn two questions: v13. Who & Where?
  - a. Last time - Who? - Rv 3:4-6; 19:8 Their identity.
  - b. Today - Where? Their history. 7:14

**1st: The History of the Disembodied Saints: Overcomers Thru Tribulation**

1. Elder asks: *Where have they come from?* [v13].
2. Jn answers: *My Lord*. Respect. Apostates *revile* - Jd 1:8,10
  - i. Jn speaks w/ an *Elder* - representative of the redeemed
  - ii. See white-robed people & hear them speak language of worship: v10.
3. *My Lord you know - v14a come out of the great tribulation: coming out by being brought out* : having been sealed, they move thru & out of tribulation
4. Dan 12:1-3 *time of distress* [Grk OT: *tribulation*]: *rescued* - how? resurrection [cf. Mat 13:34] *Tribulation* = time preceding the resurrection
5. Mrk 13:19-27 unprecedented *tribulation*: outward pressure; affliction, oppression, "trouble" distress; suffering, pain, difficulty, hardship

**2nd: Our Present Time of Tribulation**

1. Tribulation "already" - Jn 16:33
2. Acts - *affliction*: Israel's bondage; Xns persecution - A 14:22
3. Paul uses *tribulation* 23x & 21x describes Xn life in this age. Rm 8:35
4. John Rv - 1:9; 2:9-10; 2:22 Tribulation - testing.

**3rd: A Coming Time of Great Tribulation**

1. Rv 2:22 & 7:14 ref to *great tribulation* & in 7:14, the great tribulation.
2. Mat 24:21 *great* [mega] *tribulation* = unprecedented & unique. There are degrees of tribulation w/ *the great tribulation* [Rv 7:14] as culmination.
3. "Not Yet": birth contractions - Rm 8:22; Mt 24:8
4. Rv 3:10 *the hour of testing: global - all on earth*. Connect *test & tribulation*
5. Rv 20:12 Satan let loose *for a short time* after *1K yrs*

#### **Applic #1: The Approaching Storm**

1. J tells of the wise & foolish builders [Mt 7:24-27]
2. Mat 16:2-3 is the morning sky red? Mohler *The Gathering Storm* [2020]
3. Tribulation is "already" & "not yet".

#### **Applic #2: Now is the Time to Prepare**

1. How to prepare?
2. Rm 5:1-5 tells us how we to live in *tribulation* - with hope [inclusio]
  - i. we *exult* [2x]: boast w/ triumphant confidence: 1] hope in God's glory & 2] in our tribulations?!? Lk6:22-23. Why? *knowing*
  - ii. Tribulation works w/ hope: *brings about* - personal transformation
    - a. *perseverance*
    - b. *proven character* - [KJV *experience*; ASV; *approvedness*]
    - c. *hope - does not disappoint*
  - iii. b/c we are loved by God that is communicated to us by Spirit.
3. Persevering faith in tribulation en route to the *the glory of God!*