

Sermon Questions

Revelation 7

This week we studied Revelation 7 and what takes place after the great tribulation. For over 150 years the evangelical church has mainly been taught a pre-tribulation rapture of the saints, which theorizes the church will be raptured and then the 70th week of Daniel will begin. Some have been taught that Jesus returns at the midpoint of the seven years and still others believe He will return at the end. This week we took the time to set a context for what the Scriptures said would happen. God desires for us to know what to expect in the last days and therefore has given us His Word to study. May the truth of this week's message stir your hearts to love God more.

Here are some notes to review from this week's sermon...

After the Great Tribulation

Revelation 7

Review and Foundations

- **Scriptural Foundations**
- **Theological Foundations**
- **Historical Foundations**

After the Great Tribulation...

The angels will be given instruction (1-3)

144,000 Jews will be sealed from God's wrath (4-8)

The resurrection and the rapture will occur (9-17)

Hearing the Word of God and responding to Him is extremely important. If you haven't had the chance to listen to the message from this week you can now watch it here. After watching, please use the following questions (if you find them helpful) in your BRAVE groups (now online every weekday) or discuss them with your family and/or friends. If you are not in a BRAVE Group now is a great time to get involved. Please email to info@bravechurch.co and we will get you connected with a community that will work for you.

Questions

1. What is the difference between an open-handed and closed-handed theological issue? What are some close-handed issues that we must always maintain in the church? What are some of the open-handed issues that the church is still debating?

Can we still have convictions about close-handed issues? How should we treat one another when we disagree?

2. When God provides His Word should we be able to understand what He shares with us? What have been some of your personal challenges with understanding eschatology? If God wants us to understand something should He make it clear?
3. What are some of the similarities of Matthew 24 and Revelation 6? What same truths are taught in both passages? How significant are the similarities of what is being taught?
4. How does Joel 2:31 and Malachi 4:5 highlight some precursors BEFORE the great and terrible Day of the LORD? Have these things prophesied taken place yet?
5. What does Paul tell the church in 2 Thessalonians 2 when they are concerned they missed the coming of the LORD? How significant is this teaching? How similar is this teaching to what Jesus taught?
6. If Jesus, John and Paul demonstrate that signs must happen before Jesus returns then why do people still teach Jesus can come at any time? Since there are no Scriptures that teach the imminent return of Christ and Bible teachers tell us there is no Scripture that teaches that truth then why are so many people dogmatic about it? How can an imminent return of Christ be true if not one Scripture supports it?
7. Is there any theological foundation that promises that the church will not suffer? How many martyrs have there been since the death of Christ? How would the application of a pre-trib rapture potentially be offensive to people who have suffered great loss?
8. How has God worked with the church and Israel at the same time in the past? Are Israel and the church the same entity? Can the church claim every promise that was made to Israel? What should be the church's attitude towards Israel and the Jews? Why should we as believers be pro-Israel and pro-Jewish? What is Jesus' ethnicity?
9. When did the teaching on the imminent return of Christ begin? Why has it been promoted for the past 150+ years? Why do Philippians 3:10, Titus 2:13 and other texts not teach the imminent return of Christ? Why didn't Peter believe in the imminent return of Christ (see John 21:18-19)? Why didn't Paul believe in the imminent return of Christ (see 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5)?
10. If there are myriads of Old and New Testament Scriptures that highlight signs that must take place BEFORE the Day of the LORD and Jesus tells us He is returning AFTER the Great Tribulation can we find a text in the book of Revelation that emphasizes that time? How does Revelation 7 fit this context?

11. What are the three events that will take place between the opening of the sixth and seventh seal? How are the angels instructed? What is their present role? Will their role continue or is it for a period of time?
12. Why are the angels keeping the earth and the sea from harm at this time? What must take place before the harm can come to the earth? Who is sealed? How many are sealed? What does it mean to be sealed? Why is God giving protection and ownership to these 144,000 Jews? What is about to take place and what would be the result if they were not sealed?
13. What takes place starting in Revelation 7:9? Who are the people being discussed in this text and where do they come from? What are they doing? Why is this such a significant event in the life of the church? Can you imagine what it will be like to be in the presence of Christ forever?
14. What do you picture when you consider Jesus returning for His bride?
15. What were your biggest take-aways from the message this weekend?