

Revelation Chapter Outline:

Ch. 1- Vision of Jesus Christ.

Chs. 2 & 3- The future of the Church (Now the history of the Church).

Chs. 4 & 5- Church raptured—the heavenly scene.

Chs. 6 – 19- The Great Tribulation Period (Seven years of God’s Judgment).

Chs. 20-22- 1000-year reign of Christ on earth, then new heavens, new earth, new Jerusalem.

The REVELATION of Jesus Christ

Chapter 7

“Salvation In The Great Tribulation!”

I) Jewish Salvation in the Tribulation (v1-8)

(v1-3) Hold the 7th Seal Judgment (Ch. 8) until the 144,000 Jews are sealed for protection.

(v4-8) The 144,000 are of the tribes of the children of Israel! (These are not Jehovah’s Witnesses or anyone else!)

> ***Food for thought:*** The tribes of Dan and Ephraim are omitted from this list because both were guilty of leading the nation into idolatry. In History you will find that Dan was the first tribe that fell into idolatry (see Judges 18:30). The tribe of Dan later on became the headquarters for calf worship whereby “Jeroboam made Israel to sin: (see 1Kings 12:28-30). That Dan is given top priority in Millennium (see Ezek. 48) reveals that the grace of God can reach down and meet the needs of any sinner. Ephraim was also guilty of Idolatry. In Hosea 4:17 we read, “Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone.” That has reference to the entire northern kingdom of Israel, but remember that Ephraim was the leader there. Also, Ephraim was the tribe that led in the division of the kingdom (see 1Kings 11:26). Joseph takes the place of Ephraim, and to take the place of Dan is Levi.

> **This section continues to reaffirm the fact that the Church has gone up in the rapture:**

Dwight Pentecost of Dallas Theological Seminary explains, “As long as the church is on the earth there are none saved to a special Jewish relationship. All who are saved are saved to a position in the body of Christ as indicated in Colossians 1:26-29; 3:11; Ephesians 2:14-22; 3:1-7. During the seventieth week (Daniel ch. 9) the church must be absent, for out of the saved remnant in Israel God seals 144,000 Jews, 12,000 from each tribe, according to Revelation 7:14. The fact that God is again dealing with Israel on this national relationship, setting them apart to national identities, and sending them as special representatives to the nations in place of the witness of the church, indicates that the church must no longer be on earth. (144,000 are also found in Rev. 9:1-6; 14:1-5)

II) Gentile Salvation in the Tribulation (v9-17)

(v9-13) Who are these people in heaven from all over the world singing praises?

(v14) Tribulation saints. They got saved in the great tribulation! Many will get saved, yet many will perish! Who will perish? - A warning is found in 2 Thessalonians Ch. 2.

- A reality is found in Revelation Ch. 14:9-11; 21:8

> **How were these tribulation saints saved? “By the blood of the Lamb!”**

Rom 5:6-11- *For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been **justified by His blood**, we shall be **saved** from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be **saved** by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the **reconciliation**.*

> **God’s salvation is threefold:** *First*, Christ appeared on this earth to save you from the **penalty** of sin, by putting away your sin by the sacrifice of Himself on the cross (Heb. 9:26). *Second*, He appeared in heaven, in the presence of God, after His resurrection, to save you from the **power** of sin (Heb. 9:24; 1John. 2:1-2). *Third*, He will appear again on this earth, the second time, as “Lord of lords and King of kings” (Rev. 17:14) to save you from the very **presence** of sin (Heb. 9:28).

(v15-17) **Seven blessings in heaven:** #1- Never **hungry**. #2- Never **thirsty**. #3- Never struck by the **sun**. #4- Never too **hot**. #5- Jesus will be their **shepherd**. #6- They will drink of the living fountains of **water**. #7- God will wipe away every **tear**.

ISRAEL RETURNS TO THE LAND

Sign #1: The Diaspora

The Bible prophesied the Jewish diaspora. The Nation of Israel would dwell for many years outside of their country and promised land. After this time had elapsed they would return to their ancient possession. The predictions were exact and complete making the nation's return a supernatural happening of our age. A modern miracle. They were dispersed for over 1,900 years. They are there again today.

Hosea 3:4-5 - *"For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol. Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days."*

Hosea 6:1 - *"Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds."*

To see the rest of the passage fulfilled, Israel needs only to turn to God. For David to become their king once again, there will be a resurrection from the dead.

Sign #2: The Return

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Bible passages predict the return of Israel to the land of Palestine. Here are only two.

Ezekiel 20:34 - *"I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered -- with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath."*

Isaiah 11:11-12 NIV - *"In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth."*

Sign #3: Buying back the land

The prophet Jeremiah prophesied about 600 years B.C. just as the nation of Judah was being destroyed and the people taken captive into the land of Babylon. He spoke of a day when Jews would once again purchase land within the ancient territory. That is precisely what returning Jews did, starting nearly a century ago - they bought back the land.

Jeremiah 32:44 NIV - *"Fields will be bought for silver, and deeds will be signed, sealed and witnessed in the territory of Benjamin, in the villages around Jerusalem, in the towns of Judah and in the towns of the hill country, of the western foothills and of the Negev, because I will restore their fortunes, declares the LORD."*

Sign #4: Israel - Reborn in a day

Israel, a nation that had not really existed as a separate nation for nearly 2,500 years, was declared a new sovereign state by an act of the United Nations on May 14, 1948. The nation was born in a day.

Isaiah 66:8 NIV - *"Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labour than she gives birth to her children."*

Sign #5: The order of the return

The first returning Jews to Palestine came primarily from eastern Arab countries. The next major movement came from the western countries of Europe, especially Germany. Then they came in great numbers from Russia (north) during the end of the 1980's. The last great migrations of Jews returning to Israel came from Ethiopia in the south. This precise order of return was predicted by Isaiah the prophet.

Isaiah 43:5-6,21 - "Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth..."
"... the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise."

Psalms 107:2-3 NIV - "Let the redeemed of the LORD say this -- those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south."

Sign #6: A pure language

With the return of the nation, the ancient Hebrew language has been revived and become the official language of the state. Prior to this happening, the Jews spoke an impure form of the language called Yiddish. The return to a pure common language was again predicted by the prophets.

Zephaniah 3:8-10 KJV - "For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent. From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, [even] the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering".

Sign #7: The shekel

After nearly 2,000 years the shekel has been reinstated as the common monetary unit in Israel, again, just as predicted.

Ezekiel 45:12-16 NIV - "The shekel is to consist of twenty gerahs. Twenty shekels plus twenty-five shekels plus fifteen shekels equal one mina.... All the people of the land will participate in this special gift for the use of the prince in Israel."

Sign #8: Named cities of Israel

There are many cities in Israel that bear the ancient names of previous Jewish cities. Some of these that bear their Biblical identification include: Cana, Nazareth, Jericho, Nain, Bethany, Bethlehem, Hebron, Gaza, etc. Again, as the ancient nation was in the process of being destroyed, Ezekiel the prophet predicted that many of the ancient cities would, in fact, be re-inhabited and settled in the exact locations.

Ezekiel 36:11; 24 KJV - "And I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bring fruit: and I will settle you after your old estates, and will do better [unto you] than at your beginnings: and ye shall know that I [am] the LORD.... For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land."

Sign #9: Cities excepted - never to be inhabited

Jesus pronounced a curse on at least three cities within the land. These remain in ruins today.

Matthew 11:21-23 NIV - "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day."

Sign #10: From desolation to productivity

The restoration of the agriculture and of the trees and forests of Israel has been another remarkable miracle. Scarcely 75 years ago, the land was a desolate waste, full of malarial swamps and deserts. Today the replanted forests are flourishing and the Israeli agricultural production is one of the great wonders of the world. This tiny country exports quality produce around the world. Should we say, "Again, just as predicted!"

Isaiah 26:6 NIV - "In days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will bud and blossom and fill all the world with fruit."

Isaiah 35:1-2 NIV - "The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy...."