

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

as revealed to the Apostle John • Lesson #37 - December 1st, 2024

- **Moderator:**

Brother Chris begins with a review of last week's lesson (#36). We talked about the creation of Angels and the creation of Lucifer, the most beautiful creature God ever created. Lucifer, however, was found to be evil in his desire to be like God. Not only does he want to be like God, he wants to be higher than God and it's almost unbelievable that he convinces one third of all Angels to follow after him.

We then discussed the 144,000 chosen Jewish, virgin servants who were sealed against all the judgments that God had willed for his wrath against this unbelieving world. They refused to accept the great sacrifice that God made when he sent his only begotten son to be born a human being sinless and perfect in his entire human life. He died on the cross to pay our sin debt. He was buried and after three days and nights He was raised from the dead proving He was the promised messiah prophesied throughout the entire Old Testament. He bought our salvation by suffering for our sins in the greatest act of mercy and grace that could ever be imagined. He offers this to all mankind! God doesn't want anyone to have to go to the lake of fire. Whosoever will believe and trust Jesus will be sealed against this horrible judgement. Those who reject Jesus Christ will regret their decision for an eternity of separation from God in the pits of hell and the lake of fire.

- **#1 THE SEALING OF THE 144,000** (Continued from: 11/24/24)

- Initial verses: Revelation 7:1-4

Revelation 7:1-4 “And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”

- **Moderator:**

We must remember the very important point that God is the one and only “living God” that created everything in the universe has all power to protect his people as referenced in the following passages of scripture. All other gods are false, a deception perpetrated by Satan himself. Here is the proof:

Jeremiah 10:10-14 “But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation. Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens. He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion. When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures. Every man is brutish in his knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them.”

- **Moderator:**

We will see God and his Son “Face to Face” in eternity. Here is the proof:

Job 19:25-27 “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.”

- **Moderator:**

Now, back to Revelation 7:

Revelation 7:3 “Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”

- **Moderator:**

It appears that this angel told the other angels to do no harm to the earth until after the 144,000 are sealed for protection and service. We'll now move forward to Revelation 14 where we are given more information about these chosen Jewish virgin men who will preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone living on the earth throughout the entire seven year tribulation period. They will all be killed eventually by the anti-christ, but it is only God who wills it and allows it.

Revelation 14:1-5 “And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.”

Revelation 3:12 “Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.”

Revelation 22:3-4 “And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.”

Revelation 13:13-18 “And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.”

- **Moderator:**

So once again, we see Satan attempting to replicate what God has done. He sees God sealing both the 144,000 AND the Christians who were raptured out of this world. He vainly tries to be like God but it's a failure of the worst kind. We (Christians living now) are sealed with proof from the scriptures:

Ephesians 4:30 "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

- **Moderator:**

We see here that we can't possibly undo what Jesus has done. His promise is that those who believe in him will never die (Spiritually). Satan can never take from you what God has given you...eternal salvation!

- **Pastor Rains:**

At this point, Pastor Rains discusses sealing marks and any other kind of cuttings to determine identity: "God doesn't want us to personally mark up our human bodies with tattoos, although we won't condemn those who have followed this popular trend that has occurred in the last few decades. God can forgive us for this sin if we ask.

He also speaks of religions who claim some (or all) of the 144,000 are active today, it's just not so. This only happens during the tribulation at Chapter #7.

A question regarding some who think they are saved but are not is addressed by Pastor. He cites God's "chastening" mentioned in Hebrews that shows we all are punished for our sin after we are saved by this chastening. If we don't experience guilty pangs when we sin, we most likely are not saved. Some perhaps will get away with sin for a time, but God will surely deal with them on his timetable, not ours. We are to treat all Christians with respect and love and leave the judging up to God Almighty.

We better be careful with our testimony and our witnessing to our loved ones, because the worst chastening of all is seeing our loved ones die not knowing Jesus when we could have been an effective witness to bring them to Christ!"

- **Moderator:**

Now the discussion turns back to eternal security, Are we once saved, always saved? Here are some important scripture passages we can use when we doubt our security or when witnessing to someone who thinks they can lose salvation:

John 10:27-29 "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

Romans 6:1-2 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

Romans 6:14-15 "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid."

Psalms 103:12 "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."

- **Moderator:**

The following long passage from Genesis 19 is proof that God can and will protect his own. Lot was saved even though he was not serving God for a long time. He lost his wife and his sons but he himself was saved. So, two lessons learned in one passage.

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Genesis 19:1-29 “And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant’s house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof. And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door. But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door. And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door. And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it. And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law. And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city. And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord: Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die: Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live. And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken. Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar. Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD: And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace. And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.”

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