

To Jew and Gentile

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Revelation 7:1-17.
- B. God will not let the world forget Israel no matter how hard we try. (Romans 9-11)
- C. The Lord will rapture the church from the world. (I Thessalonians 4)

II. There will be Christ commandoes during the end.

- A. The angels are withholding something that is about to come upon all the earth—the four winds, which symbolize destruction.
- B. The land is a symbol of Israel.
- C. The trees symbolize influential people.
- D. The angels are those who will bring their judgment in later chapters.
- E. The presence of the Spirit of God in every Christian is the mark of God’s ownership. (Romans 8, Philippians 2)
- F. The 144,000 are the Jews that remain on the earth.
 - 1. Dan is the only tribe not mentioned (Joseph is accounted through his sons and the Levites were not given a portion of the land). Dan is not included because they are the tribe that introduced apostasy into the tribe of Israel. (Isaiah 49)
 - 2. The gospel will be preached before all prior to the end.
 - a. The gospel is the good news that the Savior died for mankind.
 - b. The “gospel of the kingdom” refers to the coming of the kingdom through Jesus as announced through the prophets.
 - 3. The 144,000 are Spirit-filled Jews who preach the gospel.
 - 4. The result of the preaching is martyrdom—during earth’s darkest hour, one of its greatest harvests will take place.
- G. Israel will blossom, reign, and fill all the earth. (Isaiah 66)

Application questions:

1. Why is it important to understand the role of the Jews prior to Jesus' final return?

2. How would you respond to someone who says that the 144,000 refer to something beside the Jews?

3. What hope can the non-Jewish Christian have in seeing God fulfill His promises to the Jews? Explain.
