

GRACE TO JEWS AND GENTILES 4: THE 144,000

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A few weeks ago we started a message looking at the different groups of people who obtain salvation. A question had been asked and we know there are different ways God has dealt with the Jews and the Gentiles, but at the end of the day it's all by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ that we obtain salvation. Praise the Lord.

We hear the Word preached to us one way or another and the Holy Ghost signifies to us that the Word is true. Praise the Lord. So we can see and believe the gospel message and as such have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord.

We know that for the most part the religious world is content as far as a walk with the Lord and they just want to stop right there. But we have to understand that if we're really walking with the Lord, we're going to have fellowship with Him *through His Word*.

I'll say it like this: if John 3:16 was the only important scripture, then the Bible would be a lot smaller. But there is a path that the Lord has for us and the true believer will *rejoice* as God opens His Word in his day. And the true believer is going to *walk in the revelation of the Word*. Praise the Lord.

So no, it's not that walking-in-the-present-day-truth is what saves you, but if you are saved, we can say: *that* is the *witness* or the *manifestation* of your salvation. Praise the Lord.

We've talked some about the *foolish virgins*. [Matthew 25:1-13] We know that they are more, we can say, *focused* on the move of the Spirit and the blessings of the Spirit which is beautiful. We thank God for what we had this morning. But we have to understand: God has His time. Amen.

It's not anything that any of us can produce but I'll say it like this: what happened here this morning, He saw before the foundation of the world. Praise the Lord. He had a purpose for it this morning. There were those of us who needed this. Praise the Lord.

When we look at the *foolish virgins* [Matthew 25:1-13] they are more focused on the anointing and the move of the Spirit. Sometimes we refer to that as the *charismatic movement*.

The true *foolish virgin* is not going to speak against the truth but we can just say: they're slower, they're not getting dressed up like they should in the revelation of the Word of God.

Remember also: the great majority of what we see as the religious world are *not* foolish virgins but really it's a people who if you bring them anything from the Word, they'll either say: I don't need to hear that or I don't believe that.

Now if you come to them with *Jesus saves*, yes of course they believe that. But if you go further to the things that God has revealed in this age and up to this day, as soon as you get to *there's one God and He's not a trinity*, you've lost 90% or 99% percent of them already. Not only do they not want to hear you, they will think that you're not a true Christian.

So let's go ahead, this morning I want to speak on the 144 000.

I forgot to mention, Brother Brad Walsh from Newfoundland wrote me an email this past week or a little further back and we got together on Skype. It's so wonderful to see, he's been walking with the Lord for maybe we could say sixteen to twenty years. Now let's think about that for a second: that's basically since Brother Jackson passed off the scene, right?

He didn't really have the ministry of Brother Jackson and really it's more like the past three or three and a half years that he's really come into the truth. The beautiful thing is: he can see what was given under Brother Branham, under Brother Jackson, and what has come now in this Third Watch.

I hope he doesn't mind that I mention his name this morning but I was just thinking and I even told him: this is going to be a testimony when there are others who should be teachers by now, who should have moved along and been further but now they are behind because they refuse to continue in the light of the Word.

They just say: well we've got what Brother Jackson gave, and they won't walk one step further. And here's a brother who came in *after* them, *decades after* them, and he has a *greater understanding*.

He said to give his greetings to the assembly. So receive greetings from Brother Brad Walsh.

Amen.

Let's go now to Revelation 7.

What we're looking at here, we can tell by what's written in the first few verses which give us the context.



During the *last half* of the 70th week of Daniel, that's when there will be all of this *societal tumult*. That's when the *judgements* are going to be poured out. I mean, yes there will be a part of that in the *first half* of the Week but it will really open up in the *second half* when *the vials* are poured. [Revelation 16]

So we have the *first* and the *second half* of the Week. If we blow that up, we would have this right here:

Revelation 11

Revival of the Jews

3.5 years

Revelation 7:1-8

144 000 The Firstfruits

Revelation 6:9-11

5th Seal - Jews

They receive white robes

Rev 4:6 Sea of Glass is empty

Revelation 15

Antichrist persecution of Jews (Remnant) and Foolish Virgins

3.5 years

Revelation 14:1-13

Everlasting Gospel

Revelation 15:1-3

Sea of Glass is filled

This is the *first half* and the *second half* of the Week.

Let's go to verse one of chapter 7.

John writes here:

Revelation 7:1

And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth,

Now that place referred to as *the four corners of the earth*, well we know that the earth is a sphere, right? It doesn't have corners from a physical sense but what that is speaking of is *prophetically* what marks the separation between north and south, and east and west.

Something I deal with every day, well not every day but every semester, we have something in math called *the coordinate plane*. We have what we call a *y-axis*, if you were looking at a map that would run north to south and we have an *x-axis*, again if you were looking at a map that would run east to west.

If you were to look right at the center where those lines intersect which we call *the origin*, there are *four corners*.

Now if we were to say: where would that be *geographically*? Well it's not so much where we might put it looking at the globe, but really it's the center of where God has dealt with mankind which we know as *the land of Israel* and even more precisely: *Jerusalem*.

So when we see *north*, it's *north of Jerusalem*, or *south*, it's *south of Jerusalem*.

It says here:

Revelation 7:1

holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

Again we can say that's looking at *the vials* and *the judgements* [Revelation 16] that are going to be released in the *second half* of the Week. They're going to fall on *mankind* and they're going to fall on *the nations*. We know that the sea represents peoples and *trees* represent nations.

So all that is going to be *held back* because there's a work to be done in the *first part* of the Week.

Let's go ahead and keep reading:

Revelation 7:2

And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God:

We know the *seal of the living God* is the Holy Ghost. Amen. And it's not that this angel can give anybody the Holy Ghost, that's God *Himself* who comes and dwells. Amen. But the angel can be present when God is moving, to touch our understanding and our ability to believe the gospel. Praise the Lord.

We know that the gospel began at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, right? Amen. And from there, throughout time, the Spirit of God has moved around the world to those, we can say, *predestinated seed*. And now *it's returning* signifying that the work is complete.

And where has that work happened? It has happened *among the Gentiles*, among the peoples. So this is showing that this is *the end* or that *the Gentile age has ended*. [Romans 11:25]

Revelation 7:2

and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

Again we read about that later on, the vials and such.

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.

It mentions *their foreheads*.

It's interesting to me: only in the last hundred years has medical science really been able to monitor, for example, the brain. They know that our thoughts, our thinking, our analysis, and our intelligence all comes from the front part of the brain. It's in what would be *the forehead area*.

The rest like smell, sight, movement, and all kinds of things like that are from the area in the back of the brain.

So when it says that they're going to be *sealed in their foreheads* [Revelation 7:3] that shows they are going to have a certain *revelation*, there's something they are going to *know*. Praise the Lord. We'll talk about that in a minute.

Revelation 7:4

And I heard the number of them which were sealed:

Let me also say this: yes there is something that they will know but the word *sealed* itself shows us they received the gift of the Holy Ghost. If we are *sealed*, we have received the gift of the Holy Ghost. Praise the Lord.

Revelation 7:4

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.

Now it says here 144 000. I want to say: that's not 144 001 and it's not 139 999.

Why am I putting attention on that? We should notice: God has the number down to the exact one. He already knows them. Amen. And yet the Gentile Christian Church world today, as a whole, they stand *against* the doctrine of predestination.

Well how could there *not* be predestination? They say: well we just have to wait and see. God gave everybody free choice so we'll just see what happens.

Yes He *did* give us the ability to choose. You can do what you want with your life: you can serve the Lord if you want or you can choose to not serve the Lord if you don't want to. Amen. But for God who is infinite in wisdom and knowledge, it's not hard for Him to know our choice.

For example, it's just like if we see a puppy, as people we know its nature. We know if this creature grows, it's going to bark. Amen. I mean, we're not going to make it bark, it's up to the dog whether it barks or not, right? But we know it's going to bark. We know when it's happy, it's going to wag its tail. And we know it's probably going to love people and be very happy when it sees people.

God knows my nature, He knows your nature. He knows everybody's nature and there are no surprises for Him. He knows what choice we're going to make and He knows how we're going to react.

So these 144 000 [Revelation 7:4] God knows them.

Now because the ten Northern tribes were dispersed into Europe and the two Southern tribes, at a later time, they were also scattered, I will say: today there are very few Jews who can tell: oh I'm of the tribe of Reuben or I'm of the tribe of Simeon. But God knows every one. Amen.

When this happens, there's not going to be anybody say: well let's count now, yes there's 144 000. I mean, we are not going to be here, the bride is not going to be here but for those who will see this happen, they're just going to see a *multitude*. They're not going to say: oh yes there's exactly 144 000 but God knows each and every one. Amen.

Now don't worry, I'm not going to read all of this but let's start:

Revelation 7:5

Of the tribe of Judah were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.

We can continue through the other nine tribes, it's *twelve thousand of every tribe*.

What did Paul say?

He said: *when the fullness of the Gentiles is come in*. [Romans 11:25] That's what we can see by *that angel ascending from the East*. [Revelation 7:2]

He said: *all Israel shall be saved*. [Romans 11:26] That's *all spiritual Israel* and here we see *twelve thousand firstfruits of every tribe*. [Revelation 7:5-8] [Revelation 14:3-4] Praise the Lord.

Now we can continue reading in Revelation 7 all the way down to verse 8 but then in verse 9 John sees something completely different. It's written in the same chapter but this is a completely different picture that John sees.

Let's remember that when John wrote this, he *didn't* say: okay well this is chapter 7 and here I'm going to number some verses. He just wrote everything down as God showed it to him.

He said:

Revelation 7:9

After this I beheld,

I'm not going to read the rest of this today but this could have been written *days later*.

In fact, as far as the chapters, I think that was done by a man in the 1800s who actually broke up the Bible into chapters and verses. But what John wrote was all *one writing*.

When he says *after this I beheld* [Revelation 7:9] we don't know how much time had passed or how much later that was but this is a completely different group of people that John is looking at.

I'm not going to read it right now but when we go further down, he says *a great multitude that no man could number*. [Revelation 7:9] In the first eight verses *it is numbered: it's a hundred forty four thousand*. Amen

So let's go ahead and continue. Let's go to Revelation 14.

Revelation 14:1

And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Now in this verse there's a little bit of a difference in English and Spanish but if we have the right revelation, it doesn't matter which way we read it.

In Spanish it says: *having his and his Father's name written in their foreheads*. In English it says: *having his Father's name written in their foreheads*. Thankfully, as I was mentioning a little bit earlier, God has given us a revelation of the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples: *go into all the world, baptizing them in the name*, that's *one name*, right? *Of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost*. [Matthew 28:19] So there's *one name* that God has given through which He will redeem lost mankind. [Acts 4:12] Praise the Lord. That is *the name of Jesus Christ*.

When Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost, he did *not* say: repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, but it had been *revealed* to him that this name was *the name of the Lord Jesus Christ*. [Acts 2:38] Praise the Lord.

Here it says: *they had that name written in their foreheads*. [Revelation 14:1]

What is that talking about? That doesn't mean they will literally have something written on their foreheads. But they will have an understanding, *a spiritual understanding*, whereas today if you were to ask Jews what is God's name, just as the Jehovah Witnesses, they would say: oh it's Jehovah.

Well yes, *Jehovah* is the name of the Eternal Spirit. Praise the Lord. But if you take *Jehovah saves* and you bring that into a single name, that is the name *Jesus*. Praise the Lord.

The name *Jesus* means: *salvation of Jehovah*. Praise the Lord. So as Jehovah God gave that name by which we should be saved, that is *His name*, He gave it. Praise the Lord.

We could speak more about the name of the *Lord Jesus Christ* and even look at it past, present, and future:

Under the Old Testament, it was always *Jehovah God* who was referred to as *Lord*, right? Then *Jesus* was the only begotten Son of God who was born and was on the earth, and gave his life for you and me. And then the Holy Ghost came, which is *the anointing*. The Greek word for anointing is *Christ*.

So we see how God worked to bring about redemption through time *in the name* of the *Lord Jesus Christ*. Looking back at the Old Testament we have the word *Lord*. Then we have *Jesus* when we look at the actual ministry and sacrifice of the man Jesus. And then we have *the anointing*, the Holy Ghost which now leads and guides us.

We can say: what a beautiful gift was given and they rejected it. They are going *to mourn* and we can say: the same Spirit of God is going to bring that mourning upon them.

But then they will be shown that they can repent. Praise the Lord. They will be shown to trust and put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And they are going to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

I have to say: if you think what happened here this morning was exciting, and it was, praise the Lord. Amen. But oh my goodness, when the Holy Ghost will be poured on more than a hundred thousand Jews, there will be dancing, there will be shouting like we did this morning, but it's going to be *thousands*. Praise the Lord

If there's a people that will dance, it's the Jews. They're going to sing, they're going to dance, they're going to shout, they're going to run and they're going to jump. I have to say: it's going to be so beautiful when the Holy Ghost falls on them. Praise the Lord.

They will have the revelation of who Jesus Christ is and they will have the revelation of the *name* of the Lord Jesus Christ. That's why it says: *his Father's name written in their foreheads*. [Revelation 14:1]

Revelation 14:2

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:

Revelation 14:3

And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders:

Now notice: the *four beasts* are there before the throne. What does that show us? They have finished their work which was *to the Gentiles*. [Revelation 6:1-8] Again that's just helping us see more clearly where this is in time.

Revelation 14:3

and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

Now here it mentions a *song*. That's *not* a literal song like Amazing Grace or a song like that. But even in our day, we read Isaiah 52:8 and it speaks about how *the watchmen together with one voice they will sing*, right? That doesn't mean one day all the ministers are going to get together and sing a song but that is speaking of *their ministry*. It's the anointing on their life, it's what God inspires them to do *as their ministry*.

We're going to read: these 144 000 will have a special ministry. Today we don't have the ministry that they're going to have. There will be nobody beyond and nobody less than the 144 000 who will have that ministry. This is a *special ministry* that God will give to *them*.

Notice: it says here that *they were redeemed from the earth* [Revelation 14:3]

Even the word *redeemed* is a further indication that they will receive the light of the gospel. They can't be redeemed just by walking in the Law or the Prophets but *redemption* means they will be *bought back*. Bought by what? By the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Whereas the enemy Satan had us as slaves to sin, by the blood of Christ, Jesus can now say: *that one is mine*, and the enemy has to let us go.

The fact that *they are redeemed* shows us that they will receive the gospel. Even though we don't see the name *Jesus* openly mentioned here, *by understanding* we can see that they will receive the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now where does it say they were redeemed *from*? It says: *from the earth*. It *doesn't* say: from Israel.

Are these Israelites? Are these Jews? Yes they are. But we have to understand that as Israel would reject God, which they did multiple times, God would always eventually respond by a *dispersion* and take them captive *out of the land*.

Throughout history the Jews have gone, I'm going to say: practically all over the world. There are Jews in practically every country today. There may be some region where you might say: there is none, but for the most part there's one *here* or *there* throughout the earth.

Israel became a nation in 1948 and it wasn't just *then* but something had already been stirred up in the heart of the Jew from back in the 1800s. God was already pushing them: *go back, go back*. Some of them just felt a little too comfortable where they were but we know the Second World War changed that.

Once that Second World War was over, there began to be a *migration of Jews* back to the land of Israel. And they're still going today. Maybe not in great numbers as they did in the 60s, 70s, and 80s, but there are some coming out of Ukraine today and other places as well.

Many of them just have a feeling: I'm a Jew. They feel that *spiritual pull*. Many of them are those *spiritual Jews* and they don't even know that God is drawing them so they can be in the right place to receive the full benefit of the message of those *two prophets*. [Revelation 11:3]

This is not something that's going to happen 500 years down the road. These 144 000 are alive *today*. I believe the great majority of them are already in the land of Israel *today*. And most likely the great majority are already *in* Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.

There is something *pulling them* to read the Scripture. Now when I say *the Scripture*, I'm not talking about the Bible that you and I have because they don't have the New Testament. They have what they call the Pentateuch which is the five Books of Moses and they have the writings of the prophets.

The Orthodox Jews are pulled a little more toward the first five Books.

Somebody asked the other day: what is the word *orthodox*? The word *orthodox*, the best way I can say it simply is *spiritually rigorous*. In other words, they really take what is written *seriously*. These are Jews who are doing their best to follow what they see as the Word of God.

But I will say: I have to believe that today these 144 000 are also being *inspired* to read Isaiah, Daniel, and the other prophets because once the Word comes on ground [Revelation 11:3] there's not going to be time for them to go back to read and learn.

Remember: Paul already had the Word, what he needed was the *quickenning* of the Word.

So I have no doubt that God is planting the Word in their heart *today*, not a few years down the road when the 70th week starts. But they're already going to start to have a feeling *in their heart*: what about our Messiah? There's going to be a *burning* that the time of their Messiah is near.

Remember: after that Miracle War takes place and they are at peace, they will have overcome that Islamic Spirit. They will no longer have to worry about the Muslim World telling them: don't touch our Dome of the Rock or our Mosque of Omar. I don't know how it's going to happen but somehow that mosque is going to get demolished and it's not going to take a lot of time.

Then the temple is going to be built, that Third Temple. It will be most glorious. And there's going to be something in the heart of those Jews: the coming of our Messiah is near.

There's going to be a *desire* in them to know their Messiah and that's what those *two prophets* are going to bring. [Revelation 11:3] They're going to preach the gospel to those Jews and God's going to make sure nobody can stop it. Praise the Lord.

If anybody will want to do them harm, those prophets will just speak the Word and they will be slain. [Revelation 11:5] Praise the Lord. So nobody's going to be able to come against those *two prophets*.

Something came to my mind as I said *nobody's going to be able to come against them*.

Quite a few years back, at least 20 years ago, I was driving down Encanto Boulevard. I was driving west to east and I stopped at 75th Avenue. There I saw something, I've never seen anything like it.

There was a man walking on the other side of 75th Avenue. He was big and he was kind of humped over a little bit like he had a backpack or something. His hair was kind of long and scraggly. To tell you what he looked like, imagine John the Baptist, that's kind of what he looked like to me.

He was walking. He didn't look left, he didn't look right, he didn't look up or down. Just wherever his focus was, it stayed there. And I saw this just as clear as I saw the cars passing. Everything was just normal, and there he was.

But there were two or three young men, maybe about twenty years old, kind of tall and skinny, and they were trying to come after him.

They would run and launch but then they would jump back like they got burned or shocked, or like there was some repelling force around the man. And I could see it angered them.

They would come at him again and they would get close but then they would jump back and I could see their anger, oh how they wanted to get to him and hurt him.

They would come so close to him and something would happen that made them jump back and sort of wave their arms in the air. It was a sight to see. I just thought: what in the world is happening?

I couldn't see what was happening to them but as they ran at him, he didn't lift up one hand, he just kept walking. There was something around him like an invisible shield.

I don't know if that was a vision. I don't think I'm one to have visions that much if at all, maybe there's been one or two. But that was something I thought about for a long time. What in the world was happening? Because eventually the light turned green, right? And I had to go.

When I read about these *prophets: nobody's going to be able to do them any harm while they preach the gospel during those three-and-a-half years.* [Revelation 11:3-5]

Let's keep reading.

Revelation 14:3
redeemed from the earth.

So they have come from all over the earth.

I see the time and I just want to relate one more thing and we'll have to continue this later.

When I was in college, one day I had a dream that somehow I had come into contact with some Spanish-speaking people and as we began to talk, I found out they were Jews. And I thought: that's strange, Jews who are speaking Spanish.

Then if I remember right, they were *Christian*. And I was confused by the dream. I thought: who could that be? Jews who speak Spanish and they're *Christian*.

Now the part about them being *Christian*, that's the best I remember. I'm almost certain I remember that they were *Christian* but I know we were having some kind of conversation about the things of the Lord or some kind of spiritual conversation.

I woke up and later that afternoon, I thought I would read a Contender. I had a stack of them in my dorm room.

Remember: we didn't have phones, we didn't have Internet, but I had a stack of Contenders. I thought: I'll just pick one at random. I wasn't thinking: oh I'm going to try to find out what this dream is about. I just wanted to read a Contender.

So I reached in and I picked one right out of the middle of the stack. I opened it up and I didn't even start at the beginning but I began to read somewhere in the middle of the Contender where Brother Jackson was ministering on the 144 000.

He said: there are Jews in Argentina who speaks Spanish. Well of course they do, they live in Argentina. He said: they are going to go *back to Israel*. He was giving this as an example. He said: they are going to go *back to Israel* and they are going to *receive the message of the two prophets*. They're going to *receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, the gospel*, and they will *return*. We didn't get to that part yet, but they will *return* to Argentina.

And I thought: there it is! Those are the Jews who speak Spanish and had the gospel! It just helped make that so real.

I wasn't going to the Contenders to try to find an answer to my dream. I just had the dream and later on, I went to read a Contender. To reach in the middle of the stack, open it up and there it was, you know that's not coincidence. God was confirming and showing what that dream was about. Praise the Lord.

I think I'm going to go ahead and close this morning. We'll continue next time that we continue this subject. Let's go ahead and pray.