

“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.”

(Revelation 7:2-3)

Seal Of The Living God

The Compact Bible Dictionary defines “seal” as, ”to ratify a covenant, to furnish proof of disputed authority and power, and as an official mark of ownership”.

“One of our readers recently asked us a question concerning the sealing of the servants of God which takes place before the start of the Tribulation.

We thought to use the question and answer as this weeks introduction.

Question

“I was thinking the other day of writing you and just asking if you think that the seal of God is going to be something we will be aware of or if it's just a spiritual knowing.”

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Answer

Interesting question. We had not thought about that until you asked the question.

In our opinion, and it is an opinion, we believe we will be aware that the sealing has taken place.

The reason we believe we will be aware is because of some verses that came to us while thinking about your question.

Revelation 12:7-10:

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”

These verses take place right before the beginning of the Tribulation. When Satan is cast out of heaven the result is “salvation, strength, the kingdom of God, and the power of his Christ”.

It would seem that we would have to be aware of these happenings taking place.

Related to the question but not necessarily a definitive answer would be the two witnesses of Revelation 11 who will definitely be aware of the physical manifestations of the power given them by God.

“I will give power unto my two witnesses...fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies...These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.”

Revelation 11:3, 5-6

Daniel 11:32 would also seem to be talking about physical manifestations bestowed by God upon His End Time children.

“The people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits”.

The Merriam-Webster defines the word “exploits” as “a notable or heroic deed”. The same verse in the Septuagint, which was translated from the original Kone Greek, reads “a people knowing their God shall prevail and do valiantly”. Again, this would certainly appear to imply outstanding physical manifestations of the power of God through His children.

Finally for now, could the sealing of God in the foreheads help to bring about the fulfillment of Joel chapter two which is reiterated in Acts chapter two?

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. “And on my servants and on my handmaids in those days will I pour out of my Spirit.”

Will we realize the anointing that has been poured out by God? We believe we will.

Another example of the “anointing” of God can be found in Matthew 10:19-20:

“But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.”

We are sure we would be aware of the anointing as was every prophet and man and woman of God through out the Bible.

And it continues to this day. “for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy”. Revelation 19:10

The second part of your question concerns the “144,000” also talked about in Revelation 7. The following is what we have published on the “Studies” section of our web site concerning the “144,000 compiled by Joseph Candel from the writings and teachings of David Berg.

Following this we would like to propose a possible alternative interpretation, which again, we do want to be clear is an opinion.

“The 7th Seal which begins the great tribulation is soon to be opened in chapter 8. But before it happens God, in order to preserve his children and his witnesses during this tribulation period, is going to "seal his saints" so that they will not be hurt by His judgments against the wicked.

"And after these things I (John) saw four angels...holding the four winds of the earth.... 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 there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel."(vs.1-4) verses 5-8 lists the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, 12,000 from each tribe being sealed.

These 144,000 which receive the seal of God are not physical Israel. They are the true spiritual Israel. As the apostle Paul said, "they are not all Israel, which are of Israel.... that is they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise (those who accept Jesus) are counted for the seed." (Rom.9:6-8) These 144,000 are the same 144,000 of Revelation chapter 14, who "follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth."

The 144,000 are the leaders of "the great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindred's, and peoples, and tongues... which came out of great tribulation." (vs.9-14)--and in the original that means the great tribulation, the one that precedes the second coming of Christ!

Whether the 144,000 is a symbolic or literal number we don't know, but we do know this: they are going to be God's cadre during that horrible tribulation period to lead the rest of the believers through it and to stand up and witness against the antichrist system unto the very end.”

As to a possible alternative, Paul in Romans 9:22 quotes Isaiah 10:22:

“Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved”.

In Romans 11:5 Paul is quoted as saying:

“Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace”.

“A remnant of people is what is left of a community following a catastrophe (e.g., Noah's family after the flood, Gen 6:5-8:22 ; Lot's family after the burning of Sodom and Gomorrah, Gen. 19 those who remained in the land after the deportations of 597 b.c., Ezra 9:8 ; Jer 24:8 ; 52:15 ; those left behind under Gedaliah, Jeremiah 40:6 Jeremiah 40:11 Jeremiah 40:15 ; or the Jews who came out of exile.” from BibleStudyTools.com

Zechariah 13:8-9 may show another glimpse of this “remnant”.

“And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God.”

Is it possible that the 144,000 are part of the one third who are spared at the end of the Tribulation. Again we are speculating.

Even the ones who are spared who say “The Lord is my God” are spared for “His names sake”. For more information concerning “His names sake” see our study, “Magnified Thy Word”.

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