

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: What a Mighty God We Serve

SERMON REFERENCE: Revelation 7

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2343

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Revelation 7 reminds us that we may be living in the rapture generation; the last generation of the church age.
 - i) We need to be ready.
 - (1) This means that we need to be active and intentional about serving and soul winning.
 - (2) The Blessed Hope is not an incentive to rest but to work.
- b) Jesus said we are to occupy until He comes.
 - i) This does not mean to simply take up space.
 - ii) We are to get busy and get to work.
 - (1) Through the book of the Revelation, we know what the future holds, and we should be ready to serve.
 - (a) When our future is secure, then we can put all of our energy into the present.
- c) We serve a mighty God; there is nothing too hard for the Lord.
 - i) Genesis 18:14
 - ii) Jeremiah 32:17
 - (1) Our great God is able to meet all of our needs.
- d) Revelation 7 describes a great revival.
 - i) This will be the world's greatest gathering of souls; the greatest harvest time.
 - ii) This revival will take place during the Great Tribulation.
 - (1) Great multitudes will be saved at this time because of God's mighty, miracle-working power.
- e) Revelation 7 shows us three things about the mightiness of our God.

2) THERE IS NO PROMISE TOO HARD FOR GOD TO KEEP (Revelation 7:1-8)

- a) There are 30,000 promises in the Bible, and every one of them are kept in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b) Revelation 7:1
 - i) The "four corners of the Earth" in this passage refers to the four points of the compass.
 - ii) "Winds" in the Bible speak of danger, disaster.
- c) God had made a promise to Abraham.
 - i) Genesis 12:1-3
 - (1) All families of the Earth will be blessed through Abraham.
 - (a) Revelation 7 bears witness to this promise.
 - (i) God will work through 144,000 Israelites.
 - (2) God made this promise to Abraham 2,000 years before John wrote the book of the Revelation.
 - (a) God will keep His promise.
 - (i) Numbers 23:19
 - (ii) God will never lie, and He will never have to repent.

- d) God made a promise in the early part of the Bible, and we see that promise being fulfilled in the last part of the Bible.
 - i) 144,000 Israelites from the various tribes are now serving the Lord in a special way.
- e) Who are the 144,000 mentioned in Revelation 7?
 - i) They are not the New Testament church.
 - (1) In a sense, the church is spiritual Israel, but God has never done away with literal Israel.
 - (2) The nation of Israel will not be destroyed.
 - (a) God will keep His promise.
 - ii) They are Jews.
 - (1) "Of all the tribes of the children of Israel."
 - iii) They are selected.
 - (1) These are special ones selected out of all the Jewish people.
 - (2) Why the number of 144,000?
 - (a) God uses numbers symbolically in the book of the Revelation.
 - (i) Four is the Earth number.
 - (ii) Three is the divine number.
 - (iii) Three times four is twelve.
 - 1. Twelve represents Heaven and Earth; the rule of God on Earth.
 - 2. There are twelve patriarchs in the Old Testament and twelve apostles in the New Testament.
 - 3. 144 is twelve times twelve.
 - a. God has taken His government and intensified it.
 - (iv) Ten is the complete number.
 - 1. Ten times ten times ten is 1,000.
 - 2. God has taken completeness and intensified it.
 - (v) This is the rule of God in fullness and power.
 - 1. This may be a literal number, but it is full of symbolism.
 - (3) God is going to move in a mighty way during the Great Tribulation.
 - iv) They are sealed.
 - (1) Revelation 7:2
 - (a) God puts a seal on the 144,000.
 - (2) The seal is a mark of ownership.
 - (3) In Bible times, a seal stood for three things:
 - (a) Possession
 - (b) Protection
 - (c) Preservation
 - (4) God has a special job for them, and they must be kept safe.
 - (a) As believers, we are sealed, as well.
 - (i) Ephesians 4:30
 - (ii) We are sealed by the Holy Spirit of God.
 - (5) The seal may be a literal mark, or it may mean in their minds.

- (6) Revelation 14:1
 - (7) There is a difference between our faith and this world.
 - (a) The antichrist will give people a number.
 - (b) Jesus gives us a name.
 - v) They are servants.
 - (1) Revelation 7:3
 - (2) They are saved and sealed in order to serve.
 - (3) These who represent the government of God here upon Earth will preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (a) They will be evangelists.
 - (b) The apostle Paul was saved for a pattern to this select group.
 - (i) 1 Timothy 1:16
 - (ii) These will be like 144,000 apostle Pauls.
 - f) Other nations have been absorbed or destroyed, but not the Jewish people.
 - i) Israel will not be destroyed.
 - g) Zechariah 12:3
 - i) This Scripture is being fulfilled.
 - (1) God prophesied in the Bible that Israel would be disobedient, dispersed, discredited but not destroyed.
 - h) Jeremiah 31:35-37
 - i) In order to destroy Israel, you would first have to destroy the power that regulates the universe.
 - i) God keeps His Word.
 - i) God made a promise to Abraham that all nations of the world would be blessed through him.
 - ii) We will see that promise fulfilled even in the Great Tribulation when 144,000 Jews will preach the Gospel to all people on the Earth, and there will be a great harvest of souls.
 - j) Not one promise of God will fail.
 - i) God will keep His promises concerning Israel, and He will keep His promises concerning us.
- 3) THERE IS NO PERSON TOO HARD FOR GOD TO SAVE (Revelation 7:9-14)
- a) This passage depicts a great multitude of millions, possibly billions, coming to Christ because of the witness of the 144,000.
 - b) Why will so many be saved during the tribulation period?
 - i) Because of the climate of the tribulation.
 - (1) The church will be gone.
 - (a) The church will have been raptured out.
 - (b) Someone will have to explain why millions of people are suddenly gone.
 - (i) The antichrist will come up with a perverted lie.
 - (c) Confusion and conviction will come when the church is raptured.
 - (2) False security will be taken away.

- (a) Revelation 6 speaks of the war, famine, calamities, beheadings and disasters that will take place during the Great Tribulation.
 - (b) The world will be incredibly chaotic.
 - (c) People will pay attention to these 144,000 evangelists who have been sealed and the antichrist cannot kill.
 - c) Acts 2:20-21
 - d) There is no one too hard for God to save, but He will not save an unbeliever.
 - i) It is not because God could not, but He will not because of their unbelief.
 - e) No matter how deeply you have sinned, God will save you.
 - f) No matter how good you think you are, you need to be saved.
 - g) There is no one so bad they cannot be saved and no one so good they need not be saved.
 - i) All who are saved will be saved by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - h) All of these saved ones in Revelation 7 will be praising God.
 - i) They are waving palm branches.
 - (1) Palm branches were used in the Feast of Tabernacles and are a symbol of joy.
 - ii) Revelation 7:11-12
 - (1) The angels are praising God for what He has done by His grace for us and the tribulation saints.
 - i) The tribulation saints will be martyred.
 - i) When they are saved, they will refuse the mark of the beast.
 - ii) Many may think that they will postpone salvation and will wait until the Great Tribulation to get saved.
 - (1) This is not a wise approach for four reasons:
 - (a) You might die prior to the Great Tribulation.
 - (b) If you make it to the Great Tribulation, you will not believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (i) Though millions, perhaps billions, will be saved during this time, those who heard the truth and refused the truth prior to the Great Tribulation will not be saved during this time period.
 - (ii) 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12
 - (c) Even if you could be saved during the Great Tribulation, why intentionally wait in order to go through all of the sorrow, horror, pain and violence?
 - (d) You would miss knowing Jesus today.
 - (i) You would miss all the joy of knowing the Lord Jesus in this present time.
- 4) THERE IS NO PROBLEM TOO HARD FOR GOD TO SOLVE (Revelation 7:15-17)
 - a) God will wipe away all of our tears.
 - b) God may not be working the way we would want Him to work, perhaps.
 - i) Isaiah 55:9
 - ii) Our thoughts and God's thoughts are different.

- (1) We do not have it all figured out.
 - iii) Jesus did not promise that we would go through this world unscathed and with no problems.
 - (1) John 16:33
 - (2) We all have problems, saved and unsaved alike.
 - c) God will turn our tears into pearls and our hurts into hallelujahs.
 - i) God has an answer.
 - d) These momentary troubles are not God's final plan.
 - i) Romans 8:18
 - (1) There is coming a day when our Lord will heal every hurt and wipe away every tear.
- 5) CONCLUSION
- a) If there is no promise that God cannot keep, if there is no person that God cannot save, and if there is no problem that God cannot solve, then why are there so many unsaved people?
 - i) Because of their unbelief.
 - ii) It is not God's problem; it is ours if we choose not to believe.
 - (1) Matthew 13:58
 - (a) Jesus could do no mighty work in the city of Nazareth because of their unbelief.
 - b) Oftentimes we cling to foolish things rather than giving our lives to Jesus Christ.
 - c) Please do not continue to live without Jesus.
 - d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16