



RELIGION

Scripture Of The Week:
ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 1 & 2

Insight From The Word

by Rev. Michael Lindsey, Dean of North Portland Bible College

The 144,000 and the Great Multitude

(This week's Sunday School lesson comes from Revelation 7 - in the uniform series).

Few texts in the Revelation have excited the attention and imagination of Christian believers that these visions do. They have also engendered great controversy between the saints, and in some ways serve as a test case for various positions on the whole book of Revelations. I doubt I can resolve the interpretation of this chapter to anyone's satisfaction, but I'll make a few observations based on my study. I hope these will be helpful to our readers.

1. The literal interpretation of this passage would make the 144,000 to be descendants of Israel. They are drawn from "all the tribes of Israel" (Rev. 7:4), and the tribes are specifically listed (verses 5-8). When the same groups reappears in a later vision, they are identified as "followers of the Lamb," "redeemed from the earth," "who did not defile themselves with women" (14:1-5). They are even called "virgins" (14:4, especially in King James Version), which should be understood here only to mean purity from sexual sin.

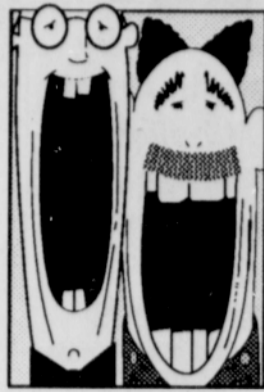
So to sum up the evidence of Scripture, these 144,000 are Israelites ("Jews" in the racial sense) who have become followers of Christ Jesus, the Lamb, and serve him as a special legion of pure, blameless saints.

Obviously, many Bible students do accept this literal interpretation. The most common figurative interpretation is that the number is symbolic of completeness in three dimensions (12x12x1,000), since both 12 (the number of divine government) and 1,000 (the number associated with eternity) are "complete" numbers. As a result, these 144,000 represent the whole company of the saints who are alive in the period of final judgment.

This position would argue that the tribes were no longer a part of God's kingdom government, and so are meant only symbolically of the people of God.

2. The tribes of Israel were never "lost." A very common view is that the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom ("Israel" in contrast to "Jordah") were "lost tribes" after the conquest by Assyria (II KINGS 15:29, 17:1-6). This speculation has led to some fanciful legends without any solid basis in history, such as the view that the British people are part of the lost tribes, or that the Native Americans are descendants of Israelite exiles. The Bible records that the faithful priests and the tribe of Levi left Israel and migrated to the Southern Kingdom, Judah, long before Assyria's invasion (II Chronicles 11:13-17). Furthermore, after the threat from Assyria had been assuaged, King Hezekiah of Judah called for a united Passover celebration in Jerusalem, and invited all the people "from Dan to Beersheba" to join in worship of the true God. (30:5) People from the tribes of Asher, Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar and Zebulun responded (30:10-11, 18), and a great time of rejoicing followed. This demonstrates that a faithful, God-fearing remnant of many tribes remained in the land of Israel. Though later they became known as "Jews" (from the name of the dominant tribe, Judah), the tribe of Levi maintained its distinctiveness in New Testament Times as "Levites," and even one dear saint is mentioned, "Anna . . . from the tribe of Asher" (Luke 2:36). There is every reason to believe that faithful members of each tribe survived, by God's grace, even to the present day, within the family of the Jews. The tribes listed in Revelation 7 may still be in existence, even if records to support that are sketchy.

(Continued In The Next Issue . . .)



ANNOUNCEMENT FELLOWSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The congregation of Fellowship has moved from the O.B. Williams Convention Center and has relocated in the newly refurbished McKinney Temple on Northeast Alberta, 1737 N.E. Alberta. Rev. Johnny Pack, IV and Mrs. Mary Pack, his wife are indeed joyous for your prayers and calls of concern. Several land negotiations ventures did not come through as they had planned but the Lord had a ram in the bush.

The Fellowship congregation has grown so greatly, they need a larger sanctuary to worship in, to hold church meetings and other church related functions.

McKinney Temple C.O.G.I.C. is not, unfortunately, their final stop. Continue to pray that their ministry will continue to grow, that their work in the community will continue to flourish, and that God will provide a lasting place for them to worship.

"Dress As You Please Sunday"

Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church will be having their monthly "Dress As You Please Sunday" on Sunday, November 12th.

This service was designed by Pastor Robert E. Houston Sr. to emphasize to the members of Greater St. Stephen in their outreach that the Lord is concerned about the condition of men's souls rather than the value of their clothes. "Many people use the excuse, 'I would go to church except I have nothing to wear,' but we have become committed to sharing the Christ that goes beyond material clothing, and we have asked our members to dress casually and to invite others to church with them," said Pastor Houston.

Casual apparel will be worn during the 8:30 a.m., Sunday School and the 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Services. Pastor Houston will be preaching at the 8:30 a.m. service (also in casual attire). The public at large is welcome to attend these services. The Church is located at 3922 North Williams Avenue (corner of Williams and Failing) and transportation is available to these services by calling 281-6337 by Saturday, November 11th.

Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church will sponsor FALL REVIVAL '89, Monday, November 13th through Friday, November 17th at 7:00 p.m. nightly.

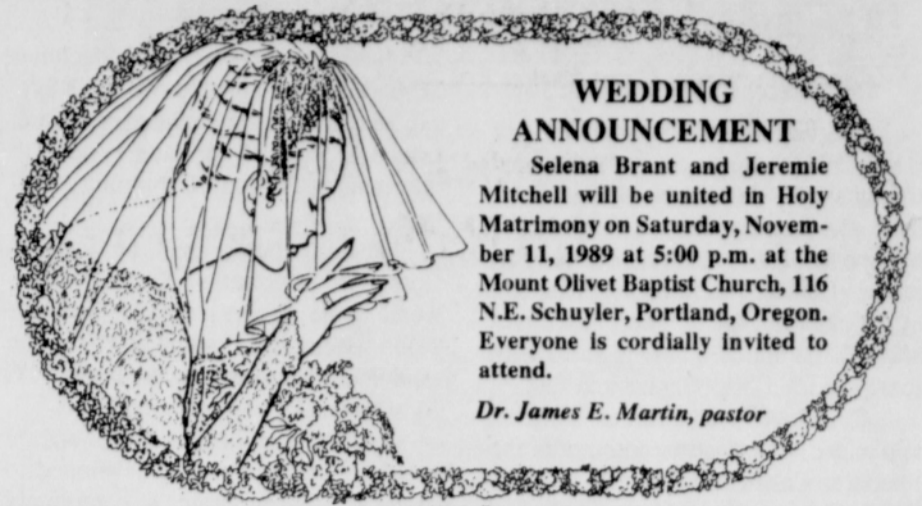
The guest evangelist will be the Rev. A. Bernard Devers, I. Rev. Devers

is the Pastor of the Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, Seattle, WA. He is the former pastor of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Portland, OR, and the first pastor of the Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, Portland, OR.

Rev. Devers is a gifted speaker, and serves as President of the Macedonia District Congress of Seattle and Vicinity; Chairman, Evangelical Board, General Baptist Convention of the Northwest; Member, Board of Managers, Evangelical Board, National Baptist Convention of America, Incorporated.

Services throughout the week will be led in worship by Associate Ministers of the city including, Rev. Charles Bemby (Greater St. Stephen), Rev. Briscoe Odom, Jr. (Greater St. Stephen), Rev. James F. Richardson, St. (Vancouver Avenue), Rev. Roy E. Clay, Sr. (Fellowship), and Rev. Raymon H. Edwards (New Hope).

Supporting the preached word will be ministry in music. Guests throughout the week include: D.C. Ensemble under the direction of Sis. Darlene Warren, St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, The Church of the Living God, The Church of the Living God PGT, Everlasting Missionary Baptist Church, and also the Progressive Missionary Baptist Church Choir of Seattle, WA. For More details on these services you may call 281-6337 or 287-6691.



WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Selena Brant and Jeremie Mitchell will be united in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, November 11, 1989 at 5:00 p.m. at the Mount Olivet Baptist Church, 116 N.E. Schuyler, Portland, Oregon. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Dr. James E. Martin, pastor

DID YOU KNOW...

...that despite much progress in recent years, finding adoptive homes for Black children is still a difficult challenge for many communities throughout the country. In Oregon, we do not claim to have all answers to face this challenge, but through the One Church, One Child program, we have discovered a promising solution. One Church, One Child is a special minority recruitment program designed to find adoptive homes for Black children. Since its implementation in Oregon in September of 1988, One Church, One Child has been instrumental in the adoption of ten children.

ONE CHURCH, ONE CHILD of Oregon

proudly announces:

"Unity in the Community for our Children"

A banquet celebrating one year of service to Oregon's Black children.

Red Lion, Lloyd Center
November 18, 1989
6:30 pm
Donation: \$25.00

Tickets can be purchased until Tuesday, November 14th at the One Church, One Child office located at 5806 N Albina (503) 285-7634

Banquet supporters include:

Tri-Met
NIKE, Inc.
KGW Channel 8
KATU Channel 2
Emanuel Hospital
Portland Trailblazers
Pacific Power & Light Co.
Children's Services Division

Open your hearts and minds to the One Church, One Child challenge:

ADOPT A BLACK CHILD!

Unity of Love

6720 N.E.
Martin Luther King Blvd.
(Formerly Union Ave.)
283-5440



Limited Time ONLY

SPECIAL ON CURLS

Relaxers	Wave Nouveau	\$55.00
\$10.00 Off	Care Free	\$45.00
All Curls	Designer Curl	\$45.00
	Touch Up	\$25.00

Ask for Daryl For Discount!

The Albina Church of God

5522 N. Albina/283-1635

With A Bold New Vision
Reaching out until He comes
Going Back when He comes

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Service morning 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Service evening 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday Teaching 7:30 p.m.

Thursday Moments of Deliverance 7:30

The Friendliest Church in the city
Senior Pastor Rev. Samuel M. Irving.

Mattie Ann Callier-Spears
How Safe Is Downtown Portland At Night . . .
Will be continued next week, 11/16/89.

Spirit Of Hope In The World

Saturday, Nov. 11, 1989
2:30 P.M.

North Portland Branch Library

Artist Charles Tatum has been given a seed grant to begin a project with children in the inner city schools. This project is designed to encourage these children to look toward their future with hope. (P.S.: A nutritious snack will be served.)

Union Avenue
Baptist Church
5029 N.E. Union Ave.
Portland, OR 97211

Winter Revival
Mon., Nov. 13, 1989
to Fri., Nov. 17, 1989

Please Come And
Help Us In This
Great Work For The Lord

7:00 P.M. Nightly

Maranatha Church

4222 N.E. 12th Ave.
Rev. Wendell H. Wallace
Senior Pastor



Sunday Services

Sunday School 9:00 A.M.
Morning Workshop 10:30 A.M.
Maranatha School of Ministry 6:30 P.M.
Mid-week services - wednesday 7:30 P.M.

Hope of Glory Radio Ministry



KPDQ 800 A.M.
SUNDAY

10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Motto: "There Is Hope"

"Christ In You, The Hope of Glory" Col. 1:27

Dial-A-Prayer . . . (503) 286-HOPE

(4673)

24-Hour Prayer Request Line

Jesus Loves You!

Allen Temple CME Church

4236 N.E. Eighth Avenue
(corner of 8th & Skidmore)
Portland, Oregon 97211
(503) 287-0261

Phillip S. Nelson, Pastor

Psalm 34:3

"A TEACHING CHURCH
WITH A REACHING MINISTRY."

MT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. James E. Martin, Senior Pastor

116 NE. Schuyler

7:45 A.M. - Worship Service

9:30 A.M. - Sunday School

10:45 A.M. - Worship Service

6:30 P.M. - Worship Service

Bible Study:

10:30 A.M. - 12 Noon - Wednesday

6:30 A.M. - 8:00 P.M. - Wednesday

Radio Ministry each Sun. 8am KBMS

284-1954