

INTRODUCTION

1. What will happen between now & the 2nd coming? 1Pt 1:13; Tit 2:13
 - i. Rev presses us up against the end of the world.
 - ii. Metaphor of birth-pangs.
2. Rv13:7-8a note relationship of *war* & *worship*. Today - v8b-10.

1st: Names That Do Not Appear - v8b

1. Book = symbol of God's sovereignty in salvation & accounting of men's deeds: akin to a list of citizens. Exo 32:33; Ps 69:28; Isa 4:4; Ps 87; Dan 7:10; 12:1-2
2. Rv 3:5 not being erased => overcoming; confess => *walked worthy* [v4]. Symbol informs us of God's sovereignty & motivates our obedient faith. Symbol of salvation or damnation.
3. Rv 17:8; 20:12,15; 21:27 - God recording or erasing: judge according to deeds wh/ align w/ God's sovereignty & that actual space-time life lived -> FJ.
4. *from fndtn of world* = pre-creation, before time: Jn 17:24; 1 Pt 1:20; Eph 1:4.
5. *not recorded* = reprobate & *erase name* => apostasy. A symbol.
6. Shld *from fndtn of world* modify *written in book* or *Lamb slain*? Jn 6:37-39
7. What kind of *life*? Resurrection life, eternal life.

2nd: The Hearing Ear - v9

1. Conclusion of the 7 letters [Rv2-3]; Jesus' repeated refrain [Mt 11:15; 13:9,43]
2. We live in a flood of demonic lying words & we gather under the Word of God: w/ deaf or hearing ears? Gospel call - sober realities.
 - i. Mt 13:9 parable of sower. v10-18 cites Isa 6.
 - ii. 2C 2:15-16 - 3:4-6 not everyone who hears, hears w/ a hearing ear

3rd: The Call to Persevere - v10

1. Vs has textual variants. Some read as warning persecutors of divine retribution [Lex Talionis]. If you take them captive; you will be taken captive; if you kill w/ sword you will be killed w/ sword [NASB]; Mt 26:52; Hab 2 5 *woes*.
2. I opt for passive translation [ESV, NIV]: a call for perseverance in suffering. Israel on brink of captivity: Jer 15:1-7 [43:11]. It is time for jdgmnt on apostate people. Lk 3:17 - winnowing fork: he who has ears to hear!
3. Jeremiah speaks words of jdgmnt to apostates. Jn speaks to us who have ears to hear = a believing remnant in midst apostasy & persecution
4. Rv 13:10b *here*: under these circumstances - *the saints* - v7
 - i. *the perseverance* - Rv 1:9 [12:11 & v17]
 - ii. *the faith* - content of belief [Lk 18:8b].
 - iii. In context of apostasy, are hearing ears on those who persevere.

Applic #1: We Can Have Confidence that Our Names are in the Lamb's Book of Life

1. Will my name be erased? *Fear & trembling* [Phil 2:12-13; 1:6]. Fear & trembling is the experience of those in whom God is completing the work that He has begun: biblical realism & balance.
2. Book of life = symbol of election. Am I elect? 2 Pt 1:5-11 Am I *diligent*?

Applic #2: We Will Persevere Thru Apostasy and Persecution

1. Have we persevered? Will we persevere?
2. Rv 14:12; Rv 17:14; Rm 8:37