

A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

October 11, 2020

1

Revelation

I. Struggle on Earth (1-11)

A. *John's Vision* (1)

B. *Letters to 7 churches* (2-3)

C. *God in control* (4-5)

D. *Opening of seven seals* (6-11)

2

Revelation 7

The Question:

Revelation 6:17

*"For the great day of His wrath has come,
and who is able to stand?"*

What will happen to God's people?

The Answer:

God's People (Chapter 7)

Note: Amos 3:3, 7

Protected by God

3

Revelation 7

**"An Interlude: The Sealing of God's People"
Outline**

I. Sealing of 144,000 (verses 1-8)

II. The Great Multitude Around The Throne
(verses 9-17)

4

Revelation 7

Seal God's Servants – Church Militant on the Earth

- "Do not harm" (*release judgment*) until God's slaves have been sealed!
- Sealing protects against **tampering**.
– Matthew 27:66
- Sealing shows **ownership**.
– 2 Timothy 2:19
- Sealing certifies **genuineness**.
– Esther 3:12
- Christians are under God's protection, purchased by the blood of Christ, and certified by the Spirit, to be the sons of God (Ephesians 1:13; Romans 8:16).
- In the days of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 9:1-11), those with the mark were spared from wrath.

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Seal God's Servants – Church Militant on the Earth

- **Who Was Sealed?** *"From every tribe of the sons of Israel"* (7:4; 14:3-5)
- **God's people** in the age of the context of Revelation
- These are God's people
(cf. Hebrews 12:22ff – **Christians**)

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Seal God's Servants – Church Militant on the Earth

- “And I heard the number of those who were **sealed**” ...
- Though God's judgments are coming (see Romans 1:18ff.), the protection that God furnishes the righteous does not mean they will be spared from earthquakes, pestilence, imprisonment, or death.
- He did promise however, they would be “**more than conquerors**” through their relationship with him (cf. Romans 8:35-39).

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“An Interlude: The Sealing of God's People”

I. Sealing of 144,000 (verses 1-8)
 II. The Great Multitude Around The Throne (verses 9-17)

Verses 1-8
Jews?

↔

Verses 9-17
Gentiles?

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Verses 1-8
Jews?

↔

Verses 9-17
Gentiles?

1. Jew versus Gentile distinction is not drawn elsewhere in Revelation.
2. Why was the restraint of the winds universal?
3. Nothing is said of the sealing of the second group – the Gentiles?
4. Chapter 14 – 144,000 refers to all redeemed.
5. Chapter 22:4 – seal on all redeemed.

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Not different groups after all!

Verses 1-8

↔

Verses 9-17

Now

Heaven

↻

The Same People

↻

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The 144,000

- “The fact that twelve tribes of Israel are specified signifies that he is speaking of God's covenant people.
- “The church, in fact, is referred to as the ‘twelve tribes’ (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30; Jms. 1:1).
- “Therefore, these people described here are not literal fleshly Jews, but comprise the spiritual ‘Israel of God’ (Gal. 6:16; Rom. 2:28-29).” (Harkrider, *Revelation*, Truth Commentaries, Page 169)

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The 144,000

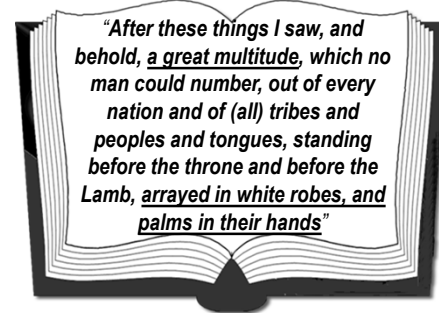
- “A chosen race, a royal **priesthood**” – 1 Peter 2:9
- “A people for His own **possession**” – Titus 2:14
- Christ's own; “Abraham's **offspring**” – Galatians 3:29
- “The true **circumcision**” – Philippians 3:3

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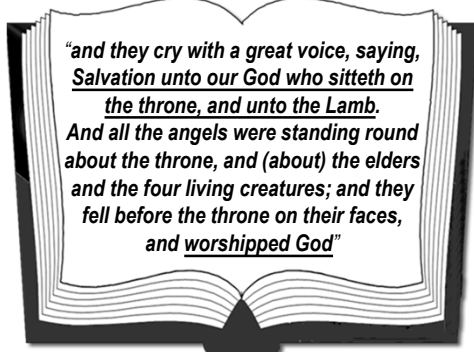
144,000 From 12 Tribes

- Christians on **earth** – will be affected by the judgment mentioned in chapter 6
- These are the “**church militant**” (*on earth*) which is to be sealed in answer to the question – **WHO IS ABLE TO STAND?**
- Seals the “**church**” (Christians) to enable her to withstand the persecution that is coming at the hands of Rome!

Revelation 7

Revelation 7:9

Revelation 7

Revelation 7:10-11

Revelation 7

The Great Multitude Coming out of Tribulation

- “After these things” (verse 9) – things concerning the “**sealed church**” on the earth ...
- Behold a “**great multitude**” coming out of **every nation** – out of the tribulation.
- Every nation and tongue were represented, all redeemed by the blood of the Lamb (5:9).
- The gospel has gone into all the world, and a great multitude has responded in obedient, trusting faith (Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:19; 1 Timothy 2:4, 6; Titus 2:11-14).
- “**Standing**”
 - Before the throne
 - Before the Lamb

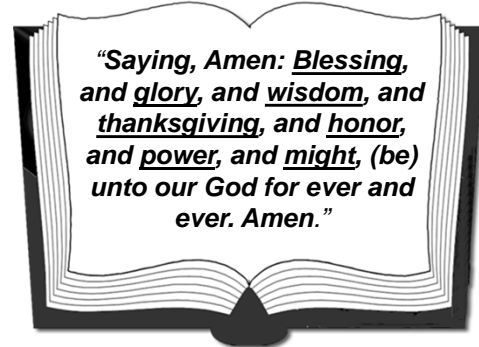
Triumphant

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The Great Multitude Coming Out of Tribulation

- Clothed in “**white robes**” – signifying victory (verse 9)
- “**Palm branches**” in their hands.
- Crying with a “**loud voice**”
 - Did so at the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles, Feast of Thanksgiving for the Harvest ...
 - Thanksgiving for their deliverance!

Revelation 7

Revelation 7:12

Revelation 7

The Great Multitude Coming Out of Tribulation

- “Amen” – song of agreement voiced by the angels, elders, and four living creatures.
- **Glory, honor, thanksgiving, and praise** deserved by the **Lamb** – why? (cf. 4:9-11; 5:9-14)
- **He overcame and gives others the ability to do likewise!**

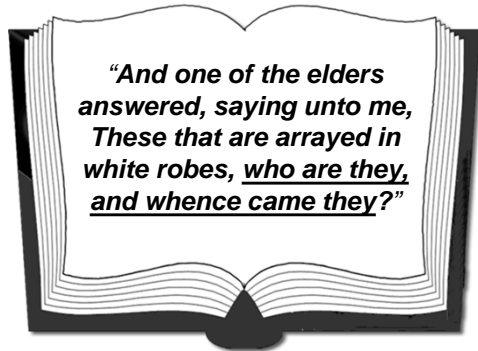
Revelation 7

The Great Multitude Coming Out of Tribulation

- Why is He **worshipped**?
- **Worthy** to open the scroll, and He is God!
- Pictured here is a **victory celebration** in honor of the Lamb ...
- What He did and continues to do, as well as the honor bestowed upon Him because of His conduct!

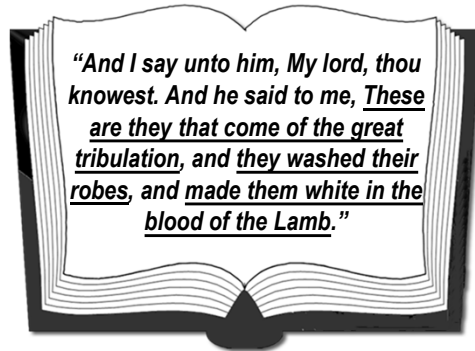
Revelation 7

Revelation 7:13



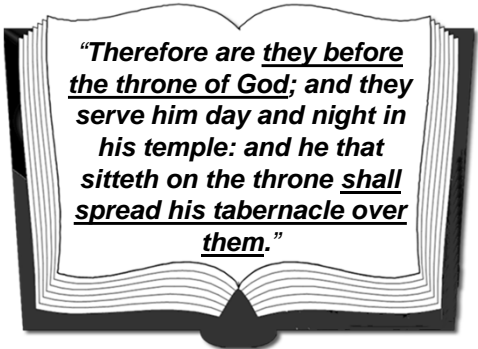
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Revelation 7:14



Revelation 7

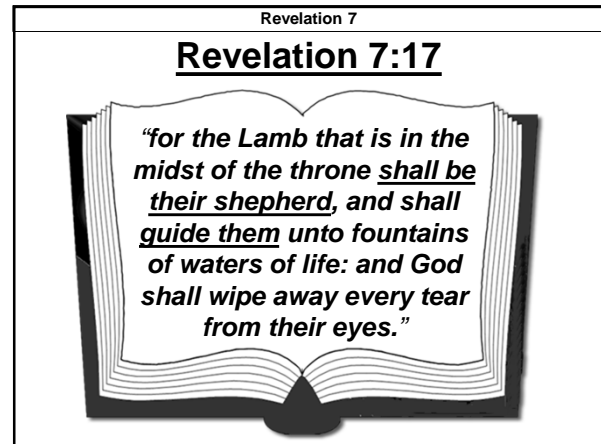
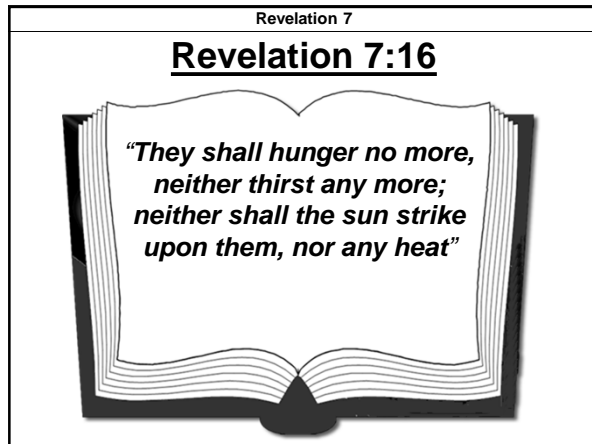
Revelation 7:15



Revelation 7

The Great Multitude Coming Out of Tribulation

- “In view of the statement in 21:22 that there will be no temple in the eternal state after judgment, the idea presented here is that heaven in its entirety is regarded as the sanctuary in which all God’s people enjoy the immediate presence of God.
- “The ASV renders the last phrase of this verse, ‘*and he that sitteth on the throne shall spread his tabernacle over them.*’
- “As the tabernacle was a tent, the idea is that God himself will tabernacle with them, overshadowing his people with his own presence and protection (Isa. 4:5-6; Ezek. 37:27-28).” (Harkrider, *Revelation, Truth Commentaries*, Page 172)



Revelation 7

The Great Multitude Coming Out of Tribulation

- Questions and answers given by one of the elders for **John's benefit**.
- The "**ones who have come out**" (*present tense*); those who are coming out of the great tribulation.

Revelation 7

The Great Multitude Coming Out of Tribulation

"(1) Some identify this as 'the great tribulation' which led up to AD 70 that befell the people in Jerusalem at the time of its destruction (Matthew 24:21, 29).
(2) Others hold to the view that 'the great tribulation' was experienced by the saints contemporary with John during the Roman period. This great testing was limited to the period which began with Nero's persecution in Rome (AD 64) and continued past Domitian, Trajan, and Diocletian, until the edict of Constantine (AD 313).
(3) Premillennialists identify 'the great tribulation' as yet to occur in the future, a seven year period at the end of the present age and before a literal 1,000 year reign of Christ on the earth.
(4) A fourth view, which to this writer is the correct one, does not limit the tribulation to one specific period of time. In John's vision, the 'great multitude' (7:9) includes the saved of all ages, the sum of all God's people who continue faithful unto death. Likewise, 'the great tribulation' represents all periods of time, for never has tribulation been entirely absent from the church." (Harkrider, *Revelation, Truth Commentaries*, Page 171)

Revelation 7

The Great Multitude Coming Out of Tribulation

Who is the "Great Multitude"?

- Questions and answers given by one of the elders for **John's benefit**.
- The "**ones who have come out**" (*present tense*) those who are coming out of the great tribulation. (cf. Acts 14:22; 2 Timothy 3:12)
- Hour of **testing** is over.
- Same group of **144,000** looking from a different direction ...

Revelation 7

The Great Multitude Coming Out of Tribulation

Who is the "Great Multitude"?

- Sealed **servants** of the earth (**verses 2-8**)
- Sealed **servants** passed through death (**verses 9-17**)
- **God's name** written upon them
 - The 144,000 (**7:3-4; 14:1-4**)
 - Those who overcome (**3:12; 22:4**)

Revelation 7

The Great Multitude Coming Out of Tribulation

- “Have **washed** their robes” and made them white in the **blood of the Lamb!**
– Ephesians 1:7; Isaiah 1:18; Hebrews 9:14; (1:5)
- Serve Him for that reason
- 144,000 **sing** before the throne!
- “**Day and night in His temple**” sanctuary showing one service as priests
- “The redeeming Lamb has become their providing Shepherd; he shall guide them to fountains of water of life, and God shall remove all grief from them.”
(Ray Summers, *Worthy Is The Lamb*, Page 152)

Revelation 7

The Great Multitude Coming Out of Tribulation

- Those who **serve Him** are cared for: (Note: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; especially verses 6-8; Philippians 1:21-24; 1 Thessalonians 4:14; 3:13)
- “Perfect **protection**”
– Provision made for them (21:3)
- “Perfect **provision**”
– Not be hungry, thirsty, hot, or tormented (7:16)
- “Perfect **leading**”
– The Lamb is their Shepherd (22:1)
- “Perfect **joy**”
– Wipe away every tear from their eyes (21:1-4)

Revelation 7

The Great Multitude Coming Out of Tribulation

- Therefore no tears will be in heaven.
“He hath swallowed up death for ever; and the Lord Jehovah will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the reproach of his people will he take away from off all the earth: for Jehovah hath spoken it.”
(Isaiah 25:8)
- This same scene is presented again after the judgment, portraying the eternal condition of the Lord’s faithful (21:3-4; 22:1-5).