

Revelation 7

Introduction:

Revelation 7 is referred to as a 'parenthetical chapter', meaning it does not advance the narrative, but is a "by the way" insert. There are several of these throughout the Book:

Between the 6th and 7th seal – chapter 7

Between the 6th and 7th trumpet – chapters 10, 11

Between the 6th and 7th vial – chapter 16:13-16

In Wrath, God remembers Mercy. Here, as the storm of God's wrath begins to lash the earth, God reminds us of those who will be His saints during this time. – Matt 24:22.

I. The Suspension of Judgment – vs. 1-3

a. The Four Angels – vs. 1

i. The four corners of the earth

This is an expression referring to the 4 points of the compass, i.e. the whole earth. Is 11:12; Jer 49:36; Dan 7:2; 8:8; 11:4; Zech 2:6; Matt 24:31

ii. The four winds

The wind is here defined as the judgments of God.

Job 1:19; 38:24; Isaiah 41:16; Jer 4:11-12; 18:17; 49:32, 36; Ez 5:2; 12:14; Jonah 1:4, 10-12

b. The Sealing Angel from the East – vs. 2

This angel is charged with the protection of God's people. Psalm 91:11

c. The Seal of Separation – vs. 3

When God destroyed the world with a flood, He first separated Noah and his family from 'hurt'.

When God destroyed Jericho, He protected Rahab and her house.

Here, divine protection is given to the Israelites so that they may pass through the time of Judgment.

II. The 144,000 Israelites – vs. 4-8

a. The Interpretation of the 144,000

They are not the Jehovah's Witnesses. They are not the Seventh Day Adventists.

A literal interpretation is correct. These are 144,000 Jews – vs. 4

Twelve Thousand from each tribe

The Bible is very specific here. They are Jews. The Great Tribulation is for "...thy (Daniel's) people..." (Dan 12:1). It is a "...time of Jacob's trouble..." (Jer 30:7).

The tribe of Dan is Omitted

The reason for this is likely that this tribe was often connected with idolatry. Lev 24:11; Judges 18:1-2, 30-31; I Kings 12:28-30; Deut 29:18-21

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Some commentators believe the Antichrist may come from the Tribe of Dan, based upon Genesis 49:17 and Jeremiah 8:15-16. However in the millennial distribution of the land, the Tribe of Dan is apportioned first (Ez 48:2). – **Grace!**

b. The Sealing of the 144,000

In Scripture, a seal was a mark of protection, possession, and/or preservation. – Eph 1:13; 4:30. See Gen 41:42; Est 3:10; 82.

God will protect these 144,000 Jews from the ravages of the Tribulation.

c. The Purpose of 144,000

In every age, God has had His remnant of Jews. Romans 11:4. The Bible does not state any task for the Jews, but it is certain they will bear a visible testimony for the Truth. Consider: Matt 24:14; Dan 12:3.

III. The Multitude Saved out of the Great Tribulation – vs. 9, 14-17

a. Gentiles will be saved during the tribulation

This passage makes this fact abundantly clear. However, it would seem one group excluded from this possibility are those who willfully reject Jesus Christ this side of the rapture. II Thess 2:10-12.

b. Gentiles (and Jews) will be saved in exactly the same way as the saints of this age
Some have wondered if salvation would be possible during the Tribulation because of the removal of the Holy Spirit, II Thess 2:7. The answer to this is that conditions will be similar to the Old Testament times, when the Spirit of God worked, but did not indwell believers or churches. People are saved in every age through faith in Jesus Christ.

c. Some facts about the tribulation saints

- i. Their population – vs. 9 – All nations represented
- ii. Their position – vs. 9 – Before the throne
- iii. Their purity – vs. 9, 13, 14 – Washed in the blood of the Lamb
Heb 9:22; Rom 3:25; Eph 1:7; Col 1:20; I Pet 1:18-19
- iv. Their triumph – Psalms in their hands (victory)
The feast of Tabernacles was celebrated with palm branches – Lev 23:39
Palm branches express the joy of complete deliverance – Jn 12:12-13
- v. Their privilege – vs. 15 – privilege of service
- vi. Their provision – vs. 16-17
Even the WORST OF SORROWS TO EVER BE EXPERIENCED ON EARTH will be nothing against the bliss of heaven. Rom 8:18

IV. The Praise of the Redeemed in Heaven – vs. 10-12

- a. The Cry of the Redeemed – vs. 10 – the source of salvation
- b. The Doxology of the Angels – 12 – cf Rev 5:12