

## REVELATION – CHAPTER 7

A break in the chronological sequence – 2 major players – verses 1-8.

Believing Israel as represented by the 144,000 and vs 9-17.

a great multitude of martyred believers who died as a testimony to their faith from every people group upon the earth at that time

Note:

1. At the time of the Rapture, all believers will be removed from the earth. I Thess 4:13-18
2. The Holy Spirit will move His residence back to Heaven. 2 Thes 2: 1-12
3. Those who believe during the Tribulation are never referred to as being a part of the Church.
4. The pattern followed by Christ is the same pattern that the Holy Spirit follows:
  - a. Christ was omnipresent and active on the earth before His Incarnation.  
At His Incarnation He came and dwelt among men in a unique way.  
At the time of His Ascension He left the earth  
While continuing to stay, by indwelling His Church and being Omnipresent.
  - b. The Holy Spirit was present before Pentecost just as Jesus Christ was.  
His Coming on the Day of Pentecost and remaining until the Rapture represents a unique time of His Presence.  
After He leaves at the Rapture, He will continue His presence in much the same way as He was present before Pentecost.
  - c. With both, humans have believed during each phase of their presence, but from Pentecost to the Rapture there has been a unique relationship experienced by those believers with both persons (Christ and the Holy Spirit).

Chapter 6 ends with a question: "Who is able to stand?"

Chapter 7, verses 1-8 gives us a partial answer to that question.

Israel will, - all 12 Tribes!

Vs 1-3 The Vision of the Four Angels

They are standing at the Four Corners of the Earth,  
Isa 11:12; Rev 20:7-8

Holding back the Four winds of the Earth. Dan 7:2; 8:8

These Four Angels have been granted permission to harm the earth and the sea.

The time referenced in this statement is the beginning of the Tribulation.

The destruction of Planet Earth is what lies ahead.

Another Angel ascends from the East to seal 144,000 Jews with the seal of the Living God.

The Seal symbolizes Divine protection and ownership and God's commitment to protect and preserve all 12 Tribes of Israel.

Vs 4-8 The 144,000 who are sealed.

The Twelve Tribes of Israel

1. Distinct Tribes in existence at the end of the Tribulation. Rev 14:1-5; 21:1-3, 10-14
2. The one nation of Israel is defined as "the 12 Tribes of Israel"
3. Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, adopted the 2 sons of Joseph, Gen 48:1-6 with Ephraim and Manasseh being added or replacing Joseph.
  - a. Joseph receives a double portion of the inheritance.
  - b. There are 13 tribes of Israel
  - c. Every listing of the Tribes has one Tribe missing.
    - i. Some lists leave Joseph in and Ephraim and Manasseh out. Gen 49:1-28
    - ii. Others leave Joseph and Levi out. Num 1:15-16
    - iii. Joseph and Manasseh are stated as one; Levi is out. Num 13:4-15
    - iv. Simeon and Issachar are out. Deut 33:6-ff
    - v. etc.

4. In Rev 7:4-8, Joseph is in; Manasseh is in, Ephraim and Dan are out.....Why???
  - a. Maybe the antichrist comes from the tribe of Dan. Gen 49:17
  - b. The tribe of Dan had a history of idolatry throughout their time in Canaan. Judges 18
  - c. The golden calves were set up in Dan and Bethel (Ephraim). I Kgs 12:25-33
  
5. In the Millennial distribution of the Land, both Dan and Ephraim will have a part. Ezk 47:13 and Ezk 48. Levi is not included because the "Temple Mount" will be his inheritance. Joseph is not listed because his "double portion" will be received by his sons.

The multitudes saved in the tribulation and subsequently martyred.

Vs. 9 – 10 - The multitude described

There are two categories of humans – Israelites, and Gentiles (Greeks). In verses 5 – 8, we were told that there are Jews saved out of all 12 tribes. In verse 9 a great multitude beyond human computation is seen coming from all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues.

1.) They are seen standing before the throne – Rev.4:1-11.

2.) Before the Lamb – Rev.5:6-14.

3.) Clothed in white robes – Rev.19:7-8 (in resurrection bodies)

Rev.6:9-11 (pre resurrection bodies) followed by Rev.20:4.

The coming to life is equivalent to being raised from the dead receiving the resurrected body.

In chapter 6 and 7, they are quite alive awaiting their resurrection bodies – 2 Cor.5:1-9.

4.) Palm branches in their hands – Lev.23:40-44. (This was the "feast of booths" which commemorated God's provision for them in delivering them out of Egypt and through the wilderness.)

5.) They cry out – these are all martyrs: they have suffered to the point of death – Heb.12:1-4, yet they do not lose sight of who suffered to give them their salvation.

Application – If credit were to be shared between humans and God for salvation, these could claim some credit – they don't!

Who is there who has suffered for less who thinks that they deserve recognition – all recognition goes to God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb Eph.1:3-6 (Father), 7 (Son), 8-12 (Father).

Vs. 11 – 12 The heavenly host joins in with the martyred tribulation saints.

They, the angels – Rev.5:11 (2/3 of the number created – Rev.12:3 -4,9) acknowledge our God as their God forever and ever. Similar to Rev.5:13-14, the angels ascribe to God:

- 1.) blessing
- 2.) glory
- 3.) wisdom
- 4.) thanksgiving
- 5.) honor
- 6.) power
- 7.) might

In Rev. 5, it is Christ who is the focus, in chapter 7, it is God. Remember that it is the Father's desire that all honor the Son even as they honor the Father – John 5:23, and when all honor the Son, He will honor the Father – I Cor.15:28.

Vs. 13 – 14 The martyred dead are identified – the ones who come out of the great tribulation (2<sup>nd</sup> half) – Matt.24:21. The command in Matt.24:14 and 28:19-20 will have its ultimate fulfillment.

NOTE: The importance of the blood.

Acts 20:28 – The church of God which He purchased with "His own blood" .

Rom. 5:9 – "justified by His blood".

Rom.3:25 – Christ is the propitiation (satisfaction) for our sins through faith in His blood.

Eph.1:7 – "we have redemption through His blood"

Col.1:20 – "made peace through the blood of His cross"

Heb.9:22

I Pet.1:18-19

Saving faith is focused on the shed blood of Jesus Christ. It never "progresses: from that focus.

Vs. 15 – 17 – For this reason... their experiences in the tribulation:

- 1.) They are before the throne of God.

- 2.) They serve God day and night in His temple.
- 3.) God will spread His tabernacle over them.

It is now over – no more:

- 1.) hunger – no mark of the beast = unable to purchase.
- 2.) thirst
- 3.) sun beating down – as they attempted to flee the  
beasts' forces.
- 4.) heat

The Lamb in the center of the throne:

- 1.) will be their shepherd.
- 2.) will guide to springs of the water of life.

God will wipe every tear from their eyes – Rev.21:4 (Because this describes the new heaven and earth I Cor.15:28 must have taken place.)