

The Sealed and the Saved

7:1-17

Introductory Notes

- One recurring feature of the Book of Revelation that confuses people are the “interludes” that occur. A few times we have a chapter or passage that steps away from the narrative and gives us a broader perspective or more detail. This chapter is the first we will see.
- I think that in this chapter we take a step back from the action and take a broader view of the Tribulation in highlighting two key groups.

Outline

- The 144,000 Jews are Sealed - vs. 1-8
- The Martyrs from the Tribulation - vs. 9-17

Notes

- vs. 1-3 - to summarize, the judgments are paused
- vs. 3 - “sealed... in their foreheads”
 - in contrast to the mark of the Beast? (Revelation 13:16)
 - foreshadowed in Ezekiel 9:4?
- vs. 4 - 144,000
 - These are Jews in the Tribulation
 - These are Jews who remain faithful to God.
 - These are Jews that will remain alive and enter the Millennial Kingdom
- vs. 5-8 - 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes of Israel.
- vs. 9 - our attention now focuses on another group from the Tribulation - martyrs from all nations.
 - white robes - signify righteousness
 - palms - signify victory and celebration
- vs. 10 - “salvation to our God” - means they are ascribing their salvation to God.
- vs. 11 - remember all these figures from Revelation 4-5?
- vs. 13-14 - the elder is asking to see if John understands who this group is, which he doesn't.
- vs. 14 - “washed their robes” - note that they are made white, pure, and clean through washing them in the blood of Christ.
- vs. 15-17 - Although this isn't addressed to us, I think we can get a glimpse of our life in Heaven in this description.
 - “serve Him day and night” - note that they are busy without ceasing. Service through love.
 - “He... shall dwell among them” - united in fellowship with God Himself.
 - “shall hunger no more”, etc. - state of perfection
 - “Lamb... shall feed them” - Psalm 23:1 - The Lamb is our Shepherd.
 - “God shall wipe away all tears” - perfect joy, absence of pain, hurt, and sin.