

# The Book of Revelation

## Chapter 7

### Introductory Notes

- We come to the first “interlude” of Revelation.
- Chapters 7 and 12-14 break from the chronological events and step back to take broader views of the Tribulation.
- Walvoord – “The question has often been asked, Will anyone be saved after the rapture? The Scriptures clearly indicate that a great multitude of both Jews and Gentiles will trust in the Lord after the church is caught up to glory. Though the children of God living on earth at the time will be translated when Christ comes for His church, immediately a testimony will be raised up to the name of Christ through new converts among Jews and Gentiles. Though these are never described by the term ‘church,’ they are constantly called saints, that is, those set apart as holy to God and saved through the sacrifice of Christ.”

### Outline

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

### Notes

- vs. 1-3 – I don’t think this is as much a *pause in the action* as much as it is a *priority before the action*.
  - God does not judge the world broadly without making provision to protect his own – See Noah, Lot, Rahab, etc.
- vs. 2 – seal – allows someone to act in the authority of another.
- vs. 3 – sealed – attested and certified, officially secure.
- vs. 3 - “sealed... in their foreheads”
  - The “mark of the Beast” is a counterfeit of this seal - Revelation 13:16
  - foreshadowed in Ezekiel 9:4?
- vs. 4 - 144,000
  - These are Jewish believers in the Tribulation (Sorry, Jehovah’s Witnesses!)
  - These are Jews that will remain alive and enter the Millennial Kingdom
  - This is less than 1% of the over 15 million Jews today.
- vs. 5-8 - 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes of Israel.
  - In this list, Dan is omitted, and Ephraim is called by the name of Joseph. If there is a reason for this, it is not clear.
    - The 28x the patriarchs/tribes are listed have variations, typically omitting Levi or having Joseph instead of Ephraim and Manasseh.
    - Dan is listed in Ezekiel 48:2 as part of the Millennial Kingdom.

- vs. 9 – Martyrs of the Tribulation – Revelation 6:9-11
  - “of all nations” – from all peoples, not just Israelites.
  - “before the throne” – in heaven.
  - “white robes” - signify righteousness.
  - “palms” - signify victory and celebration.
- vs. 10 - “salvation to our God” – not vanquished by Satan or crushed by judgment, these have been given victory by God.
- vs. 11-12 – Back to the praise before God’s throne we saw in Revelation 4-5. Here it is a reaction to the praise of the martyrs in vs. 10.
- vs. 13-14 – The question of the elder is not to show John’s ignorance but to end John’s ignorance.
  - “came out of great tribulation” – delivered by their martyrdom from the horrors taking place on earth.
  - “washed their robes” - note that they are made white, pure, and clean through washing them in the blood of Christ – Isaiah 1:18
- vs. 15-17 – A glimpse of life in Heaven.
  - The description of this blessed state matches that of Revelation 21:1-8.
  - “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.