

Revelation Chapter 7

- Ch. 4 Hymn of Creation-worshipping God as Creator of the universe: 4 Living Creatures; 24 Elders
- Ch. 5 Hymn of Redemption-worshipping Jesus as worthy lamb, slain/victorious =King & Judge
- Ch. 6 7seals opened: Book/chapters = “preview” of 7 yrs of tribulation: 4 riders/martyrs/**day of L**
Who's your team? Who do you identify w? Cowboys; Coll. Team? Kid's little leag? God has a team!!

***Scene: Earth** (Preview of the overview of the 7 years of Tribulation): then=**Pause in the action:**

Revelation 7:1-17 (during the 7year tribulation: God is going to raise up army of Jew/**Evangelists**)

-**Even amidst judgment (purpose of punishment=repentance); God never leaves Himself w/o a true gospel witness:** God=a righteous/just/HOLY God –yet, **full of mercy**. God of the 2nd chance!!

-Ex. 34:6-7 =**How does God describe Himself?** “**The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in faithfulness and truth; ⁷ who keeps faithfulness for thousands, who forgives wrongdoing, violation of His Law, and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, inflicting the ^[a] punishment of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”**

-Ez. 33:11 “Say to them, ‘As I live!’ declares the Lord God, ‘I take no pleasure at all in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then should you die, house of Israel?’ -**This is the God who judges the guilty & yet provides a way for salvation!!** What a God we serve!! What a God of Grace & mercy to save...

*Here the Lord previews a massive international evangelism force =**sealed/untouchable** pers/judg

Vs. 1: After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth so that no wind would blow on the earth, or on the sea, or on any tree. ² And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, holding the seal of the living God [God's brand/His divine seal to protect & empower] ...and he called out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, [heavenly powerful angels who have been created and tasked with physical judgment upon this earth: carrying out divine judgment] ³ saying, “Do not harm the earth, or the sea, or the trees **until** we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.” These men are marked with God's divine stamp/tattoo – God's NAME: IDENTITY (We are God's!!) -What brand do you wear? What marks you? The Lord???

⁴ And I heard the number of those who were sealed: **144,000**, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: [⁵ from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, ⁶ from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, ⁷ from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, ⁸ from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, and from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.] **Twelve tribes = 12 sons of Jacob** (Ab-Isaac-Jacob)= Jacob renamed Israel Gen. 49 ch. 32

-Who are these 144,000? These are male, Jewish, unmarried, holy (young men) who come from all over the world (diff. countries; nationalities; languages; ethnicities) =all “Jewish” in origin ... Messianic Jews (completed Jews) bc they love & follow Jesus the Messiah!! = **Saved**

-Rev. 14:1-5 “Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps. ³ And they sang ^[a] a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no

one was able to learn the song except the 144,000 who had been purchased from the earth. ⁴ These are the ones who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are celibate. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from mankind as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵ And no lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless." In tribulation- these are God's **team**, raised up, sealed, & sent out to evangelize to *all* peoples, tribes, tongues, nat. -Why is that significant?? Why didn't God just choose 144K Jewish Israelis' from Israel???

What happened to the 12 tribes of Israel after 70AD? Diaspora. Scattered. Disconnected. Surviving; blending; intermarrying; taking on new cultures (Ashkenazi; Sephardic); lang; nations

*SO...**Who is Israel today??** **National** Israel (**Israeli passport?**); **Ethnic** Israel (Jewish mother); **Religious** Israel (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform (or Progressive), Reconstructionist, UltraOrthodox: Hasidic, Haredi, or Modern Orthodox)? Those who have converted to Judaism? What makes one Jewish? Tradition? Culture? Genetics? Faith? Is it spiritually tied to Abraham? -When we say we stand with Israel? Who do we mean? The Country? The Jews who hate Jesus? Who still reject Him? Those who persecute the Church within Israel? Those who believe Jewishness get them to heaven? **In absence of clarity -we will stand w/ Israel until God makes it more clear who ISRAEL is* -Numbers 24:9 "blessed is everyone who blesses you; cursed is everyo"

According to Paul: Romans 9:6=true Israel is Spiritual Israel (loves God; loves Jesus)-**sp. desc. Ab.**

According God: He knows exactly who the Jews (the ancient Israelites) are today: They are imbedded in all cultures 2000 years later. And He will raise them up as His **TEAM**: evangelists who cannot be killed or harmed during the tribulation. They will share the gospel & win many souls

***What is the spiritual fruit of these 144K?** -A Multitude from the Tribulation (martyrs/saints)

Vs. 9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all the tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; ¹⁰ and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, "**Amen**, blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might *belong to our God forever and ever. Amen.*" The Hymn of redemption; the Hymn of rescue; **martyrs worship** -What is the shout of heaven? What is their declaration for eternity? God is sovereign over salvation -God has and perfectly saved those whom He called; those whom He loved; those He redeemed. -God is worthy. He is worthy of all our worship bc out of His own merciful love He rescued us!

¹³ Then one of the elders responded, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. -The tribulation martyrs have washed their blood-stained clothes under the precious, soul-saving BLOOD of the Lamb -that righteous regenerating blood that can only save us. We are washed white *in His blood* (1 Jn 1:7; Heb. 9:22)

***GOSPEL:** **Have you been truly, thoroughly, & eternally washed by Christ's blood?** B/c we can never be good enough; wash ourselves pure enough...we NEED Jesus to save/rescue/wash us

-Those who have been saved, martyred, & prayerful for His vengeance -His timing to judge world – what is their reward?

¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God, and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and **He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them.** ¹⁶ They will no longer hunger nor thirst, nor will the sun ^{be} beat down on them, nor any scorching heat;¹⁷ for the **Lamb** in the center of the throne **will be their shepherd**, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.” What a powerful and blessed picture of eternity *with* the Lord: -To be covered by His presence (secure in His presence for et.) & to be shepherded by Jesus personally for eternity. Where He leads they follow. **YOU?**

-these martyrs are those who get a special place in heaven to be nearest to God & Jesus!

APPLICATION

- 1. God Knows, calls, and Seals *His* People — You Are Not Forgotten & never alone!** When your life feels chaotic or unsafe, anchor your identity not in circumstances but in God’s sovereign claim over you. You belong to Him, and nothing can undo that.
- 2. Suffering Is Temporary; Salvation Is Eternal (2 Cor. 4:8-9)** The great multitude comes *out of the great tribulation*, not around it. Their suffering had an end; God’s salvation did not. Faithfulness matters most when obedience is costly. Endurance now leads to eternal joy later. Don’t interpret hardship as abandonment—it may be the very path God is using to refine you into His likeness
- 3. The Church Is Global, Diverse, and United in Christ.** Heaven is not monochrome. Reject a small, tribal view of the Church. Cultivate love for believers who don’t look like you, worship like you, or come from your culture. Heaven’s worship should shape the church’s priorities now.
- 4. Worship Is the Proper Response to Salvation.** The multitude doesn’t argue theology—they fall down and worship. Salvation leads naturally to praise. Examine your worship. Is it driven by preference, convenience, or performance—or by gratitude for what the Lamb has done? Awe-filled worship fuels joy and perseverance.
- 5. The Lamb Who Was Slain Is Now the Shepherd Who Sustains.** Jesus is both Savior and Shepherd. He doesn’t just rescue His people; He tenderly leads them forever. Trust Jesus not only for forgiveness of sins, but for daily guidance, comfort, and care. Let Him shepherd you through grief, fear, and exhaustion. Jesus IS our peace!

Community Group Discussion Questions (Revelation 7)

1. Revelation 7 comes *before* judgment resumes in chapter 8. Why do you think God pauses the action here?
2. What does it mean practically to live as someone who is “sealed” by God? Marked by His Name? To be His alone?
3. How does Revelation 7 reshape the way you think about suffering in the Christian life?
4. What challenges or comforts you most about the vision of a multiethnic, global church?
5. How does seeing Jesus as both **Lamb** and **Shepherd** deepen your trust in Him?
6. Where do you most need the promise that God will “wipe away every tear”?
7. How should the future reality of Revelation 7 affect how we live, worship, and witness right now?