

Revelation 7 The Servants of Our God

Revelation 7: Introduction

- We left off at the end of Revelation 6 with a question, namely,
- *“For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” (Rev 6:17 NKJV)*
- Today’s chapter will answer that question.

Seven Seals :

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 in Rev 6,

(Interlude in Rev 7)

Seventh Seal in Rev 8:1-2

Seven Trumpets

Interlude in Revelation 7

- I. The 144,000 7:1-8
- II. The Innumerable Multitude 7:9-17
 - Revelation 7 answers the question that was asked in 6:17.
 - The answer is, **“The servants of our God.”**
 - Chuck Smith makes the comment, *“I believe the greatest period of revival the world has ever known will take place ... after the Rapture ... so many ... have heard the gospel but haven’t responded to it ... I believe this will bring many to their knees, crying out to God for salvation.”*

The 144,000 7:1-8

- 7:1-4 seal implies ownership and security
- Today, God’s people are sealed by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14).
- This is God’s guarantee that we are saved and that He has given us eternal life.
- These 144,000 Israelites will receive the Father’s name as their seal (Revelation 14:1), and it will protect them from the coming judgments.
- Thus protected, the 144,000 will be able to do their work and glorify the Lord through it.
- 7:5-8 I agree with Chuck Smith here when he says, *“There should be no mystery as to the identity of the 144,000 ... It couldn’t be stated any clearer. And yet so many groups have attempted to identify themselves as the 144,000 who are sealed by God.”*

- 7:5-8 Or with Norman Geisler, *“There is no reason not to take this as a reference to 12 literal tribes of Israelites.”*
- 7:5-8 And Robert L. Thomas, *“Though admittedly ingenious, the case for symbolism is exegetically weak. ... If it is taken symbolically, no number in the book can be taken literally. As God reserved 7,000 in the days of Ahab (1 Kings 19:18; Rom. 11:4), He will reserve 144,000 for Himself during the future Great Tribulation.”*
- 7:5-8 Robert L. Thomas goes on, *“... support for a literal understanding of the names in this paragraph [that is, the names of the tribes] is the outgrowth of interpreting the Bible in its natural sense. Any other interpretation has to struggle for supporting evidence.”*
- 7:5-8 A few Common objections to the literal view:
 - The number 144,000 is symbolic.
 - God is no longer working through national Israel, but rather through the multi-ethnic church.
 - Today’s Jewish people do not really know which tribe they come from.
- We still have to consider Romans 11:25-29.
- 7:5-8 Is the role of the 144,000 similar to the role of the 12 apostles at the beginning of the church age – initiating the worldwide spread of the gospel?
- Is the great multitude in the next section one of the primary results of their ministry?
- Consider Matthew 24:14 coming right after Matthew 24:4-13.

The Innumerable Multitude 7:9-17

- 7:9-10 a great multitude I would quote Charles Ryrie at this point: *“This multitude is composed of many racial and geographic groups who will be redeemed during the Tribulation (v.14). In these difficult days, many will find Christ as Savior.”*
- crying out = “keep on crying out”
- Think back on these earlier Bible verses:
 - Genesis 12:3
 - Psalm 117:1
 - Matthew 28:19
- Imagine how Abram, the ancient Israelites or the apostles must have felt in the face of an unbelieving world. Then consider these verses in Revelation 7 again.
- 7:11-12 More worship.

- 7:13-14 John wasn't sure who these people could possibly be.
- The first century church didn't yet look anything like this.
- We might have an easier time grasping this vision since the church is now a much more worldwide and multi-ethnic phenomenon.
- 7:15-17 Again Charles Ryrie: *"Having died or been martyred during the Tribulation, this great multitude is seen in heaven enjoying its blessings."*
- 7:17 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. That sentence needs very little commentary. If God will do that for all of them, He will do exactly the same for you.
- Two Groups of Redeemed Servants

Israelites

1. A group adding up to 144,000.
2. Sealed and protected through the Tribulation.
3. Servants of God on Earth.

All Nations

1. A multitude that no one could number.
2. Not sealed. Killed or martyred. They "come out of" the Great Tribulation.
3. Servants of God in Heaven

Conclusions:

1. We are sealed with the Spirit of God. If you are trusting in Christ, then God has sealed you as one of His own. The Holy Spirit is presently indwelling you, giving you 24/7 access to God. He is continually working on your heart, mind and conscience, giving you a desire for holiness, godliness and more intimate fellowship with God. You are one of the Lord's very own children – a part of His family.
2. The Lord always saves a remnant of godly people for Himself. Even when things looked darkest in Israel and Elijah thought he was alone, the Lord had set aside 7000 servants for Himself who had not given themselves to the idols. He has a people set apart for himself today.
3. The number of the redeemed that will ultimately enter into eternal life will truly be enormous. We are presently part of a worldwide Christian movement that has never been bigger. We may feel that the church is losing ground, but worldwide, especially in Asia and Africa, it is growing dynamically. In Muslim countries it is growing more now than at any time in history.
4. Sorrow and crying will one day be a thing of the past. See also Revelation 21:3-5. God has shown us this already so that we can look forward to it in hope. The Bible does not give me the right to tell you that you will have a good day tomorrow. It does not give me the right to tell you that you are entitled to health and wealth and happiness in this life – though I truly and sincerely wish you all of those things.

It does, however, give me the right – no, the obligation – to tell you that if you are trusting Christ with your eternity, then you have an eternity of blessedness awaiting you.

2 Corinthians 5:4-5 ⁴For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. ⁵Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.