

REVELATION Chapter 7

Teacher: John M. Brown, Olive Hill Church of Christ, Sunday Bible Class, August 2014

In chapter 5 we saw the Lamb worthy to open the sealed book. In chapter 6, the seals begin to be opened, and we see the wrath of the Lamb. Who shall be able to stand when the Lamb's wrath is poured out? That is chapter 7!

I. A VISION OF GOD'S PROTECTION OF HIS SERVANTS, 7:1-8

A. The four angels hold back the four winds, v. 1

1. Who can abide God's judgment? Christians!
2. "Four corners of the earth" = all the earth (north, south, east, west).
3. "Four winds" =
 - a. Wind often used in the Bible as a symbol of God's wrath being poured out (see Jeremiah 13:24; 18:17; 22:22; 51:1-2; Ezekiel 1:4; 13:11-16; Hosea 12:1; 13:15)
 - b. Thus these four angels are holding back this wrath of God that is to be poured out – ***they are holding it back until God's servants are sealed.***

B. The sealing of God's servants, vv. 2-3

1. Hurt not the earth, sea, trees *till* the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.
2. God's people will be spared from the wrath to be poured out upon His enemies.

C. The One-hundred forty-four thousand, vv. 4-8

1. John heard the number of them that were sealed.
 - a. "Sealed": to set a mark upon; to distinguish by a mark.
 - b. Compare Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22
2. The number of the sealed came from every tribe.
3. Remember: twelve is the number for "religion"; these are not literally the twelve tribes of Israel (compare Genesis 35:22ff; Numbers 1:19-54)
 - a. It is a symbolic number for completeness, denoting all of God's faithful servants (see Matthew 18:28; Acts 26:7; James 1:1).
 - b. God seals His servants, thereby declaring them faithful and protecting them from the wrath of the Lamb.

$$12 \times 12 \times 1000 = 144,000$$

- c. This is the **WHOLE CHURCH!** (see Isaiah 6:3; 10:21-23; Romans 9:27-28; 11:5; Hebrews 12:22; James 1:1).

II. THE VISION IS SEEN OF GOD'S VICTORIOUS SERVANTS, 7:9-12

A. What John **saw**: a great multitude which no man could number! (cf. Hebrews 12:22)

1. They are of all nations, kindreds, people, tongues (Galatians 3:26-29).
2. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb.
3. They are clothed with white robes and have palms in their hands.

B. What they **said**: "Salvation to our God...and unto the Lamb..."

C. What they **did**: worshipped God (*all the angels, elders, four beasts*).

D. These are the **VICTORIOUS ONES**!

III. EXPLANATION IS GIVEN OF JOHN'S VISION, 7:13-17

A. The elders' **question**: verse 13

B. John's **answer**: verse 14 (compare Revelation 4:4)

C. The elders' **description** of those wearing white robes:

1. They came out of great tribulation: **OVERCOMERS**!
 - a. What is this "great tribulation"? Remember the context is the wrath of the Lamb (6:16); *these are the sealed servants of God who are victorious over any enemies, and even victorious over Gods' wrath upon His enemies.*
 - b. Compare Revelation 2:10-13, 17, 24-25, 28; 3:10; 6:9-11
2. They "washed their robes..." – *they have been through the blood bath of tribulation, yet have been washed in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 1:5; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18; Acts 2:38).*
3. They are before the throne of God, serving Him in His temple (*God's Temple in heaven: see Psalm 11:4; Habaakkuk 2:20; Acts 7:47-49 – God's temple on earth, see 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 2:19-22; 2 Corinthians 6:16).*
4. The persecutions and tribulation shall end ("*hunger no more, neither thirst any more...God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes*") – **VICTORY ASSURED!**

CONCLUSION: *The children of God would be protected and delivered from the tribulation: God was coming in judgment on the nation of Rome, and those who belonged to God and were faithful to Him would not be condemned – they would receive the victory!*