



THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

"Led By the Lamb to the Slaughter"

7:9-17

Revelation 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

Revelation 7:10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Revelation 7:11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

Revelation 7:12 saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *Be* to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Revelation 7:13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

Revelation 7:14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Revelation 7:15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

Revelation 7:16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;

Revelation 7:17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Great Tribulation will be a time of unprecedented gospel preaching as the 144,000 bring the gospel to every **nation, tribe, people, and tongue** on the face of the earth. It will be a time of great spiritual harvest as innumerable multitudes believe the gospel and are saved.

While we are not told explicitly that this great multitude is saved by the ministry of the 144,000, they seem closely associated with them and it is a good bet.

Revelation 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

After these things I looked. The Revelation is chronological if you follow the seals, the trumpets, and the bowls. In-between you get additional details. In this case you get a look all the way to the end of the Great Tribulation.

John saw **a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues...** We learn in a moment these are Tribulation martyrs. It includes both Jews and Gentiles.

It's wonderful that God is no respecter of persons. People from every ethnicity and from all over the planet will be saved.

It reminds us that from a strictly spiritual point of view,

Colossians 3:11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.

Or as you read in Galatians 3:28,

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

As far as salvation is concerned there are no distinctions. The church is no place for prejudice. It is certainly no place to respect a person's stature either.

They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes... This is most likely the throne on the earth at the beginning of the one-thousand year reign of Jesus over the earth.

White robes are the spiritual clothing of a believer. When you trust Jesus Christ He takes off your filthy garments of your own personal works of righteousness and gives you His righteousness instead.

With palm branches in their hands... Finally it will be the real Palm Sunday! Jesus will come not just to offer the kingdom on earth as He did in His first coming. He will establish it.

Some commentators suggest that it may be the Feast of Tabernacles when Jesus returns. During this holiday, Jews are instructed to build a temporary structure in which to eat their meals, entertain guests, relax, and even sleep. The tabernacles, or booths, are reminiscent of the type of huts in which the ancient Israelites dwelt during their 40 years of wandering in the desert.

The Feast of Tabernacles looks forward to the return of Jesus to again "tabernacle" with His people. Jesus will return at the end of the Great Tribulation to establish a one thousand year Kingdom. The Feast of Tabernacles will be celebrated during the Kingdom Age:

Zechariah 14:16 And it shall come to pass *that* everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Revelation 7:10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Salvation belongs to... God in the sense it is only available as a gift from Him. He sits enthroned as Creator. It is on account of Jesus taking the place of the sacrificial Lamb that we can receive salvation as God's gift.

Revelation 7:11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **Revelation 7:12** saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *Be* to our God forever and ever. Amen."

All the angels will be there. We've said before that the elders are the church age believers. The four living creatures are angels, probably seraphim.

Because this sounds so similar to the scene in Heaven in chapters four and five some say this is taking place in Heaven and not on the earth. Possible. But it's also possible that the angels, elders, and Seraphim join the Lord on the earth for the celebration of Tabernacles.

Through both posture and praise we will join the angels in a chorus of celebration.

A few characteristics of God and Jesus are mentioned. We might want to check our worship to be sure it has those elements. Do our songs and sayings of praise reveal God's glory, wisdom, honor, power, and might? Are they full of blessing and thanksgiving? Even when praising the Lord we can sometimes get a little self-focused.

Revelation 7:13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

John gets hit with a pop-quiz! He's understandably ignorant of who these are.

It's interesting that the elder asks John the question rather than vice-versa. You know John must have been wondering what he was witnessing.

Ask questions of a text when you are reading the Bible. Let it ask you questions. Interact with it as a living Word.

Revelation 7:14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know."

You know more than you think you do! If you are saved you know enough. I always think of the blind man Jesus healed. The religious leaders kept asking him unreasonable questions. He answered, "This I know: I was blind but now I see!" We each, as believers, can say the same.

The other lesson to take from the blind man is to answer the real question. People ask the weirdest things. The real question is, "What must I do to be saved?" Though you may want to research specific questions people sincerely ask, don't get sidetracked from the main issue.

Revelation 7:14 ... So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Lamb's **blood** is a 'die' that turns any garment white. Without the shedding of blood there can be no remission of sins. With it you stand clothed for eternity.

By the end of the seven year Great Tribulation fully one half of the earth's population will have been killed by one catastrophe or another. Believers will have it especially hard because in addition to dodging meteors and such they will be severely persecuted for their faith in Jesus. The vast majority will be killed.

Revelation 7:15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple.

Since there will be no Temple in eternity this scene is earthly and before the creation of a new earth. It is a Millennial scene.

Their reward for serving Jesus on earth by giving their very lives will be to serve Jesus on earth during the Millennial Kingdom.

In the Old Testament you had to be descended from Aaron or one of the Levites to serve the Lord. In the kingdom every believer will be considered a priest.

Today every believer in the church is considered a priest.

The reward for serving the Lord is always more service. On earth it can mean greater suffering. In eternity it will mean greater bliss. There is no retirement from the things of the Lord. If you are planning to retire, think seriously about retiring into Christian ministry.

Revelation 7:15 ...And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

The greatest reward of all is to be in the presence of Jesus. You have His presence now. You and I, individually and corporately, are the Temple of His Holy Spirit. Thus no matter where I serve, and no matter the sacrifice or the suffering or even the worldly shame, I can be content and filled with joy as I do everything with the Lord.

If there is one 'key' to the Christian life it is knowing and then practicing the presence of God.

Revelation 7:16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;

Hunger, **heat**, and **thirst** describe just some of their previous sufferings during the Great Tribulation. During the last half of the Tribulation you will not be able to buy or sell anything unless you swear allegiance to the antichrist.

All of that will be over forever.

Revelation 7:17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Though *servants*, they are also *sheep*, and Jesus will **shepherd them**. They will be completely satisfied, both physically and emotionally.

Almost everyone is familiar with the opening of the twenty-third psalm:

Psalms 23:1 The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

There was a little boy who was supposed to quote the 23rd Psalm in front of the church. He studied and practiced until he was ready, but when he got up on the stage he just froze up. His mom prompted him, "The Lord is my shepherd."

He said, "The Lord is my shepherd..." paused for a few seconds, and then hurriedly finished it off by saying, "**And that's all I want.**"

Living fountains of waters refers to their physical state. People speak of and seek the fountain of youth. It's a parody of the true fountains that are available to sustain you in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

God will wipe away every tear refers to their emotional state. More than just never crying again, God will heal every emotional wound and pain once-for-all.

Do you know that God saves all of your tears? In Psalm 56:8 you read,

Psalms 56:8 You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.

Every tear is accounted for. They are written in a ledger. In heaven that account will somehow be closed for eternity as God wipes away every tear. I don't think it means you will suffer memory loss. You will remember everything but you will be overcome with joy at God's grace.



Calvary Chapel
of Hanford - California