

Chapter 7

Introduction and Overview:

Chapter 1 – John's Vision – Jesus in Glory – The one who keeps the lamb stands burning - What he sees

Chapters 2-3 - Church Ages – History - The Things that are, Then, the Things After these Things:

Chapter 4 - Throne – Some Say the Rapture? No further reference of the church. Great Worship – 4 creatures because of Who Jesus is & the 24 elders for what he has done.

Chapter 5 – Lion and the Lamb, The Title Deed Book for earth, Redeemer, initially seated then Standing in Judgment.

Chapters 6 – 18 – The Great Tribulation -

1. Opens with 7 seals (including 144,000 – 12 tribes)
2. 7 trumpets (including 2 witness)
3. 7 Bowls of Wrath
4. Babylon Falls - First and Last Judgment of Babylon Gen 11 & Rev 17-18

Chapter 19 – Armageddon - Wedding Supper & Great Supper of God

Chapter 20 – Millennium, then Satan and the Dead's final Doom

Chapter 21 - New Earth and Heaven

Chapter 22 – Closing

As we enter the 7th Chapter, God saves a remnant of Israel and a Multitude of Gentiles from every nation and tongue.

Naturally, at the point we have seen the four horses and martyrs die, ¼ population of the earth, and one might ask, God is a God of grace also, right? **What about the people in this period will any be saved?**

He provided a sacrifice for Adam & Eve in Garden, boat for Noah, parted the seas and rivers Israel, walked among the lamb stands for the church age. **Where is his Grace now?**

All further action is halted (See Rev 7:3), until His witnesses are sealed. We don't know how they are sealed either physically with a mark or by His Holy Spirit.

**What about the Holy Spirit isn't it removed in this period with the rapture?
How can someone be saved without the Holy Spirit?**

Before Pentecost – Holy Spirit was with Believers Psalm 51:11 David's Prayer (Don't take your Holy Spirit from me) At and after Pentecost – Holy is dwelt in us.

Much as he came at Pentecost he will leave at the appointed time with church that he dwelt in. He is not removed. He is omnipresent and part of the God head. It is not possible; however, He no longer dwells "in" believers on earth just "with" believers as in the Old Testament.

Why would God restrain the Holy Spirit? How have hard times affected you and your faith?

Will the heat and the winds of Judgment Melt hearts or harden them? Can God have a period of time where people have no way to turn to Him?

Read 2 Thessalonians 2-12 - Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling to meet him, we beg you, brethren, not to be quickly shaken in mind or excited, either by spirit or by word, or by letter purporting to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you this? And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, and the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by his appearing and his coming. The coming of the lawless one by the activity of Satan will be with all power and with pretended signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are to perish, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends upon them a strong delusion, to make them believe what is false, so that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Chapter 7 – Expository

Remember, To the Church of Philadelphia, he promised they would not go through it. Rev 3:10

Rev. 7:1-3 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. Then I saw another angel ascend from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God upon their foreheads.”

4 corners of the Earth (N, S, E, W) - 5th Angel must be high ranking giving orders with Greek Word for Great Voice (Megaphone)

Why Seal the 144k?

Can they make it through tribulation without being sealed by God?

How can God fulfill His promises to the Children of Israel without sealing them?

Matthew 24:21-22 “days shortened for the elect”

Matthew 24:14 Witnesses to all Nations before the end.

Rev. 7:4-7

“And I heard the number of the sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand sealed, out of every tribe of the sons of Israel, twelve thousand sealed out of the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand of the tribe of Reuben, twelve thousand of the tribe of Gad, twelve thousand of the tribe of Asher, twelve thousand of the tribe of Naph'tali, twelve thousand of the tribe of Manas'seh, twelve thousand of the tribe of Simeon, twelve thousand of the tribe of Levi, twelve thousand of the tribe of Is'sachar, twelve thousand of the tribe of Zeb'ulun, twelve thousand of the tribe of Joseph, twelve thousand sealed out of the tribe of Benjamin.”

Notice: Lord always deals with Israel as a remnant and speaks of dates and numbers. The same is not the case for the Gentiles. After Pentecost, there is no mention of numbers in the church.

There are two great nations: remnant of Israel and mass multitudes of Gentiles that can't be counted...

Notice the list of tribes of Israel is different here than in the original 12 – See Numbers 1:5-15. What two tribes are missing, and who replaced them, and why?

Answer:

Dan and Ephraim have been substituted for Joseph & Levi. These two tribes led Israel into Idolatry. Therefore, were not assessed by God to be worthy to be witnesses in the end. Millennium yes, Witnesses no.

Similar to: Ruben (Gen 49:4) did not receive the double blessing of the first born and the rights that came with it because of his transgression. Yet, he was not excluded as tribe of Israel.

Dan and Ephraim fell into idolatry and led Israel into idolatry.

Dan History with Idolatry: Dut 29:18-21, 1Kings 12:28-30 Jeroboam made Israel Sin. Some say the AntiChrist will come out of Dan (Gen 49:17).

Ephraim History with Idolatry: Hosea 4:17-19 Ephraim joined with Idols...1 Kings 11:26 Ephraim led divisions in Israel. Both included in Millennium Ezekiel 48 describes their allotment in the future. God will remember His promise for Israel to live in the land forever.

Now that you know the cost to the tribes of Dan and Ephraim, how important is it that we protect ourselves and our families from having a heart that turns to Idolatry?

Hosea 4:11-14 Wine and new wine take away the understanding. My people inquire of a thing of wood, and their staff gives them oracles. For a spirit of harlotry has led them astray, and they have left their God to play the harlot. They sacrifice on the tops of the mountains, and make offerings upon the hills, under oak, poplar, and terebinth, because their shade is good. Therefore your daughters play the harlot, and your brides commit adultery. I will not punish your daughters when they play the harlot, nor your brides when they commit adultery; for the men themselves go aside with harlots, and sacrifice with cult prostitutes, and a people without understanding shall come to ruin.

Do you find this description of the Idolatry that Ephraim fell into like what we face today?

Back to our scene in Revelation, for those who say this is a dark book full of God's wrath. Let's see His extraordinary grace that pours out on the "tribulation saints."

Rev. 7:9-12 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen."

Gentiles too many to count every nation, tongue and tribe. **What a great day of Salvation?** More saved then probably then the past 4,000 years combined. Can you imagine it? On earth, it appears evil is winning. The just are slain and the evil is not restrained, but as Jesus says "For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it." Luke 9:24.

Article / Activity	Meaning
White Robes	Righteous of Christ, Peace
Palm Branches	This denotes victory which is ironically found in their death.
Saints Worship	Worship is based on what Christ has done! Salvation the lamb!
Angels Worship	Worship is based on who Christ is! wisdom, power and strength

Rev. 7: 13-14 *Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and whence have they come?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

What do you think was going through John's mind when the Elder asked him who these people were and where the white robes came from?

He did not have a clue who they were. Notice, the elders (24 Old & New Testament saints) were already there, and it is they who explain the identity of the mix multitude. If this mixed multitude was the Church, would not John have recognized them?

If you were next door, and heard a conversation through the wall on 2 people talking. Hi Bob, Hey Bob, this and that 19 times, and then you heard Hi Bill, Hey Bill this and that. Would you suppose Bob had left the room? There has been no mention of the Church since the end of Chapter 3- logically, it has left the Earth.

1 Corinthians 10:31-33 – The human race is divided into 3 categories: Jews, Greeks (Gentiles) & Church of God. Revelation Chapter 7 mentions all three: Jews (144k & tribes), Greeks (Mix Multitude) and Church of God (represented by the 24 Elders). Jesus Said I have other Sheep. The tribulation saints are not the church.

If the Church went through the tribulation, would it not be like beating up on your bride right before the wedding?

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night within his temple; and he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Rev. 7:15-17 *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. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; 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."*

This references some of what they must have undergone in the tribulation...Hunger, thirst, scorching heat and many tears. This maybe at the end of the Tribulation when the saints remained faithful to the end and martyred.