

# Revelation

## Chapter 7

# Let's Refresh Our Memories!

- ✓ **The rapture of the church took place before chapter 4**
  - Extensive reference to the “church” before chapter 4 (19 times) – none afterwards
  - the church is in heaven worshipping around the throne during chapters 4 and 5 – the elders are seated around the throne
- ✓ **Chapter 6 marks the opening of the 7 “seal” judgments – the beginning of the 7 year tribulation period known as Daniel’s Seventieth Week**

## Chapter 6 Refresher

- ✓ **The 7 Seal Judgments**
- 1. The white horse – the antichrist revealed
  - 2. The red horse – blood and war ravage
  - 3. The black horse with balances – famine
  - 4. The pale horse – disease, death
  - 5. A group of martyrs – persecution of the tribulation saints
  - 6. A great earthquake and natural disasters
  - 7. Seal not opened until chapter 8 (Chapter 7 is a parenthesis)

## **Revelation 7:1-4**

**<sup>1</sup>And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. <sup>2</sup>And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, <sup>3</sup>Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. <sup>4</sup>And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.**

## Revelation 7:1-4

### ✓ Facts:

- Four angels have power over the earth (winds, power to hurt the earth and sea, etc.)
- Another angel yells to the four angels and tells them not to cause any harm until the servants of God have been “sealed”
- 144,000 servants of God will be “sealed”
- The 144,000 are of the tribes of the children of Israel
  - they are Jews

### ✓ What does it mean?

- 144,000 Jews will be sealed (from harm) during the time of the judgments that are going to fall and they will become evangelists for God

## What Is a Seal?

- ✓ **A mark of possession, authority, power, protection, and preservation**
- ✓ **A mark in the forehead (apparently visible)**
- ✓ **The antichrist will also “seal” his folks with a mark of possession – the mark of the beast – it too will be on the forehead or the hand. That mark will not offer protection from God’s wrath.**



## Revelation 7:5-8

**5**Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. **6**Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephtalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. **7**Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. **8**Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

## Two Views of Biblical Interpretation – View 1

- ✓ **God intended for the common folks He wrote this book to to understand it and that He meant what He said and said what He meant, and that He has no intention of throwing them a curveball and clouding the meaning in some mystical, confusing way that only a chosen few could understand actually what He meant. The folks who believe this view, believe that God spoke plainly and clearly and wanted people to understand what He had to say – there is no veiled meaning and that He is not trying to trick us. (Wouldn't that be cruel if He did try to trick us?)**

## Two Views of Biblical Interpretation – View 2

- ✓ **There are others who believe that God didn't really mean what is literally written here, and so they go about trying to find puzzle pieces and fit them together (always in a way that benefits them, of course) that really explains what God meant to say.**
- ✓ **I choose to believe that God is not trying to confuse us, but that He is telling us as plainly as He can what will happen. After all this is the book of "Revelation", not the book of "Baffle-and-Confuse-Em".**



## **Revelation 7:9-12**

**<sup>9</sup>After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; <sup>10</sup>And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. <sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, <sup>12</sup>Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Revelation 7:9-12

### ✓ Facts:

- Great multitude – large number – one which no man can number
- Diversity of nations, kindreds, people, languages
- Clothed with white robes and palms in their hands
- All praising God with a loud voice for the salvation from provided by the Lamb
- The elders and the four beasts join in with a hearty amen and round of praise

### ✓ What does it mean?

- Let's read on

## **Revelation 7:13-17**

**<sup>13</sup>And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? <sup>14</sup>And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup>Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. <sup>16</sup>They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. <sup>17</sup>For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.**

## Revelation 7:13-17

### ✓ Facts:

- The multitude came up out of the great tribulation
- They are Christians (“washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”)
- Their troubles are over, because they are now with the Lamb, and He will now take care of them

### ✓ What does it mean?

- These are “tribulation saints” – martyrs
- They did not go in the rapture (the elders represent the raptured saints)
- They were not part of the 144,000 (they are still on earth)

# Two Groups in Revelation 7

## Revelation 7:1-8 144,000 Jews

- Clearly stated as Jews
- 12,000 from each tribe
- Sealed in their foreheads
- Protected from judgments
- Ministers of God
- No doubt instrumental in turning many to God - evangelists

## Revelation 7:9-17 A Great Multitude

- A huge number of “all nations, and kindreds, and people, and languages”
- Washed in the blood of the Lamb
- At one time abused, but never again

## **Revelation 8:1-6**

**<sup>1</sup>And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. <sup>3</sup>And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. <sup>4</sup>And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. <sup>5</sup>And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. <sup>6</sup>And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.**

## Revelation 8:1-6

### ✓ Facts:

- Seventh seal broken – silence in heaven
- Seven angels with seven trumpets appear
- The seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound

### ✓ What does it mean?

- The seventh seal reveals the seven angels and seven trumpets that will successively be blown – each of which releases more judgment on the earth