



Revelation 7

+INTRODUCTION

The question, “who is able to stand” gets asked at the end of chapter 6 (vs.17) which then gets answered in this chapter. In short, the answer is, those who have been specially “sealed by God.”

Throughout the past 2000 years, the identity of this group of 144,000 people has been widely speculated upon and predominately viewed as:

1. **A symbolic number**, which draws upon the widespread symbolic language/imagery of Hebrew literature, believed to represent all of God's people throughout history (or the great tribulation) in the Church, who will be protected from His judgement (wrath) while serving God in this world.
2. **A literal number** of the descendants of Jacob (Israel) or others whom God will protect for a distinct role at the time of the end. One nuanced version of this is that the 144,000 are Jewish evangelists sent out to bring sinners to Christ during the seven year tribulation while protected from God's judgement.

Rising above the interpretive challenges of the text, what quickly becomes clear is the often familiar theme portrayed through the old + new

+READ (Revelation 7:1-17)

Read this passage out loud together as a group/family before asking any of the below questions.

+OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

1. Why is it important for us to know: (as it is included in this book)
 - a. That God's servants will be sealed prior to God's afflicting the land + sea with the final judgements? (7:3)
 - b. That the robes of this great multitude will be made white in the blood of the Lamb? (7:14)
 - c. That this great multitude will serve God day and night in His temple (7:15)
2. Why do you think the opening of the last seal (7th) was interrupted by these two other visions in chapter 7? What purpose do they serve in the unfolding of this apocalyptic drama?
3. Describe the tone + emotion of those worshipping in the scene from heaven (7:9-12)
4. What's the special promise given to those who endure the trials and difficulties within the world? (7:13-17) How does this promise make you more thankful to God and eager to see the Him?

+MEMORY VERSE

Rev. 7:17 the Lamb that is in the midst of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them unto fountains of waters of life: and God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes.



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testament...namely, God protects those who place their confidence in Him. This protection is not a carte blanche guarantee of prosperity, invincibility + freedom from suffering, or not even God's son was guaranteed this. Rather, this is a covenant promise, as the apostle Paul stated;

“...for though we are like sheep led to the slaughter”...yet, in **all these things** we have complete victory through him who loved us! For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor heavenly rulers, nor things that are present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:36-39)

In response to God's gracious protection and loving hand, that in Rev. 7:9-11 an innumerable host of angels, the 24 elders and the four living creatures led by a newly revealed countless body of redeemed saints, bow down with their faces to the ground and fill the eternal space of heaven with loud songs of praise to God because of His, blessing, glory, wisdom, power and might!

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