

All Saints Day (observed) – 2021

Saturday, 11/6 at 4:00 | Sunday, 11/7 at 9:00



Text: Revelation 7:9-17 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Many are interested in the book of **Revelation**. The book records a vision given to the apostle John about future events. John **♣(Ch 1)** saw Jesus in all His glory, **♣(Ch 2-3)** received the seven letters for the seven congregations in Asia Minor, **♣(Ch 4-5)** saw the awesome throne room in heaven, **♣(Ch 6)** saw the opening of *six of the seven seals*, which ends with the wrath of the Lamb of God and **NO ONE** being able to stand before Him.

Now, *in the face of total despair*, **chapter 7** is a pause in the action and a vision of encouragement. **Dr. Becker wrote:** “The scenes described in Revelation 7 are the first of a number of visions¹ in which the Holy Ghost portrays the glorious hope that ought to live in the heart of a believing child of God” (120).

¹ The security and hope of God’s people: 11:15-19; 14:1-5; 19:1-8; 21:1-22:5

In the first part of **chapter 7**, *before four angels harm the earth and sea*, they are commanded to put a seal on the foreheads of **all the servants of God**, that is, **144,000**. That number is **10 x 10 x 10 x 12 x 12**, which symbolizes **ALL OT and NT believers** – *all whom God has chosen to be His own from before the creation of the world (Eph. 1:3-4)*. Now, in **7:9-17**, we focus on the eternal happiness of God's servants:

1. **The People and Their Praise:** ⁹ **After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count [thus, the 144,000 is NOT literal], from every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes [wearing God's gift of righteousness], and palm branches were in their hands [indicating that they are sharers in Jesus' victory over sin and death]; ¹⁰ **and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."** // Wow! A HUGE number of people – from **every** nation, and **every** tribe within every nation, and **speaking** every language in the world, and **having** every skin color in the world, **BUT** they are all united together as the 😊children of God and 😊servants of God – *giving God and the Lamb ALL THE PRAISE for their salvation!* Just like us, they know their sins deserve hell; **BUT**, since they have heaven, *they SHOUT their praises!***
2. **The Angels and Their Praise:** ¹¹ **And all the angels were standing around the throne and *around* the elders [24 of them (4:4), probably 12 representing the OT Church and 12 the NT Church] and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving**

and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen.” // God is God – OVER ALL!

- a. So sad and horrible for all who reject Him:
 - i. The holy angels, *who rejected God as their God*, became demons, and are destined for the lake of fire.
 - ii. All people who reject Jesus as Savior and Lord ☹️ *automatically reject God the Father* (Luke 10:16) and ☹️ will be with the demons in eternity.
- b. The holy angels: 😊 God made them, 😊 God is their God, and 😊 they *gladly* pile up seven words of perfect praise upon Him!

3. **The Saints and Their Purity:** ¹³ **Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?”** [*Jeopardy – his answer is in the form of a question!*] ¹⁴ **I said to him, “My lord, you know.”** [*Thus, you tell me.*] **And he said to me, “These are the ones who come [lit., coming] out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”**

- a. The ones who come out of the great tribulation: Great tribulation – It’s not *to come*; instead, we live *in the middle of it*. Dr. Becker wrote: “John sees [the Christians] ‘coming out’ ...as a continuous...process. Every time one of the 144,000...dies, he ‘comes out of the great tribulation...’ (124).”
- b. White robes because of the blood of the Lamb: We are all covered with filth – *because of our sins*, **BUT** “the blood of Jesus... cleanses us from **all sin**” (1 John 1:7).

4. **The Activity of the Saints:** ¹⁵ **“For this reason** [because they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb], **they are before the throne of God; and they serve** [worship; Rom. 12:1] **Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them.** // We pray: **They will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.** Here, we struggle to do God’s will; there, we will gladly and perfectly do God’s will always, day and night. Even now, let’s give our best!
5. **The Blessedness of the Saints:** ¹⁶ **They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat** [all such things *can* be miserable]; [But why will all such things be gone?] ¹⁷ **for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”** // Psalm 23: “The Lord is my shepherd—I have everything I need” (AAT). That is true now, *but it will be SO AMAZING in eternity!*

Conclusion:

- **Truth** – Everyone will be somewhere in eternity!
- **Relevance** – The Triune God is calling everyone to know Him, serve Him, and have a most happy eternity!
- **Inspiration** – As we anticipate heaven, may the Joy move us now to gladly follow God’s will in our lives!

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, for all who have died in Christ, *Grant us peace*, and for all who are still living, *bring them to Christ, keep them in Christ, and grant us a blessed eternity!*

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