

Revelation Chapter 7 Continued

7:10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

"Salvation to our God": Salvation is the theme of their worship, and they recognize that it comes solely from Him.

We cannot take credit for our salvation. Our salvation is a free gift through grace. Jesus deserves all the credit. He purchased our salvation with His precious blood. We must praise and worship Jesus for He alone deserves all the credit. Of course, the triune God (Elohim), sits on the throne.

7:11 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,

"Elders" (see note on 4:4). "Four beasts" (see note on 4:6).

This is another view of the throne area. Of course, Elohim God is on the center throne. Jesus is sitting at the right hand of the Father. The four living beings are very near the throne. The twenty-four elders, representative of all Christendom, are very near as well. The angels encircle the throne. All fall before the throne of God in total adoration and worship.

7:12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, [be] unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

The "Amen" is saying, "so be it", to the praise and worship of Almighty God. This blessing here is seven fold. Spiritually complete blessings are spoken here in this heavenly setting.

Verses 13-17: The redeemed Gentiles of this vision are either saints who will be martyred during the "tribulation", or believers who will survive the Tribulation and enter the Millennium in their natural bodies, or both. The "temple" may be either the earthly, millennial temple, or the "throne" and presence of God in heaven. Earthly sorrows will be over (compare 21:3-4). Christ will give them spiritual sustenance. There will be absolutely no crying or sorrow in the presence of God, for He will have wiped away "all tears from their eyes". The principal activity of the redeemed for eternity will be to "serve" God (verse 15).

7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

This elder is certainly representative of the church. He must already know who these are. He probably asks this question to teach those who do not understand who these are.

Those which were "arrayed in white robes", cannot be the same people as those sealed in their forehead. Those sealed in their forehead would have no reason to be sealed, if they would be immediately transported to heaven. There are no winds of terror in heaven. There would be no purpose in putting the mark on them for heaven. This is certainly another group. They have been taken out of the great tribulation on the earth. The seven years are broken up into two 3-1/2 year periods. The first 3-1/2 years are called tribulation, and the last 3 1/2 years are known as the Great Tribulation.

Christians will know tribulation, but will be saved from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, [even] Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."

I believe this rapture, or catching away of the Church, occurs before these seven years.

Daniel 12:1-4 "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [even] to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame [and] everlasting contempt." "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, [even] to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

You see there is no question that this (we read in Daniel), is the same time as what we have been reading in Revelation.

Daniel 12:9, "And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end."

Here is why some people believe that the rapture will take place at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. If we read the rest of (chapter 12:12), "Blessed [is] he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days". This time I believe is at the end of the time of the Great Tribulation, when the earth is renewed and the sheep and the goats are separated. Meaning after the last 42 months, (thousand three hundred and five and thirty days). an additional time of 75 days, is added for this process.

During that period of time the Julian calendar was used (only 30 days per month) so the 1260 days is correct.

God is the same in the Old Testament as He is in the New Testament. It appears to me that the most important thing in our life, even more than eating and sleeping, is making sure that our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

7:14 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.

"Great tribulation" (see notes on 3:10; 6:1, 9, 12). These people didn't go with the raptured church, since they were not yet saved. During the 7 year period, they will be saved, martyred and enter heaven. Though it is a time of unparalleled judgment, it is also a time of unparalleled grace in salvation (compare Matt. 24:12-14).

"Washed their robes" (compare 19:8). Salvation's cleansing is in view (see Titus 2:11-14).

"Blood of the Lamb": This refers to the atoning sacrifice of Christ (compare 1:5; 5:9; Rom. 3:24-25; 5:9).

You see, he definitely already knew who they were. This was just emphasizing a lesson to be learned. This white is such a bright white that, I believe, it even glistens as the Shekinah Glory of God. Here again, white stands for righteousness. We are righteous because we have taken on Jesus' righteousness. Notice also, that they were not saved from tribulation, but in it.

Don't forget, every one of those new believers will have been left behind after the Rapture precisely because he or she had rejected God's offer of salvation up to that point.

The white robes portray a standing of righteousness, and the multitude praises God especially for their salvation. Note the sevenfold praise (of verse 12).

The redeemed Gentiles of this vision are either saints who will be martyred during the tribulation, or believers who will survive the Tribulation and enter the Millennium in their natural bodies, or both. The temple may be either the earthly, millennial temple, or the throne and presence of God in heaven. Earthly sorrows will be over (21:3-4). Christ will give them spiritual sustenance. There will be absolutely no crying or sorrow in the presence of God, for He will have wiped away all tears from their eyes.

7:15 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.

"His temple": This refers to the heavenly throne of God (see note on 11:19). During the Millennium, there will also be a temple on earth, a special holy place where God dwells in a partially restored, but still fallen, universe (see Ezekiel chapters 40-48). In the final, eternal state with its new heavens and earth, there is no temple; God Himself, who will fill all, will be its temple (21:22).

"Shall dwell among them": God's presence will become their canopy of shelter to protect them from all the terrors of a fallen world and the indescribable horrors they have experienced on the earth during the time of tribulation.

We Christians, are before the throne because we decided to follow Jesus, to accept His salvation, to be washed in His blood, and to believe in the resurrection. We are to be His servants and to dwell with Him forever. It speaks of "day and night" here, but there is no night in heaven with Jesus. We are in the presence of the Light, and there is just one eternal day with Him.

Ephesians 5:27 "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

Revelation 21-3 speaks of this very thing, "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God."

How much more wonderful could it be?

7:16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

If we read (in Isaiah 49:10), we will read, "They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them."

Both of these remind us of the 23rd Psalm. Jesus is the Shepherd. He sees to the needs of His flock.

Jesus is the Light, and there will be no need for the sun or the moon. There will be a presence of Light.

7:17 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.

God's Son is both a Lamb and a "shepherd". In a beautiful mix of images, the Lamb has always been the Shepherd (Psalm 23; Isa. 49:10; John 10:14; Heb. 13:20).

This is surely heaven where there is eternal peace and joy. Here again, we see Jesus as the Shepherd of His sheep, providing for all our needs, and making us blissfully happy. We have tears on earth but not in heaven.

John 10:11 tells us for sure who He is, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

"God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes" is very exact. The tears are not just wiped away, they are wiped completely from the eyes so that nothing is left but joy and abundant life in Christ (21:3-4).

Revelation Chapter 7 Continued Questions

1. When they cried with a loud voice, what did they say in verse 10?
2. Who deserves all the credit for our salvation?
3. The angels, elders, and beasts did what when they worshipped God?
4. The twenty-four elders represent whom?
5. The seven fold blessings in verse 12 are what?
6. Why did the elders ask who were the ones dressed in white robes?
7. Why would it not be necessary to be sealed in heaven?
8. Seven years of tribulation are broken up into what?
9. Jesus delivers us from the _____ to come?
10. In Daniel chapter 12, what do we read?
11. Who shall be delivered?
12. Many of them who sleep in the dust shall _____.
13. What is the brightness of the Christians compared to?
14. Daniel was told to go his way; the words were closed up until when?
15. What is more important to us than eating and sleeping?
16. What were these white robes washed in?
17. How do we become righteous?
18. What do we Christians do, day and night in the temple?
19. We read in Eph. 5:27, that Jesus will present unto Himself a church that is in what condition?
20. Where will the tabernacle of God be?

21. In Isaiah 49:10, what is it describing?
22. Who shall feed us?
23. In John 10:11, we see Jesus as what?
24. Is your name written in the Lamb's book of life?