

Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God.
The LORD is One.
Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever.







Revelation 7

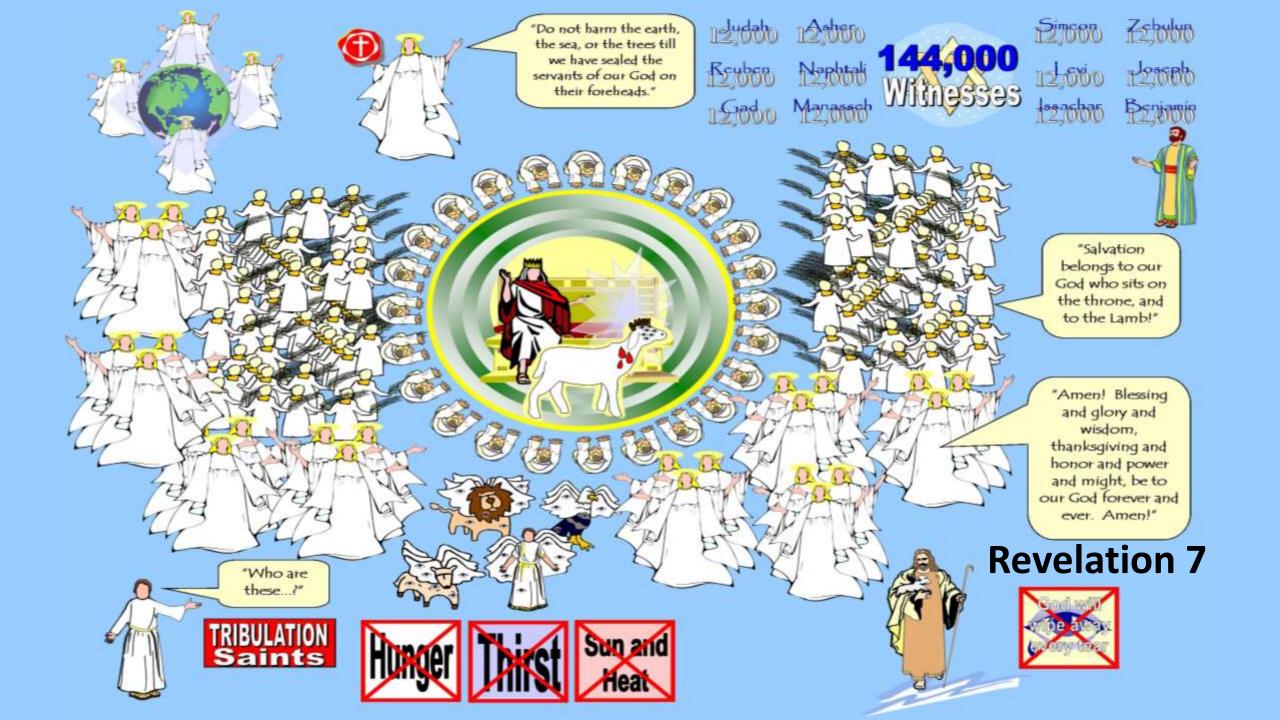
⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

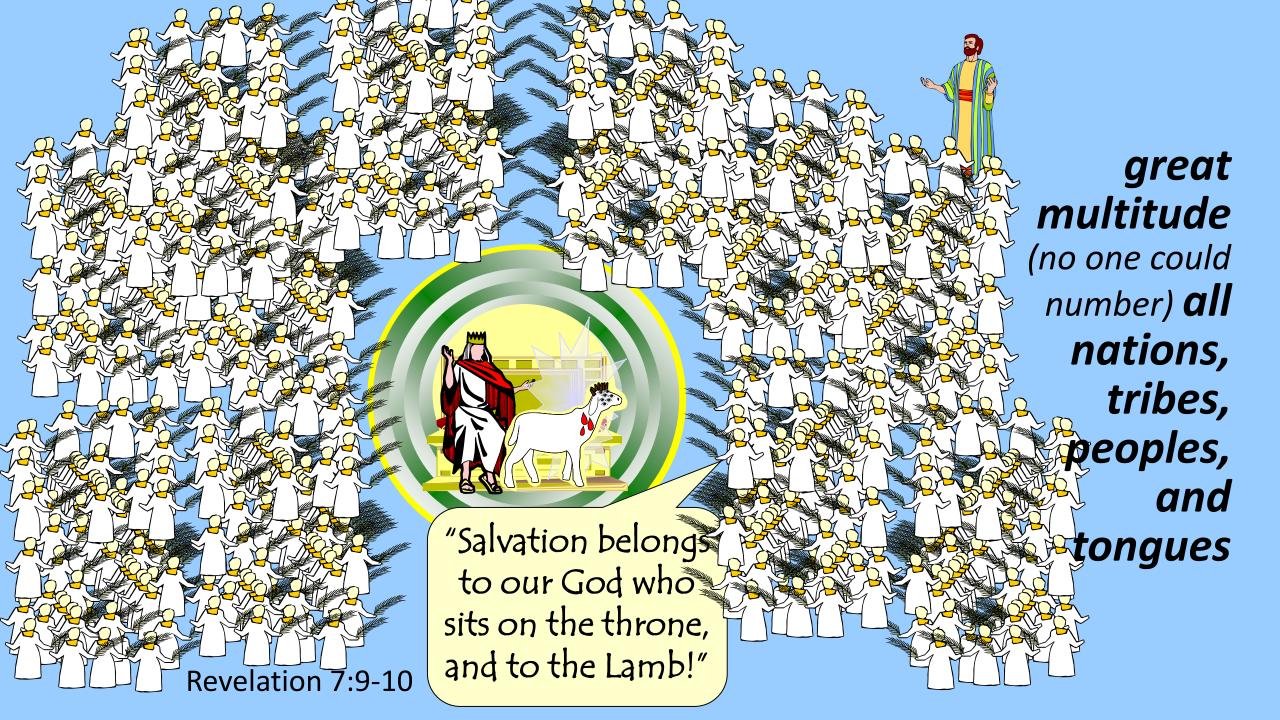
- ¹³ Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"
- ¹⁴ And I said to him, "Sir, you know."

So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ 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. 16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷ 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."



⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"



- A **sense** that <u>much time has passed here</u> (because of uncountable number of the multitude, assuming it would take time to amass this many).
- However, sealing event in part 1 of this chapter MAY be one of the first events of the Tribulation.
- Opening of first 6 seals in chapter 6 presents overview of conditions throughout Tribulation. Though time may pass between them, we do not know HOW MUCH time.

- Then "meta tauta" (after these things) again here, indicates multitude in heaven is AFTER the sealing event.
- But we don't know HOW much time after.
- Idea is that while select Jewish servants of God are sealed, many more (Tribulation saints), are martyred and lose their lives on earth, but gain them in heaven.
- Again, we do not know how much time has passed here.
- Many believe true horrors of Tribulation will **begin only** at midpoint (3½ years) of the 7-year Tribulation period.

- Back in throne room! 2nd group this chapter = believers, from ALL nations, tribes, tongues.
- First group ONLY Jews, but second group may also contain Jews if from EVERY nation.
- First group may not be the only Jews saved during this time, but elite group, for specific purpose.
- This group can't be counted. Again, huge soul harvest!
- These <u>standing</u>, in contrast to those who cannot stand in presence of Lamb (and His wrath) previous chapter.

- "White robes" = purity given to redeemed, righteousness of Messiah.
- **Palm branches** = symbolized victory (traditional at Feast of Tabernacles). These souls victorious.
- Their cry is truth: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb."
- No other way of salvation. (John 14:6)



Reminds of OT verse:

"Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon Your people. Selah" (Psalm 3:8)

Amazing how connected book of Revelation is with every other book in scripture. A beautifully integrated and precisely engineered work....clearly written by One outside our timeline!

Great and important truth here:

There is NO other way of salvation except through God. It BELONGS to Him, and to the Lamb.

We cannot do anything to earn it. It is freely given, but cannot be obtained any other way, by any other path.

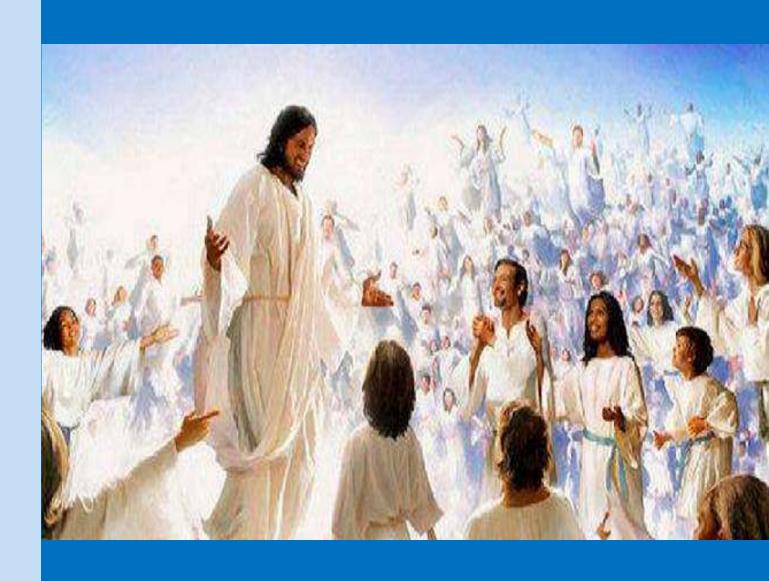
"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)

 Uncountable multitude of redeemed before the Throne of God = testimony that <u>Jesus' words in</u> <u>Matthew will be literally fulfilled</u>, *likely for the most* part during the Tribulation...

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14)

• It is also likely <u>much of this preaching done by the</u> 144,000 sealed servants of God.

The fact that there are so many saints here reveals the extent of God's grace and mercy and power to save, even in this time of judgment and wrath on the earth.



¹¹ All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying:... 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."





These are Critical verses because they contain the elements of worship and a right heart before God.

There are 7 things listed here, creating a guide for perfect worship of our amazing God. And a life perfectly right with Him.

- Note first: all around the Throne are on their faces.
 "Who can stand" is a relevant question. Our God is so much bigger than we can imagine. Completely HOLY (which we can't imagine!).
- The 7 elements of WORSHIP (this is not praise!) begin with understanding that we bring nothing (we are spiritually bankrupt) before our Holy, powerful God.
- First of the "BE-attitudes:" "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven." (Matthew 5:3)



Toward God, in homage, surrender and submission, "like a dog" kissing master's hand

"Worshiped" = proskuneō (meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand); to fawn or crouch to, that is, (literally or figuratively) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore): - worship.

Pros – direction, toward Kuon – dog

Blessing – eulogia, elegant language, reverent adoration

- Does our worship include "reverent adoration?" Do we <u>adore God</u> and tell Him so?
- Do we think of Him in awe, or like Paul, in "fear and trembling" because of His awesomeness? What is in our hearts about God?
- Do we do this privately and publicly?

Glory – doxa, dignity, honor, praise, revealed nature

- Do we give God "glory" through our words of praise, through our heart's truth about Him?
- Do we reveal His nature through our thoughts, words, and behavior?
- Do we give Him all honor, including the honor given to us by others? (is He the only one worthy of glory?)

Wisdom – sophia, natural and/or spiritual wisdom

- Do we understand the only One wise is God Himself?
- Do we thank Him for imparting His wisdom to us? Do we ask for it, as well as discernment?
- Do we know man's wisdom (apart from God) = laughable?
- Do we inwardly and outwardly acknowledge that we obey only God's wisdom and it is the only truth worth pursuing?

Thanksgiving – eucharistia

gratitude, grateful language

- Are our hearts full of gratitude (humble thanksgiving) toward God...all the time?
- Do we express our thanks in grateful language? Do we thank Him for the gift of forgiveness and salvation?
- Do we understand humble thanksgiving is a state of being, not just a song or words once in awhile?

Honor – time

value, esteem of highest degree, preciousness

- Is God the most precious and esteemed person in our lives? Is He top priority?
- Is Jesus our most valued "possession?" Do we "value" Him above ALL ELSE?
- Do we express that in our worship, daily thoughts?
- Is He on our minds more than anything or anyone else?

Power – dunamis, force, miraculous power, abundance, ability, might, strength

- Do we acknowledge God (and the Lamb!) as the most miraculous and powerful force in the universe, and in our lives?
- Do we know His power is abundant in/for us? Do we give Him praise for this?
- Do our private thoughts, thoughts of our hearts, reflect this awe of His might and strength?

Might – ischus, forcefulness, ability, power, strength

- Do we know/acknowledge God as the force that governs our lives, having the ability to do all things?
- Do we thank God that His power and strength are beyond that of any other entity in the universe?
- Do we <u>rely on that power and ability</u>? Do we believe it, trust it? Trust is an act of worship.

Worship is not a single event.

Nor is it just a song.

Worship does not happen once a week, or even once a day. Worship is what SHOULD be happening in our lives right now.

The believer
LIVES worship in body, mind and spirit 24/7

Worship is what is happening before the throne of God.

WORSHIP IS
A WAY OF
LIFE.

Worship is the song of your heart.

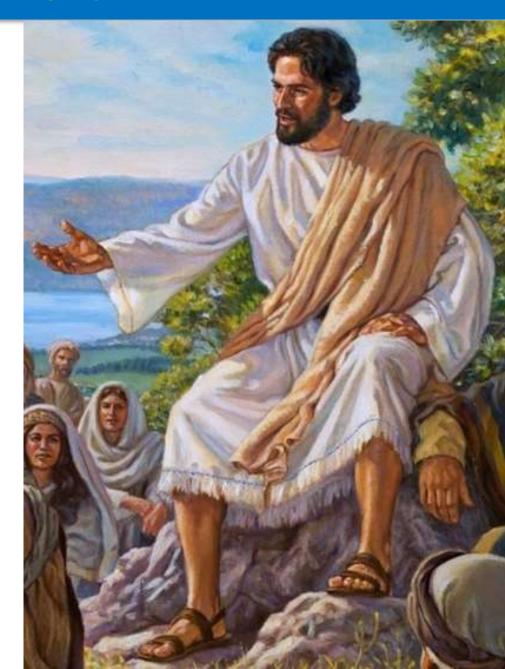
- Do we truly worship Him?
- Do we live worshipful lives?

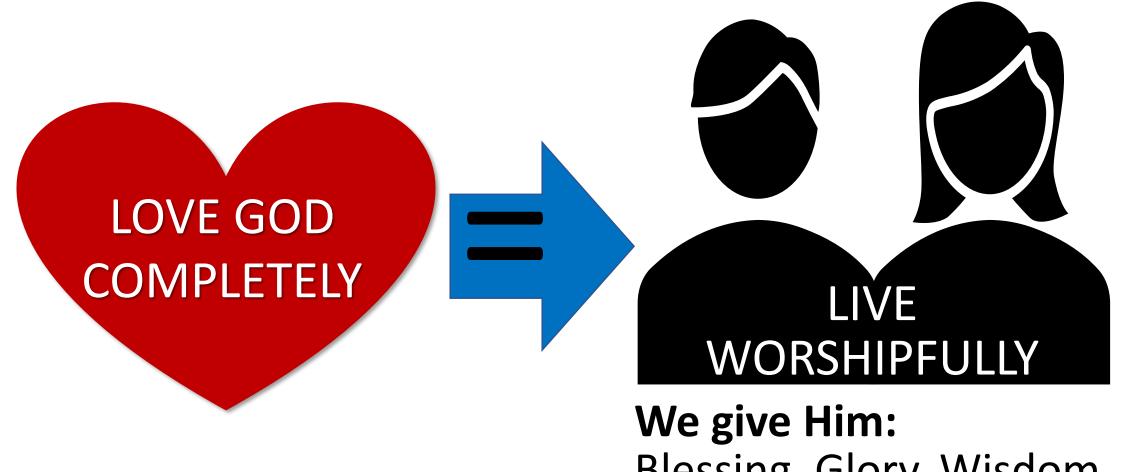
Pure and honest worship of our God will change our lives forever.

True Worship = LIVING summary of entire Law as Jesus spoke it:

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37)

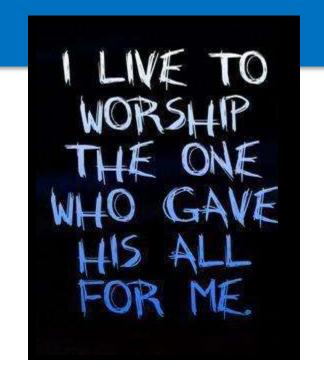
(a quote of Deuteronomy 6:5 – same in either testament!)





Blessing. Glory, Wisdom, Thanksgiving, Honor, Power and Might

- Worship bracketed by two "amens."
- List of 7, perfectly complete.
- All worship, all everything belongs to God.
- All these things also come from God.
- We owe everything to Him. No blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power or might that does not belong to Him or come from Him. *FUNDAMENTAL truth of God!*
- Nothing else worthy or compared to Him.

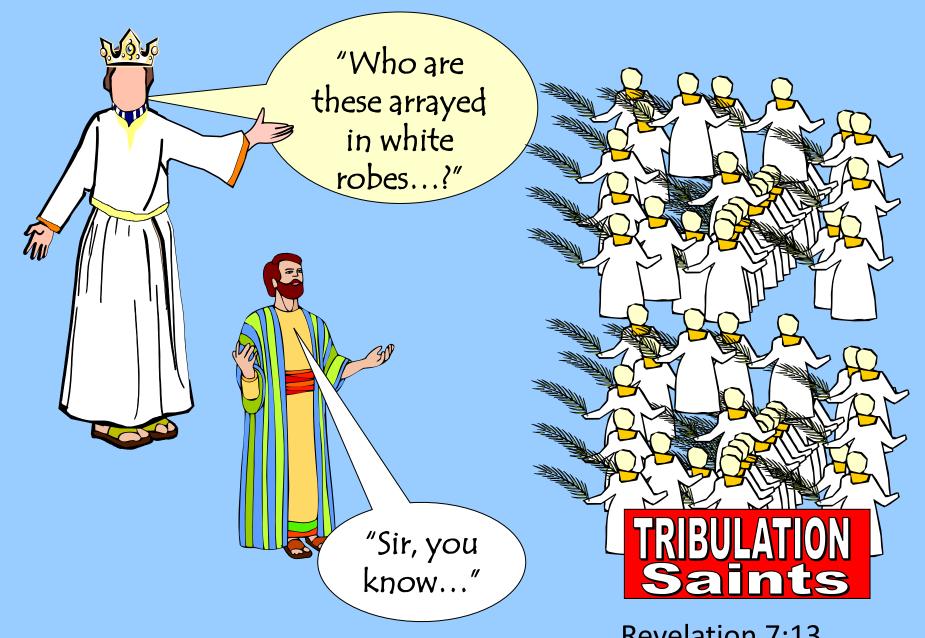


COMMENTARY: "John saw everything in heaven in reference to the *throne* of God. "This is a peculiar subject of their joy: that God has a throne, that he sits upon it, and that he ruleth over all things, and all things do his bidding. The central thought of heaven, then, is divine sovereignty." (Spurgeon)

And our central thought should be living a life of true worship before the Sovereign King of the Universe.



¹³ Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" 14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.



Revelation 7:13

- Multitude now identified = martyred saints.
- Elder (one of redeemed) asks John who these people are. Was John supposed to know?
- Some suggest = <u>John did not recognize this group</u>, but deferred to elder to answer – <u>THEREFORE</u>, they must not be part of the Church.
- Referenced apart from Church. Also redeemed, but not prior to Tribulation. Martyred, died during "time of Jacob's Trouble."

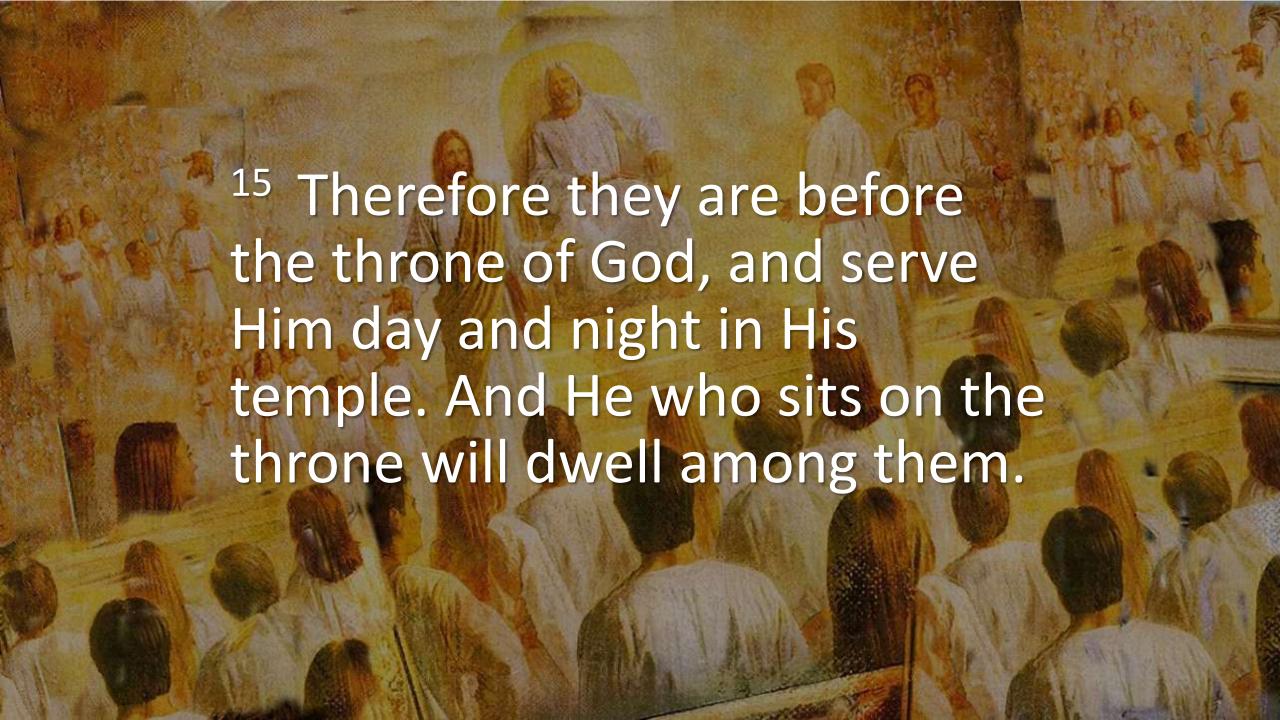
- Washing "our robes" in the blood of the Lamb <u>critical</u> concept in our faith.
- "White robes" symbol for redemption given by Yeshua.
- Also what priests wore in service before God. Robes represent purity given by Jesus, but also <u>service as</u> <u>priests of God</u>. (Priests had to purify through ritual cleansing. We are pure by His blood: permanent cleansing)
- These <u>definitely redeemed</u>, but *most likely not part of Church*. (Tribulation Saints)

Washing robes in blood to make them white? Doesn't seem right, until we remember the words of Isaiah...

"Come now, and let us reason together,"
Says YHVH,
"Though your sins are like scarlet,
They shall be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1:18)

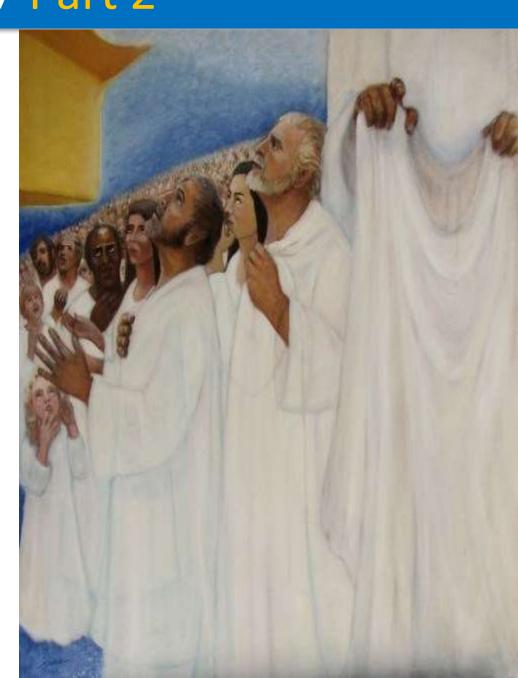
- Notice "great tribulation" may be during last 3½ years
- Much of what happens in Revelation happens during the last half, 3½ years.

- <u>Believers</u>, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, but have lost their lives during the Great Tribulation.
- They are, therefore, "<u>Tribulation Saints</u>."
- They are <u>uncountable</u> in <u>number</u>. HUGE harvest!
- From every tribe, people, and tongue (all nations, may also include Jews)
- May be related to first group (144,000) a **result** of the work of the sealed servants of God and their **witness** of the Lamb.





- "Tribulation Saints" before throne of God. He dwells with them.
- What better place to be?? In His presence, completely protected.
- Saints <u>serve God non-stop</u>. "Day and night" may not be literal, but reference to <u>never-ceasing</u> praise and service.
- No "night" in eternity.

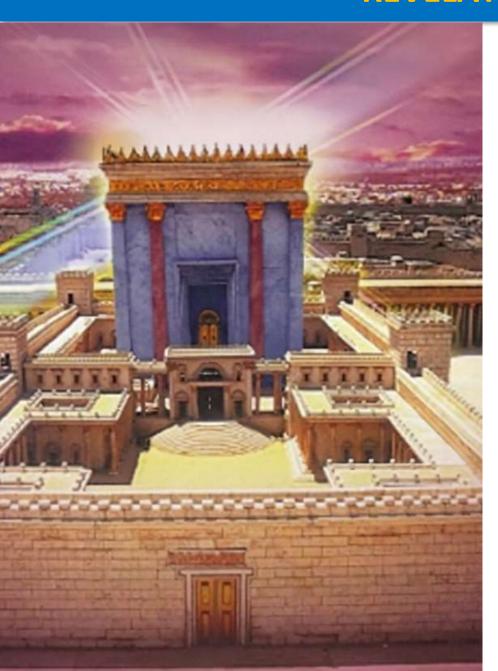


- We don't just sit around in heaven on a nice fluffy cloud.
 We serve God unceasing.
- COMMENTARY: "Heaven is not only a place of rest from earthly toil but also a place of **privileged**Service." (Walvoord)
- Desire of David's heart: "One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple." (Psalm 27:4)

Reference to serving God "in His Temple" interesting.
 No Temple in final eternal place of dwelling with God.

But I saw <u>no temple in it</u>, for the <u>Lord God Almighty and</u> <u>the Lamb are its temple</u>. ²³ The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. (21:22-23)

• But there is a Temple seen in heaven a number of times in Revelation (16X), prior to the last chapters. (more later!)



- Some speculate = reference to Millennial Temple, during 1,000 year reign. (Ezekiel 40-48 references another temple to be built, most think Millennial)
- Although chronology to Revelation, <u>must not be bound</u> <u>by it</u>. God inhabits eternity!



¹⁶ They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷ 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."



Revelation 7:16-17

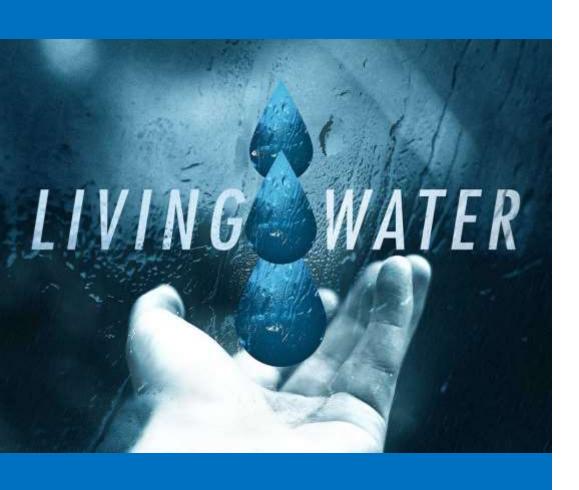
Perhaps **greatest comfort to believers** in all these passages is the promise that **God, and the Lamb**, will now <u>dwell with believers</u>. Confirmed in chapter 21:

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. (Revelation 21:3)

- Beautiful description of rewards for believers. Here immediate protection and relief after being martyred during Tribulation.
- "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes…" (7:17) Statement about Tribulation saints who are before the throne after coming out of the great Tribulation.
- Implies that all their grief and tears in the past, experienced during trials in the tribulation, will be over when they arrive in heaven before the throne.

 God will wipe away all the tears that resulted in their/our suffering on earth. They/we will be very well cared for!

 Same promise made in chapter 21: "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (21:4) Here it is for everyone, not just the Tribulation Saints.



• <u>Living water will satisfy their thirst</u> <u>now</u>. This may speak of both physical thirst (as experienced during *Tribulation*) and also spiritual thirst.

"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (John 7:37-38)

• Jesus is the Living Water that satisfies forever.

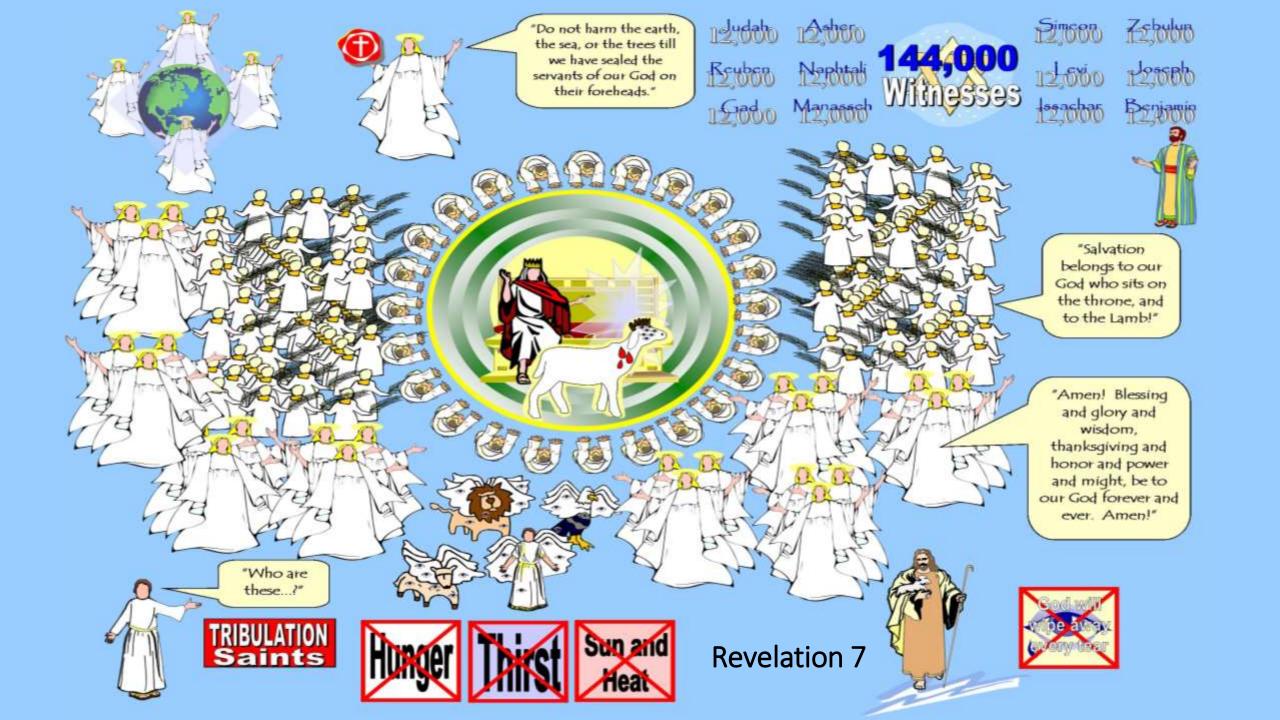
- Note <u>strange sort of conditions</u> only God can create:
- Lamb (sacrifice) also Shepherd!
- Sacrificial Lamb also our High Priest.
- Gentle, caring Lamb also full of wrath last chapter.
- God's plan truly amazing. These "ironies" speak of His many titles/roles: Protector, Provider, Intercessor, Sacrifice/Payment, and Judge.

Blessings of redeemed here (who come out of great Tribulation):

- 1. Stand in the throne room before God
- 2. Serve God day and night
- 3. God in their midst, dwelling with them
- 4. Hunger no more
- 5. Thirst no more
- 6. No longer on earth where elements harm
- 7. Led by the Good Shepherd
- 8. Fed by the Lamb
- 9. Fountains of living waters
- 10. No more tears or sorrow



The 144,000	Tribulation Saints	Church
Jews (by tribe)	From every nation, tribe people and tongue	From every nation, tribe people and tongue
In Tribulation (on earth)	Come <u>OUT</u> of Tribulation (in heaven)	"Caught <u>up</u> " before Trib? (in heaven)
Sealed against harm, endure wrath	Come OUT of wrath, martyred (washed robes in blood of Lamb)	Does not experience wrath
Stand before the Lamb	Stand before the throne	Sit on thrones (like elders)
Not crowned (yet)	Not crowned (yet)	Crowned (victorious)
Servants of God (redeemed ch 14)	Serve Him day and night	Reign as kingdom of priests
Numbered	Cannot be counted	"24 elders" (all redeemed before Trib)



Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha May the LORD bless you and keep you

Ya'er Adonai panav elekha viḥunneka

May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyasem lekha shalom.

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

