# THE REVELATION

## God Will Wipe Every Tear

#### Revelation 7:1-17

Revelation 7 is a continuation of the events following the breaking of the sixth seal. It describes the preparation of four angels to bring judgment upon the earth, while being held back until the saints are sealed. There is a great deal of symbolism in this chapter surrounding the 144,000.

#### I. The Seal of God

There is great significance to being sealed by God and to having His seal. In one way or another the seal represents the validation of the covenant established between God and believers by the shedding of the blood of the Lamb of God. This is true for all of salvation history throughout the Bible.

- A. The seal of Abraham when he believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness (Gen 15:6-18)
- B. The seal of all believers with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:3-14 [v13])
- C. The seal of the 144,000 of true Israel to protect from God's wrath (Rev 7:2-4)

The seal of God is a guarantee that we will be brought safely to God's heavenly kingdom and that we will never suffer His judgment or wrath against the sinful and ungodly. We are cleansed, forgiven, and safe in Jesus.

### II. The One Hundred Forty-four Thousand

Much has been written about the identity of the 144,000 and the meaning of the number. While many disagree on how the number is symbolically derived, most conservative Biblical scholars are in basic agreement that the group itself is highly symbolic for the following reasons:

- A. The list of the specific tribes differ from the usual Old Testament listing
- B. However one derives the total number, the final symbolic meaning is:
  - 1. a complete accounting (12 x 12) (24 elders, 12 tribal leaders and 12 apostles, New Jerusalem)
  - 2. a large multitude of people (1,000 x 144)
- C. Immediately after the sealing of the 144,000, John sees a large multitude from every tribe, tongue, and nation representing the saints of all the earth
- D. The New Jerusalem: 12,000 x 12,000 x 12,000 stadia, 144 cubits thick, 12 gates with the names of the 12 tribes of Israel, 12 foundation stones with the names of the 12 apostles (Rev 16:10-27)
- E. The 144,000 stand with Jesus in His return as He stands upon Mt. Zion (Rev 14:1)

Although there is still mystery surrounding the meaning of all the elements associated with the 144,000, the general consensus of the majority of conservative scholars is that the 144,000 represent the true Church comprised of all Old and New covenant believers.

### III. The Great Multitude that No One Could Count

The symbol of the completed Israel immediately gives way to a more literal scene consisting of a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language.

- A. These have white robes (of righteousness) and hold palm branches (to the King) (Rev 7:9-13)
- B. They have come out of the Great Tribulation and washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb (Rev 7:14)
- C. God will care for them, the Lamb will be their Shepherd, God will wipe every tear from their eyes (Rev 7:15-17)

- 1. What does it mean to be sealed by God? What is the seal that all of us have right now?
- 2. What does this seal guarantee?
- 3. If believers are on the earth during the tribulation, will they suffer from the wrath of God and His judgments along with the rest of humanity? Explain.
- 4. Do you believe the 144,000 is a literal or symbolic number, why or why not? Why do most conservative Bible scholars think it is a symbolic number?
- 5. What is the significance of white robes and palm branches?
- 6. How will God care for the believers?
- 7. Explain the phrase, "The Lamb will be their Shepherd."
- 8. When will God wipe every tear from our eyes?

NOTES	
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"Then I wanted to know the meaning of the fourth beast. which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze clawsthe beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fellthe horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them, until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom. "He gave me this explanation: 'The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time. "'But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him."