

An Interlude: The People of God In The Day of Judgment
Revelation 7

¹After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.²And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted (to harm) the earth and the sea, ³saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

Preparing for the coming Judgment

God has a people during the Tribulation

An enlightened Israel

⁴And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

⁵from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, ⁶from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand,⁷from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, ⁸from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.

⁹After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb,

they are before the throne because they have been martyred.

The result of Israel's preaching is that a huge number of the nations will believe.

The tribe of Dan could be omitted because of their introduction of idolatry that started Israel's downward march. (Judges 17-18)

always an equality

included in Israel's celebration of occupying the land of Israel.

clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; ¹⁰and they cry out with a loud voice, saying,

The Gentiles are celebrating the coming Kingdom of the Messiah.

"Salvation" is probably referring to the salvation of mankind through the coming Kingdom.

"Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying,

the church is distinct from the Tribulation saints who are in heaven.

"Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, to our God forever and ever. Amen."

a 7 fold anthem of praise attributing all things blessed to the character of God

¹³Then 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?" ¹⁴I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread

martyrs

Believers in Christ

we serve God through praise

there is a temple, a glorious presence of God in heaven. These saints are home.

His tabernacle over them. ¹⁶They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; ¹⁷for 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."

The trials of this life are a thing of the past.

The Good Shepherd has brought them to the place prepared.