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# The Book of Revelation: Session 12

## Revelation 7

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**YouTube:** “Verse by Verse Teaching | Revelation 7 | Gary Hamrick”  
(taught on September 16, 2020 | 44:53 minutes)

### Notes:

Why God will bring tribulation upon the earth:

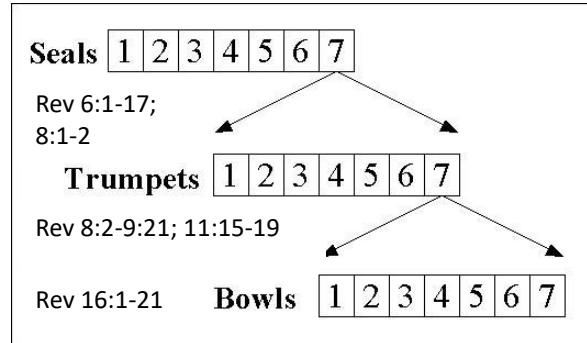
1. To wake up unbelievers.
2. To shake up the nation of Israel.
3. To make up the Kingdom of God.

“In the midst of His wrath, we see mercy in Revelation, chapter 7 (Habakkuk 3:2b – “...in wrath, remember mercy”).”

“In biblical typology, wind (Rev 7:1) is often indication of judgment.”

The 144,000 are “Jewish believers who have been redeemed from the earth (Rev 14:3) – saved during the Tribulation period and protected from it – and sent as witnesses to unbelievers on the earth.”

The Great Multitude (Rev 8:9) are Tribulation saints, “those who were saved during the Tribulation period and martyred for their faith.”



**Introduction:** Revelation, chapter 6 ends with “Who can stand” the wrath of the Lamb? “John might have reasonably concluded that the answer to that question was “Nobody! Not a soul will be able to stand!” Chapter 7 reveals, however, that two distinct groups of redeemed will, in fact, stand. One will stand strong on earth throughout the Tribulation period, having received God’s personal seal of protection. The other group, after suffering martyrdom at the hands of God’s enemies, will stand in heaven before God’s awesome throne in worship and praise” (Swindoll).

## Questions:

1. Read Revelation 7:1-8. Though these four angels likely and literally prevent the wind from blowing for a time, this likely also represents the pause in God's judgment on earth, until His 144,000 witnesses are sealed. John MacArthur indicates that a "seal denote[s] ownership and protection." Thus, these 144,000 Jewish witnesses will be protected from danger as they proclaim the gospel to the world. Read Ephesians 1:11-14. New Testament saints are also sealed. How is this seal the same as the one we see in Revelation 7. Are there differences between the two?
2. Read Isaiah 49:5-6. MacArthur explains, "Chosen to be the instrument of God in the salvation of the nations, Israel tragically failed in that mission. The church has intervened and is that channel in this age. In the future, though, God will graciously grant Israel a second opportunity to be His witness nation, and at that time they will not fail!" Great Awakenings have happened in the past. How does it impact you to know that the greatest awakening will happen someday soon? What else can we do, besides marvel that this is going to happen?
3. Read Revelation 7:9-14. Though God allowed these Tribulation saints to be martyred, they still worship Him wholeheartedly. How are they able to do this? What prevents us from worshiping God with all our hearts? How can we cultivate a worship-God-with-all-our-hearts spirit in ourselves?
4. Read Revelation 7:15-17. What promise(s) in this passage, in particular, resonate with you at this point and time? Why does it resonate with you?

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"The interlude in Revelation 7 teaches us that, *even in the midst of wrath, God does not forget His mercy.*"

– Chuck Swindoll

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Want to dig deeper? Engage with these sermons by John MacArthur, taught in 1992-1993:

- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-28/survivors-of-the-wrath-of-god>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-29/tribulation-saints-part-1>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-30/tribulation-saints-part-2>