

Revelation #23

January 15, 2023

Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon

Today's Message: Who Can Stand In The Day of Wrath? pt2; Revelation 7:9-17

Chapter 6 ends with the chilling statement and question of kings and great men, commanders and the rich, the mighty, the slave and the free who now know that they are suffering divine judgment, "For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

Revelation 7 is an interlude between the sixth seal and the seventh seal. It gives answer to the question asked by all those groups of people who now are in the torment and suffering of the One who sits on the throne and of the wrath of the Lamb. And, while the world is struck with fear, dread and terror at the sight, sounds, and smells of God's wrath, the people of Revelation 7 are marked by God's seal of possession and the Lamb's precious blood!

Chapter 7 answers the question, "Who can stand?" There are two groups of people that will stand: The select and sealed people of Israel (7:1-8); and the saved and sanctified people of the nations (7:9-17)!

Today we will study Revelation 7:9-17 concerning the saved and sanctified people of the nations..

- I. (Revelation 7:9-17) The Saved and Sanctified people of the nations: Saved out of the Tribulation
 - A. (7:9) The Magnificent Sights John Saw!
 1. Can you imagine how awe-struck John must have been at the vision before him?
 - a) It is a vision of the great multitude of souls of people that **will be saved** during the coming tribulation.
 - (1) An *uncountable number* of souls of people
 - (2) People from every nation, tribe, people and language
 - (a) **Gentiles and Jews**
 - (i) This number must include the Jewish people saved during the preaching of the 144,000!
 - b) They are wearing white robes
 - (1) Symbolic, as they do not have bodies yet
 - (a) Like the "souls of those under the altar" who were each "given a white robe" as in 6:9-11.
 - (b) It is symbolic of **holiness**
 - (i) Demonstrating that these are saints who are sanctified unto the Lord.
 - c) They held palm branches in their hands
 - (1) Like during Jesus' Triumphal Entry the people waved palm branches to celebrate the coming of their Savior (John 12:13),

these saints are filled with “an inexpressible joy” as they celebrate the Savior who has saved them out of the Tribulation and into His wonderful presence!

(a) Saved **from** the wrath of Him who sits on the throne and of the Lamb

(b) Saved **unto** the glorious presence of Him who sits on the throne and the Lamb of God! (Rev. 5:11-14)

(2) There will be joy unspeakable and full of glory in heaven!

2. This brings us once again to the throne of God!

a) The **saved** and **sanctified** of God are brought near!

(1) For all believers! What joy!

(a) Ephesians 2:13: “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ!”

(b) “brought near” implies that we “come near”

(i) Hebrews 4:16: “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

(2) And in Revelation 7:9-17, the nearness to the throne is

(a) **Without embarrassment**

(b) And with great joy, celebration and worship **“before the throne and in front of the Lamb!**

B. (7:10-12) The Magnificent Sounds John Heard

1. John heard them continually “cry out in a loud voice”

a) Heaven is full of joyous, exuberant worship of God forever and ever!

(1) These “saints of the Tribulation” had missed the Rapture of the Church.

(a) They were “without hope and without God in the world” (Ephesians 4:12).

(b) “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love for us, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions!”

(i) These people are saved by grace just as we are!

(2) These Tribulation Saints were gushing with praise and worship

(a) “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

(i) The Lord loves joyous and loud worship!

- (a) Psalm 66:1–“Shout *with* joy to God!
 - (i) Make His praise glorious!
 - (b) Psalm 100:1– “Shout *for* joy to the Lord!”
 - (ii) These saints praise loudly and without restraint because God is there God!
 - (a) Once God was against them! (Ps.34:16)
 - (b) Now God is for them! (Romans 8:31)
- 2. (7:11-12) The Tribulation saints’ worship was marvelous and it was motivating!
 - a) “All”
 - (1) Angels, all!
 - (a) Innumerable. Like Rev. 5:11: thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand–encircled the throne.
 - (2) Elders, all!
 - (a) In Rev. 5:9-10 they sang the song of Redemption.
 - (b) Here in Rev. 7 they praise the God of redemption!
 - (3) Four living creatures, all!
 - (a) Rev. 4:8 reveals that they never cease to gush forth the saying, “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come!”
 - b) All “fall on their faces before the throne” and worship God!
 - (1) They acknowledge
 - (a) God’s holiness (otherness and separateness)
 - (b) God’s Sovereignty and Power
 - (c) God’s Omnipotence (His Strength)
 - (d) God’s Unceasing Worthiness for unceasing praise!
 - (2) Application: God is eternally worthy eternal, unceasing worship for
 - (a) ...all praise, all glory, all wisdom, all thanks, all honor, all power, all strength is His forever and ever!
 - (3) Application: Our worship is hindered by the fact that we can only see God as through a glass darkly. But that shouldn’t stop us from pursuing knowing God and glorifying Him through Jesus Christ who is “our righteousness, holiness and redemption! (1 Corinthians 1:30)”

- (4) Application: The Tribulation saints will be gushing with praise over the fact that they have been saved from God's just wrath. Let that sink in. Therefore, how precious is the salvation you have been saved from God's just wrath? How can you become more grateful for the salvation you have received by grace through faith?

C. (7:13-14) The Magnificent Scene John participated in when asked about the Saved and Sanctified Tribulation Saints.

1. John was asked to participate in describing the origin of these saints he saw.
 - a) Concerning the souls dressed in white robes
 - (1) Who are they?
 - (2) Where did they come from?
 - b) John humbly yielded all answers to the elder speaking to him.
2. The elder describes them and how they became heirs of God in His presence:
 - a) They are clothed in white
 - (1) Having washed their robes and made them white by the blood of the Lamb.
 - (a) Before this, they were soiled with sin.
 - (i) Isaiah 64:6: our righteousness like filthy rags
 - (ii) Zechariah 3:3: "filthy clothes"
 - (b) Now, the white robes indicate holiness and purity
 - (i) Salvation is described as a washing
 - (a) Psalm 51:7: "Cleanse me"; "Wash me"
 - (b) Isaiah 1:18: inferring the blood cleansing
 - (c) Titus 3:5: "washing of rebirth"
 - (d) Rev.22:14: "washed their robes"
 - (c) The blood of sacrifice is OT, and fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus Christ, the spotless Lamb of God!
 - (i) Hebrews 10:10: by the bodily sacrifice of Christ
 - (ii) Both we and the Tribulation Saints are reconciled to God by faith through the substitutionary sacrificial death of Christ
 - (a) Romans 5:10: Reconciled Through His blood
 - (b) 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

3. Application: When have you by faith repented from your sins and turned in faith to Jesus Christ, who died as your sacrifice for sin, whose blood cleanses you from all unrighteousness?
- D. (7:15-17) The Magnificent Serenity of the Saved and Sanctified Tribulation Saints witnessed by John
1. The elder describes the eternal serenity of the Saved and Sanctified Tribulation Saints
 - a) (7:15a) They are forever safe before the throne of God serving Him day and night in His sanctuary!
 - b) (7:15b) They are forever safe under the Sheltering Presence of God
 - (1) God who sits on His throne will spread His glory (Shekinah) over them forever
 - (a) God's protective presence (See Leviticus 26:11-12; Ezekiel 37:27; Zechariah 2:10-11, 8:3-8)
 - (2) Think of it: Having come through the terrifying tribulation and persecution of Antichrist, they are now forever safe in the heavenly sanctuary of God's holy presence!
 - (3) Application: What is your biggest stressor and fear and cause for anxiety in this world? When you are relieved of living (and yes, you must live while you live in this world!) you will be gathered into God's protective presence and will be forever safe! In light of this glorious future, what do you really have to fear now?
 - c) (7:16-17)) They are forever satisfied in the Sheltering Presence of God
 - (1) (7:16a) No more hungering or thirsting
 - (a) Including physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual
 - (2) (7:16b) No more pains of life
 - (a) That is, all sources of dread and suffering removed.
 - (3) (7:17a) The Lamb will be their Shepherd
 - (a) The very hope of every believer will become visible!
 - (4) (7:17b) The Lamb will direct and lead each of His own to full, eternal satisfaction
 - (a) "Springs of living water"
 - (5) (7:17c) God will wipe away all remembrance and remnants of the torments of living in a fallen world.
 - (a) The very curses and injuries inflicted on us from our own sin and the sin of others while living in a fallen world will pass away and be remembered no more!

2. The Serenity of Heaven for every citizen of heaven is a testimony of the Triumph of God's saving Grace!

- a) Application: Do you have this hope of the Serenity of Heaven? Why or why not?

Who can stand in the Day of God's wrath? The Redeemed people of God, washed in the blood of the Lamb!