

“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, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”
– Revelation 7:9-10

Overview:

Revelation 7 starts off with the words, “After these things”. After the first six seal judgments in Revelation 6 we now have a pause in the coming world judgments. This pause allows time for a few different items to be accomplished on the earth and in heaven. Also God is extending a time of grace to those who have thus far rejected Him. Out of this period of grace, we see worship breakout in heaven, first by the great multitudes, then followed by the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures.

The first thing that is done is to command the angels holding the four winds not to allow any wind to blow on the earth, sea, or on any trees. Also limits are placed on these angels on what they could do until the 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel are sealed.

The second event that happens during this pause, is a worship service started by the great multitude of people from all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues. The number is so great that John simply states in verse 9 that no one could number them. In worship, they acknowledge that “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” Out of their spontaneous act of worship, the angels watch while the twenty-four elders and four living creatures fall down before God in season of worship.

The last thing before the next set of judgments happens, is John needs to know some things about great multitude. He needs to know who these people are, what will be their ministry to God for all eternity, and the blessings that God bestows upon them.

Questions:

- * Chapter starts with the phrase, “After these things”. What are the things that John is speaking about?
- * What commands is given to the four angles in verses 1-3?
- * How many people are sealed by God? Who are those that receive God's seal?
- * In verse 9, John speaks about a great multitude of people. How are some of the descriptions John uses to describe this group?
- * What does this great multitude do?
- * What is heavens response in verse 11-12?
- * Who are these people that make up the multitude? Verse 14
- * What what duties will these people do for God? Verse 15
- * What blessings do they receive from God? Verse 16

Additional Study:

Verse 2:

- * seal of the living God – (*sphragis*) – seal, stamp of approval, certificate of authenticity
- * loud voice – (*phone megale*) – megaphone

Verse 3:

- * until we have sealed – (*sphragizo*)

Verse 12:

- * Blessing – (*eulogia*) – good words – to praise speak well about
- * glory – (*doxa*) – to speak of something as worthy of honor

Verse 12 (Cont.):

- * wisdom – (*sophia*)
- * Thanksgiving – (*eucharis-TIA*) – to express gratitude for benefits or blessing
- * honor – (*timae*) – to ascribe value or worth – our ability to do this grows as we do – we understand more and more that God is worthy
- * power – (*dunamis*) – the ability to accomplish – recognition ascribed
- * might – (*ischus*) – capacity or strength – infinite

Verse 14:

- * the great tribulation – (*thlipseos megales*)