

# THE REVIVAL OF ALL REVIVALS

## Revelation Chapter 7

In Revelation 6:17, as the seal judgements were being poured out, we are presented with a question. The question was “Who is able to stand?” and it was asked by the unbelievers. They said it rhetorically as if no one would be able to answer the question. Little did they know, there will be two groups of believers that would be able to answer it.

One group would stand on earth through the remaining of the tribulation, having been sealed with God’s protection. The other group would stand in heaven, in victory and joy even though they had lost their lives during the tribulation.

We meet both of these groups of Revelation 7 in what we can call the greatest revival in history, which will occur during the greatest persecution against believers in history.

**We ended last time on the 6<sup>th</sup> seal, so what would you expect to come next?** We would expect the 7<sup>th</sup> seal to be opened next, but the Lord put an interlude between the sixth and seventh seal. The seventh seal will be broken in Chapter 8. Jesus wanted to talk about those who will stand during the tribulation

### **144,000 Israelites will stand on earth during the tribulation**

#### **Revelation 7:1-3 : John receives a new vision**

**Q: Why did this fifth angel come to temporarily stop the other four angels from “hurting the earth and the sea”?** This angel came from the East (which in the Bible is often associated with divine help) and commanded the first four angels to stop until “we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads”.

**What is this seal?** Revelation 14:1 says this seal bears the name of the Lamb and of the Father and will be placed (during Tribulation) on the forehead of those that are chosen to receive it.

**What about Christians, are they “sealed”?** **If you are a Christian, do you have a seal right now as well?** YES!!! Ephesians 1 tells us that seal is the Holy Spirit in you. If you’re a Christian, you have the Holy Spirit in you to guide you, protect you, and remind you that you belong to Him.

**Is this seal in Revelation 7 different than the seal we have?** The Holy Spirit is the seal for a Christian, but in Revelation 7, the 144,000 witnesses have a different seal; they have the seal of the Living God.

#### **Revelation 7:4-8**

**Q: What is the identity of these 144,000?** Many people have tried to interpret this 144,000 differently, but the scripture does not allow for any discrepancies. Scripture CLEARLY tells us in these verses who the 144,000 are:

- They come from the 12 tribes of Israel
- There will be 12,000 from each tribe
- There are no Gentiles in the 144,000
- The “church” is not in the 144,000 because the church has already been raptured

**If the rapture has already occurred, how will these 144,000 receive salvation? How will the Gentiles and others be saved?**

- God’s Word will still be on earth through Christian books, programs, recordings, etc. will still be present on earth.
- God’s Spirit will still be active on earth for those that seek Him
- The Holy Spirit can use any of these means and a thousand more to convict and call people to Him, including these 144,000 select Israelites AND others that seek Him.

**What is the purpose of the 144,000 Israelites?** God is not finished with Israel yet!! Though the Jews rejected Jesus as their Messiah, He still has a purpose for them.

- They will receive some sort of special protection against God’s wrath.
- They will fulfill the OT calling to be God’s witness among the nations
- They will shine God’s light of salvation to the Gentiles and the world
- They will be commissioned as evangelists to the nation so that the entire world will hear the gospel before Jesus final return

**Many may ask “Does this mean I get a second chance at salvation after I die?” DO YOU?** If you die without putting your faith in Christ, you’ve waited too long. If you are alive during Tribulation, your chances of living drop drastically but you may get a second, third, or even fourth chance, but the persecutions will be great, possibly even unto death.

## **The Tribulation Saints Join In The Heavenly Worship**

**Revelation 7:9-17: John receives another vision**

**Q: The angels, the four beasts, and the elders are all worshipping, and then John is asked a question by one of the elders? What was asked?** Who are the ones in white robes and where did they come from? **Did John know?** No

**This was a rhetorical question, and what does the elder tell him?** These are believers that came to faith in Christ during the Tribulation after the Rapture had already happened.

**How can you “wash a robe and make it white in the blood of the Lamb”? Making robes white by washing them in blood makes no sense?** This is the essence of the Gospel. No matter how stained your life is, how awful the things are you may have done, said, or thought, your sins can be erased and your life made white as snow through the blood of Jesus Christ.

*Hebrews 9:22: "ALL THINGS are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."*

## **Two Timeless Truths From Revelation 7**

**GOD NEVER FORGETS HIS PROMISES:** He didn't forget his promise to Israel, He won't forget his promise to the tribulation saints that come to Him even after the Rapture, and He won't forget his promise to you that He has a plan that He is working out and He will never desert you or forsake you

**GOD ULTIMATELY REWARDS THE FAITHFUL:** While it isn't always immediate, or maybe not even in this lifetime, but you will receive your ultimate reward of eternal life in the new world with no such thing as death, and sickness, and evil, and anxiety, and all the things that this world weighs you down with