

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Revelation 7

Revelation 7: Two Great Multitudes (One in Heaven)

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Welcome In-Person and Online.

If you are having any difficulty accessing the notes or videos, Tammy has graciously volunteered to assist you. Her email is tammy@rockymountchurch.com.

We had to hurry last week to move through our notes, but we will be able to go slower this evening and talk about one of my favorite subjects: the restoration of Israel!

God has miraculously worked in Israel's behalf since He chose them as His people:

- *He saved Jacob's family by establishing Joseph in Egypt.
- *He brought the Israelites out of Egypt and gave them the Promised Land.
- *He brought the Israelites out of Babylon and reestablished His people.
- *He began the Church through the Divine Person of Christ (the Eternal Son of God), the Advent of the Holy Spirit, and His chosen Twelve Apostles (all Jews).
- *He reestablished Israel in their land in 1948.
- *And tonight, we will read about God's future saving of His people, Israel.

Revelation Rhymes

Revelation Chapter 1: A Picture of the Eternal Son

Revelation Chapter 2: Work of the Church to Do

Revelation Chapter 3: Where Should Our Church Be?

Revelation Chapter 4: God Worshiped By 24 and More

Revelation Chapter 5: Jesus the Lamb Alive

Revelation Chapter 6: Judgment and Seals Mix

Revelation Chapter 7: Two Great Multitudes (One in Heaven)



Revelation Chapter Seven will note two people groups: one is on Earth and the other is in Heaven.

Songs of the Apocalypse

The Anthem of the Triune God 4:8

The Creation Hymn 4:11

The New Song of Redemption 5:9-10

The Angels' Chorale 5:12

The Crescendo of the Universe 5:13-14

The Martyrs' Canticle 6:10

The Song of Salvation 7:10

The Antiphonal Amen 7:12

The Kingdom Carol 11:15

The Psalm of Judgment 11:17-18

The Shout of the Overcomers 12:10-12

The Song of Moses and the Lamb 15:3-4

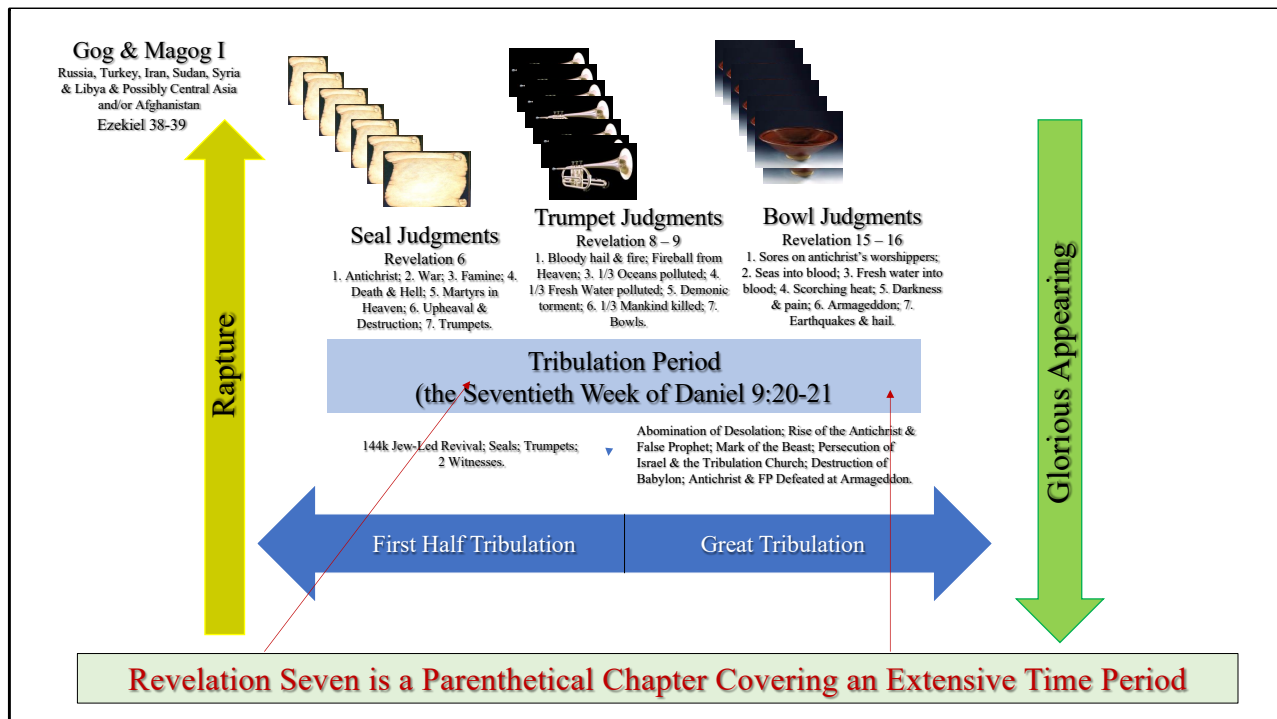
The Hallelujah Chorus 19:1-4

The Symphony of the Marriage Feast 19:6-7

-Robert Coleman as related by Ed Hindson



We see two more songs or hymns in this great chapter.



Let's recap last week:

Ezekiel 38-39 tells us of a future time when God will save Israel from Gog & Magog. Gog is the biblical name given to the one who will lead Magog, the name of a group of armies which attack against Israel. God will supernaturally save Israel and destroy their opponents. This will apparently happen either right before or right after the Rapture of the current Church.

Following the Rapture, Romans 11:23, and 11: 23-27 tell us of a time when God will bring His people (Israel) back to Him. Sadly, Before God does this great work, Israel will sign a covenant with the antichrist, and this will begin the Tribulation Period (Daniel 9:24-27).

God's judgment will then begin and the events of the first Six Seals will take place. Remember that Jesus's words in Matthew 24-25 seemingly line up quite well with the actual future events of Revelation 6. Jesus was and is, after all, the greatest of Prophets. This time of the Seals is a time of great judgment on the Earth.

But, praise God, Chapter 7 also advocates e a tremendous salvation revival during the Tribulation. And many of God's people, Israel, will be saved and lead it!

Chapter Seven should be considered a parenthetical chapter or an interlude; that is, it is a chapter that gives us additional information regarding two events that will be happening throughout the Tribulation Period.



**Hear O Israel. The LORD our God is one LORD. And thou shalt love the LORD thy God
with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.**

Deuteronomy 6:4-5, KJV

Israel often struggled with this command – but they will come back to God during this horrible time of the Tribulation Period!

¹ After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, restraining the four winds of the earth so that no wind could blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. ² Then I saw another angel rising up from the east, who had the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were allowed to harm the earth and the sea, ³“Don’t harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we seal the servants of our God on their foreheads.” ⁴ And I heard the number of the sealed:

144,000 sealed from every tribe of the Israelites:

⁵ 12,000 sealed from the tribe of Judah,
12,000 from the tribe of Reuben,
12,000 from the tribe of Gad,
⁶ 12,000 from the tribe of Asher,
12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali,
12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,
⁷ 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon,
12,000 from the tribe of Levi,
12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,
⁸ 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun,
12,000 from the tribe of Joseph,
12,000 sealed from the tribe of Benjamin.

Four Winds: Jeremiah 49:36, 4:11-12, 51:1-2; Ezekiel 5:12, 37:9; Matthew 24:30-31 --- Winds & Horses Similarities: Zechariah 6:5 to Revelation 6:2, 7:1



People who believe in “replacement theology” (they believe the Church “replaced” Israel), view both groups in Chapter 7 as symbolic of the Christian Church, and they believe the Great Tribulation mentioned in this chapter to be symbolic of the long struggle of the Church in this world. There are *major* problems with these views. We will see tonight that some of God’s covenants with Israel are determined to be *eternal* covenants guaranteed by God Himself!!! Additionally, if this was the Church in Chapter 7, then there would be no reason to *name* the Tribes of Israel in this passage.

Instead, I believe this is a fulfillment of Ezekiel 37:11-14 and Matthew 24:30-31 (please read these passages). You will remember that Ezekiel was driven by the Spirit to the Valley of Dry Bones. Why was Israel dry? Because of their rebellion against God; because of their disobedience! Even some of the priests in the Old Testament sinned against God. Remember Eli’s sons, who were priests? They continually sinned by failing to obey the Law, by being sexually perverse, by failing to lead the people for whom they were responsible. They loved themselves more than they loved God.

Even today, we should be careful about who we follow: "Now I urge you brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who create divisions and obstacles contrary to the teaching that you learned. Avoid them, because such people do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites. They deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting with smooth talk and flattering words" (Romans 16:17-18). **Rocky Mount is blessed to have a Senior Pastor and Pastoral Team which follows God’s Word!**

During Old Testament’s times, Israel’s rebellion eventually led to temporary loss of

their land and, worse, their general rejection of Jesus as Lord and Savior...

During this time of great wrath, God instructs His angels to control the winds from the four corners of Earth, and judgment is suspended. God's angels seal 144,000 Jewish servants who will become His great witnesses during the Tribulation on Earth.

Some call it the Eye in the Middle of the Storm.

Revelation 7:1-8; Joel 2:28-32a

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curseth thee, and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 12:3 (KJV)

I cannot find any sound Scriptural reasoning to contextualize the Church into Revelation 7:4-8. The *actual* tribal names of Israel, revealed by Jesus to John, are indicative of this truth – God will use *Israelites* to lead the Astounding Tribulation Revival.



...But praise God, *here* we get to see the restoration of Israel, the Spirit of renewal and the revival of a dead people! God will set aside and save *144,000 Israelites* to lead the greatest time of salvation in human history! And both Jew and Gentile alike will benefit from God's grace, even during a time of tremendous wrath.

I believe these 144,000 are Jews who will be saved *following* the Rapture of the Church. Just like Jesus once chose His Twelve Apostles, here He will miraculously choose and save 144,000 Jews who will, in turn, become great witnesses for Him during the Tribulation.



Genesis 29-30	Numbers 1	Revelation 7
Reuben	Reuben	Reuben
Simeon	Simeon	Simeon
Levi	Judah	Levi
Judah	Dan	Judah
Dan	Naphtali	Manasseh
Naphtali	Gad	Naphtali
Gad	Asher	Gad
Asher	Issachar	Asher
Issachar	Zebulun	Issachar
Zebulun	Ephraim	Zebulun
Joseph	Manasseh	Joseph
Benjamin	Benjamin	Benjamin

Dan and Ephraim are likely not mentioned in Revelation due to their families' history of idolatry.
 Genesis 49:16-17; Judges 17:1-18:31



This is a comparison of the Twelve Tribes as listed in various Scriptures. .

Old Testament Covenants

Covenant of Works Genesis 2:15-17

The Creator promised well-being to Adam and Eve if they obeyed God's command to not eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Eve, and subsequently Adam, broke this covenant and brought upon all humankind spiritual and physical death. Many believe, as I do, that all death of all types for any creature with a soul nature resulted from The Fall. Additionally, the earth itself was cursed.

Covenant with Noah Genesis 9:8-17

God unilaterally promised Noah and all living things that He would never again subject the earth to a universal flood. This covenant is unconditional and everlasting, and the rainbow is the reflection of this great promise.

Covenant with Abraham Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-16, 15:9-21, 17:1-4

God unconditionally promised salvation for sin-ruined humankind through a descendant of Abraham who would also bless all nations through Abraham's lineage. Circumcision of the males in Abraham's family became a sign of this eternal covenant.



God's promises are absolute. Some Covenants are eternal (such as God's Covenants with Noah, Abraham, and David) and some are conditional, such as God's Covenant with Solomon.

Old Testament Covenants

Covenant with Moses Exodus 19-24; Deuteronomy 27-30

At least partially due to the promise made to Abraham, the Mosaic Covenant was conditionally established through God's people, Israel. God promised special attention, peace, health, and unequalled prosperity in exchange for obedience to His unique Law. Disobedience would be met with violence, illness, famine, and God's discipline.

Covenant with David 2 Samuel 7:5-16; Matthew 1

This covenant narrowed the scope of the promises given to Abraham in reference to the Messiah. The Messiah would not only be a descendent of Abraham but would also be of the lineage of David. This blessing for all the nations would be from the descendants of David the King... but this promised King would be the Eternal King with an eternal kingdom. That King is Jesus Christ the LORD.

Covenant with Solomon 1 Kings 9:1-9

This conditional covenant was given from God to Solomon as a testimony to God's great name for the Temple which Solomon dedicated to Him.

Covenant with Jeremiah Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 10:13-18

The failure of the Israelites resulted in their expulsion (minus a remnant) from the Promised Land. This covenant was a renewal of the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants, pointing forward to the days of a coming Messiah who would offer the last sacrifice needed to settle the payment for humankind's sin. This covenant was (is) unconditional and is available to all people of all nations.



Solomon's Covenant was conditional: *If* the people obeyed God, *then* God would bless them.

New Testament Covenants

Covenant of Salvation

John 3:16-18; Romans 5:8-9, 10:9-10, 13; Ephesians 1:7-10, 2:8-9; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 2:9-18; Revelation 3:30

God, in His infinite mercy and grace, offers all humankind (every person born in His image, i.e., everyone) the ability to restore fellowship with Him through faith in the works of His eternal Son Jesus Christ. All people, who in repentance of sin confess Christ as Lord, believing that Jesus died on the Cross and by God rose again from the grave, and who accept the free gift of grace in Christ, will be saved. This is the ultimate unconditional covenant between God and humankind, initially stated in the *protoevangelium* of Genesis 3:15 and carried out during the years of the Gospels.

Covenant of the Holy Spirit

John 14:16-18; Acts 2:8; Romans 5:5; 1 John 5:6-9

Jesus promised the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to all who come to salvation. This promise is without any condition other than being saved by Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit's roles, among others, include conviction, restraint, regeneration, baptism (of the Spirit), indwelling, sealing, fullness, sanctification, illumination, prayer, and gifting (equipping) of the saints.*

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

*See next page regarding Spiritual Gifts Inventories in Scripture.

Covenant of Jesus Christ's Return

John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 1 Corinthians 1:7-8, 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 2:19, 4:13-18, 5:23; Revelation 2:25, 3:10-11.

Jesus promised to come back for His church, an event carried out in two phases of the Second Coming: 1) The Rapture, and 2) The Glorious Appearing.* The Rapture will take place prior to the Seventieth Week of Daniel (Daniel 9:24-27; Revelation 6-19).

*See Chapter 6 notes for a detailed listing of Rapture and Second Coming Scripture references.



God did not just make covenants in the Old Testament! He also gave us the New Covenant (New Testament) with promises about salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ; about the Holy Spirit's vital transformational roles in the lives of all believers; and about Jesus's eventual return (glory to God!).

Lists of Spiritual Gifts (Covenant of the Holy Spirit)

Spiritual Gifts	Romans 12:6-8	1 Corinthians 12:4-11	1 Corinthians 12:28-30	Ephesians 4:11	1 Peter 4:9-11
Prophecy	x	x	x	x	
Service	x				
Teaching	x		x	x	
Encouraging	x				
Giving	x				
Leading	x				
Mercy	x				
Wisdom		x			
Knowledge		x			
Faith		x			
Healing		x	x		
Miracles		x	x		
Distinguishing spirits		x			
Speaking in Tongues		x	x		
Interpretation of tongues		x	x		
Apostle			x	x	
Helping			x		
Guidance			x		
Evangelist				x	
Pastor				x	
Hospitality					x
Serving					x
Speaking					x



We will be offering a course named *Divine Design* here at Rocky Mount in the future.

If you would like to discover your spiritual gifts, or just learn more about the Spirit's gifts, this will be an awesome time for you!

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:
Salvation belongs to our God,
who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb!

Revelation 6:17b: Who will stand?
Those saved through the witness of the 144,000.
Isaiah 49:6
Some believe these to be the martyrs of all time.
Better view is these are saved Tribulation saints.



“After this” indicates that John is now seeing a different group of people, saved Gentiles and Jews alike. These are people who are saved during the Tribulation Period, primarily due to the witness of the 144,000 Jews (and likely others who are also saved during this time).

**11 All the angels stood around the throne, and along with the elders and the four living creatures they fell facedown before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying,
Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and strength
be to our God forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing (*eulogia*): a good word or praise
Glory (*doxa*): divine honor and radiance based on character
Wisdom (*sophia*): divine knowledge particularly including salvation
Honor (*time*): public esteem and deserved recognition
Power (*dunamis*): God's omnipotent power and willing acts
Strength (*ischus*): God's mighty acts of salvation

Adapted from Danny Akin's Christ-Centered Exposition...Revelation, p.158

**“Therefore, pray to the Lord of
the harvest to send out workers
into his harvest.”**

Matthew 9:38



Praise to God will increase during this great and terrible time.

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, “Who are these people in white robes, and where did they come from?”

¹⁴ I said to him, “Sir, you know.”

Then he told me: These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and they serve him day and night in his temple.
The one seated on the throne will shelter them:

¹⁶ They will no longer hunger;
they will no longer thirst;
the sun will no longer strike them,
nor will any scorching heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb who is at the center of the throne
will shepherd them;
he will guide them to springs of the waters of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

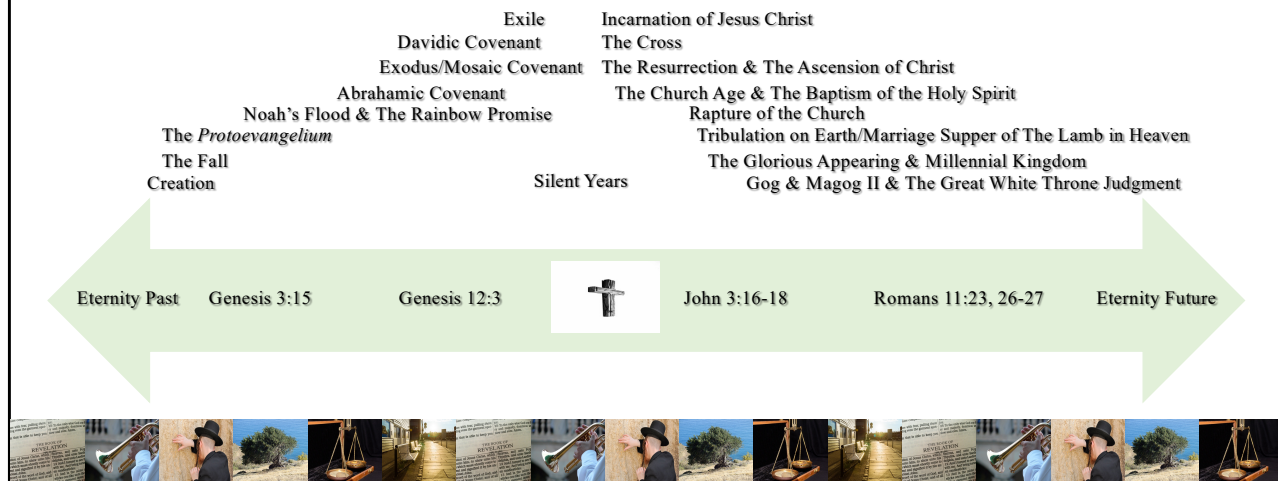
Clean (Isaiah 1:18) : Blood (Acts 20:28) : Hunger No More (John 6:35) : Thirst No More (John 4:13-14)



Remember the question from Revelation 6:17b: “...Who will stand?” Those saved through the witness of the 144,000...Isaiah 49:6 promises this: “This is what the LORD says: I will answer you in a time of favor, and I will help you in the day of salvation. I will keep you, and I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land, to make them possess the desolate inheritances.”

Although I believe there will be many martyrs of all time standing before God in the Revelation, this crowd seems to be those martyrs who are saved through the Spirit-empowered witness of the 144,000 Israelites, and who subsequently will be martyred by the antichrist, the false prophet, and their evil forces (primarily during the second half of the Tribulation).

⁶⁷Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: ⁶⁸Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and provided redemption for his people. ⁶⁹He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰just as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets in ancient times; ⁷¹salvation from our enemies and from the hand of those who hate us. ⁷²He has dealt mercifully with our ancestors and remembered his holy covenant—⁷³the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant that we, ⁷⁴having been rescued from the hand of our enemies, would serve him without fear ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days. ⁷⁶And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸Because of our God's merciful compassion, the dawn from on high will visit us ⁷⁹to shine on those who live in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.



What can we learn from Chapter 7?

- 1) God's promises and covenants are absolute and true. We can rely on Him!
- 2) God wants all people to know Him as Lord and Savior: **one of the primary purposes of the Tribulation is to save people!**
- 3) God's judgment and grace will *both* be evident during this time: people will be completely for Him or against Him.
- 4) God will use specially qualified Israelites to lead the great Tribulation Revival. As we see later, many of the Gentiles saved during the Tribulation will be martyred.
- 5) As Ed Hindson so ably noted: God has always saved: 1) Before the law (Abraham and the patriarchs); 2) Under the Law (the Old Testament believers); 3) During the Church Age (New Testament believers); 4) During the Tribulation Period to come (Tribulation saints); and 5) During the Millennial Kingdom (Kingdom saints).

“For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God” (John 3:16-18).