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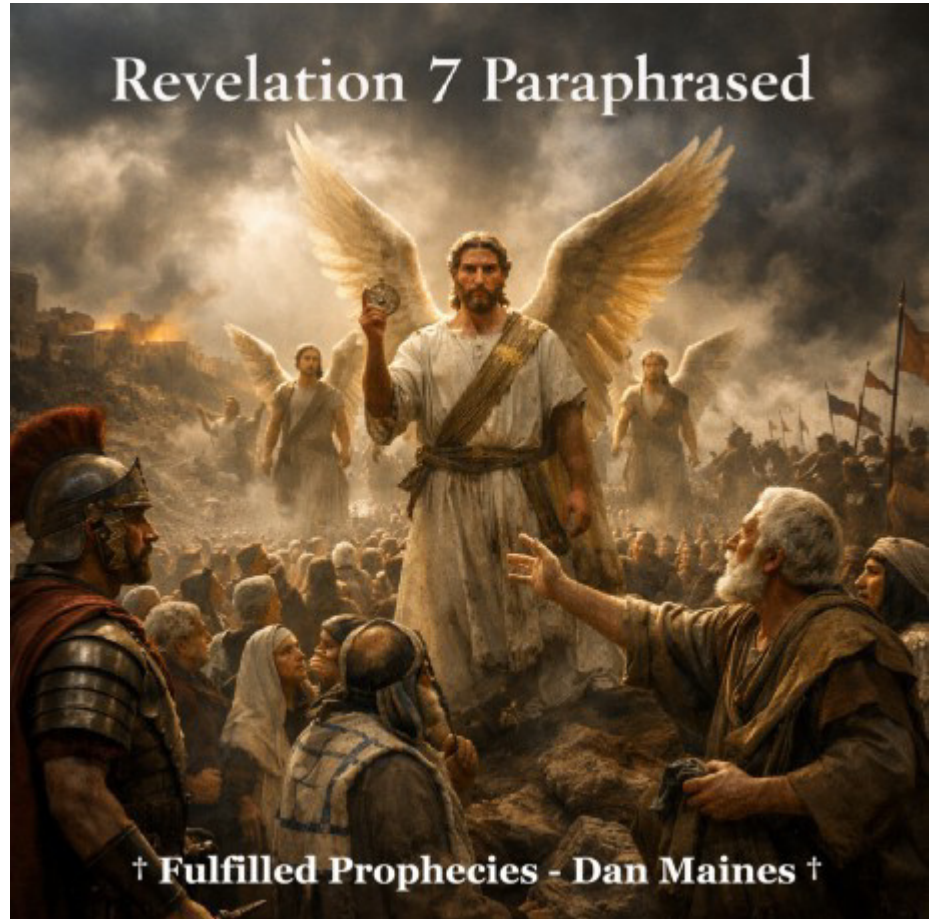
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Revelation 7 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Revelation 7 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Revelation 7 pauses the judgment sequence to show God's protection over His people before the final covenant judgment falls on Jerusalem (Revelation 6:17; Matthew 24:21-22).

† The sealing of the servants shows that God marked and preserved His faithful remnant during the approaching destruction of the old covenant world (Ezekiel 9:4-6).

† This chapter also reveals the great multitude from the nations

who entered the kingdom through Christ before the fall of Jerusalem, showing the fulfillment of God's promise to bless all nations through Abraham (Genesis 22:18; Matthew 24:14).

Revelation 7:1

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the land, holding back the four winds so that no destructive wind would blow on the land or sea or against any tree.

† The four winds represent judgment forces being restrained until God's people are sealed and protected (Jeremiah 49:36; Daniel 7:2).

† Similar imagery appears when God delays judgment for the sake of His faithful servants (Genesis 19:22).

† Eusebius records that believers were warned and fled Jerusalem before its destruction, showing God's protection over His people (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5).

Revelation 7:2

Then I saw another angel coming from the rising of the sun, carrying the seal of the living God, and he called out with a loud voice to the four angels who were allowed to harm the land and the sea.

† The seal represents God's mark of protection, similar to the mark placed on the righteous in Ezekiel's vision before judgment struck Jerusalem (Ezekiel 9:4).

† God's servants are sealed to show they belong to Him and will be preserved through the coming tribulation (2 Timothy 2:19).

† Early Christians understood this as God's protection over the faithful during the Jewish War (AD 66-70).

Revelation 7:3

Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.

† The forehead seal symbolizes open identification with God, in contrast to the mark of the beast which represented allegiance to Caesar worship (Revelation 13:16-17).

† This imagery reflects the priestly mark of belonging to God (Exodus 28:36-38).

† Tertullian described believers as marked by God through their faith and loyalty to Christ (Tertullian, Against Marcion 3.22).

Revelation 7:4

And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred forty four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel.

† The number 144000 is symbolic of the complete remnant of Israel who believed in Christ before Jerusalem fell (Romans 11:5).

† It represents fullness and completeness, twelve tribes multiplied by twelve apostles and multiplied again to signify the full covenant community.

† The early church understood this as the faithful remnant of Israel who received the gospel in the first century.

Revelation 7:5

From the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand.

† Judah appears first because Christ came from this tribe as the Messiah (Hebrews 7:14).

† The listing of tribes emphasizes the covenant roots of the gospel beginning with Israel (Romans 1:16).

† This sealing shows that the gospel reached faithful Jews

before the destruction of the temple.

Revelation 7:6

From the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand.

† The inclusion of these tribes shows the symbolic restoration of Israel through the new covenant community (James 1:1).

† God's promises to Israel were fulfilled in Christ through those who believed (Galatians 3:28-29).

† The faithful remnant formed the foundation of the early church.

Revelation 7:7

From the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand.

† Levi appears even though priests traditionally had no land inheritance, showing that priesthood now belongs to the new covenant people (1 Peter 2:9).

† The kingdom of God was now composed of believers rather than tribal inheritance.

† This demonstrates the transformation of Israel under Christ's covenant.

Revelation 7:8

From the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.

† The full tribal list emphasizes completeness rather than literal tribal counting.

† Joseph appears instead of Ephraim, likely reflecting symbolic

representation rather than strict genealogy.

† This shows that God preserved a faithful Jewish remnant before the old covenant system ended.

Revelation 7:9

After these things I looked, and there was a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.

† This fulfills God's promise that all nations would come to Him through the Messiah (Genesis 12:3).

† The white robes symbolize righteousness given through Christ (Revelation 3:5).

† Palm branches represent victory and celebration, similar to the triumphal entry of Christ (John 12:13).

Revelation 7:10

And they were crying out with a loud voice saying Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb.

† Salvation is attributed fully to God and Christ, not to human effort (Ephesians 2:8-9).

† The Lamb imagery recalls Christ's sacrificial death that redeemed His people (John 1:29).

† This celebration shows the completed redemption of believers from every nation.

Revelation 7:11

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God.

† The heavenly host joins in worship, showing the cosmic significance of redemption (Hebrews 12:22-23).

† This imagery reflects Isaiah's vision of heavenly worship (Isaiah 6:1-3).

† The church's victory is celebrated in heaven.

Revelation 7:12

Saying Amen blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever Amen.

† The sevenfold praise emphasizes the completeness of God's glory.

† Worship in heaven reflects the final victory of God's kingdom.

† Early Christian writings often echoed similar doxologies in worship gatherings.

Revelation 7:13

Then one of the elders answered and said to me These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they and where have they come from.

† The question draws attention to the identity of the redeemed people.

† White robes symbolize purification through Christ's sacrifice (Revelation 1:5).

† This sets up the explanation of their faithful endurance.

Revelation 7:14

I said to him My lord you know. And he said to me These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

† The great tribulation refers to the suffering leading up to Jerusalem's destruction (Matthew 24:21).

† Believers endured persecution but were spiritually cleansed by Christ's sacrifice.

† This shows that the tribulation was a first century event.

Revelation 7:15

For this reason they are before the throne of God, and they serve Him day and night in His temple, and He who sits on the throne will spread His presence over them.

† The temple imagery reflects the new covenant dwelling of God with His people (Ephesians 2:19-22).

† Believers now serve God continually as His priestly people.

† God's presence replaces the old temple system.

Revelation 7:16

They will no longer hunger and will no longer thirst, nor will the sun beat down on them nor any scorching heat.

† This echoes Isaiah's promise of restoration for God's people (Isaiah 49:10).

† It symbolizes spiritual satisfaction and protection under Christ's kingdom.

† The suffering of the early church was temporary.

Revelation 7:17

For the Lamb in the center of the throne will shepherd them and will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

† Christ is portrayed as both Lamb and Shepherd, the one who sacrificed Himself and now leads His people (John 10:11).

† The water of life represents eternal life through the gospel

(John 4:14).

† This promise shows the completed comfort and victory of God's people.

Historical References

† Eusebius records that believers fled Jerusalem before the Roman siege after being warned through revelation (Ecclesiastical History 3.5).

† Josephus describes the immense suffering during the Jewish War which matches the tribulation Jesus predicted (Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.3-6).

† Tertullian described believers as sealed by God through their faithfulness to Christ (Against Marcion 3.22).

How It Applies To Us Today

† God's people are always known and protected by Him even during times of trial (2 Timothy 2:19).

† The kingdom Christ established continues to gather people from every nation just as Revelation describes (Matthew 28:19).

† Our confidence rests in the finished work of Christ who has already secured victory for His people (Hebrews 12:28).

Q & A Appendix

Q: What is the great tribulation mentioned in Revelation 7:14?

A: It refers to the intense suffering surrounding the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, which Jesus predicted in Matthew 24:21.

Q: Who are the 144000?

A: They represent the faithful remnant of Israel who believed in Christ before the fall of Jerusalem (Romans 11:5).

Q: What does the sealing mean?

A: It shows God's ownership and protection over His people

during the coming judgment (Ezekiel 9:4; 2 Timothy 2:19).

Q: Why are the servants sealed before the judgment begins?

A: The sealing shows that God identifies and protects His people before covenant judgment falls. This mirrors the mark placed on the faithful before Jerusalem was judged in Ezekiel 9:4-6, and it shows that God knew and preserved His people during the tribulation Jesus warned about in Matthew 24:21-22.

Q: Why is the great multitude described as coming from every nation?

A: This fulfills God's promise that the Messiah would bring salvation to all nations. The gospel went out to the world before Jerusalem fell, just as Jesus said it would in Matthew 24:14, and it fulfilled the promise given to Abraham that all nations would be blessed through his seed in Genesis 22:18.

Q: Why are palm branches mentioned in Revelation 7:9?

A: Palm branches were a symbol of victory and celebration in Israel. When Jesus entered Jerusalem the people waved palm branches in recognition of the coming King (John 12:13). Here the redeemed celebrate the victory of the Lamb who brought salvation through His sacrifice (Revelation 5:9-10).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Revelation 7:1-17; Ezekiel 9:4-6; Jeremiah 49:36; Daniel 7:2; Genesis 19:22; 2 Timothy 2:19; Exodus 28:36-38; Romans 11:5; Hebrews 7:14; Romans 1:16; James 1:1; Galatians 3:28-29; 1 Peter 2:9; Genesis 12:3; Revelation 3:5; John 12:13; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:29; Hebrews 12:22-23; Isaiah 6:1-3; Revelation 1:5; Matthew 24:21; Ephesians 2:19-22; Isaiah

49:10; John 10:11; John 4:14; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 12:28

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5; Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.3-6; Tertullian, Against Marcion 3.22

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