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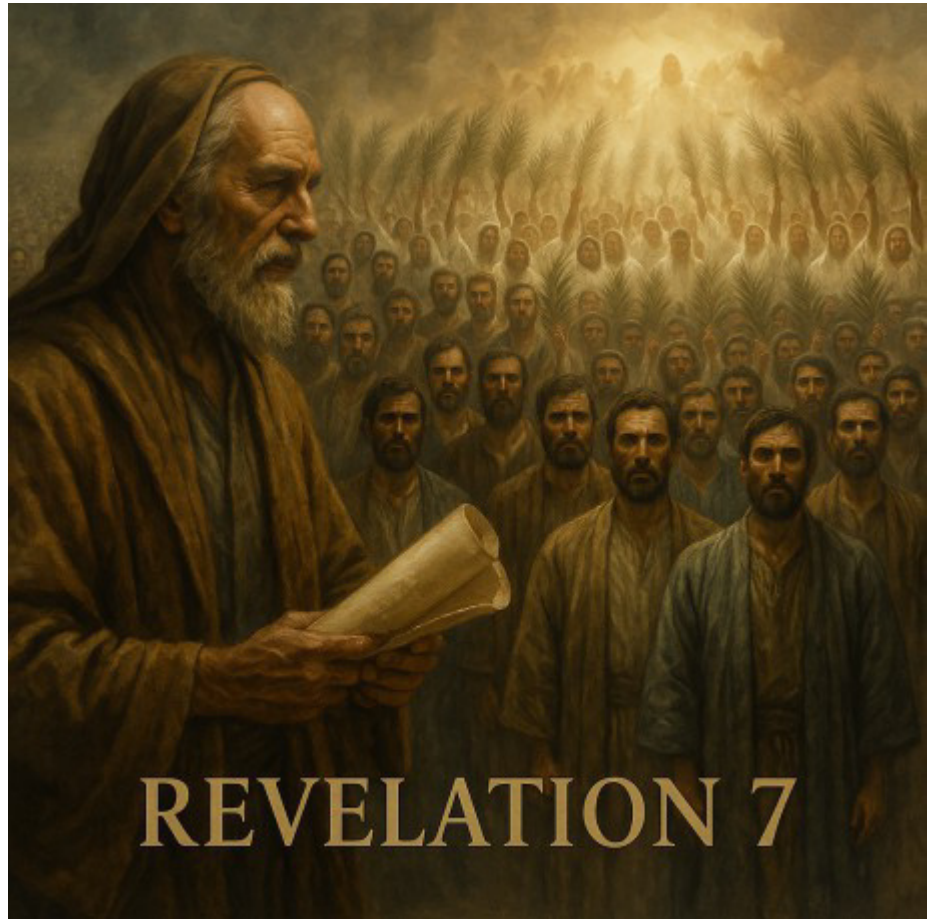
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By Dan Maines

Revelation 7

Revelation 7:1-3

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth, or on the sea, or on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, holding the seal of the living God, and he called out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, "Do not harm the earth, or the sea, or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their

foreheads."

† This pause between the sixth and seventh seals shows God's mercy. Judgment is restrained until His servants are marked for protection.

† The imagery recalls Ezekiel 9:4-6, where a mark protected the righteous in Jerusalem before Babylon's judgment.

† Proof, this seal was not physical but covenantal, showing ownership by God. The sealing guaranteed preservation of the faithful remnant in the first-century tribulation, consistent with Jesus's promise in Matthew 24:22 that "for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short."

Revelation 7:4

And I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel.

† The number 144,000 is symbolic, $12 \times 12 \times 1000$, the fullness of covenant people. They represent the faithful remnant of Israel preserved through the judgment.

† Proof, Paul affirmed that not all Israel is Israel, but only the remnant according to grace, Romans 9:6-8, 11:5. This fits with John's vision, which identifies true Israel by faith in Christ, not by bloodline.

Revelation 7:5-8

From the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.

† The listing is deliberate. Judah, the tribe of Christ, comes first. Dan is omitted, possibly due to its association with idolatry (Judges 18). Ephraim is replaced by Joseph, yet Manasseh remains, showing rearrangement of tribal identity in Christ.

† Proof, the arrangement itself demonstrates this is not about literal genealogy but covenant representation. The remnant Israel is redefined around the Messiah, a reality affirmed by the apostles, Galatians 3:29.

Revelation 7:9-10

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands. And they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

† The vision widens from the sealed remnant of Israel to an innumerable multitude of Gentiles, showing covenant expansion. Both groups together fulfill God's promise to Abraham, that all nations would be blessed in his seed, Genesis 22:18.

† Proof, palm branches symbolize victory and celebration, recalling the Feast of Booths (Leviticus 23:40), when nations were envisioned as coming to worship in Jerusalem, Zechariah 14:16.

Revelation 7:11-12

And 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, saying, "Amen, blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

† The sevenfold doxology demonstrates fullness of praise, as all creation joins in honoring God for salvation.

† Chrysostom observed that heaven's worship reveals God's

universal reign, not confined to Israel but extended to all nations in Christ.

Revelation 7:13-14

Then one of the elders responded, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" 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 multitude came out of "the great tribulation," not a future one but the tribulation of the first century, which Jesus predicted would come upon that generation, Matthew 24:21, 34.

† Proof, Josephus records unparalleled suffering in Jerusalem during 66-70, Wars 6.9.4, aligning with Jesus's prophecy of the "great tribulation."

† Their robes are white, not from personal works, but through the cleansing blood of Christ. This is proof of justification by grace.

Revelation 7:15-17

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 tabernacle over them. They will no longer hunger nor thirst, nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

† The promise is covenantal and realized in Christ. The faithful are made His temple, 2 Corinthians 6:16. He spreads His tabernacle over them, fulfilling the Feast of Tabernacles in its spiritual sense.

† Proof, this language echoes Isaiah 49:10 and Isaiah 25:8, promises of restoration for God's people, which find their fulfillment in Christ and His church.

† The Lamb as Shepherd fulfills John 10:11, guiding His flock to living waters. The wiping of tears is not deferred millennia but begins in the new covenant relationship, fully realized in the overthrow of the old system that persecuted the saints.

How it applies to us today

† God knows His own and seals them. Our security is in His ownership, not in worldly strength.

† The remnant of Israel and the multitude of Gentiles together form the one people of God, proof that the promises are fulfilled in Christ.

† The great tribulation already proved God's word true, and now we live in the age of His tabernacle presence.

† We are called to serve as His temple, to worship with palm branches of victory, and to trust the Lamb who shepherds us to living waters.

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

Source Index

† Ezekiel 9:4-6 – sealing the righteous

† Matthew 24:21, 34 – tribulation within that generation

† Romans 9:6-8, 11:5 – remnant Israel

† Galatians 3:29 – Israel redefined in Christ

† Genesis 22:18 – promise to Abraham fulfilled in all nations

† Leviticus 23:40 – Feast of Booths and palm branches

† Zechariah 14:16 – nations worshiping in Jerusalem

† Isaiah 49:10, 25:8 – promises of restoration

† John 10:11 – the Lamb as Shepherd

† Josephus, Wars 6.9.4 – great tribulation in Jerusalem

† Chrysostom, Homilies on Revelation – universal worship of God

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