

Book of Revelation Study

Pastor Taylor

Lesson: Revelation 7: 9-17

"A multitude is a whole lot!"

A MULTITUDE IS A WHOLE LOT!

Revelation 7:12 [Message]

" 9-12 I looked again. I saw a huge crowd, too huge to count. Everyone was there—all nations and tribes, all races and languages. And they were standing, dressed in white robes and waving palm branches, standing before the Throne and the Lamb and heartily singing: Salvation to our God on his Throne! Salvation to the Lamb! All who were standing around the Throne—Angels, Elders, Animals— fell on their faces before the Throne and worshiped God, singing: Oh, Yes! The blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving, The honor and power and strength, To our God forever and ever and ever! Oh, Yes!"

Introduction

* As we continue to move through the book of the Revelation, we are in the middle of a parenthetical passage

[Parenthetical: The act of inserting: a set of parenthesis to emphasis a short deviation from the flow of the theme]

* Chapter seven is inserted into the narrative to allow us to catch a glimpse of the grace of God at work during the most horrible time earth has ever known.

In our last study, we saw the Lord redeem 144,000 Virgin Jewish men

* These men were sent out into the entire world to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to all nations.

* In this passage, we will see the fruits of their preaching, as a vast multitude is brought to faith in Jesus Christ and is delivered out of the Great Tribulation.

It comforts my heart to know that the Rapture of the church does not spell the end of people being saved

* I praise the Lord that He intends to redeem a multitude that no man could number during the dark years of the Tribulation Period.

* This passage reveals the heart of our great God.

* It is in His heart and plan to save sinners, and He is going to do just that during the Tribulation.

2.

The Bible is clear that Jesus Christ came into this world for the sole purpose of saving sinners from their sins

1 Timothy 1:15

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief”

*** It is also clear that God intends to save every person who will turn to Jesus by faith**

John 6:37

“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out”

Here is God’s promise to His elect:

2 Peter 3:9

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”

That is the heartbeat of God

*** Let’s go back into the heart of the tribulation period and rejoin John in his vision of that terrible time.**

*** In these verses, we see a vast multitude of redeemed saints**

“A multitude is a whole lot!”

Revelation 7:12 [Message]

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All who were standing around the Throne—Angels, Elders, Animals—fell on their faces before the Throne and worshiped God, singing: Oh, Yes! The blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving, The honor and power and strength, To our God forever and ever and ever! Oh, Yes!”

3.

THE DESCRIPTION OF THIS MULTITUDE

How They Are Shown

John's description of this multitude reveals a number of things about who these people are.

1. Their Number

- * They are described as **“a multitude which no man could number”**
- * They are a group of people so vast that John makes no attempt at all to declare their number.
- * **[Note: When I was in Hatti preaching I personally got a glimpse of what a multitude of people looks like, it is literally a sea of people, on and on, they would seem to rise and fall like waves in the ocean, faces did not stand out, just a massive ocean of people]**
- * **What a wonderful image of the grace of God.**

On the Day of Pentecost, 3,000 souls were saved - Acts 2:41

Sometime later, 5,000 were saved on one occasion - Acts 4:4

- * We are also told that God **“added daily to the church such as should be saved” - Acts 2: 47**
- * I read that and I am amazed at His saving power!
- * About 1,000,000 were saved in Nineveh when the entire city repented and turned to faith in God - **Jonah 3:5-10**
- * Praise God for His saving grace
- * Even more amazing than that is the story of Israel's exodus from Egypt
- * Over 3,000,000 were saved by grace when they placed the blood on the doorposts of their houses by faith

Exodus 12

All of these great demonstrations of the powerful, saving grace of God pale in comparison to what He will do during the Tribulation Period!

- * **God will save a multitude that will number in the multiplied millions!**
- Praise God for His grace!**

4.

2. Their Nationalities

* We are told that they come from “*all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues*”

* Here is a multitude that knows no racial, economic, social, or national distinctions.

* The Gospel has been preached worldwide, without respect to any people group and a vast multitude is saved.

Note:

I praise the Lord that the Gospel of grace is a message that applies to all people everywhere. We have our prejudices and we judge people by the color of their skin; by their ethnic background; by how they were raised; and by many other foolish, ignorant standards. God, however, holds no such prejudices! He will save any soul that will come to Him by faith! I praise God that it is that way. After all, if Jesus was a racist, we all would be in trouble!

The third descriptions of the multitude saved is:

3. Their Natures

* This crowd is saved out of “*Great Tribulation*”

Revelation 7: 14 [KJ]

“14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which *came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb*”

* The church will be saved from that terrible time of wrath and judgment

1 Thessalonias 1:10

“10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come”

Romans 5:9

“8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him”

5.

Revelation 3:10

“ [7] And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

[8] I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

[9] Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

[10] Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

[11] Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

[12] Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

[13] He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches”

While they are not the church, their appearance and condition in Heaven is clearly described.

4. They Are Virtuous

* They are “*clothed with white robes*”

* This is always a picture of righteousness in the Bible.

* These people are saved by grace and they have been rendered righteous.

* That is the promise of God to all who will come to Jesus Christ by faith

1 John 1: 5- 7 [KJ]

“5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that *God is light*, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 But *if we walk in the light*, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and *the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin*”

6.

1 John 1: 5-7 [Message]

“5 This, in essence, is the message we heard from Christ and are passing on to you: God is light, pure light; there's not a trace of darkness in him. 6-7 If we claim that we experience a shared life with him and continue to stumble around in the dark, we're obviously lying through our teeth—we're not living what we claim. But if we walk in the light, God himself being the light, we also experience a shared life with one another, as the sacrificed blood of Jesus, God's Son, purges all our sin”

Isaiah 1:18 [KJ]

“18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it”

He is in the saving and cleansing business!

Note:

Praise the name of the Lord that the blood of Jesus is able to reconcile us to God. When Jesus died, the wall of separation that had been erected by sin was forever torn down and now, we can be reconciled with God. Eph. 1:6-7; Rom. 5:10; 2 Cor. 5:18-20; Eph. 2:16)

Revelation 7: 9-10 [KJ]

“9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb”

What They Shout

These saints lift their voices in an anthem of praise to their Redeemer for His redemption. They know that they are in Heaven for one reason and for one reason only. They are there because of the grace of God and the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. They praise Him for His great grace!

7.

Note:

* If there was ever a reason for praise, it is the grace of God and the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins!

* His salvation is the one reason for praise that all saints share.

Our circumstances may change and we may walk through hard places in life, *but if you are saved*, your name is written in Heaven and it always will be.

* That is a reason for praise, for shouting, for singing, for testimony, for all the glory we can render unto our great God

Luke 10: 18-21 [KJ]

“18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.
19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; *but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.*

21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight”

* Key here is verse 20 – But rather **REJOICE**

* **WHY?**

* **Because your names are written in heaven!**

By the way, we are way behind in the praise department!

Revelation 7: 11-12 [KJ]

“ 11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever.
Amen”

8.

What They Stimulate

- * When the angelic host around the throne of God witness the unbridled praise of this redeemed multitude, they join their voices with them in praise to God.
- * The shouts of the multitude inspire the angels to praise the Lord too.

Can you imagine the sound of millions and millions of voices joined together in an anthem of praise?

Revelation 7: 12 [KJ]

“ 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen”

- * Now, the angels lift their voices and cry *“Amen!”*
- * They add their agreement to the praises of the redeemed.
- * They know what they have said is true, so they close their statement of praise with another *“Amen!”*

The angels cannot praise God for salvation, for they have never known the depths of sin.

- * But, these angels have seen the love of God in action as He went about the business of saving lost humans.
- * They marveled as they watched as their Creator, the Lord Jesus, died on Calvary to save people who despised Him.
- * They have witnessed the spontaneous outbursts of praise as sinners have been saved down through the ages.

Luke 15:7

“ 7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance”

Praising God for salvation is a human privilege!

The Description Of This Multitude

Revelation 7: 13-14 [KJ]

“ 13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

* As John watches this powerful scene, one of the elders approaches him and asks John about the identity of this vast throng of people. John declares his ignorance of their identity and petitions the elder to tell him who they are. He proceeds to do just that

The Ministry Of Their Deliverance

* John is told that these are people who **“*came out of great tribulation*”**

* These people have been living through the horrors of the Tribulations Period.

* But, even during that time of intense wrath and judgment, there is a ray of light as the amazing, boundless grace of God reaches down to touch a vast multitude of lost souls.

The Method Of Their Deliverance

* We are told that they **“have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”**

**This simple statement reveals a profound truth:
God only knows and has one method of salvation.**

* Whether it was Adam and Eve in the Garden

* Abel with his sacrifice

* Abraham and his ram

* Israel and the sacrifices of the Tabernacle and the Temple

Salvation in the Old Testament was through the blood of the Lamb. When they shed the blood of an innocent animal to atone for their sins, they were looking ahead to the day when God would send the perfect sacrifice Jesus Christ that would take away sin forever

10.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures”

We have looked at:

1. The Description Of This Multitude
2. The Deliverance Of This Multitude

Now lets look at - THE DESTINY OF THIS MULTITUDE

Revelation 7: 15-17 [KJ]

“ 15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes”

They Are Destined To A Heavenly Presence

- * We are told in verse 15 that this multitude finds themselves at home in Heaven in the presence of Almighty God.
- * Their days of suffering and sorrow have ended and they have arrived in glory.
- * They are no longer separated from the Lord by distance, by sin or by time. They are home with Him and they are there to stay!

Notice where they are!

Because they have been redeemed and cleansed, they are allowed to stand in the presence of God!

11.

This was unheard of in Bible times.

- * In the Temple there was a place called the *“Court of the Gentiles”*
- * This was the outer court of the Temple and non-Jews were not allowed to go any deeper into the Temple complex than this outer court.
- * To do so brought a Gentile under the penalty of death.

When Jesus died, the veil in the Temple was ripped down the middle, Matt. 27:51.

This signified the fact that all men had equal access to God.

These redeemed Gentiles are brought into the very presence of God.

Their present condition must make Satan livid with rage!

- * **Verse 14** tells us that they *“came out of great tribulation”*

These people are in Heaven because they were martyred for their faith in Jesus and for their refusal to embrace the Antichrist and their king and as their god.

It is possible that these precious saints are the same crowd we saw praying from under the altar in:

Revelation 6: 9-11

“ 9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled”

- * **Now, their prayers are answered, they are home and judgment is being handed out upon the earth.**

The worst thing Satan could do to these people was to kill them, and it turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to them. They gave up the pain and sorrow of a world gone made for the safety and joy of an eternity in the presence of God!

Revelation 7: 15-17 [KJ]

“ 15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun - light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes”

They Are Destined To A Heavenly Profession

- * **The Bible says they will “*Serve Him day and night in His temple*”**
- * **This joyous redeemed multitude is in the presence of God and they are at the beck and call of God**
- * **They will spend their eternity carrying out His will as they serve Him, worship Him and bask in His presence**

They Are Destined To Heavenly Provisions

- * **Now, remember, these saints were saved out of the Tribulation Period.**
- * **They had been saved, but they had also suffered with everyone else on earth. Just because they turned to the Lord does not mean that they were sheltered from the horrors of those days.**
- * **In fact, their faith in Jesus Christ might have made their lives even more miserable here on earth. Remember, the book of Revelation is not in chronological order.**
- * **We are seeing people who are martyred throughout the years of Tribulation.**
- * **We are told several things about their past and about what they can anticipate in Heaven.**

13.

They will hunger no more – Remember the famines we talked about in Revelation 6

Revelation 6:5-6

“5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine”

We are also told that Antichrist will require people to wear a mark in their bodies before they can buy or sell.

Revelation 13:16-18

“15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six”

Because of their faith, they will refuse the mark and will go hungry. The Bible also says that their refusal to wear the mark will be a death warrant to them.

Revelation 13:15

“15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed”

**But, we are told that in Heaven, the Lamb will feed them!
There will be no more hunger in glory.
They are home and they will be well cared for!**

14.

They will thirst no more – We are told that the waters of the earth will turn to blood and be unfit to drink during the Tribulation.

Revelation 8: 8 - 11

“ 8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter”

*** As a result, the people of earth will be thirsty.**

*** But, in Heaven, they are led to fountains of living water by the Lamb. * They are satisfied there.**

They will suffer no more

*** The references to the sun and the heat remind us that the Tribulation Period will be a period of intense physical suffering, and the redeemed saints of God will not be immune from the effects of God’s judgments upon nature.**

In Revelation 16:8-10 the intensity of the sun will be greatly increased causing dehydrated men great pain and suffering.

Revelation 16:8-10

“And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. 9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain...”

15.

*** They will literally chew their tongues in their pain and agony.**

But, in Heaven, none of the things that hurt them on earth will be allowed to follow them there.

*** They will weep no more – Imagine all they have seen and suffered because of their faith.**

*** Their hearts have been broken and their eyes wet with tears even as they gave their all for Jesus Christ.**

But, the Lamb of God will wipe away the tears of their suffering and sorrow.

He will comfort them and give them rest, peace and blessing.

By the way, these blessings are ours as well:

Revelation 21-22

“22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it”

Conclusion

In the midst of tribulation we would expect a scene of devastation, yet John shows us a picture of God at work in the hearts of men and women who respond to Him.

Even in a horrific time God's plan and purposes are being fruitful to win the lost.

The power of the Gospel is greater than the power of Satan!