

REVELATION CHAPTER 7

PART 2



***BLESSED IS HE THAT READETH,
AND THEY THAT HEAR
THE WORDS OF THIS PROPHECY....***

REV 7:9-17

KJV ⁹After 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; ¹⁰And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. ¹¹And 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, ¹²Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. ¹³And 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.

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.

REV 7:9-17

NLT ⁹ After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they were shouting with a mighty shout, “Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!” ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living beings. And they fell before the throne with their faces to the ground and worshiped God. ¹² They sang, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength belong to our God forever and ever! Amen.” ¹³ Then one of the twenty-four elders asked me, “Who are these who are clothed in white? Where did they come from?”

14 And I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.” Then he said to me, “These are the ones who died in the great tribulation. They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white. 15 “That is why they stand in front of God’s throne and serve him day and night in his Temple. And he who sits on the throne will give them shelter. 16 They will never again be hungry or thirsty; they will never be scorched by the heat of the sun. 17 For the Lamb on the throne will be their Shepherd. He will lead them to springs of life-giving water. And God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”

REV 7:9-17

AMP ⁹After this I looked and a vast host appeared which no one could count, [gathered out] of every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. These stood before the throne and before the Lamb; they were attired in white robes, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰In loud voice they cried, saying, [Our] salvation is due to our God, Who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb [to Them we owe our deliverance]! ¹¹And all the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders [of the heavenly Sanhedrin] and the four living creatures, and they fell prostrate before the throne and worshiped God. ¹²Amen! (So be it!) they cried. Blessing and glory and majesty and splendor and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might [be ascribed] to our God to the ages and ages (forever and ever, throughout the eternities of the eternities)! Amen! (So be it!)

13 Then, addressing me, one of the elders [of the heavenly Sanhedrin] said, Who are these [people] clothed in the long white robes? And from where have they come? **14** I replied, Sir, you know. And he said to me, These are they who have come out of the great tribulation (persecution), and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. **15** For this reason they are [now] before the [very] throne of God and serve Him day and night in His sanctuary (temple); and He Who is sitting upon the throne will protect and spread His tabernacle over and shelter them with His presence. **16** They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun smite them, nor any [scorching] heat. **17** For the Lamb Who is in the midst of the throne will be their Shepherd, and He will guide them to the springs of the waters of life; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.



John now sees the resulting work of the 144,000 from Israel.

Great multitude John is in heaven and sees people before God's throne, gathered from the nations of the earth. This group of people in Heaven is all encompassing. John uses four terms so there is no mistake about the composition of these souls in Heaven before the throne, nations, tribes, peoples and tongues. Again the book of Revelation affirms to those on earth, the home of the saint is in Heaven in the presence of God, before His throne. Heaven is not just for the 144,000 as the Jehovah's Witnesses like to claim, but for all who have a relationship with Christ. Imagine being on Earth, and about to die for your new faith in Christ, this section in Revelation will serve as refuge to any suffering believer. Following the blade of execution, the believer can look forward to entering the presence of God in Heaven.

In the tribulation, all throughout the earth, persecution will break out and those who put their faith in Christ will die. Here we see the fulfillment of Matthew 24:14, “this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations”. The ministry of the 144,000 will be to proclaim the gospel to the nations, and from their work, we see a great multitude in Heaven. So there is no mistake, the multitude is in Heaven. They are not on earth, but before the throne of God, in Heaven. This is the hope of the believer, John want to assure them.

White robes In the fifth seal, we saw under the altar the souls of those who were killed for their faith in Christ. They were told, rest a while until their fellow servants should also die and white robes were given to them. Here in verse 9 we see the completed number of saints, gathered out of the tribulation standing before God’s throne in Heaven.

Palm branches This event of the saints before God's throne waving Palm branches is actually pictured in the Feast of Tabernacles. Israel was to rejoice before God with branches for seven days. The Feast of Tabernacles was a prophetic shadow of a future event when the saved both Jews and Gentiles would stand before God's throne and celebrate their salvation.

Leviticus 23:40 And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days.

There will be great praise in Heaven

11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, 12 saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

The Heavens again rejoice over this group gathered from the nations of the world. This is the third time we see the Heavens rejoicing in unison (Revelation 4:9-11, 5:9-14). John again demonstrates this multitude is in Heaven, lest there be any mistake.

The elders mentioned in verse 13 takes us back to chapter 4 verse 4 where John saw four and twenty elders sitting. In Revelation 6:9-11, the martyrs were told to wait until their number was complete. These before the throne are clearly the redeemed of humanity and not angels. They are wearing white, the clothing of the redeemed in Heaven. Jesus promises the “Overcomers”, they will wear white. (Revelation 3:4,5,18, 4:4, 6:11, 19:14)

John, asked if he knows where this multitude came from could not say. This group is a mystery to John. The elder then informs John they came out of the “Great Tribulation”.

After the sealing of the 144,000 and before the last judgments, we see a great multitude that no man could number around the throne. These are all those saved through the testimony of the 144,000 during the great tribulation. They are those that died confessing Jesus. The 144,000 are the first fruits but their testimony brings the full grain harvest on earth. Some scholars say that these and the multitude they convert are not part of the Church since the Church already left in the rapture. That is not likely to be true; the faithful Church left the earth for heaven without seeing death, as a reward like Enoch, but the saints these convert are killed for their faith during the great tribulation or gathered by angels at the end of the great tribulation and also leave the earth for heaven prior to the wedding. Thus, the first fruits and the grain harvest will be included as members of the spiritual body that is also called the Bride of Christ if they endure until the end (Mat 24:13).

Since many in dispensation theology say the 144,000 and this multitude that come out of the tribulation are not included in the Church. Let us learn the truth about the people in this passage by examining the theology that tells us who the body and bride of Christ are. This understanding is necessary to give proper hope to the Jews and martyrs who find Jesus in the great tribulation and to correct some bad theology in the dispensational camp.

Why true Christians from Pentecost and true Jews are both in the bride of Christ:

The passage in Revelation that is listed above says that this multitude is a distinct people who will always be before the throne of God.

The text is very clear that they will serve in God's temple. Later in this book, we will learn that in eternity God will have no temple in the Holy City. He and the Lamb will be the temple. If there is no temple in eternity other than God in His people and this multitude serves Him in the temple then they must be indwelt with His Holy Spirit and must worship and serve Him in spirit and in truth just like the faithful Church.

We also will be told in Revelation chapters 21 and 22 that the eternal Holy City is the place where there will be no need for the sun and it is where the Lamb's throne is located.

The Lamb in the midst of the throne and no sun or heat is promised to this multitude. Thus, it is certain that this multitude will dwell and serve in the Holy City. That alone should make it obvious that these 144,000 Jews and all they convert are included in the body of Christ. They live in the home of the bride that is described in chapters 21 and 22.

This understanding makes me depart from classical dispensationalists on their point that believing Jews are not part of the body that is the bride of Christ. I believe the scripture teaches that the bride of Christ is the whole commonwealth of Israel and not just the believers that entered the new covenant bride by God's grace to believers since Pentecost.

These dispensationalists claim that saved Israel is not part of the bride of Christ but that these are merely friends or brethren of the groom. Some claim the body of Christ and the bride are different entities. They generally use Jewish marriage illustrations to support their views. However, whatever the truth is about these illustrations, I see no distinction in scripture between true Israel of the Old Testament and true believers since Pentecost. Scriptures say that both assemblies are included in the commonwealth of Israel and that both assemblies are branches on the same Olive Tree; they also have identical destinies in the city of the bride. Most of the arguments these dispensationalists use are from subjective reasoning and they cannot be supported by any direct scripture passage, yet there is scripture to refute their reasoning.

Those that hold this theology claim the bride started at Pentecost and those saved since Pentecost are the only people in the bride. They claim that the Church since Pentecost until the rapture (or some say the marriage) will be the only believers married to Christ. This mostly Gentile bride will be one with Christ but Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and all the people of faith prior to Pentecost and after the rapture are not part of the body or bride. Therefore, they say the 144,000 sealed Jews and the billions they help bring to Christ have missed the opportunity to become part of this body of Christ but will now be friends or brethren of Jesus.

Dispensational teachers have been dead set against the replacement theology that prevails in many mainline covenant theology denominations. Nevertheless, they themselves may be guilty of a more subtle form of replacement theology that takes place in the kingdom of heaven. They make believers since Pentecost the queen of the kingdom and co-regent with Christ over all creation but they make the founding fathers and the 144,000 first fruits merely friends, subjects or servants in the kingdom. Why would God discriminate between pre and post Pentecost people all saved by trusting in God's promise? The Apostle Paul said we are all branches on the same Olive Tree. These theologians seem to claim we should exclude true Israel from the bride because God had the grace to graft in Gentiles! Why does true Israel get this graft shaft and how did the Gentiles now become the only true love of God's life?

God is no respecter of persons whether Jew or Gentile. Salvation by faith is a free gift to all until the body called the bride of Christ is completed. Not including true Israel as members of the bride not only would not be fair to true Israel but the book of Romans demolishes that thought by making it clear that there is only one Olive Tree of which Old and New Testament believers are all branches and there is one Commonwealth of Israel of which we are all members. The Gentiles were by God's grace grafted into the Commonwealth of Israel. They did not replace the commonwealth and all the promises made to all children of Abraham (the children of faith and the promise). We all get nourishment from the same root that is watered by the Spirit of God.

The argument they use that true Israel did not have the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit was not given until Pentecost does not hold water either. The promised New Covenant baptism of the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost but the Holy Spirit was alive and well on planet earth from the beginning and filled and saved people prior to Pentecost. The scripture is filled with many such examples. In John 20:22 Jesus told His disciples to receive the Holy Spirit when he appeared to them and breathed on them and this was before Pentecost.

Pentecost was the baptism that John the Baptist promised would come through Jesus (Mat 3:11). This baptism identified all believers into the death and resurrection of God's chosen High Priest so all who believe by faith could have eternal atonement for their sins and be born into His spiritual new creation called the Body of Christ.

That does not mean there were not those of faith before Pentecost. Pentecost was the giving of the promised new covenant and body of Christ but people also got saved by faith during the time of the old covenant. No one can be saved without the Holy Spirit in any dispensation. It is impossible to please God without faith and you cannot have true faith without the Holy Spirit. The Old Testament is filled with accounts proving that the Holy Spirit worked through Old Testament people of faith. Accordingly, how could those dead in their sins without His Spirit have the faith to please Him as many obviously did? The Bible also says that all Israel was baptized into Moses and the sea and all drank of Christ .

1 Co 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat; 4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was **Christ**.

Psa 51:11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy **holy Spirit** from me.

Isa 63:10 But they rebelled, and vexed his **holy Spirit**: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.

Isa 63:11 Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? where is he that put his **holy Spirit** within him?

At Pentecost, when Jesus poured out his blood in the Holy Place in heaven the new covenant promise was put into effect, because all sin was paid for. Because of natural Israel's unbelief, many branches were broken off the Olive tree. This allowed the grafting in of believing Gentiles into the new covenant promise given to the house of Israel and Judah. At Pentecost, Jesus as High Priest in the heavenly holy place poured out His blood and paid for the sins of mankind once and for all. By doing so, the Holy Spirit was now poured out on all flesh who would hear this new covenant message of God's grace by faith regardless if they were Jew or Gentiles. No longer was it necessary for a high priest in Israel to atone for their sins for anyone on earth to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Nevertheless, before Pentecost there were high priests in Israel who once a year brought in blood, to the Holy of Holies to atone for the sins of Israel. The blood did not pay for the sins as did the blood of Jesus but it reminded everyone that they were sinners and that they must by faith trust God to save them. These blood sacrifices required faith in God and that is what justified the people who carried them out. This practice did not even start with Israel. It started shortly after the fall of man when Abel offered a blood sacrifice of an animal delivered into his hands by faith. The blood of this animal was a testament that sin in the world brought suffering and death and that God would have to provide a redeemer to the earth because of the fall of Adam. The blood by faith in God's provision atoned for his sins and Abel's sacrifice by faith was acceptable to God while Cain's sacrifice of grain raised by his own self efforts was not.

The Old Testament people by faith believed these sacrifices would atone for their sins. These people did not only offer sacrifices because they were looking forward to the sacrifice that God would provide for sin. Many did not have that much insight into God's divine plan. However, by faith (in God) they believed their sins would be covered and were thus justified by the law of faith (Rom 3:27) so the Holy Spirit could indwell them. We see proof of this when at Passover; the angel of death could not touch the descendants of Israel because he could see no sin within their house. The obedient covered the entrance to their house with the blood of the lamb by faith. Sacrifice by blood to atone for sin was paramount in Israel. Why would Israel even need to be continually reminded of their sins if they could not be justified by faith and have a relationship with the Spirit of the living God?

Let us not be conceited; the grafted in branches are in the same Olive Tree as the natural branches. A study of Romans chapter 9-11 makes it clear that all people who believe God's promise by faith whether Jew or Gentile now make up the bride for the new covenant Christ (Heb 12: 22-24). After all, the promise of a new covenant was really made to the house of Israel and Judah and not to the Gentiles. *Jer.*

31:31 Lo, days are coming, an affirmation of Jehovah, And I have made with the house of Israel And with the house of Judah a new covenant, 32 Not like the covenant that I made with their fathers, In the day of My laying hold on their hand, To bring them out of the land of Egypt, In that they made void My covenant, And I ruled over them an affirmation of Jehovah. 33 For this is the covenant that I make, With the house of Israel, after those days, An affirmation of Jehovah, I have given My law in their inward part, And on their heart I do write it, And I have been to them for God, And they are to me for a people.

Just look at the hall of fame of the people of faith in Hebrews Chapter 11 and then say these people did not have the Holy Spirit in them. Yes they did!

The redeemed Gentiles of this vision are either saints who will be martyred during the tribulation, or believers who will survive the Tribulation and enter the Millennium in their natural bodies, or both. Earthly sorrows will be over (21:3, 4). Christ will give them spiritual sustenance. There will be absolutely no crying or sorrow in the presence of God, for He will have wiped away all tears from their eyes.

These people are before God's throne day and night in his temple. God dwells among them forever. They will never hunger or thirst any more. No hot days and no cold days, absolutely perfect conditions. Then the Lamb of God, which is Jesus shall feed them, and lead them to living fountains of water. God will wipe away all of their tears, so they had had sorrow on earth. Praise the Lord for that day when death is gone, sorrow is gone, and we are with Jesus!

**And God shall wipe away
all tears from their eyes**

Rev. 7:17

