



Sermon Series: Revelation - Jesus Revealed
Sermon Title: God's People: Signed, Sealed, Delivered
Scripture: Revelation 7:1-17
Pastor Chris Fritz
Sunday, October 1, 2023

INTRODUCTION

Deuteronomy 29:29

Note: Chapter 7 is the first of "Three Heavenly Interludes" (7:1-17; 10:1-11; 20:1-6)! These are necessary "pauses" or "breaks" from the action on earth to show us the joy, the security, the strength, and the glory of God and His people in Heaven.

"...for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?" (Revelation 6:17)

"...in wrath remember mercy." (Habakkuk 3:2c)

Note: There are TWO PARTS to chapter 7. The FIRST part (in verses 1-8) takes place on earth and shows the work of God to preserve, protect, and seal His people! The SECOND part (in verses 9-17) takes place in heaven and shows the fruit of God's work through His people to save many!

I. GOD'S PEOPLE: SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED

PART 1 - EARTH - The work of God to preserve, protect, and seal His people! (verses 1-8)

1) God has a plan! God has a people to save and to seal during this time of Tribulation!

Note: This sealing on the forehead speaks to identification, authenticity, protection, and belonging.

2) Either the numbers presented in verses 4-8 are symbolic and they refer to all believers (the Church in general) OR they are literal and they refer to 144,000 Jewish believers who will testify, witness, and serve God throughout the time of The Tribulation.

Ephesians 1:13b-14 and Romans 11:1-2, 11-12, 25-29

PART 2 - HEAVEN - The fruit of God's work, through His people, to save many! (verses 9-17)

1) In verse 9 we see the worldwide magnitude of this group!

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout THE WHOLE WORLD as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:14)

2) In verse 10 we see the wonderful, possessive, worshipful cry of this group!

“God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

3) In verses 11-12 we see heaven's all-encompassing, joy-filled response to this group!

“For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God OR GIVE THANKS TO HIM, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” (Romans 1:21)

4) In verses 13-14 we see the blood-washed identity of this group!

“IF ANYONE is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

5) In verses 15-17 we see a description of sweet fellowship with and rest in God Himself.

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. Why is there a pause in judgment in verses 1-3? What is God determined to accomplish?
2. What are the two main views as to the identity of the 144,000 mentioned in verses 4-8? Where do you land on this issue? Why?
3. What is unique about this great multitude that John sees in verse 9? Who are they? What do they say? What's special about them? How are they identified in verse 14?
4. How are the blessings and joys of heaven described in verses 15-17?
5. As you think about Revelation 7, what big picture truths about God do we learn and see here?