# "PROTECTION FROM GOD'S WRATH"

**Revelation 7:1-17**
5-15-2022

⇨ ***God is a God who protects His people before He pours out His wrath!***

## I. The Sealing of 144,000 Israelites (v.1-8)

1. **Who are the 144,000?**

2. **How do the 144,000 come to Christ?**

3. **When does this sealing occur?**

4. **How could God preserve the Tribes** through the centuries from mixing through intermarriage?

5. **Why is the tribe of Dan missing?**

**What is the purpose for the 144,000 being sealed with such a mark?**

**Answer: PROTECTION**
**Protection from the plagues that the four angels (v. 1-3a) will unleash upon the earth. Protection from the "trumpet" and "bowl" Judgements.**

## II. The Salvation of multitudes of raptured saints (vv.9-17)

**A. The Scope of Salvation: *"All nations. . ."*** (v. 9)

**B. The Source of Salvation: *"God . . . Lamb"* (v. 10-12)**

**C. The Means of Salvation: *"The blood of the Lamb"* (v. 13-14)**

**D. The Rewards of Salvation: (v. 15-17)**

# "PROTECTION FROM GOD'S WRATH"

**Revelation 7:1-17** *(Part 2)*
5-29-2022

⇨ ***God is a God who protects His people before He pours out His wrath!***

## I. The _____ of 144,000 _____ (v.1-8)



1. **Who are the 144,000?**

2. **How do the 144,000 come to Christ?**

3. **When does this sealing occur?**

4. **How could God preserve the Tribes** through the centuries from mixing through intermarriage?

5. **Why is the tribe of Dan missing?**

**What is the purpose for the 144,000 being sealed with such a mark?**

**Answer: PROTECTION**
**Protection from the plagues that the four angels (v. 1-3a) will unleash upon the earth. Protection from the "trumpet" and "bowl" Judgements.**

## II. The _____ of multitudes of _____ (vv.9-17)



**A. The _____ of Salvation: *"All nations. . ."*** (v. 9)

**B. The _____ of Salvation: *"God . . . Lamb"* (v. 10-12)**

**C. The _____ of Salvation: *"The blood of the Lamb"* (v. 13-14)**

**D. The _____ of Salvation: (v. 15-17)**

# "PROTECTION FROM GOD'S WRATH"

**Revelation 7:1-17**
5-15-2022

INTRODUCTION: Time-line of Future Events in the final 7 years

-

After revealing in rapid-fire succession the consecutive events of trouble & tribulation to befall planet earth (chapter 6), God gives us a breather--a sigh of relief--a glimpse of hope in chapter 7 before the outpouring of His wrath in Chapters 8 and following.

**A Practical Key Truth -- *God is a God who protects His people before He pours out His wrath!**

## I. The Sealing of 144,000 Israelites (v.1-8)

**V. 1**
***"After these things"*** = After John saw the events of the first 6 seals, he now sees events that occur between the 6th. and the 7th. seal.

***"Holding the four winds"*** - stopping the winds implies a lull (calm) before the storm (Wiersbe, p. 590). A "heavenly hush before the Hellish horror"
This calm corresponds with the suspense indicated by the silence in heaven that occurs when the 7th seal is opened (8:1).

**V. 2**
***"The seal of the living God"*** -
***"seal"*** = an emblem or mark of ownership and security (permanence).
In Roman times, a seal referred to the impression made with a signet ring.

**V. 3 - 8**
***"till we have sealed"*** - now four angels join the angel from the east to seal God's servants

***"the servants of our God"***

### 1. Who are the 144,000?

ANSWER: They are Israelites (not Jehovah's Witnesses; nor a spiritual representation of the church). Proof:
a. V. 4 - "of all the tribes of the children of Israel"
b. v. 5-8 - the specific tribes are listed
c. God promised to redeem a remnant of the people of Israel in the last days *"when the fullness of the Gentiles has come in"* (Romans 11:25-ff) (See the O.T. prophets - Zech. 12:8-14, 13:9; Ezek. 20:33-44, 34:13-17, 36:25-29; Jer. 31:1-2; Is. 59:9-15, 43:1-7, 11:11-12:6)

**2. How do the 144,000 come to Christ?**

a. When Christ returns at the Rapture His coming will be visible to the eyes of all the world. (Matthew 24:30; cp. Rev.6:16; I Peter 4:13)

b. Multitudes of Jews will "look" on Him whom they have pierced as He returns (Zech. 12:10)

c. They will at that time repent in genuine sorrow for their sin and former rejecting of Christ (Zech. 12:10-14).

d. They will call upon the Lord at that time and be saved (Joel 2:31-32)

e. These 144,000 sealed Israelites are called *"firstfruits unto God"* (Rev. 14:4-f). Being "firstfruits" they are the first of the people who will be redeemed after the Rapture occurs. These people will be among the first people in mortal bodies to enter the Millennial kingdom.

**3. When does this sealing occur?**

a. After the 6th seal is loosed (Rev. 6:12-17), but before the 1st. Trumpet Judgement (Rev.7:3 cp. 8:7)

b. Immediately after the rapture has occurred.

*"When the church is raptured, the 144,000 will not be taken with the saints because they will not as yet have been brought into a saving relationship with their Messiah, Jesus Christ"* (Van Kampen The Sign p.302)

**4. How could God preserve the Tribes** through the centuries from mixing through intermarriage?

ANSWER: In the Law, the tribes were commanded by God to marry only those within that tribe (Num. 36:6-13).

Even with the destruction of many genealogical records at 70 A.D., the Jewish race like no other race has diligently kept itself isolated & insulated from much intermarriage with other races. The nation of Israel (its preservation despite Satan's numerous attempts to wipe it out) is a miracle that is mind-boggling.

**5. Why is the tribe of Dan missing?**

Dan is evidently replaced by the tribe of *"Manasses"* who was not a son of Jacob but the first born of Joseph (Gen. 41:51).

This tribe is missing perhaps because the tribe of Dan was guilty of leading the nation of Israel into idolatry on many occasions (Lev. 24:11; Judg. 18; I Ki. 12:28, 29) (Ryrie)
In Deut. 29:18-21, God said He would blot out the name of any idolatrous man or tribe.

NOTE: Dan is the only tribe missing in the record of the genealogical tables of the tribes of Israel given in I Chron. 2:3-9:44.

While Dan is not sealed (Rev. 7), it must not be thought that this tribe will be made extinct. On the contrary, God's grace will extend to Dan, as evident by the fact that Dan heads up the list in the division of the land in the Millennial kingdom (Ezek. 48:1-2).

**V. 3**
***"Sealed . . . in their foreheads"*** - contrast this mark with the mark of the Beast (Rev. 13:16-18).

***"Seal of the living God"*** - in contrast to the false, spiritually dead god, the Antichrist (II Th.2:4), who will seal those who serve him with his mark - 666 (Rev. 13).

Compare Rev. 14:1-5 - the mark identified the 144,000 with God the Father

(cp. Rev. 3:12 - to the overcoming saint, Jesus said: "I will write upon him the name of my God.")

In Rev. 22:4, John describes God's servants in the New Jerusalem as having "his name . . . in their foreheads."

**What is the purpose for the 144,000 being sealed with such a mark?**

**Answer: PROTECTION**

Protection from the plagues that the four angels (v. 1-3a) will unleash upon the earth

Protection from the "trumpet" and "bowl" Judgements.

Other examples of protective marks:
1. Mark on Cain (Gen. 4:15)
2. Mark on those who wept over the sin of Jerusalem (Ezek. 9:2-5)

The seal does not necessarily have to be visible. Evidently it is not! NOTE: the seal is not put on their foreheads but "in" their foreheads.

Most likely a seal will be placed on them which physical eyes cannot see; but visible to the eyes of the spirit world (God, angels, demons, etc.)

Just as God protected Noah from the flood, Israel from the plagues of Egypt, and Rahab and her household in Jericho, so will He protect His elect 144,000 (Bible Knowledge Commentary)

SEE: Rev. 9:4 - when the fifth trumpet sounds, only the redeemed 144,000 will be protected from the five-month torment inflicted upon the unbelieving world by the demonic locust-like army.

SEE Isaiah 43:1-7 for God's supernatural protection of His 144,000 elect.

144,000 Jews protected ("saved out of") during Jacob's trouble (Jer. 30:5-**7**).

[Cp. Rev. 12:6 - the imagery of a "woman" (representing redeemed Israel) flees into the wilderness and is supernaturally protected by God during the last 3 1-2 years of the Tribulation (v. 14-17)]

**Practical Application:**
Nothing can happen to God's elect today unless God allows it.
God sets a protective hedge around us today like He will do in the future with His 144,000. We as believers today have been sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13).

*"...the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are His..." (II Tim. 2:19).*

When God puts His label on someone, it means "hands off" to those who would seek to ruin God's property.
*"If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31).* Never forget that God is in sovereign control of His property (those who belong to Him).

## II. The Salvation of multitudes of raptured saints (vv.9-17)

**A. The Scope of Salvation: *"All nations. . ."*** (v. 9)

***"A great multitude which no man could number"*** - God knows the number, but no man would be able to count the multitudes that God will redeem prior to and during the Great Tribulation; These multitudes will be raptured immediately after the Great Tribulation is cut short for the Elect's sake (Mt. 24:22, 29).

***"Nations"*** - God saves a remnant from all countries
***"Kindreds"*** - God saves a remnant from all families
***"People"*** - God saves a remnant from all cultures
***"Tongues"*** - God saves a remnant from all languages

Note: We need a global outlook. Christ died for the sins of the world (I Jn. 2:2) (cp. Rev. 5:9). We are to go into all the world (Mk. 16:15).

***"Stood before . . . the Lamb"*** - They ***"stand"*** before the Lamb because they have resurrected spiritual bodies. They are also said to have ***"hands"*** (v.9) again indicating that these are not in the same disembodied state as the *"souls under the altar"* (Rev. 6:9)

However, included among these who are clothed in "white robes" are those resurrected martyrs who were killed during the Tribulation (cp. "white robes" - 6:11).
Note: Jesus described the betrayal and slaughter to occur during the Trib. (Mt. 24:9, 10).

***"Palms in their hands"*** - reminiscent of the rejoicing that occurred during the 7-day feast of Tabernacles (Lev. 23:40)

***"Palms"*** denote victory and rejoicing.
(cp. Jn. 12:13 - Christ's Triumphal entry into Jerusalem on "Palm Sunday")

**B. The Source of Salvation: *"God . . . Lamb"* (v. 10-12)**

**V. 10**

***"Salvation to our God. . . and unto the Lamb"*** - this means that salvation belongs to God the Father and God the Son. The LORD is the source of salvation.

***"Salvation"*** = Deliverance; Rescue.
The salvation they have just immediately experienced is the deliverance of the rapture.

I Thess. 5:8 - *"The hope of salvation"*
I Thess. 5:9 - *"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ"*
Rom. 13:11 - *"Now is our salvation nearer than when we believed"*
I Peter 1:5 - *"Who are kept by they power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

**V. 11**
The shout of praise from the grateful saints (v. 10) tips off or incites the praise of the angelic realm (cp. 5:11).

The believers are praising God for what He has done for them (salvation); and the angelic realm in response falls down and says a big, hearty "Amen"! (v. 12)

**V. 12**
***". . . be unto our God"*** = belongs to God. God is the source (the well spring) of all blessing . . . glory . . . wisdom, etc.

**C. The Means of Salvation: *"The blood of the Lamb"***
**(v. 13-14)**
**v. 13**
***"What are these ... whence came they"*** - The identity of these people is very important since an elder in Heaven, who knows who they are, poses a question to draw our attention to who they are.

**v. 14**
***"Great tribulation"*** = lit. "The Great Tribulation"

***"Came out"*** - "The ones coming out" - They were the ones who were coming out via Martyrdom (Rev.6:6-11) and now Rapture.
All of whom would have received resurrected bodies at the point of the rapture (I Cor. 15:58-f; I Thess.4; Rev.20:4-9).

***"Washed their robes"*** - Man's only responsibility is the yield himself; Christ's finished work is that which does the actual cleaning.
The hymn writer said: "And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains."

***"White in the blood"*** = whitened in the blood
The shed blood of Christ is God's bleach for the soul!
Ps. 51:7 - *"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."*
Normally, when a garment is washed, it is washed using pure, clear water as the cleansing agent.
The saints garment, however, is paradoxically made white by the shed blood of Christ!
Hymn "There is Power in the Blood"

**D. The Rewards of Salvation: (v. 15-17)**

**1. Service (v. 15)**

***"Therefore"*** - Because of their cleansing (v. 14), they, like the Old Testament priests, can now serve God acceptably and continually ("day and night") in his temple [cp. Leviticus 8:30, where Aaron and His sons had the blood of the burnt offering sprinkled onto their garments so that they could be consecrated to perform priestly service (chap. 9)]

**2. Satisfaction (v. 16)**

***"Hunger and thirst"*** - results of the famine and food rationing to occur during the Tribulation (cp. Rev. 6:5, 6)

***"Sun"*** = The sun which will scorch men during the Day of the Lord (Rev. 16:8), will also be especially hot during the times of famine (Mt.24:7; Rev.6:5,6) and during the 3 1/5 years in which there will be no rain (Rev.11:6).

**3. Sufficiency (v. 17)**

***"Lamb. . . in the midst of the throne"*** - NOTE: the oneness and intimate relationship between the lamb (Christ) and the throne sitter (v. 15 - the Father).

***"The Lamb"*** is the "good Shepherd" described in Ps. 23:1-2.
Rev. 21:6 - Jesus said, "It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely."

***"Wipe away all tears"*** -

***"Tears"*** = singular in Greek. God is concerned about every tear that is shed for righteousness sake! Every single tear shed because of hardship and Antichrist's persecution during the Great Tribulation will be wiped away.
Isaiah prophesied of this: "He will swallow up death in victory *(this occurs at the rapture - I Cor.15:54)*; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces" (Is. 25:8). SEE Rev. 21:4