

God's Special Witnesses

Revelation 7
October 23, 2022

I. Introduction

- A. Many say that Chapter 7 is simply God's way of saying many people of various people groups will be in Heaven.
- B. Chapter 7 is clearly divided into two sections: verses 1-8 (sealed Jews), and verses 9-17 (saved Gentiles)
- C. Some say both groups are the same. However, the first group are Jews who are numbered and sealed on Earth versus Gentiles from every nation too large to number and standing in Heaven.

II. An Interesting Parallel (from Warren Wiersbe)

- A. Matthew 24
 - 1. False Christs – vs. 4-5
 - 2. Wars – v. 6
 - 3. Famines – v. 7a
 - 4. Death – vs. 7b-8
 - 5. Martyrs – v. 9
 - 6. Worldwide chaos – vs. 10-13
 - 7. World evangelism – v. 14
- B. Revelation 6 and 7
 - 1. White horse rider – Antichrist – vs. 1, 2
 - 2. Red horse – war – vs. 3, 4
 - 3. Black horse – famine – vs. 5, 6
 - 4. Pale horse – death – vs. 7, 8
 - 5. Martyrs – vs. 9-11
 - 6. Worldwide chaos – vs. 12-17
 - 7. Chapter 7 – 144,000

III. The 144,000

- A. The sealing of the witnesses – vs. 1-3
 - 1. The four angels – v. 1
 - a. They stood at the corners of the earth holding back the winds
 - b. Angels are mentioned 66 times in Chapters 5-22
 - c. Angel of fire (14:18); angel of waters (16:5)
 - 2. The other angel – vs. 2, 3
 - a. He came from the rising of the sun (he might control it)
 - b. He had the seal of God; used to tattoo slaves and soldiers

- c. He ordered the four angels to cease their work of destruction
 - B. The selection of the witnesses – vs. 4-8
 - 1. Their number: 144,000 – v. 4a
 - 2. Their nationality – vs. 4b-8
 - a. "...from every tribe of the sons of Israel"
 - b. 12,000 from each tribe
 - c. Dan is replaced by Levi and Ephraim by Joseph
 - C. The salvation results of the witnesses – vs. 9-17
 - 1. A great multitude clothed in white robes – v. 9
 - a. See: Isaiah 64:6; Matthew 24:14
 - 2. Great praise to our God – vs. 10-12
 - 3. The great multitude identified – vs. 13, 14
 - 4. The blessings of His presence – vs. 15-17
 - a. God's protection and provision
 - b. In the "center: (middle) of the throne"
 - i. Revelation 5:6
 - D. A severe warning: II Thessalonians 2:11-12