

# Revelation

(A Chapter-by-Chapter Overview of God's Picture Book)

## Lesson #8: Revelation 7:1-17

### Review

#### General Background

- Written by John, the book of Revelation offers comfort to a persecuted church through a series of vivid images.

#### Review of Chapters 1-3

- Jesus, pictured in a glorified form and standing among seven golden lampstands representing the church, has John write down messages to be delivered to seven churches in Asia Minor.

#### Review of Chapters 4-5

- While "in the Spirit," John has a vision of a great throne room where God is seated.
- A scroll, sealed with seven seals, is presented.
- Only the Lamb (symbolizing Christ) is able break the seals and open the scroll to reveal its message.

#### Review of Chapter 6

- A series of images are presented as the Lamb opens six out of the seven seals.
  - Seal #1—White Horse & Rider (conquering power)
  - Seal #2—Red Horse & Rider (war and bloodshed)
  - Seal #3—Black Horse & Rider (economic disruption)
  - Seal #4—Pale Horse & Rider (death)
  - Seal #5—Slain Saints Under the Altar
  - Seal #6—Sene of End Things/God's Wrath

### Revelation 7 – A Refreshing Interlude

#### Verse 1

Four angels "holding back the four winds" bring protection and can be contrasted with the four horsemen of chapter 6 bringing destruction.

#### **144,000 Sealed Servants**

#### Verses 2-3

*Seal of God* – The seal is a mark of ownership, showing something to be authentic. (Ezekiel 9:7; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22)

#### Verse 4

#### *Number of those who were sealed*

The people of God are described in multiple ways throughout Revelation.

- Servants (1:1)
- Companions in Suffering (1:9)
- Seven Golden Lampstands (1:12)
- Overcomers [victorious] (Chapters 2-3)
- Slain Souls Under the Altar (6:9)
- Sealed Servants (7:3-4)
- The 144,000 (7:4)

The listing of the 12 tribes of Israel is figurative here. (Romans 9:8)  
Certain numbers are often used to denote completeness.

Also, \_\_\_\_\_ of numbers can be used to denote completeness.

### Verses 5-8

#### **Tribes as Listed in Revelation**

1. Judah
2. Reuben
3. Gad
4. Asher
5. Naphtali
6. Manasseh\*
7. Simeon
8. Levi\* (In place of Dan)
9. Issachar
10. Zebulun
11. Joseph\*
12. Benjamin

#### **Tribes Listed in the Old Testament**

1. Judah
2. Reuben
3. Gad
4. Asher
5. Naphtali
6. Manasseh\* (son of Joseph)
7. Simeon
8. Dan\*
9. Issachar
10. Zebulun
11. Ephraim\* (son of Joseph)
12. Benjamin

### **A Numberless Multitude**

#### Verse 9

A numberless multitude dressed wearing white robes is yet another identification of the people of God.

This expanding scene seems to mirror the progression of the gospel in book of Acts.

Acts 2 (Jews), Acts 9 (Samaritans), Acts 10-11 (Gentiles) - Romans 1:16

#### Verses 10-12

All the characters in the scene contribute to the picture of worship. It is building to a mighty crescendo of praise.

### **The Meaning: The Reality of God's Presence**

#### Verse 13-17

Here John is being asked to draw the bottom line and comprehend the meaning of what he sees.

This is a great picture of reassurance. The greatest part of Heaven is the presence of God, while the worst part of Hell is the absence of God.

Another great blessing of Heaven is the absence of all suffering.

Somehow, with this knowledge, we are not threatened so much, and the pain is not so severe when we realize who's we are (the Lamb) and where we are (under the altar).