

Q:(v.9-10) How does this crowd demonstrate the diversity in God's eternal family (all believers, saved by God's grace) and the respect we need to show all people, created in His image?

Q: (v.11-12) Describe the worship of the angels around the throne.

Q: (vv.13-14) How is this great multitude of people described?

What did they just come out from? What might this suggest for Christians today, in terms of our potential persecution, for following Jesus? _____

Q: Some say the sudden appearance of these believers in heaven, represent the rapture or taking up of the church out from the earth, before Christ's return? Despite your viewpoint on this, why is it important to recognize that Christians may (and probably will) suffer for Christ before His return? (Keep in mind, most Christians around the world are already persecuted for their faith in Jesus) _____

Q: Reflect on the majesty of God described in vv.9-17. Describe God's character and promises given here. Describe your future hope with Him in heaven and give Him praise!



Harvest Growing Deeper

Evangelical Free Church

*A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church
(for personal and/or small group study)*

Week of January 16, 2022

Revelation 7

In Chapter 6, Jesus opens the first 6 seals, (see Matt 24) unleashing God's initial set of judgements for those who reject Christ. (keep in mind, God's wrath is NOT for followers of Christ (1 Thes 1:10; 5:9; Rev 3:10; 9:4). Here in chapter 7, we get an heavenly interlude, highlighting God's protection and sealing of His followers, those saved by His grace through faith in Jesus. Our Sovereign God is in total control of all these events that must take place. God keeps His promises! All heaven erupts with praise to God!

Q: Describe a time you were a part of a multitude of people, all with a common purpose or goal? (maybe a professional sporting event, a concert, etc.) What thoughts and emotions did you experience? Why?

Q: (vv.1-3) What authority was given to the 4 angels? What had to happen before they could carry out their assignment?

Q: (v.3) Who was to receive the seal of God (i.e. the King's mark on their foreheads; showing protection and ownership—believers belong to Christ!)? Could this be physical seal (like in Gen 4:15; Ezek 9:4-6), or symbolic of the Holy Spirit's life-changing presence (Dt 6: 1-9; Eph 1:13-14) or both?

Q: How is God's seal (Holy Spirit—Eph 1:13-14) currently evident to others in your life? _____

Q: Who is represented by the 144,000? Is it actual descendants from these 12 tribes (a "remnant" like that described in Isa 10:20-21, Rom 11) or a full and complete representative of the entire family of God (all believers, the true Church)?

Q: The number 12 (12 OT tribes, 12 NT apostles, 12 gates, 12 foundations in Rev 21:12-14) represents totality. How does the NT seem to equate the Church as the true Israel? (see Phil 3:3; Gal 3:29; 6:16; and 1 Pet 2:9). Knowing all this, how might the 144,000 (12 X 12 X 1000) represent the totality of all believers? _____

**some say the 144,000 represents actual Jewish descendants who come to trust in Christ and serve God as His witnesses during the tribulation..*

Q: Describe some similarities and differences of other lists of the "12 Tribes of Israel." (There are 20 of them! But here are a few to consider...Gen 35:23-26; Gen 46 & 49; Num 1:1-54). Some say this arraignment of names is similar to Num 2, before Israel would go and conquer the Promised Land.

Q: Why might the tribe of Dan be missing in this list? (see Judges 18; 1 Kings 12:29-30). Also, why might Joseph's son Ephraim also be missing from this list? (see Hosea 5:9,11 & Isa 7—The idolatrous Northern Kingdom was also referred as "Ephraim"). What could John be stating by leaving these two names out?

Q: (v.9-10) Describe the crowd (how many?, what are they wearing (Rev 3:5; Isa 1:18)?, carrying (John 12:13; Lev 23:40-41)?, shouting?).

*waving palm branches was a sign of joy, victory. _____

Q: How might this also represent the very same group mentioned in v.4 (the 144,000)? (see vv.13-14 and also Gen 15:5) _____

Q: In Rev 6:16-17, those who rejected Christ called on the rocks to fall on them and hide them from "Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb (Jesus). For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?" Now in 7:9, *who* is able to stand!!? What qualifies them to *stand*, holy and redeemed before God? What does this say about God's Kingdom and Christ's atoning sacrifice?

Q: How would this scene encourage the persecuted church, whom John was originally writing this book to (Rev 2-3)? How does this give **you** greater appreciation, hope and confidence in Christ today, not only for what He has done in your life, but also for what trials you may currently be going through (or those you may face in the future)? _____

Q: How might this also encourage your efforts to point unbelievers to flee God's wrath and plea for His mercy and forgiveness through Christ alone?
