

Sheltered in Heaven
Rev. 7:9-17

I. God's Wrath is about to fall on earth – 7:1-2

1. Four angels stand at 4 corners of earth – 1
They are holding back the 4 winds of the earth
“That no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree”
2. Another angel ascending from rising of the sun--2-3
He has the seal of the living God
And He called with a loud voice to the 4 angels
These angels were given power to harm the earth and sea
He told them not to harm earth, sea or trees until
We have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads
3. 144,000 from Israel to protect them from being killed
12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel
The fact that God seals this 144,000 indicates that God is not finished with Israel.
He seals them to protect them from what is to happen.
Note here they are called “servants of our God”
Rev.11 God sends 2 witnesses to point them to Jesus
Rev. 14 these 144,000 are seen with the Lamb of God (Jesus)
Standing with Him on Mount Zion praising God for their redemption
4. But the 70th week of Daniel 9:24-27 is necessary for Israel
God will let them experience Tribulation on earth
It is necessary to prove that Jesus is their Messiah
Similar to what God did with 10 plagues in Egypt

II. Worship in Heaven – 7:9-12

1. John sees a great multitude – 9
“that no one could number” “From every nation, from all tribes, peoples & languages”
2. Standing before the Throne – 9
“And before the Lamb” (Jesus Christ)
“Clothed in white robes”
“With palm branches in their hands”
3. “Crying out with a loud voice” – 10
“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne”
“And to the Lamb!”
4. “All the angels were standing around the throne” - 11
They stood around the elders & 4 Living Creatures
24 elders and 4 Cherubim, around God's throne
They fell on their faces before the throne & worshipped God
5. Saying, “Amen! Blessing & glory & wisdom & thanksgiving & honor & power & might be to our God forever and ever! Amen” – 12
Words of ultimate accomplishment that only the Omnipotent God is worthy
All heaven pauses to learn about this great multitude

III. Multitude is Identified – 7:13-17

1. One elder asked John “Who are these” – 13
Ones “clothed in white robes”
And “from where have they come”
2. John answers “Sir, you know” – 14
He answered John in these words
“These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation”
“They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”
3. “Therefore they are before the throne of God” – 15
“And serve Him day and night in His temple”
“And He who sits on the throne will shelter them with His presence”
4. “They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore”–16
“The sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.”
5. “For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd” – 17
“And He will guide them to springs of living water”
“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes”
6. Is this not the same shepherd who gathered them in The “rapture”?
And He will “shelter them” (15) from what is happening on earth
As God's wrath is poured out in judgment
Remember God has promised this in Rom. 8:1
“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”
As the Lamb of God He bore our sins and God judged our sins in the sacrifice of His Son
7. God's angels hold back winds of God's judgement–7:1
Until 144,000 of Israel are sealed
They will go through the Tribulation but it will bring them to salvation in Christ
God will protect them (as in Egypt)
8. The gathering of the rapture will take believers in Jesus out of this world, to shelter them from God's judgment
Because His sacrifice accomplished that judgement on Calvary

IV. Summary of the Rapture

1. Provides bodies suited to eternity – 1 Cor. 15:50-58
Those who have died will be raised with “incorruptible bodies”
Those who remained alive will be transformed to “immortal bodies”
2. Brings reunion with believers who have died–1 Thess.4:13
Believing spirits in heaven will return with Christ
And their body's will be resurrected as “incorruptible”
They are reunited with believers living but transformed to “immortal”
3. Restores God's image in believers – 1John 2:28-3:3
Believers, living & dead, are conformed to Christ's image
4. Provides shelter in heaven from Judgment–Rev. 7:9-17

