

# Revelation Study Guide

## Chapter 7



This Chapter, is an important Chapter in understanding the Book of Revelation and where things fit, their timings in relation to one another. In my opinion the Book of Revelation has three basic kinds of Chapters, the first is the Chronological type. Chronological is the order of things as far as when they happen in time, such as if I tell you about the events that happen on Monday, then Tuesday, Wednesday and so on. We don't start on Thursday and then jump to Monday and then Saturday, and chronological is in order. Chapter 1 through 6 is chronological. In Chapters 1 through six you have the first church, then the second, and so on, you have the Rapture between the end of Chapter 3 and the beginning of Chapter 4, then the Tribulation period, all in chronological order.

Chapter 7 is not a chronological chapter in the sense that it follows Chapter 6. It is instead, what we call a parenthetical chapter. By parenthetical I mean, in the middle of a sentence the writer will put a sentence within a parenthesis that look like this ( ). The purpose of the parenthesis is for the writer to give you more information about that specific thing or time without breaking the sentence structure. Chapter 7 is full of information that we need, that is being inserted for us but it doesn't follow Chapter six as far as its parenthetical application it is going on at the same time chapter 4 is happening, some of this will become more clear as we go through the text. I will be cross referencing back to the other chapters.

It is important for you to know what is happening here, because if Chapter 7 followed 6 we would have to go through all of this war in Chapter 6, before the 144,000 are sealed and a great multitude is in heaven. The 144,000 get sealed before any of chapter six happens, and we will see that in the coming scriptures. Chapter 8 will chronologically follow Chapter 7. When chapter 7 events are over Chapter 8, will follow. But Chapter 8 events will parallel Chapter 5 and 6. And when you see Chapter 8 it will be obvious to you that they are in paralleling the same time as five & six. Chapter eight will allow us to look at some events that we have already seen, but they will be broken down into greater detail.

Chapter 9 will chronologically follow Chapter 8 but we will be into new material. There is a third kind of Chapter and that starts at 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. These Chapters in one sense of the word are happening at the same exact time, to get a real understanding of these Chapters you have to view them at the same time. It reminds me of the old medical dictionaries that had the inserts with the clear plastic pages. By turning the pages you can understand what a human being was built like. First page the man would be fully clothed, then you flip the page and the man is in his birthday suit, the next page shows you frontal organs, the next page shows you the back organs, the next the veins and circulatory system, and at last just a skeleton. Looking through each one you see an aspect of the human body. One of the most important times of the Tribulation period is the middle because there are a lot of changes in characters and relationships, Chapters 10 through 14 covers the changes that take place, they cover more than the middle but the importance is the middle area. Now that you understand that there are different kind of Chapters it will give you a better understanding to all of the events and how they correspond with each other. Now understand the heart of the Book of the Revelation is a seven-year Tribulation period. Everything that you see revolves around that Tribulation period, it happens either before it, or in the first half, or in the middle, or in the second half, or after it. With that understanding it should clear up a lot of confusion.

**Rev. 7:1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. 4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.**

We have four angels on the four corners of the earth, and what are they holding back? Winds and if they let the winds blow the verse says the earth is going to be hurt. Do we see any parallels to what has already happened in Chapter 6? We had four horses in Chapter 6 and we have four winds in Chapter 7. When the horses were turned loose, what was the result of it? The earth was hurt and damaged very severely. In this verse is the earth hurt? No, it isn't hurt yet. The angels are being told to hold back the winds so the earth isn't hurt. They are told, "do not hurt the earth until we have sealed the servants of God in their foreheads." We are told the number of these servants is 144,000 thousand. The following versus will tell us exactly who they are, 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel.





Who do think is preventing the tampering with the seven seals? God has an angel making sure that these horses don't go anywhere until he allows it. This is God's almighty power in action, He is the hinderer, he is the restrainer, he is the one that holds the horses back until we (The Raptured) are taken out of the way. Until God allows, the Antichrist can do nothing. The Antichrist can put his pawns on the board, but he can't make the move as long as God is restraining him. The four angels are going to restrain until the sealing has taken place. The Jehovah's Witnesses cult claims that the 144,000 is taken from their membership. The Bible plainly states that these people they are Jews. They are blood born ethnic Jews. God has 144,000 of them living a pure life. They are in God's hand right now. My guess is that they are probably about 30 years old, I think this because as types of Jesus Christ they would be similar to him in many ways. They are able to live during the worst time of human history, during a time where persecution, debauchery will reign supreme.

They live undefiled lives. They remain uncontaminated by the sexual immorality of the world. What God is doing in all of this situation is to disarm every charge that might suggest that God is unholy or unrighteous in expecting us to live for him. There are those who would suggest that it is impossible to live a righteous life, and it is humanly impossible for us to resist temptation. Jesus came showing us that it is possible, if you want to. The problem is that most people have "broken want too." The truth is you and I do wrong it is because we want to do wrong more than we want to do right. When we do right, it is because we want to do right more than we want to do wrong. Our wants define our character. Some people may say, "Well, of course Jesus could do it because he was God." The 144,000 do it and they are not God. They live right and it is the proof that you could if you wanted to. I don't remember a sin that I have committed, where anybody held a gun to my head to make me do it. If they did, I probably handed them an empty gun and said, "hold this on my head and say it is your fault." Most of us sin because we want to. These chosen have a three and a half year ministry starting at the beginning of the Tribulation period and ending in the middle of the Seven Years. Why does God seal them at this time? It is necessary to seal them because of the group that we will see in heaven. We are going to explain this group and their relationship to the group in verse nine.

**Rev. 7:5** Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. 6 Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nepthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. 7 Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. 8 Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.



Verses five through eight, simply give us the description of whom the 144,000 are and they are 12,000 men from each tribe of Israel listed.

**Rev. 7:9** After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Now we have a second group. Who is this group? There are lots of theories about whom this group is. Three leading theories are suggested. The four leading theories. The First, is that this is the Church and it is proof that they go through the Tribulation. I don't like that one at all, but if you want it, then according to your faith be it unto you. There are some people in the town where I live that take this view and believe that the Tribulation is already going on now. I just can't figure out who the Antichrist is if we are already in the Seven-Year Tribulation. The thing that triggers the Tribulation is his open revelation to the world in the peace treaty with Israel.



Second theory, this is the church and it goes through half of the Tribulation, this one we can rule out because the multitude is seen in heaven before we come to the middle of the Tribulation.

The Third theory is, this is a great group of Gentiles saved during the Tribulation as a result of the ministry of the 144,000 Jews placed on the earth to minister at the time of Tribulation. Now if you hold that opinion, you are among some intelligent company, most of the prophecy books that are written hold that opinion. At one time I thought that was true, but I kept reading it and came to the conclusion that there is something missing here, something is wrong.

So I will tell you whom I think this group is. You read it and use a little common sense and let's see what we come up with. I believe this is the church, and that it is proof that the church does not go through the Tribulation period at all. Here is why I have this opinion, John is looking at this group, where is the multitude when he sees them? They are in heaven, and they are there before the ministry of the 144,000 Jews gets started. We have already established that the witnesses' ministry is at the beginning of the Tribulation period. This multitude has shown up and are standing in front of the throne of God, and if you will notice in this chapter there is not a single word to link these two groups mentioned together, is there (The Great Multitude and the 144,000)? Their only link is that they are in the same chapter. It is an assumption by some folks that since they are in the same chapter there must be a causative effect here that the group being first caused the second group. I think that assumption is wrong.

The reason I think we see both groups in this chapter is our Righteous God always leaves the world with a witness and light just in case there is just one soul that would do right if he could see some light. The witness to the world right now has been the Christian church. Before the church, the Jews were the light. God called Abraham, and made from him Israel the nation. God then gives the Word of God to them. Through the Jewish nation will come the Savior-Messiah, the real light. Jesus Christ is the light of the world. But when Israel rejected Jesus Christ and then crucified him, God allowed them to be scattered. He stopped using them as the light. From that time the church served as the light. But soon the Rapture is going to take place, and when the Rapture of the church has taken place the light will be removed. The church moved from Earth to Heaven. So if this is the beginning of the Tribulation there should be a group called the church in Heaven. There is supposed to be a group of people there, and in Chapter 7 there is one. Why wouldn't that group be the church? The reason we see the groups together is because he wants the world to know that there has never been a moment that he has left it without a light. As the church went up, these 144,000 are sealed and sent out. Simultaneously as gravity turns loose of your ankles the 144,000 will step out into the world. Israel becomes the light again and they have the message of God.

Since the nation of Israel has not accepted Jesus Christ, and they will play patsy with the Antichrist for three and a half-years. God uses the 144,000 to symbol and this number has a symbolic meaning. These are literal people, but they serve as the symbolic representation of the nation of Israel. As soon as Israel gives her heart and life to Christ, the 144,000 will no longer be needed on this earth. The nation of Israel gets saved and Joel 2:38 really gets fulfilled. This is the time that God pours out the Holy Ghost on the nation of Israel. When the nation of Israel receives the outpouring of the Holy Ghost, they become the light of the world. It is at that time God will remove the 144,000 Jews. We will see in Chapter 14 that the 144,000 will be redeemed from the Earth. They are taken up in the middle of the week.



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There are a couple of things we will want to learn about, so that we have a full understanding. As we read we will see the great group before the throne and notice some things about them. One is they are so great a number that no man is able to number. That is the same thing we saw in Chapter 5, a great multitude that no man could number.

**Rev. 7:10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.**

We see that this group stands before the throne and that they are clothed in white robes. The robes represent the righteousness of Christ. This group sings of the Salvation our God. They would do this because they received salvation from the Lamb, this is the Raptured Church.

**Rev. 7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Didn't we see this same scene in Chapter 5?

**Rev. 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?**

One of the elders asked John who is that group of people and where did they come from? Evidently God wants us to understand this.





**Rev. 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

Now do you see that word "great Tribulation," these words are what cause a lot of confusion. A lot of people think, that if you are going through the tribulations you have gone through the Great Tribulation. Understand something, if you get to Heaven it will be said about you that you have washed your robes in the blood of the Lamb, and that you went through great Tribulation in your life. All that live Godly suffer great persecution. Lets look in Chapter 1 at a statement that will shed a little light for us.

**Revelation 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

John says he is a companion in what? In Tribulation. Whom was he writing that to, the Seven Churches of Asia? These churches were local churches, which were representative of church ages that would progress through history. He is telling them that he is their companion in Tribulation and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ. He is telling them that he is on the isle of Patmos, because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. John was going through tribulations at that time. He knew that the church he was a part of was also experiencing tribulations. It is safe to say whatever age of Christianity that you want to point to, there were believers that went through immense temptation and tribulations. They did not go through the Seven-year Tribulation period of the Book of Revelation. Did John go through the Seven-year Tribulation? Did the apostle Paul, did the apostle Peter go through the Tribulation? No! But did they go through Tribulations? If they crucify you upside down, your personal tribulations can't get much worse. If they chop your head off in a Roman prison, your personal tribulations can't get much worse. Did the Smyrna Christians who were being fed to the lions during Nero's reign go through tribulation? Yes, they did, but will they go through the Seven-year Tribulation period? No! They will not because they have died without the Seven-year Tribulation having begun. Antipas is mentioned in the letter to the Pergamos church, he was roasted to death inside of a brass bull, did he go through tribulations? He did, but he didn't go through the Seven-year Tribulation period. The Sardis church had 68 million Protestants burned at the stake, did they go through tribulations? Yes, but they didn't go through the Tribulation period. What I am saying to you is the church has tribulations in this world, but the Seven-year Tribulation period is for Israel and the sinful world. The church is Raptured so that it will not see this time. So it would be correct to say **"These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."** They have experienced great tribulations, and are now before the Lord. What great joy they have because they have sent up treasure in heaven. It seems clear to me this is the church raptured, caught up into the presences. This is one of the strongest conclusive evidences proving that we do not go through the Tribulation period. Chapter 8 is going to give us more proof that the Rapture will occur before the Tribulation period starts.

**Rev. 7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.**



**Redeemed before the Throne**

This multitude serve God day and night, like a priest does in the temple. Didn't God tell us we would be kings and priests in Chapter 1:6?

**Rev 7:16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. 17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.**

This is a group of people whose source of life is the Lamb. We are perfected and glorified through Christ. This is the Raptured Church.