

## Lord's Protection for His People Revelation 7

### I. Either in Life, in Death or by Rapture – Rev. 7

1. A Great mystery – Why are some spared while others experience death?  
James is beheaded, Peter is released – Acts 12  
Paul looks at two possibilities – Phil. 1:20-24
2. In Rev. 6:17 Day of God's wrath is come  
Will God consume all who live in that day?  
How will God protect those who are His?
3. Rev. 7 we see two groups in God's care  
Sovereignly deals differently caring for His people  
One group, protected by God living on earth  
Others escape winds of wrath, taken to heaven

### II. God's Protective Seal – 7:1-8

1. God restrains the winds of wrath – 1  
Four angels are holding the four winds of earth  
There is a hiatus before these winds can blow
2. Another angel comes with God's seal – 2-3  
God will put His seal on some of His people  
This angel cries to others that they should wait  
Before winds of wrath blow God will seal his own  
Much like God protected Israelis in Egyptian plagues
3. 144,000 are sealed from Tribes of Israel – 4-8  
12,000 are sealed by God from each tribe  
Plagues about to come are like in Egypt  
God spared the people of Israel at that time  
Rev. 7:3 says that God's seal is in the forehead  
Contrast this with mark of the beast – 13:16  
We see this seal protecting God's people – 9:4  
70<sup>th</sup> period part of God's plan for Israel – Daniel 9:24  
It will bring final restoration for Israel  
Two witnesses will have a part in this – Rev. 11:3-11  
God will protect 144,000 during that time  
Seen with the Lamb as redeemed ones - 14:1-5

### III. God's Rescued Ones – 7:9-14

1. A great multitude from every nation – 9  
They are in heaven standing before the throne  
They also stand in the presence of the Lamb  
They are clothed in white robes – cp. 19:8  
They have victor's palms in their hands
2. They exalt and glorify God & the Lamb – 10  
They are where they are because of God's salvation  
All honor and praise go to God and to the Lamb
3. The angels join in worshipping God – 11-12  
They fall on their faces before throne in worship
4. Who are these people? – 13, 14  
An elder asks John but he does not know

Elder identifies them as those escaping  
Tribulation

Obviously believers, cleansed by Lamb's blood  
This multitude from every nation escape by  
rapture

1 Thess. 4:16, 17 speaks of rapture –

Note also 1 Cor. 15:51-53

This is promised to faithful church in Rev. 3:10  
They escape before winds of God's wrath blow

5. No condemnation for those in Christ– Rom. 8:1  
Wrath of God has been endured by Christ for us  
God's people will experience ultimate victory  
We do not need to fear, we are secure in His  
hand

### IV. God's Eternal Reward – 7:15-17

1. See earthly suffering in light of eternal glory  
Paul compared these two in Philippians 1:20-24  
John now sees this glory in more detail
2. Standing before the throne of God – 15  
No greater joy than in His presence, accepted of  
Him
3. Serving God day and night in His Temple – 15  
The highest honor is to serve the King of kings  
To serve in the Temple implies some form of  
worship  
Day and night we give honor and glory to Him  
No longer limited by weariness of our physical  
body
4. Enjoying fellowship with the Lord – 15  
He who sits on the throne shall dwell among  
them  
Word "dwell" means to pitch one's tent  
This fulfills purpose for which we were created
5. Earth's sufferings are all in the past – 16  
All human suffering is consequence of human sin  
With sin put away the curse is removed  
Hunger, thirst, climatic stress are all gone
6. Lamb will shepherd (provide for) His own – 17  
He will feed & lead them to living fountains of  
water
7. God will comfort His people – 17  
He will wipe away all tears from their eyes