

**I. God's Grace for Gentiles to Stand (Rev. 7:9-17)**

A. Next John sees an innumerable multitude of people standing on the fiery sea of glass worshipping God. They are made up of every ethnic group (nations), family lines (tribes), relational groups (peoples), and language (tongues) in the earth. We find out in just a few verses from now that this group comes out of the 3 ½ year tribulation period and were victorious over it. (Rev. 7:13-14)

a) They were preserved spiritually from becoming disillusioned or offended by the judgments of God. The Antichrist kills a number of saints, but they do not yield to him, and are victorious over him and Satan. They did not compromise in the trials of suffering, persecution, and death that faced them during the tribulation. There are no super saints, these are regular people just like us, who operated supernaturally by the Holy Spirit.

1. Palm Branches in their hands – This reflects the feast of tabernacles. Tabernacles was a feast celebrating the leadership of God as He led them out of Egypt into the promised land that was celebrated with great joy. (Lev. 23:39-43)

*“The palm, the ensign of triumph, indicates most certainly a conflict and conquest. As on earth palm would not be given if not won, we may conclude that the Lord would not have distributed the prize unless there had been a preceding warfare and victory... From the very fact that the glorified carry palms, we may infer that they did not come from beds of sloth, or gardens of pleasure, or palaces of peace, but that they endured hardness, and were men trained for war who victoriously overcame the enemy.” (Spurgeon)*

2. Salvation belongs to our God – They sing together with a loud voice that their victory over Satan was not accomplished by their own power but by God's power in and through them. The one found worthy of the true victory is Jesus and His preservation of their hearts and minds through the greatest time of trouble the world has ever seen. (Ps. 37:39, 68:19-20, 115:1; Eph. 2:8)

B. All of heaven is undone in awe, wonder, and worship along with this innumerable multitude as this fresh revelation strikes them. Jesus in His perfect wisdom, care, and leadership brought millions of weak and broken individuals through the great tribulation. He brought them to such a level of love and faithfulness that they voluntarily went from strength to strength in the face of the greatest pressure that has ever come against the people of God in the history of the earth.

**Book of Revelation Study (Session 17)**  
**Victorious Church and the Seventh Seal**

**Sunday Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> 2018**  
**(Rev. 7:9-8:1-6)**

C. Jesus is only beginning His relational work in them and their reality with God is still only at its infant stage in the light of His eternal plans for them. The shepherding that Jesus gives us now does not stop in the age to come but continues forever.

1. He will dwell with them – John tells us not only are they able to be in His presence night and day but more glorious than that, He wants to dwell with them forever. The cry of David in (Psalm 23:7) is the same cry that is in His heart.
2. He will lead them to living fountains of water – We won't just dwell with Jesus but He will continue to take us deeper into relationship and further in experience of life. He will personally heal every place of hurt and disappointment and then take us by the hand into realms of life experiences we have never imagined.

*“The true Christian life, when we live near to God, is the rough draft of the life of full communion above.” (Spurgeon)*

**II. The 7<sup>th</sup> Seal (Rev. 8:1-6)**

A. The seventh seal functions both as a conclusion to the seal judgments as well as the introduction to the trumpet judgments. There is silence in heaven, seven angels are commissioned with trumpets, an eighth angel is given divine incense to enhance the prayer movement which releases fire (judgment) on earth along with cosmic disturbances including an earthquake.

1. Silence for a half hour - There will be a dreadful yet glorious silence in heaven for half an hour in anticipation of God's judgments as the seven angels prepare to release them. It is estimated that it took a priest about a half an hour to offer incense in the temple. There are also many passages that suggest there will also be silence on the earth in light of God's end-time judgments. (Lev. 16:13; Ps. 46:10; Hab. 2:20; Zeph. 1:7; Zech. 2:13; Lk 1:10,21)
2. Seven angels given trumpets - There are different angelic beings who stand in the counsel of the Lord, including four cherubim, four Seraphim and these seven angels who stand before God. Jewish tradition taught of seven archangels (Gabriel, Michael, Raphael, Uriel, Raguel, Saragael, and Remiel). Gabriel is described as standing in God's presence. The fall of Jericho associated with the blowing of seven trumpets, and seven priests with seven trumpets played before Ark. (Josh. 6; 1 Chron 15:24; Jer. 23:18; Lk 1:19)

3. Incense offered with the prayers of saints - This angel will add much incense to the prayers of the saints on the altar of incense. The only thing we see in scripture that adds to prayers of saints is the perfect intercessions (incense) of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. When the prayers of the saints worldwide are universally strengthened and inspired by the burden of the Holy Spirit, they will shift history literally bringing heaven to earth and usher in the messianic kingdom. (Ps. 2:7-9; 149:6-9; Zech. 12:10; Rom. 8:26, 34; Heb. 7:25)
  - a) The fifth seal was an increase of prayer as a result of martyrdom and the seventh seal is a divine strengthening and focus to those intercessors. This incense is given to this angel by God, prayer that is in line with God's will is mandated and always answered. (Jh 15:7,16; 1 Jhn 3:22, 5:14)
  
4. Their prayers ascend before God – The prayers of the saints bring pleasure through the sweet aroma of relationship of voluntary love to the Father. When this culmination of the energized and anointed prayer movement arises to the Father, He looses fire (judgment) upon the earth. The whole scene quite clearly symbolizes God sending judgment on the earth in response to His people's anointed corporate prayers. (Exod. 3:7-10; 19:16-19; Rev. 4:5; 11:19; 16:18)
  - a) The interceding partners of Jesus are the most powerful force in the history of the earth. The interceding saints in perfect unity with God result in Him releasing the fullness of His just judgments thus transitioning the earth into the age to come. This principal of God's partnership with His beloved ones runs through the entire bible. He is committed to and longs for this partnership. (Lam. 3:25-26; Is. 64:1-4; Jer. 33:3; Lk 18:7-8)
  
5. The angel hurled fire to the earth – The end time church engaged in the prayer movement is once again is seen to be the key that releases God's judgments upon the earth. They are in full partnering agreement and asking for the judgments rather than hiding from them or fearful of them. (Exodus Story, Days of Joshua, Intercession of the Prophets, Ez 9-10)
  - a) Just like the noise, thunder, and lightning proceeding from the throne in (Rev. 4), the same thing happens on the earth now as a result of this fire hitting the earth. Gods voice is being heard loud and clear through these judgments that are manifested to turn hearts back to God.