

*Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ*  
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

# The OT Marries the NT

## Revelation 7

1967 - 2017



# Review

**Ch 1-3: 7 Letters to 7 Churches**

**Ch 4: The God who Created**

**Ch 5: The Lamb who Redeemed**

**Ch 6: Seals 1-6**



**Remember from last week, that the 6<sup>th</sup> seal is the end of the age; it describes the great and awesome day of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**I showed that you this through the OT prophets, the Olivet Discourse, and Paul and Peter's writing.**



**Chapter 7 is the  
answer to the last  
question in  
chapter 6?**



# Revelation 6:17

- for the great day of their wrath

has come, **and who can stand?**

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# Chapter 7 Outline

## Part I

- Sees: 4 Angels holding back 4 Winds until the servants of God are sealed

## Part II

- Hears: About 12k from the 12 tribes of Israel

## Part III

- Sees: Great multitude in white robes redeemed by the blood

## Part IV

- Hears: About the Provision of Eternal Protection and Comfort



**Does the NT maintain a  
distinction between  
ethnic/biological Jews  
and Gentiles?**

**Yes & No**



**In Romans 11, Paul promises that a future restoration for ethnic Israel will happen but reminds his reader that not all of Israel is Israel and there is ONLY one people of God.**

**In Galatians 3, Paul tells his reader there is neither Jew nor Greek in the body of Christ. We don't have Jewish believers and Gentile believers—we have believers!**



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## Part I

# 5 Angels, 4 Winds, & a Seal



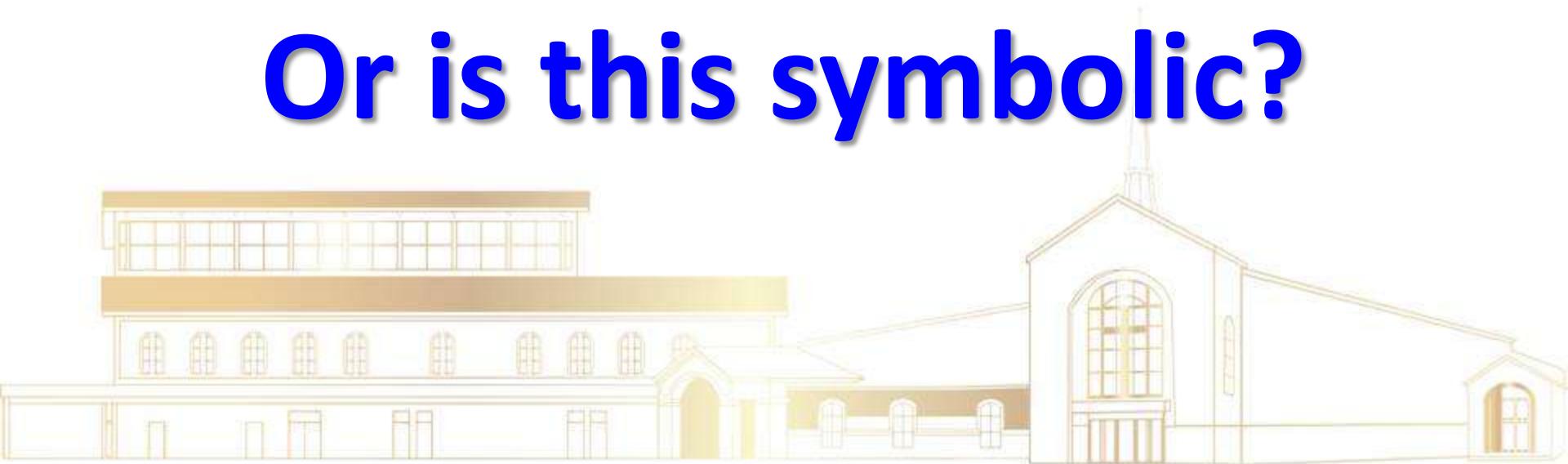


# Revelation 7:1

- After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth,
- holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree.

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**Do we really think 4  
angels are holding back  
4 winds?  
Or is this symbolic?**



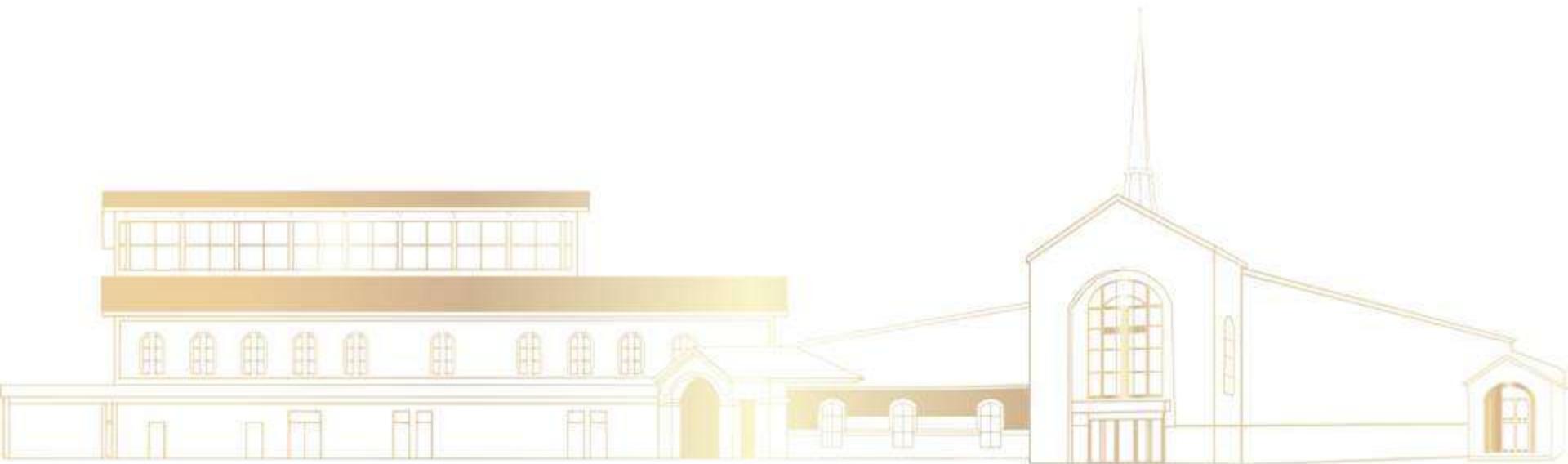


# Revelation 7:2

•Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea,

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# Symbolic or Literal?





# Revelation 7:3

- **saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”**

**This is drawn from  
Ezekiel 9:4-6**

# Ezekiel 9:4-6

- And the LORD said to him, “Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it.”<sup>5</sup> And to the others he said in my hearing, “Pass through the city after him, and strike. Your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity.<sup>6</sup> Kill old men outright, young men and maidens, little children and women, but touch no one on whom is the mark. And begin at my sanctuary.” So they began with the elders who were before the house.

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The seal is all  
about God's  
protection of  
His People.





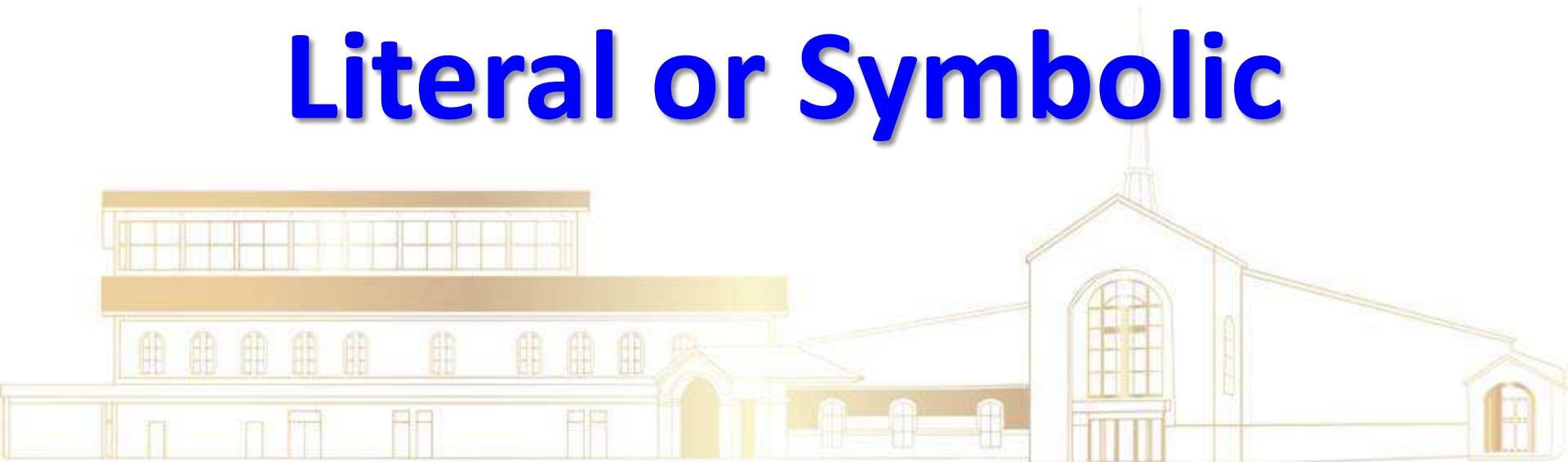
# Revelation 9:3-5

- Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. <sup>4</sup> They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone.

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## Part II

**144K:  
Literal or Symbolic**





# Revelation 7:4

- And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:



# Revelation 7:5–8 (ESV)

- 12,000 from the tribe of Judah **were sealed**,
- 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben,
- 12,000 from the tribe of Gad,<sup>6</sup>
- 12,000 from the tribe of Asher,
- 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali,
- 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,<sup>7</sup>
- 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon,
- 12,000 from the tribe of Levi,
- 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,<sup>8</sup>
- 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun,
- 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph,
- 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin **were sealed**.

**At first glance, this looks like ethnic or biological Israel, but there are issues with this list as compared to OT lists.**



- 1. Judah is not the firstborn. The birth order is not right. But Jesus is from the tribe of Judah.**
- 2. Dan is missing; perhaps he is missing because of Gen 49:17 and the tribe's association in particular with idolatry.**

Let me show you  
Gen. 49:17



# Genesis 49:17

- Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that his rider falls backward.

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**3. Manasseh is added but Joseph is retained. All the sons of Manasseh are in fact sons of Joseph.**

Is this a literal  
144k?



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**I think the answer is  
found in what John  
hears and what he sees.**





# Revelation 7:4 & 9

- And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:
- After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

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**Compare this to  
Revelation  
5:5-6 to 7:4 & 9**



	Revelation 5	Revelation 7
Heard	v.5 Lion of the tribe Judah, the Root of David	v.4 144,000 sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel
Saw	v.6 Lamb...slain sending the Spirit out into the world	v.9 A great multitude from all tribes standing before the Lamb



# This letter unifies

- **God & the Lamb**
- **The OT & the NT**
- **Creation & Redemption**
- **144k & the Great Multitude**
- **Israel & the Church**
- **Sons of Israel & Apostles of Christ**



If we take the 144k  
literally, are we  
also saying only  
they are sealed or  
marked?



**What about Gentiles?**

**Are they protected?**

**Marked?**

**And sealed?**

**Aren't you presently**

**sealed?**



**Certainly you are not  
suggesting it is a  
different seal than the  
sealing of the Holy  
Spirit in  
Ephesians 1:13, 4:30.**

**same Greek word**



# 2 Corinthians 1:22

- And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us,
- and **who has also put his seal on us** and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

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# 2 Timothy 2:19

- But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”

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# Revelation 7:2

•Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, **with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea,**

**In Revelation 13, the beast marks ALL his followers and in the rest of the NT God marks (seals) all his followers.**

**Why would we think that only Jewish believers are marked in the book of Revelation?**



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# Turn to Revelation 14

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# Revelation 14:1-3

• Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. <sup>2</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, <sup>3</sup> and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.



# Revelation 5:9 (ESV)

- And they sang a new song, saying,  
“Worthy are you to take the scroll  
and to open its seals, for you were  
slain, and by your blood you  
redeemed [G59] people for God  
from every tribe and language and  
people and nation,

We have a major disconnect  
between chapter 5 and 14  
unless the 144K is not a literal  
144k but a representative  
number of all the redeemed  
collectively saved by the death  
of the Lord Jesus Christ.



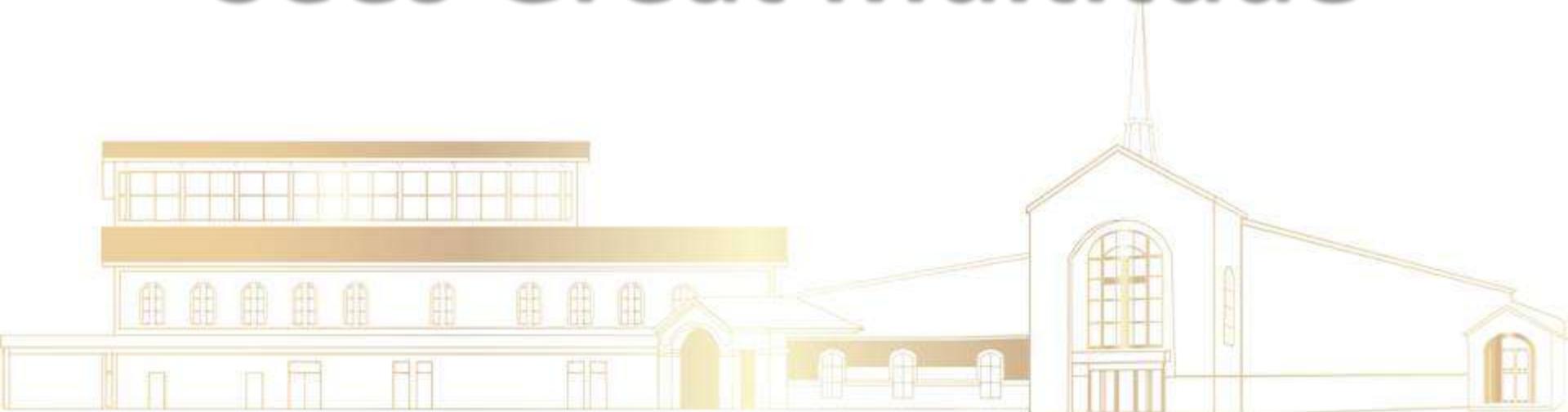
**What is the point  
of what John sees  
next if it doesn't  
relate to what he  
heard?**



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## Part III

# Sees Great Multitude





# Revelation 7:9

•After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,



# Revelation 7:10

- and crying out with a loud voice,  
“Salvation belongs to our God  
who sits on the throne, and to  
the Lamb!”

**12 x 12 x 1000**

Is a symbolic # representing all the people of God who all have been sealed as God's prized possession; they are the redeemed; they collectively are the true Israel of God.



# Galatians 6:16

- And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon **the Israel of God.**

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# **Are you still not convinced?**

**Today there is an estimated Jewish population of 15 million. 144k is less than 1 percent of ethic Jews being saved.**

**That is not a Jewish revival.**



**Are you a literalist?**

**Do you want a biological connection to Jacob?**

**Do you want anyone of the tribe of Dan exempt?**

**Are you looking for a physical mark on the forehead?**

**Will a single angel actually place a literal mark on the forehead while 4 other angels hold back the wind?**

**Now look @ ch 14 v. 4-5**



# Revelation 14:4–5 (ESV)



•It [144k] is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins.

# **Are you still leaning toward literalism?**

**At this point, the only Jews eligible for the mark are male virgins; no females among the 144k.**

**But we are not done.**





# Revelation 14:4–5 (ESV)

- **It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb,**

**Certainly those saved after 2000+ (or more) of Christian (redemptive) history would NOT be called “firstfruits.”**

**They are in fact the “lastfruits” if you believe the 144k are the Jews saved during the final 3+ years of human history.**





# Revelation 14:4–5 (ESV)

- **It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb,<sup>5</sup> and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.**

**The 144k sons of Israel (but not of the tribe of Dan) must be male virgins who have impeccable integrity for “in their mouth no lie was found for they are blameless.”**

**Or is this more symbolism?**



**The 144k is a representative number of ALL those who like father Abraham have put their faith in the promise of salvation ultimately and eventually found in Christ Jesus who are characterized by holiness both imputed and pursued.**





# Revelation 7:11

- And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,



# Revelation 7:12

- saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”**



# Revelation 7:13

- Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?”



# Revelation 7:14

•I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “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.

**The AV/KJV does not  
present the definite  
article “the” in front of  
the word great.**





# Revelation 7:14 (AV)

• 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.

# Acts 14:22

- strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

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**Is Revelation 7:14 referencing one particular period of great tribulation or the reality that great tribulation is part of the Christian experience?**

**Is this a vision of all the redeemed being rescued from tribulation or just a single 3 ½ year period exempting all others who also suffered affliction for the cause of Christ?**



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## Part IV

# Provision, Protection, & Comfort





# Revelation 7:15 (ESV)

- “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.



# Revelation 7:16

- They shall hunger no more,
- neither thirst anymore;
- the sun shall not strike them, nor  
any scorching heat.



# Revelation 7:17 (ESV)

- **For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”**

**If we stringently interpret and apply  
this promise to only 1 particular  
period of great tribulation then we  
must be consistent and exempt 2018  
years of Christians who have  
suffered, been afflicted and  
persecuted from the glorious words  
of provision and protection the Lamb  
provides to his sheep.**

