



“Make Heaven Crowded”

Revelation 7:9-17

August 23, 2026

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: [Rev 7:9-17]

"9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and [all] tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches [were] in their hands; 10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 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, 12 saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, [be] to our God forever and ever. Amen." 13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. 16 "They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."" [Rev 7:9-17 NASB95]

INTRODUCTION:

Second Vision: Heavenly Throne Room and Three Judgment Cycles (4:1-16:21)

Main point: At Grace Bible Church we hold a pre-millennial and a pre-tribulation view of end time events which means the millennial kingdom is preceded by the 2nd coming of Christ and the tribulation is preceded by the rapture of the church

Contextual point: The tribulation is that period where the wheat is separated from the chaff and the judgment of the nations separates those who have received the free gift of eternal life from those who are eternally damned.

Exegetical point: Symbols are interpreted by the immediate context first or from how they have been used in previous prophetic passages or related historic passages.

The constituents of the kingdom of God...

1. ...crowd heaven with a completely unified diversity.

1. The sealed 144,000 and surviving Trib saints contrast with those marked on earth.

"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. 32 "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;" [Mat 25:31-32 NASB95]

✡ Israel's holy war under the leadership of Joshua is a type with many comparisons to be made with Christ's 2nd coming

"1 Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb [was] standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. ... 4 These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These [are] the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb." [Rev 14:1, 4 NASB95]

1. The sealed 144,000 and surviving Trib saints will be Christ's sheep at the judgment of the nations.

"34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" [Mat 25:34 NASB95]

2. The Antichrist marks the wicked with the worship in his name. [Rev 13:16-17]

"16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, 17 and [he provides] that no one will

be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, [either] the name of the beast or the number of his name." [Rev 13:16-17 NASB95]

3. Those marked with the name of the beast or number of his name are the goats. [Rev 13:16-17]

"41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; ... 46 "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'" [Mat 25:41, 46 NASB95]

2. Those sealed and survivors of the trib differ from the martyred in heaven.

1. "After these things" contrasts time of the appearance of the multitude after the 144,000. (7:9-12)

9 "After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which **no one could count**, from every nation and [all] tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches [were in their hands;" [Rev 7:9 NASB95]

2. John beheld an innumerable multitude of martyrs is greater than the sealed 144,000.

3. People from every nation including Jews are martyred contrasting those sealed. [v9]

3. The survivors who endure to the end along with the 144,000 will repopulate the earth.

"25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery--so that you will not be wise in your own estimation--that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; 26 and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB." 27 "THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.'" [Rom 11:25-27 NASB95]

4. Tribulation saints differ from church saints.

1. The elders are before the throne before the tribulation begins the trib saints during the trib.

"9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and [all] tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches [were] in their hands;" [Rev 7:9 NASB95]

2. The churches crowns are cast before the Father's throne pre-tribulation.

"10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying," [Rev 4:10 NASB95]

3. Trib saints palm branches are a call for Christ's 2nd coming to restore the kingdom. [Rev 7:9]

"13 took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and [began] to shout, "Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, even the King of Israel.'" [Jhn 12:13]

4. The clothes are different.

(1) Tribulation saints wear white robes.

"9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and [all] tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, **clothed in white robes**, and palm branches [were] in their hands;" [Rev 7:9 NASB95]

(2) Church saints wear white garments.

"5 'He who overcomes will thus be **clothed in white garments**; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.'" [Rev 3:5]

5. The responsibilities are different. [Rev 7:9]

(1) Tribulation saints serve as priests.

"14 I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and **they serve Him day and night in His temple**; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them." [Rev 7:14-15 NASB95]

(2) Church saints have administrative duties in Christ's kingdom.

"21 'He who overcomes, I **will** grant to him to **sit down with Me on My throne**, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.'" [Rev 3:21 NASB95]

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6. Tribulation martyrs increase the crowded celebration around the heavenly throne. (7:10-12)

"10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 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, 12 saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, [be] to our God forever and ever. Amen." [Rev 7:10-12 NASB95]

(1) The tribulation saints suffer under multinational judgments contrasts church and 144,000.

"13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are **they**, and where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These **are the ones who come out of the great tribulation**, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." [Rev 7:13-14 NASB95]

1) 144,000 are delivered from death by the judgments and the Antichrist and live on earth.

2) The Trib martyrs are delivered through death by the resurrection.

(2) The tribulation saints duties contrasts the church duties in the kingdom.

"15 "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and **they serve Him day and night in His temple**; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. 16 "They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes." [Rev 7:15-17 NASB95]

1) The trib saints serve before the throne of God in His heavenly temple.

"15 "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and **they serve Him day and night in His temple**; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. [Rev 7:15]

2) The church reigns with Christ in the millennial kingdom on earth...

"26 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;" [Rev 2:26 NASB95]"21 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne." [Rev 3:21 NASB95]

2. ...fill heaven and earth with a harmony of praise and worship.

"2 Sing the glory of His name; Make His praise glorious." [Psa 66:2 NASB95]

1. The 144,000 join the chorus and sing a new song.

1. The 144,000 stand in Jerusalem and sing a new song.

"1 Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb [was] **standing on Mount Zion**, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, ... 3 And **they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders**; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth." [Rev 14:1-3 NASB95]

2. They sing before the throne before the constituents of heaven.

3 And **they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders**; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth." [Rev 14:3 NASB95]

2. The Tribulation saints join the chorus before the throne in heaven.

1. The great multitude of trib saints cry out in praise of God's salvation.

"10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" [Rev 7:10 ESV]

2. All the heavenly hosts fall before the throne and worship the glory of God.

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,**" [Rev 7:11 ESV]

3. All the heavenly hosts praise God's attributes and His works.

2 saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."" [Rev 7:12 ESV]

Concluding insight: All glory belongs to God alone and to the Lamb because he will redeem Israel by His attributes alone just as he did to each of us so it is to His goodness, blessing, honor, power, might, and His great love that we offer praise and worship.

Nothing in my hand I bring simply to the cross I cling.