



## The Coming Revival

**Revelation 7:1–17 (NKJV) – Bible passage** [my explanatory notes]

Warren Wiersbe writes, “It is important that we contrast the two groups of people described in this chapter. **While we are not told explicitly in Scripture that the 144,000 Jews are God’s special witnesses, and that the Gentile host is saved through their ministry, this appears to be a logical deduction**; otherwise, why are they associated in this chapter? The parallel with **Matthew 24:14** also indicates that the 144,000 will witness for the Lord during the Tribulation.”<sup>1</sup>

7:1–8	7:9–17
Jews	Gentiles from all nations
Numbered—144,000	Not numbered, nor could be
Sealed on earth	Standing in heaven before God

### 1. A Protection from **HARM** (Rev. 7:1-3)

- <sup>1</sup> After these things [after the outpouring of the great wrath and sorrow in Revelation 6] I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth [North, South, East, West – the four points on a compass], holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. [this is describing the “winds” of God’s Judgment and wrath “blowing” upon the earth]
- <sup>2</sup> Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. [This is not a seal of judgment, but a seal of authenticity and protection] And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,
- <sup>3</sup> saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” [this “seal” is not described as visible (like the “mark of the beast” which will be visible). The similarity of this seal can be seen in Ephesians 1:13-14 and 4:30 – the seal of the Spirit upon God’s children.]

### 2. The Preaching by the **HEBREWS** (Rev. 7:4-8)

- <sup>4</sup> And I heard the number of those who were sealed. **One hundred and forty-four thousand** of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:
- <sup>5</sup> of the tribe of **Judah** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Reuben** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Gad** twelve thousand were sealed;
- <sup>6</sup> of the tribe of **Asher** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Naphtali** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Manasseh** twelve thousand were sealed;
- <sup>7</sup> of the tribe of **Simeon** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Levi** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Issachar** twelve thousand were sealed;
- <sup>8</sup> of the tribe of **Zebulun** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Joseph** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Benjamin** twelve thousand were sealed.

	2010 JEWISH POPULATION	% OF WORLD'S JEWISH POPULATION IN 2010
1 United States	5,690,000	41.0%
2 Israel	5,610,000	40.5
3 Canada	350,000	2.5
4 France	310,000	2.3
5 United Kingdom	290,000	2.1
6 Germany	230,000	1.7
7 Russia	230,000	1.6
8 Argentina	200,000	1.5
9 Australia	110,000	0.8
10 Brazil	110,000	0.8
Subtotal	13,130,000	94.8
Subtotal for Rest of World	720,000	5.2
World Total	13,860,000	100.0

Jewish world population data, 2010, Pew Research.

<sup>1</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 590.

Daniel Akin writes, “Some would object [to the idea that the 144,000 listed here are the 12 tribes of Israel] and ask, What about the peculiarities in the list, specifically (1) Judah appearing first, (2) Levi being included, and (3) the absence of Dan and Ephraim? To these I would simply respond as follows:

- There are 19 different arrangements of the names of the tribes in the Old Testament, and this list is different from all of them.
- Judah is listed first because Messiah, our Lord Jesus, comes from Judah (see Gen 49:9–10; Rev 5:5).
- Levi, though not allotted a portion of land, is rightly involved in this sealing for security and service.
- Ephraim is replaced by Joseph possibly because of its history of idolatry and its allying with the enemies of Judah (Isa 7:2, 5; Hos 5:3). Yet the inclusion of Joseph allows for the inclusion of Ephraim but without the mention of his name.
- Dan is omitted, replaced by Levi, because of its practice of gross idolatry. Further, Irenaeus (a second-century church father) noted the pre-Christian Jewish tradition that **antichrist would come from Dan**, and Hippolytus wrote, ‘As the Christ was born from the tribe of Judah, so will the Antichrist be born from the tribe of Dan’ (Mounce, *Revelation*, 159–60). And **Genesis 49:17** says, ‘**Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a horned snake in the path, that bites the horse’s heels, so that his rider falls backward.**’ Finally, the *Testament of Dan* (5:6) says Satan is the prince of Dan.”<sup>2</sup>
- **Ezekiel 48 and Matthew 19:28** makes it clear all the tribes will be honored and share in the millennial reign of Christ, yet during this time 144,000 specific Jews from 12 specific tribes will receive the Father’s name as their seal (14:1) and for His service.

### 3. The Promise of a **HARVEST** (Rev. 7:9-12)

- <sup>9</sup> After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number [millions upon millions upon millions saved during the Great Tribulation], of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,
- <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”
- <sup>11</sup> All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, [reflecting on God’s salvation during such dark times, they all worship.]
- <sup>12</sup> saying: “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

### 4. The Provision in **HEAVEN** (Rev. 7:13-17)

- <sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?”
- <sup>14</sup> And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So he said to me, “**These are the ones who come out** [Greek says “are coming out” present tense] **of the great tribulation**, and washed their robes and made them **white in the blood of the Lamb**.”
- <sup>15</sup> 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 dwell [literally “tabernacled”] among them.
- <sup>16</sup> They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;
- <sup>17</sup> for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” [Their suffering is over because they are now with Jesus.]
- Here we are given insights of the kind of suffering the martyrs of the Tribulation will experience: hunger, sun, and heat, indicating they will probably have to flee from the Antichrist’s population centers for safety and live as vagabonds before being killed.<sup>3</sup>
  - The provision promised to those **Tribulation Saints** include:
    1. They are **CLEANSED** (7:13-14). The blood of Jesus washes white as snow.
    2. They are **CALLED** (7:15). They will serve God in His temple day and night.
    3. They are **COVERED** (7:15). They enjoy the presence of God, who will tabernacle with them.
    4. They are **CONTENT** (7:16). They no longer experience the lack they endured during the Tribulation.
    5. They are **CARED FOR** (7:17). The Lamb will be their Shepherd.

<sup>2</sup> Daniel L. Akin, *Exalting Jesus in Revelation*, Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2016), 156.

<sup>3</sup> Tim Lahaye, bible footnote, *Tim Lahaye Prophecy Study Bible* (AMG Publishers, 2001), Rev. 7:16-17.