

WHEN GOD WIPE AWAY EVERY TEAR

Revelation 7:1–17 (ESV)

10/25/2026-Sunday Morning Sermon

Main Point: No matter what we face in this life, God knows His people, holds their future, and promises eternal victory through Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION: WHEN LIFE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

I want to begin by asking you a question.

Have you ever gone through something in life that just didn't make sense?

Have you ever prayed about something, trusted God with everything you had, and yet things didn't turn out the way you thought they would?

Maybe it was a sickness that didn't go away.

Maybe it was losing someone you loved.

Maybe it was watching your family go through something you couldn't fix.

Or maybe you're sitting here this morning, smiling on the outside, but on the inside, you're fighting a battle nobody knows anything about.

And somewhere along the way, you've asked:

"God, where are You?"

"God, do You see what's happening?"

"God, have You forgotten about me?"

I want you to hear something this morning.

Just because you cannot see God working doesn't mean God has stopped working.

Just because heaven seems silent doesn't mean God isn't listening.

And just because life has become difficult doesn't mean God has abandoned you.

Sometimes we become so focused on what's happening around us that we forget who is reigning above us.

And that brings us to Revelation chapter 7.

When most people hear the word *Revelation*, they think about judgment, destruction, and the end of the world.

But Revelation is not simply a book about how the world ends.

Revelation is a book about Jesus Christ and His ultimate victory!

In Revelation chapter 6, John witnesses the opening of the first six seals.

There is war, famine, death, persecution, and suffering.

And at the end of chapter 6, a question is asked.

Revelation 6:17 (ESV)

“For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

Who can stand?

When everything around us is falling apart, who can stand?

When judgment comes, who will remain standing before Almighty God?

Then we come to Revelation chapter 7.

Before the seventh seal is opened, God gives John a vision of hope.

It’s as though God is saying:

“John, before I show you what happens next, I want you to see something.”

“I want you to see that I know My people.”

“I want you to see that I have not forgotten them.”

“And I want you to see what awaits those who belong to Me.”

Revelation 7 reminds us of three powerful truths.

POINT 1: GOD KNOWS WHO BELONGS TO HIM

Revelation 7:1–8

John sees four angels holding back the four winds of the earth.

Then another angel appears, carrying the seal of the living God.

Revelation 7:3 (ESV)

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

Before the coming judgment proceeds, God marks His servants.

John hears the number of those sealed: 144,000 from the tribes of Israel.

Christians have different understandings of whether this number is literal or symbolic.

But the central truth is unmistakable.

God knows those who belong to Him!

2 Timothy 2:19 (ESV)

“The Lord knows those who are his”

Think about that.

There are billions of people living on this earth.

Yet God knows every one of His children.

He knows your name.

He knows what you’re facing.

He knows what keeps you awake at night.

He knows the prayers you’ve prayed that nobody else has heard.

And He knows the tears you’ve cried when nobody else was around.

You may feel forgotten by the world, but you have never been forgotten by God!

ILLUSTRATION: THE CHILD IN THE CROWD

Imagine a little child standing in the middle of a crowded store.

Hundreds of people are walking around.

Suddenly, the child realizes Mom and Dad are nowhere to be seen.

Fear begins to set in.

The child starts crying.

But then, from somewhere in the crowd, that child hears a familiar voice calling their name.

It’s Mom!

And suddenly everything changes.

The crowd hasn't disappeared.

The circumstances haven't changed.

But that child knows something.

Somebody who loves me knows where I am!

That's what I want you to understand this morning.

Your circumstances may not make sense.

The world around you may be filled with confusion.

But your heavenly Father knows exactly where you are!

John 10:27–28 (ESV)

Jesus says:

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.”

What a promise!

Jesus doesn't simply say we know Him.

He says, **“I know them.”**

And He promises that no one can snatch His sheep out of His hand.

That doesn't mean Christians will never suffer.

It doesn't mean we won't experience sickness, persecution, or even death.

But it does mean our eternal future is secure in Christ.

The seal of God is not a promise that we will escape every earthly hardship. It is an assurance that we belong to Him.

The world may reject you.

Life may disappoint you.

The enemy may attack you.

But if you belong to Jesus Christ, nothing can separate you from His love!

POINT 2: OUR SUFFERING IS NOT THE END OF OUR STORY

Revelation 7:9–14

John's vision changes.

He has heard about the 144,000 who were sealed.

But now he sees something incredible.

Revelation 7:9 (ESV)

"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"

Can you imagine that sight?

A multitude so great that nobody can count them.

People from every nation.

Every tribe.

Every language.

Every background.

And they're all standing before the throne of God!

What brings them together?

It's not their nationality.

It's not their wealth.

It's not their accomplishments.

It's Jesus Christ!

They have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

And they're worshipping the One who saved them.

Revelation 7:10 (ESV)

"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Notice what they're not saying.

They're not saying, "Look what we accomplished!"

They're not saying, "Look how good we were!"

They're not saying, "We deserve to be here!"

No!

They're giving all the glory to God.

Because salvation is not something we earn.

Salvation is something Jesus purchased!

You cannot buy your way into heaven.

You cannot work your way into heaven.

You cannot be good enough to earn your way into heaven.

Only Jesus can save you!

And then one of the elders asks John a question.

Revelation 7:13 (ESV)

"Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?"

John responds that the elder knows.

And then comes the answer.

Revelation 7:14 (ESV)

"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."

Note:

These people have experienced suffering.

They have faced hardship.

They have endured tribulation.

Some have experienced persecution and death because of their faith.

But their suffering did not have the final word!

Now they are standing before the throne of God.

Wearing white robes.

Worshiping Jesus.

Their victory is not found in their own strength.

Their victory is found in the Lamb!

John 16:33 (ESV)

Jesus said:

“In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Jesus never promised that following Him would make life easy.

But He did promise that He has overcome the world.

ILLUSTRATION: THE STORM

Have you ever been driving through a terrible storm?

The rain is coming down so hard you can barely see the road.

The wind is blowing.

Lightning is flashing.

And you're gripping the steering wheel, trying to make it through.

But eventually, the rain begins to slow.

The clouds start breaking apart.

And you begin to see sunlight.

When you were in the middle of that storm, it may have felt like it would never end.

But the storm wasn't your destination.

It was something you had to travel through.

Some of you are in the middle of a storm right now.

Maybe it's financial trouble.

Maybe it's sickness.

Maybe it's problems in your family.

Maybe it's grief.

And you're wondering how much more you can take.

But remember this:

The storm you are facing is not greater than the Savior who is holding you!

Romans 8:18 (ESV)

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

Paul understood suffering.

He had been beaten, imprisoned, and rejected.

Yet he knew that the suffering of this present life could not compare with the glory that was coming.

I want you to remember something.

Don’t confuse the chapter you’re living in with the ending God has promised.

Your life may have chapters filled with pain.

Chapters filled with tears.

Chapters filled with disappointment.

But for those who belong to Jesus Christ, the final chapter is not defeat.

It’s victory!

And that brings us to the most beautiful promise in Revelation chapter 7.

POINT 3: ONE DAY, GOD WILL WIPE AWAY EVERY TEAR

Revelation 7:15–17 (Note, take time to reflect on the below)

These next few verses contain one of the most comforting promises in all of Scripture.

John sees the future of those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ.

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.”

Notice that last phrase.

God Himself will be their shelter.

Not a building.

Not a temporary refuge.

But the very presence of Almighty God.

And then John continues.

Revelation 7:16 (ESV)

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

No more hunger.

No more thirst.

No more suffering.

And then comes verse 17.

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.”

God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Think about that.

The God who created the heavens and the earth.

The God who spoke the universe into existence.

The God who holds all things together by His power.

That same God promises to wipe away the tears of His people.

Picture a loving father holding his crying child.

He reaches down, draws that child close, and gently wipes the tears from their face.

That’s the tenderness we see in this promise.

Not a distant God.

Not an uncaring God.

But a loving Father who knows every sorrow His children have experienced.

And one day, He will wipe away every tear.

THINK ABOUT THE TEARS WE SHED

Some tears come from losing someone we love.

Some come from watching a family member suffer.

Some come from broken relationships.

Some come from disappointment.

And some come from battles that nobody else knows we're fighting.

There are people sitting in churches every Sunday carrying pain they never talk about.

They sing the songs.

They shake hands.

They smile at their neighbors.

And then they go home and cry.

Maybe that's you this morning.

Maybe you're carrying a burden that seems too heavy.

Maybe you're grieving someone you wish you could see one more time.

Maybe you're praying for a child who has wandered away from God.

Maybe you're dealing with something you cannot fix.

I cannot promise that every problem will disappear tomorrow.

But I can tell you what God has promised.

For those who belong to Jesus Christ, there is coming a day when suffering will be no more!

Revelation 21:4 (ESV)

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Can you imagine a place like that? (Note: Talk about the funeral that you just did)

No more funeral homes.

No more hospital beds.

No more cancer.

No more heartbreaking phone calls.

No more families standing beside a grave.

No more broken hearts.

No more death.

And no more tears.

Not because God has forgotten what we've been through, but because Jesus Christ has conquered sin and death!

And there's something beautiful in Revelation 7:17.

The Bible says:

"For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd"

Think about that.

The Lamb becomes the Shepherd!

The One who laid down His life for us is the One who will lead us into eternity.

The One who wore a crown of thorns is the One who now reigns in glory.

The One who suffered on the cross is the One who will forever care for His people.

And the Shepherd who walks with you through the valley today is the same Shepherd who will welcome you into glory.

What a promise! What a Savior!

CLOSING: THE BEST IS STILL TO COME

As we close this morning, I want to bring us back to where we started.

Revelation chapter 6 ends with a question.

"Who can stand?"

And Revelation chapter 7 shows us the answer.

Those who belong to God.

Those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ.

Those who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb.

Not because they were strong enough.

Not because they were good enough.

Not because they earned their salvation.

But because Jesus Christ paid the price for their sins!

Now imagine the day when your earthly journey is finally over.

All the struggles of this life are behind you.

Every burden you've carried.

Every sleepless night.

Every painful goodbye.

And now, through the saving grace of Jesus Christ, you stand in the presence of Almighty God.

You see the throne.

You see the multitude.

You hear the worship.

And you see Jesus!

The One you've prayed to but never seen face-to-face.

The One you've trusted through the storms of life.

The One who forgave your sins.

The One who never stopped loving you.

And now you're finally home.

No more struggling.

No more suffering.

No more wondering what tomorrow will bring.

Because you are standing in the presence of the One who holds eternity in His hands.

That's our hope!

Not that this life will always be easy.

Not that we'll never experience heartache.

But that Jesus Christ has conquered sin and death!

And because He lives, those who belong to Him have the promise of eternal life.

A FINAL WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

If you're tired, don't give up.

If you're discouraged, keep trusting God.

If you're grieving, remember that the Lord is near to the brokenhearted.

If you're facing something you don't understand, keep your eyes on Jesus.

Because the God who knows your name is the same God who holds your future.

And the One who walks with you through your tears today is the One who promises to wipe them away forever!

But before we close, I want to ask you one final question.

Do you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Not simply, do you know about Him?

Not, have you attended church?

But have you personally placed your faith in Jesus Christ?

Have you trusted Him to forgive your sins?

Because the hope we've talked about this morning is found in Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:9 (ESV)

"Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Today, you can turn to Jesus in repentance and faith.

And Christian, if you're going through a difficult season, I want you to leave here holding on to this promise:

God knows your name.

God sees your suffering.

God has not abandoned you.

And one day, because of Jesus Christ, every tear will be wiped away.

The last word over the life of a believer will not be suffering.

It will not be sorrow.

It will not be death.

THE LAST WORD BELONGS TO JESUS CHRIST!

And because He lives, we have hope beyond the grave.

So don't lose heart.

Don't give up.

Don't let the darkness of this world steal the hope you have in Jesus.

Because no matter what tomorrow holds, our Savior is still on the throne.

AND FOR EVERYONE WHO BELONGS TO HIM, THE BEST IS STILL TO COME!