

THE BOOK OF REVELATION 41 Key

The Great Multitude

I. (Rev. 7:9-17 NKJV) describes the mid Tribulation rapture of the Great Multitude who are the converts of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists. ⁹*After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, 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,* ¹⁰*and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"* ¹¹*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,* ¹²*saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, 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, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"* ¹⁴*And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."* ¹⁵*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 among them.* ¹⁶*They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;* ¹⁷*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."*

A. They are further described in (Rev. 15:1, 2 NKJV) ²*And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.* ³*They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!"* ⁴*Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."*

B. Basically, the Great Multitude is a Jewish group among a multitude of converted Gentiles. (Zech. 8:20-23 NKJV) ²⁰*"Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Peoples shall yet come, Inhabitants of many cities;'* ²¹*The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, "Let us continue to go and pray before the LORD, And seek the LORD of hosts. I myself will go also."* ²²*Yes, many peoples and strong nations Shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, And to pray before*

the LORD.'²³"Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."'"

C. The company of the Great Multitude is not to be confused with the church company.

1. Both companies are standing before the throne of God in heaven.

2. Both companies are wearing white robes.

3. Both companies have been given harps.

4. The church company is represented by the 24 elders and the crystal see which are distinct from the Great Multitude. The fact that the Great Multitude is standing on the sea of glass, the crystal sea, indicates that they were supported by the work of the church which had gone before them and laid the ground work before them. (Eph. 2:19-21 NKJV) ¹⁹Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

5. The Church company have golden bowls full of incense representing the prayers of the saints; whereas the Great Multitude have palm branches signifying their worship of Jesus as the King of Israel.

a. Palm Branches were emblems of victory. Branches of the palm-tree were carried by the victors in the athletic contests of Greece and Rome, and in triumphal processions as in the Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Barne's

6. The church company sings the New Song; whereas the Great Multitude sings the Song of Moses and of the Lamb.

D. The company of the Great Multitude is not to be confused with the company of Tribulation Martyrs.

1. The Tribulation Martyrs are stationed under the altar of God; whereas the Great Multitude is standing on the foundation of the Crystal Sea.

2. There will be martyrdoms throughout the Tribulation Period; whereas the Great Multitude come out of the Great Tribulation.

3. The Great Multitude is glorified along with the church; whereas the Tribulation Martyrs are not resurrected until the end of the Tribulation Period. (Rev. 20:4 NKJV) ⁴And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for

their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

E. Proof of a Mid Tribulation Rapture of the Great Multitude.

1. (Rev. 14:6-13 NKJV) warns people against receiving the Mark of the Beast at Mid Trib. ⁹*Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."* ¹²*Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. ¹³Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'"*

2. By the way, this is one of the passages in the Bible which shows that the suffering of the torment of fire and brimstone in hell is eternal.

3. In connection with receiving the mark, there will be many martyrs because the Antichrist will make war on the saints. (Rev. 13:7 NKJV) ⁷*It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.*

4. But (Rev. 15:1, 2 NKJV) portrays the Great multitude standing on the crystal sea, having got the victory over the Mark of the Beast. ²*And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.*

5. They are not martyrs, because they are standing on the crystal sea, not under the altar of God. (Rev. 6:9-11 NKJV) ⁹*When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" ¹¹Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their*

fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

6. So the Great Multitude did not get the victory over the Mark of the Beast by martyrdom, but by rapture.

7. The rapture of the Great Multitude must then take place before the Antichrist begins all of these martyrdoms in connection with the mark of the Beast which takes place at Mid tribulation.

8. This places the timing of the catching away of the Great Multitude shortly after the Mid Tribulation Point, just as the martyrdoms of the Great Tribulation are getting under way.