

INTRODUCTION: This could be called the intermission scene (between the sixth and seventh seals) Revelation 7:1-7.

What the language of this chapter seems to indicate:

1. It seems to signify the whole faithful church from the beginning to the end of time. Yet the church is pictured too of passing through some troublesome times.

This chapter 7 of Revelation might be divided as follows:

(Rev. 7:1-8)

1. THE CHURCH ON EARTH SEALED IN GREAT TRIBULATION. Our theme for this entire chapter might be:

1. The servants of God preserved in great tribulation; or, Good men kept in bad times. This teaches us:
 1. That some are going to be faithful even in the midst of wars, famine, pestilences, persecutions ETC.
 2. That some are going to turn aside, "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."
2. The seal of the living God. What a seal is:
 1. A seal may be a token of redemption as it seems to be in our lesson.
 2. A seal may be a mark of possession. (Marking of slaves in olden days, the marking of cattle ETC)
 3. A seal may be an indication of resemblance.
 4. A seal may be a pledge of security.
 5. A seal may be a mark of authority. (Esther 3:11-15, Haman using king Ahasuerus' seal)
 6. A seal may be a badge of service and identity. (Love a badge as in John 13:35.)

2. THE GREAT POPULATION IN HEAVEN, Rev. 7:9-12. Lessons:

1. ~~This passage gives us a picture of~~ unnumbered multitudes:
 1. The people once traversed this world of sin and sorrow.
 2. Now they are in the bright world of all that is good.
2. They are out "of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb..." Rev. 7:9. This should teach us:
 1. That the gospel of Christ is for the entire world. (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16)
 2. That man's salvation is of paramount importance.
 3. That man's obligation is to continually seek the spiritual good of his fellowman. This would include his salvation.

3. A PORTRAIT OF THOSE IN HEAVEN. (Rev. 7:13-17). How they came

- ~~How they came to be there.~~ They came through the path of common experience.
1. They came through great tribulation.
 2. All had washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
 2. Their exceeding blessedness. Lessons:
 1. They serve God day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. Verse 15.
 2. They want not they weep not. Neither shall they grow tired. The Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and lead them unto fountains of living waters. Verse 17.

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1. They are before the throne. Three things implied here:
 1. They were originally polluted.
 2. That the self-sacrificing love of Christ has purifying influence.
 1. "They washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Verse 14
 3. Their cleansing had taken place on t e earth.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Based on the truths contained in Revelation 7:1-7 especially we should learn: The darkest thunder-cloud terrifies but for an hour; it soon passes away leaving the air clearer and the heavens brighter than before.

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