



“The Nations Made Glad.”

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Trey Postelle

Revelation 7:1-17

¹ After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. ² Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, ³ saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” ⁴ And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

- ⁵ 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed,
12,000 from the tribe of Reuben,
12,000 from the tribe of Gad,
- ⁶ 12,000 from the tribe of Asher,
12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali,
12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,
- ⁷ 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon,
12,000 from the tribe of Levi,
12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,
- ⁷ 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun,
12,000 from the tribe of Joseph,
12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

⁹ 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, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs 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 addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴ I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “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.

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 shelter them with his
presence.

¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷ 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.”

SUMMARY

Chapter 7 stands out as a deeply hope-filled passage in the book of Revelation. God shows His power by controlling the chaos and rescuing a remnant for Himself. We see God fulfilling his promise to Abraham by numbering his descendants greater than the stars. Yet, the cry of all these people is not how great they are or what they did to get there, but “Salvation belongs to the Lamb that was slain.” All of heaven knows that One is famous there, and that is Jesus. We see the nations, from every tribe, tongue, and language, shouting together their worship and praise to Jesus. This is what we long for in the “already but not yet” world we live in.

MAIN IDEA

The nations are made glad by the power of God, the centrality of Jesus, and the gentle leadership of Jesus.

We often hear the phrase, “you can’t see the forest for the trees.” Meaning we focus on the details and lose sight of the grandness of what is actually needing to grab our attention.

For me (Trey), I have been in the woods fixated on looking for the perfect tree to hang my stand in to hunt deer. Trying to find the tree that is perfect and has all the right fits for the stand. I can lose sight of the forest and the beauty of where that tree sits.



Oftentimes, we read our Bibles this way: we fixate on one small detail or line, trying to figure it out, digging through everything for answers, when there is a greater picture or understanding of what God is wanting us to see.

Revelation 7:1-8

1. The Nations are made glad by the power of God.
 - Throughout the story of the Bible, we see time and time again, God usher in disaster to execute justice. In those moments He provides a means of rescue and claims a remnant for himself.
 - In our own stories we can attest to God's power working in us and through us.
 - We say phrases like, "but for the grace of God, I was kept from _____."
 - God, in this moment, shows His power to rescue a remnant for Himself in the midst of the chaos that has come into the world.

Why? It's good to ask the "why" question when reading your Bible because the Bible will undoubtedly answer it for us.

All the way back in Genesis 15, God makes a promise to Abraham that his future offspring, Jesus, would be the means of producing many offspring. He took Abraham outside, has him look up at the stars, and ask him to count them. Then God said, "so shall your offspring be."

When Abraham dies he has a small handful of direct descendants... but God was still active in fulfilling His covenant to Abraham.

Revelation 7:9-12

2. The Nations are glad because Jesus is at the center.

- Covenant fulfilled!
- What is amazing is the celebration and triumph of the room is centered on Christ. Not the merit of other people, not the political party you are affiliated with, not the team you cheer for, not the country you were born in, not the language you spoke.

The only one famous in heaven is Jesus!

In glory, Jesus is the only one we will exalt and turn our heads to gaze upon.

As the hymn says, “when before the throne I stand in Him (Jesus) complete, Jesus died my should to save, my lips shall still repeat, Jesus paid it all and all to him I owe.”

Revelation 7:13-17

3. The Nations are glad because of the gentle leadership of Jesus.

- Notice in the previous section, and in this one that there is a description of the attire of the people.
 - This is to signal triumph, victory, purity and righteousness

We walk for eternity clothed in Christ completely satisfied in what He has done for us. This is how Spurgeon writes it in his notes:

“Heaven will largely consist of expanded views of King Jesus and closer views of the glory that follows his sacrificial grief. We know too little of his glory. We scarcely know who he is that has befriended us. We hold the doctrine of his deity tenaciously, but in heaven we will perceive his Godhead in its truth so far as the finite can apprehend the infinite. We have know his friendship to us. But when we behold the King in his beauty in his own halls, and our eyes look into his royal countenance, and his face beams ineffable affection on each on of us, then we will find our heaven in his glory. We ask for no thrones; his throne is ours. The enthroned Lamb himself is all the heaven we desire.” C. H. Spurgeon

In Revelation 4, John paints a picture of what the throne room of God will look and be like. David alluded a few weeks ago how with each vision or moment John keeps expanding the room.

He goes from the intimacy of the throne, to the elders, to the angels, to creation, and now to the nations.



This is a photo from camp two weeks ago. There are about 800 people in the room (including students, summer staff, chaperones, and the people from the community of Andrews). People from different states, churches, denominational backgrounds, socioeconomic backgrounds, ethnic backgrounds, and so on.

There is a melting pot of emotions and circumstances. Some students are finding out their parents are getting divorced, some are dealing with real hard sin struggles, others with crippling disease, or the loss of a friend or family member.

Yet, in this moment, there is complete exaltation of Jesus. Why? Because who else is worthy? Who else is going to satisfy the deep parts of their hearts?

Who else can go beyond ethnic and cultural differences and unite people?

Who else can bring healing to the soul that has been ripped apart by death and sin?

Who else can sit with us in the mess of our sin and wipe us clean with His blood and declare us loved, righteous, and forgiven?

So in this moment students sang and worshiped Jesus because only He is worthy.

There is coming a day when the saints of God will be too great to number and we will sing, worship, and exalt King Jesus.

Tears of joy, tears of solace, tears of feeling unworthy and dirty, it will not be our hands that wipe them away or a friend's hands but hands that have holes in them to show us just how glorious He really is.

The Lamb leads us to show that every provision is met, every holy desire is fulfilled, and every reason to cry is met with His grace, His holiness, His joy, and His gentle spirit.

Revelation 7 is the day we long for when the nations are made glad by God's power, by the centrality of Jesus in our lives, and by His gentle leadership even into eternity.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2. What is the message of the fifth angel? Who is sealed? When does this occur? What does it mean (see Gen 4:15, Eze 9:4-6, Eph 1:13-14)?
3. Is this "144,000" a symbol or a statistic? Why (see 7:9; 14:1-5)?
4. How have you sensed God's protection in the last six months?
5. What sort of seal has God placed on your life? How is this seal evident to others?
6. What's the significance of the white robes, the palm branches, and the washing? When the multitude cries out, how do the angels, elders, and the four living creatures respond? What does all this say about God's Kingdom and Christ's sacrifice?
7. What is your greatest tribulation or persecution? How difficult does that seem next to the majesty of God pictured here? How will you incorporate this glimpse of heavenly worship into your earthly walk?
8. What was your takeaway from this week's passage?

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*Discussion Questions adapted from The Serendipity Bible.