

Book of Revelation – The Great Multitude

(Revelation 7:9-17)

Series REV-11

We now move into the second half of chapter 7 of this exciting drama in the book of Revelation, but before we do, let us take a quick trip down memory lane as we review what has come before.

Revelation 1 gives us a picture of the glorified Christ, while chapters 2 and 3 shows us Jesus bestowing grace to render His church adequate to meet their every need in changing situations. In these chapters we find:

The Church of Thyatira, the fourth church which covered the darkest period of earth's history—the dark ages, was the one church the Lord Jesus spoke to as the “Son of God” whose “eyes were as a flame of fire and feet as fine brass.” This indicated a Judgment was coming that they would have to account to as Rev 2:23 states.

The Sardis Church, which began Chapter 3 shows that Christ would not ‘blot out’ their names who overcame. This is a clear reference in the last days, the last generation of those who will experience the “Judgment of the Living”.

Those in the Philadelphia experience would be among those who give the loud cry, though in a contemporary setting, members of each of the seven churches would focus on giving the “loud cry” based on that part of the third angel’s message applicable to them in their experience.

Chapter 3 ends with the description of Laodicea, the Judgment-bound church which in essence incorporates the other six churches in a final display of present truth, both in word and experience, living the Righteousness of Christ message during the final crisis before probation closes.

Chapter 4 & 5 outline the court scene being set up in heaven. The “Ancient of Days”, God the Father, in the Presiding Judge. Jesus is not only the Deciding Judge, He is also the Lawmaker, the Advocate, the Faithful Witness, our Elder Brother, our Saviour, and our Bail-Bondsman Who, in dying on the Cross, actually paid our penalty for sin. When God gave Christ life again, He demonstrated what Christ wants to do for us if we accept Him as our Saviour. All heaven is now devoted to saving every sinner and encouraging each to choose to align his/her lifestyle with His and accept Christ as their personal Saviour and Lord.

When we look more closely, we see this court bathed in a green light from the emerald rainbow of hope. The whole scene is shot through with crimson glow of the blood of Jesus. We then watch the conquering “lion of the tribe of Judah” (Rev 5:5), Who has been “the root of David” (Ibid.) a “root out of a dry ground” (Isa 53:2), “despised and rejected” (Isa 53:3), but now triumphant and flourishing. After victory over the mortal test on Calvary He grasps “the scroll” (Rev 5:7), in His right hand.

The scroll is securely sealed with seven seals which no man can unloose. This scroll contains the record of every person's life, including his sinful conduct for which the death penalty is ordered. Unafraid, He then uses His authority to break these seals one by one. Because One was found Who could open the book, the whole great assize [court scene] in heaven is suddenly pervaded by the jubilant song "of ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands" (Rev 5:11) of the angelic host.

{The Lamb p. 116-117 by Leslie Hardinge}

The Review of Revelation 7:1-8, which we went over the prior week, brought us to learn of four winds being held by four angels until another angel with the sealing message could finish the sealing of God's servants.

We also came to learn of the 144,000 which was a different list from the one originally stated in Genesis and in a different order.

Before examining this large group, let us look at arguments for and against the 144,000, an argument brewing for over 100 years. This will also bring into our study the Great Multitude and what their relation might be to the 144,000.

Arguments in Favor of 144,000 being Symbolic

- Context! Nearly the whole chapter before and most of the chapter after is written in symbolic language
- Vs. 13 appears to ref. the Great Multitude coming out of great tribulation. (For if only the 144,000 come out of 'great tribulation', then wouldn't the Great Multitude be representative of the 144,000?)
- If 144,000 is not referring to 'literal Jews' per say, then why would we think this group to be a 'literal number?' It doesn't appear to be harmonious, one without the other.

These indeed are valid arguments which are hard to refute. But now let's look at

Arguments in Favor of 144,000 being Literal

- The fact that God's word states, 12,000 from each tribe, is in itself a position not against, but in favor of a literal number. Why is God being specific here?
- There are at least two statements, using slightly different words in the SOP on the "144,000 in number" she saw and a few without the phrase, "in number" (EW 14.1; 1T 59.1; DS Jan. 24, 1846, par 1; 1 EGWLM 99.1; and many statements in compilations which are taken manly from the EW statement.)

But we leave it there, for it is not necessary to know. The time will come we shall know.

The Great Multitude (Revelation 7:9-17)

As we now turn our attention to the Great Multitude, we notice that the text says:

Vs.9 – “After this...” John saw this large group.

It is interesting that there are four groups around the throne ([see diagram](#)), the 144,000 being the second group and the Great Multitude the last group.

This ‘great Multitude’ comes from all “nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues.” Unlike the ‘dwellers’ on the earth, those saved will be from the former groups, while those who receive the mark of the beast from the later.

Vs.10 - We find the anthem that the Great Multitude:

“Salvation to our God which sitteth on the throne,
and unto the Lamb.”

Vs.11 – Though the angels surrounding the throne, and all the elders and living Creatures, fall down and worship God, it is emblematic of all created life.

Vs.12 – This verse records what the angels say,

“Amen: Blessing, and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving, and honor, and power and might, unto our God forever and ever.
Amen.”

{Note it begins the same way it ends, few verses in the Bible begin and end with the same word.}

Vs.13 – reveals that the Great Multitude have been “arrayed in white robes” obviously indicating a final victory for this group, since they stand before the throne.
(this is as the way John sees them.)

Vs. 14 – Here we see that they come out of great tribulation

“wash their robes and made them white
in the **blood of the Lamb.**” {but no testimony is given}

↓
{addition support that the “Great Multitude”
is a separate group than the 144,000.}

The last three verses of the chapter (vs.15-17) reveal that they will serve God day and night in His temple (human body) and they’ll hunger no more nor thirst, for the Lamb in the midst of the throne shall feed and lead them by living fountains of water.

What good news for the hungering /thirsting masses on earth to be part of these who are “arrayed in white robes” standing before the throne of God.