

Sunday, November 27, Revelation 7 Divine Preparation of the Saints for the Great and Terrible Tribulation; Revelation 7:1-17

Historical Premillennialism, Typological Preterist: Does not require a literal seven-year tribulation (though some do). Hold to a single, post-tribulational rapture. Historic because many of the early church fathers held the position. Typological because there is a close similarity to the end times events and the AD 70 destruction of Jerusalem that Jesus describes in the Olivet Discourse.

The purpose of this interlude is to picture the people of God being sealed prior to the outpouring of judgments and then in heaven worshiping God after the number of martyrs has been completed. Osborne

There are three scenes. In 6:9-11 we see God sealing the martyrs who are sacrifice for Christ during period leading up to and including the “great tribulation.”

In 7:1-8, the saints are sealed before the “great tribulation” begins. In 7:9-17, we see the victorious believers in heaven after the battle has been won.

Revelation 6:15-17 Then the kings of the earth and the eminent people, and the commanders and the wealthy and the strong, and every slave and free person hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the sight of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of Their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

Revelation 7:9-10 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all the tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

Revelation 7:11-12 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, saying, “Amen, blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

Revelation 7:13 Then one of the elders responded, saying to me, “These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?”

Revelation 7:14 I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

Not just martyrs for they are distinguished by “they have washed their robes...” meaning they have remained morally unstained by the fallen world around them. They have walked with Christ in integrity despite the enormous pressure on them.

Revelation 3:10-11 Because you have kept My word of perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of the testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who live on the earth. I am coming quickly; hold firmly to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

Protected from God’s wrath but not from the persecution of the rebellious.

Matthew 10:28-31 And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are two sparrows not sold for a cent (an assarion)? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not fear; you are more valuable than a great number of sparrows.

Revelation 6:9-10 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been killed because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who live on the earth?”

Revelation 7:15 “For this reason they are before the throne of God, and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them.”

Revelation 7:16-17 They will no longer hunger nor thirst, nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”