

Revelation 7:1-17

I. Introduction

Chapter 7 is the answer to the question raised in Revelation 6:17: "For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

II. Main Body

1. The Four Angels Holding Back the Wind (v.1) - A Delay of Judgment

Four angels are standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds so that no wind might blow on the earth, the sea, or against any tree. This symbolizes a temporary restraint of God's judgment.

2. Another Angel Sealing the Servants of God on Their Foreheads (vv.2-3)

Before God executes His judgment, He always protects and saves His people.

The seal placed on the forehead signifies ownership, identity, salvation, and protection (Ezekiel 9:4-6). In the New Testament, the spiritual meaning of this seal is receiving the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30).

Those who believe in Jesus and are saved are people who have been sealed by the Holy Spirit.

3. The Meaning of the Number 144,000 (vv.4-8)

(1) Interpretation by Cults

Some cults claim that the 144,000 refers to a special group of people who belong exclusively to their own sect.

(2) Dispensational Interpretation (John Walvoord)

This view interprets the number literally.

According to this interpretation, it refers to a total of 144,000 people who will be saved from the twelve tribes of Israel, with 12,000 from each tribe.

Professor Byun Jong-gil has offered three major rebuttals to this interpretation.

(3) Evangelical Interpretation

Many evangelical scholars interpret this number symbolically, referring to all the people who are saved throughout both the Old and New Testament eras.

Foreign scholars include Richard Bauckham, Gregory K. Beale, William Hendriksen, and George Eldon Ladd.

Korean scholars include Lee Sang-geun, Park Yune-sun, Byun Jong-gil, and Lee Pil-chan.

There are several reasons why this number should be understood symbolically:

In Revelation 14:3, the 144,000 refers to all those who have been redeemed.

The Bible does not limit salvation to a specific ethnic group or number (John 3:16; Romans 10:12-13).

Those who believe in Jesus and are saved are the spiritual Israel (Galatians 3:7, 29; 6:16).

The number 144,000 equals $12 \times 12 \times 1000$.

The number 12 represents the twelve tribes of the Old Testament and the twelve apostles of the New Testament, and 1,000 symbolizes fullness or completeness.

4. The Praise of the Great Multitude from Every Nation (vv.9-10)

This great multitude, coming from every nation, tribe, people, and language, is actually the same group as the 144,000 mentioned earlier.

The 144,000 represents the earthly and covenantal perspective, while the great multitude represents the universal and cosmic perspective.

John Stott explains that this great multitude of the redeemed is the fulfillment of Genesis 12, showing that God is a missionary God who saves people from all nations.

5. The Responsive Praise of the Angels (vv.11-12)

All the angels fall down on their faces before the throne and worship God.

Their praise begins with "Amen," lists seven attributes of praise, and ends again with "Amen."

6. Who Are the People Wearing White Robes? (vv.13-14)

They are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

7. The Glorious Blessings the Redeemed Will Enjoy (vv.15-17)

The blessings described here are the same glory that believers will enjoy in the new heaven and the new earth described in Revelation 21 (Revelation 21:3-7, 16-17).

III. Conclusion

Those who believe in Jesus and are saved are the very ones who have been sealed on their foreheads—the 144,000.

They are the ones who have overcome the tribulation and whose robes have been made white by the blood of the Lamb.

Therefore, let us look forward to the glory of heaven and live boldly and victoriously by faith.

Bible Memorization

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“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, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’” (Revelation 7:9-10)

Bible Reading

3/16(Mon)	3/17(Tue)	3/18(Wed)	3/19(Thur)	3/20(Fri)	3/21(Sat)	3/22(Sun)
Deut. 29-31	Deut. 32	Deut. 33-34, Joshua 1	Joshua 2-5	Joshua 6-8	Joshua 9-10	Joshua 11-13

QT

Quiet Time Passage

3/16(Mon)	3/17(Tue)	3/18(Wed)	3/19(Thur)	3/20(Fri)	3/21(Sat)	3/22(Sun)
Matthew 23:13-24	Matthew 23:25-39	Matthew 24:1-14	Matthew 24:15-28	Matthew 24:29-35	Matthew 24:36-51	Matthew 25:1-13

Sharing Questions

1. Through today’s message, what is one new insight or blessing you received? Please share.

2. Based on the sermon, who does the 144,000 specifically represent? Do you believe you are included among them? If so, what is the basis for your answer?

3. One of the primary activities of the redeemed in heaven is praise. What kind of words and attitude do they use in their praise?

4. Share about the glory and joy that the redeemed, clothed in white robes, will enjoy in heaven.