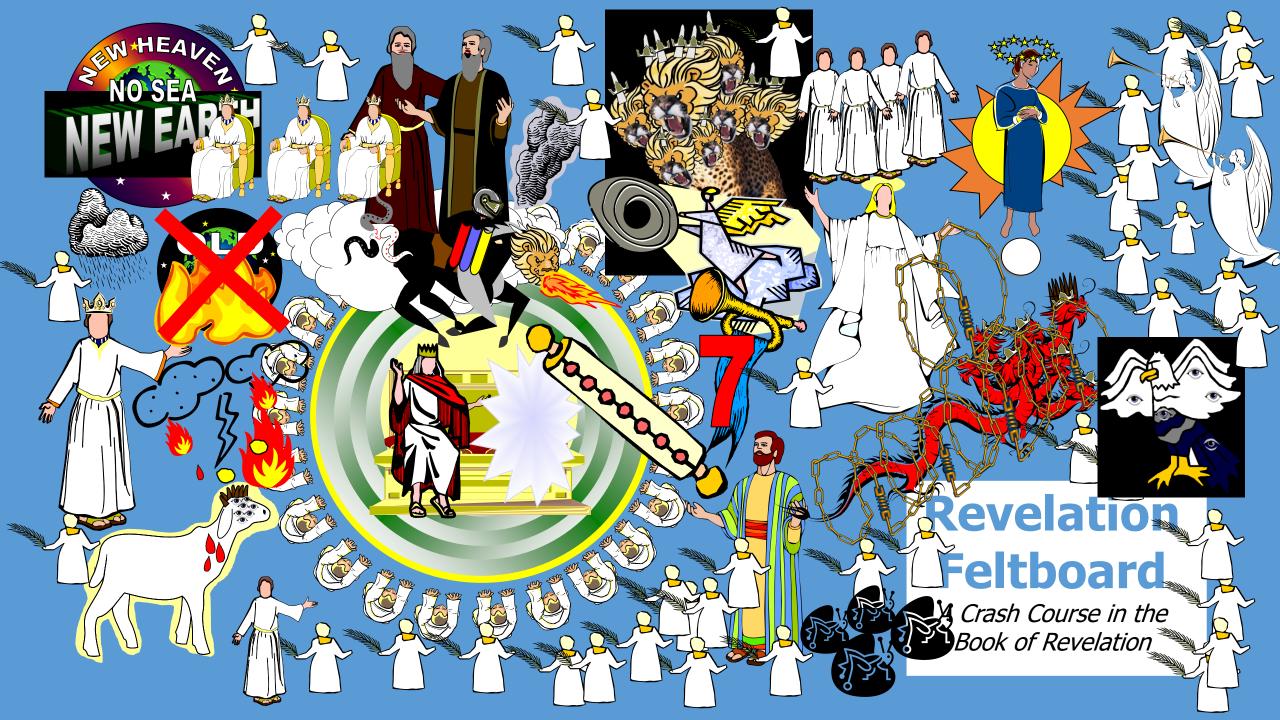
All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen." Revelation 7:11-12

Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad Baruch Shem k'vod malchutto, I'olam va'ed

Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God.
The LORD is One.
Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever.





¹ After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. ² Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, ³ saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

⁴ And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

⁵ of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed; ⁶ of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed;

⁷ of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed; ⁸ of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.

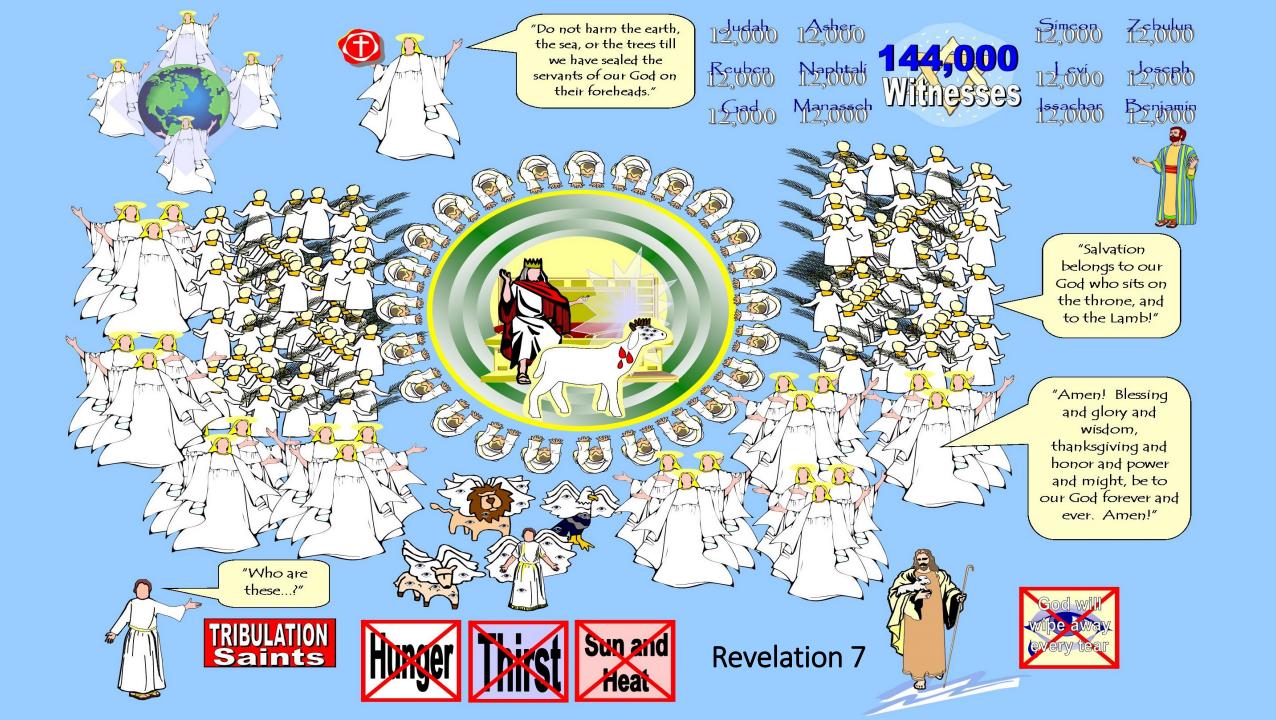
⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

- ¹³ Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"
- ¹⁴ And I said to him, "Sir, you know."

So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and 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 dwell among them. 16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷ for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."



- Chapter 6: "Who can stand?" NONE, among the lost. But this chapter shows who can.
- Each judgment set has an "interlude" between 6th and 7th of each group. Chapter 7 = interlude before 7th seal opened, which releases 7 trumpet judgments.
- After Church age, God's <u>focus returns to</u> <u>Israel</u>. *Evident throughout Revelation*.



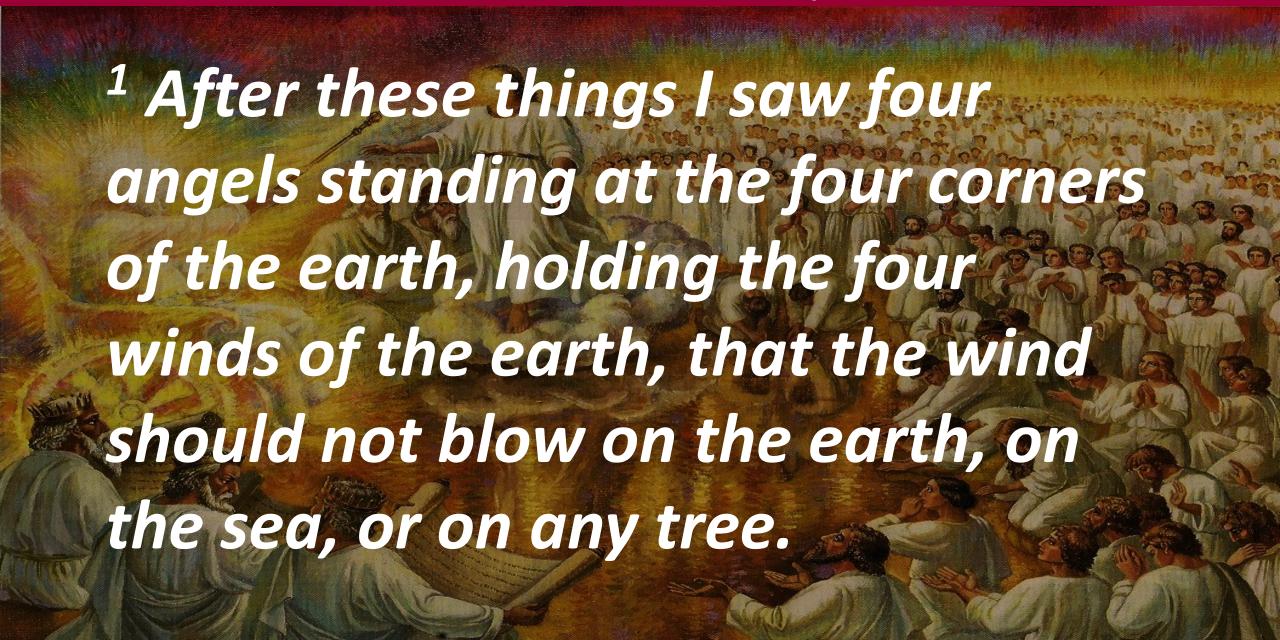
- Features 2 main groups of saints:
 - √1) Jewish believers (v. 1-8), and
 - ✓2) martyred believers (includes both Jews and Gentiles), (v. 9-17)
- While Gentiles saved, Jews taking center stage.

•2 errors resolved here:

- 1) Replacement Theology
- 2) myth of Ten Missing Tribes

MAIN EVENTS IN CHAPTER 7

- 4 angels at 4 corners of earth holding 4 winds back
- Another angel, with seal of living God, "Don't harm anything yet, until the servants of God are sealed on their foreheads."
- 144,000 from ALL the tribes of Israel sealed
- Another group: Great multitude from all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues saying "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" Angels + 4 living creatures worship with them. (Martyred saints)







Revelation 7:1

- "After these things..." note meta tauta again, chronology. After what things? follows opening of 6th seal in chapter 6.
- If chapter 6 = "overview" of conditions on earth during "time of Jacob's Trouble" sealing activity may in fact be one of first events.
- "the four corners of the earth..." = four ordinal directions (N, E, W, S), or entire earth. Used frequently in scripture...

- ...And gather together the dispersed of Judah From the <u>four</u> corners of the earth. (Is. 11:12)
- "...I will bring the <u>four winds from the four quarters of heaven</u>, ..." (Jer. 49:36)"...Come from the <u>four winds</u>, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." (Ezekiel 37:9)
- ...I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the <u>four winds of</u> <u>heaven</u> were stirring up the Great Sea. (Daniel 7:2)
- ... four notable ones came up toward the <u>four winds of</u> <u>heaven</u>. (Daniel 8:8)

...his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven,... (Dan.11:4)

...for I have spread you abroad like the <u>four winds of</u> <u>heaven</u>," says the Lord. (Zech. 2:6)

And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect <u>from the</u> <u>four winds</u>, from one end of heaven to the other. (Mat 24:31)

• Four angels holding four winds...something coming here. Winds often symbol for judgment, but before judgment, something else must happen first.

- God
 restraining
 His wrath for
 a purpose.
- Apocrypha, angels controlling forces of nature



² Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, ³ saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

- "...another angel...having the seal of the living God."
 Seal implies ownership, protection, authority.
- Seals play big role in Revelation. This seal in marked contrast to another seal in Chapter 13 —"mark of the Beast." Both permanent.
- Remember *ekklesia* already sealed: "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, …in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory." (Ephesians 1:13-14)

- Those sealed here NOT the Church.
- "...the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea." Angels bringing judgment, held back until sealing complete.
- "...Do not harm....till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." First mention of seal, or mark, on forehead of people in Revelation.
- God's seal, these people "called servants of God."

• Interesting passage in Ezekiel 9:4-6 — "...and the LORD said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it." To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity. Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary."

CONTEXT:

- Ezekiel given vision...Glory departs from Temple
- Judgment of Jerusalem under Nebuchadnezzar
- 2nd/3rd siege of Jerusalem (Temple destroyed 3rd)
- Judgment begins/Israel, place of God's sanctuary
- Always remnant of true believers, those faithful to God

Scripture woven together.... same thing happening here in Tribulation. (telescoping prophecy)

- Sounds familiar! Notice where killing begins...at
 God's house! God will judge those who claim to be His, but are not, first.
- Many think ALL believers sealed with mark during tribulation, will protect and keep them from suffering horrors of this time. (<u>Left Behind</u>, Tim LaHaye)
- Others think only these 144,000 Jews who have mark, since not mentioned for tribulation saints.
- Many tribulation saints killed, <u>seems they are not</u> <u>spared from all violence</u> of these years.

⁴ And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hungred one Alejektejake ejaej the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

Revelation 7:4-8



מפסט, אות אות אות מצא

⁵ of the tribe of ... were

- 144,000 literal number, not beyond counting
- "ALL the tribes of Israel" "Ten lost tribes of Israel" =
 MYTH
- Israel <u>split</u> under Solomon's son Rehoboam. Northern Kingdom of **ISRAEL** = 10 tribes; Southern Kingdom of **JUDAH** = 2 tribes (Judah and Benjamin)



- God apportioned land. (Levi none, except Cities of Refuge within areas of other tribes)
- Migration between; scripture indicates all tribes preserved
- Israel conquered by <u>Assyria</u> 722
 BC, scattered to Gentile nations, no return
- Judah conquered by <u>Babylon</u> 606
 BC, exiled 70 yrs, <u>returned to land</u>





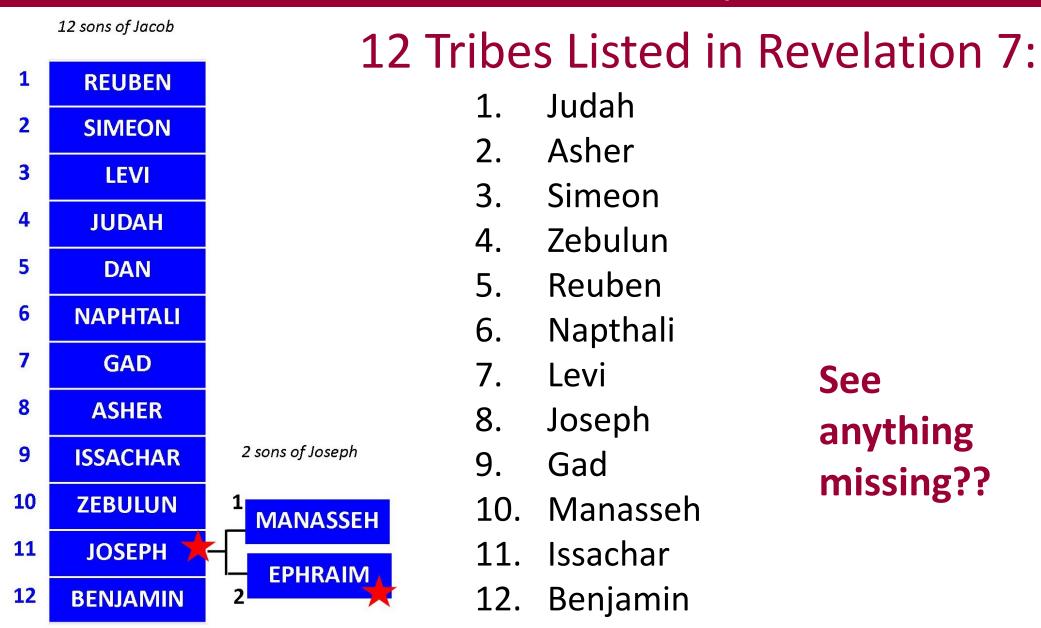


• Eilat

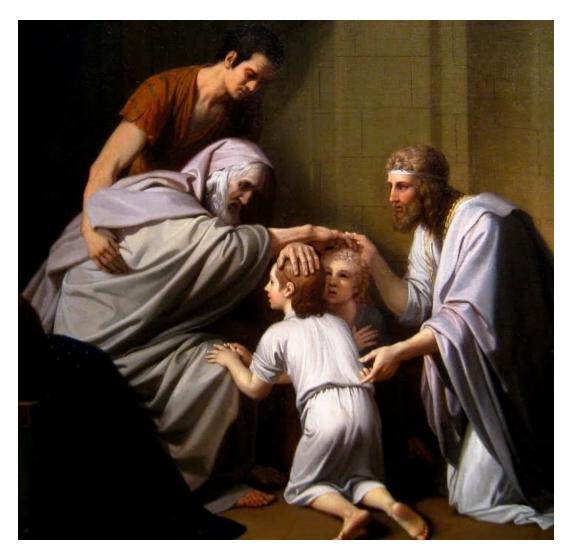
ISRAEL
TODAY:
All 12 (14!)
tribes
present

ISRAEL around the world:

For All 12 (14!) tribes present



- NOTICE <u>Two tribes missing from list</u>: "whole" tribe of **Dan**, and "half " tribe **Ephraim**. WHY??
- Ephraim explained a few ways. Ephraim = "half" tribe, one of 2 sons of Joseph, so in a sense Ephraim included in mention of Joseph (common).
- Ephraim also **involved in idolatry**, *possibly* reason for non-mention. Hosea 4:16-18 says, "For Israel is stubborn Like a stubborn calf; Now the LORD will let them forage Like a lamb in open country. "Ephraim is joined to idols, Let him alone. Their drink is rebellion, They commit harlotry continually." (but not likely reason)



Jacob Blessing Ephraim and Manasseh, Benjamin West, c. 1768

- "Ephraim," though name of one of Joseph's sons and adopted tribe, also name God gave to northern kingdom of Israel as a whole.
- May make another explanation quite possible, even likely. A bit later...

- <u>Dan</u> ("whole" tribe) lack of mention troubling.
 <u>Especially since "all tribes" mentioned.</u>
- In every listing of tribes, 20+, only 12, sometimes Levi missing because did not go to war, etc.)
- Speculation/controversy why DAN missing.
- One potential, reasonable explanation. Blessing of Jacob on his sons (not blessings, but prophecy...) Genesis 49:17 "Dan shall be a serpent by the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that its rider shall fall backward."

- Dan heavily involved in idolatry, like Ephraim. Recorded Leviticus 24:10-16, Judges 18:1-2; 30-31. Leaders in apostasy 1 Kings 12:28-30, 100 yrs later in 2 Kings 10:29.
- Dan also mentioned as "voice of calamity" in Jeremiah 4:14-15, and in Amos 8:14 Those who swear by the sin of Samaria, Who say, 'As your god lives, O Dan!' And, 'As the way of Beersheba lives!' They shall fall and never rise again.
- Tribes of <u>Dan and Ephraim first to fall into idolatry</u> after occupying the land. *Could be why neither are listed.*

- Idolatry <u>may</u> be account for lack of mention.
 However, <u>ARE mentioned in tribal land allotments</u> in the Millennial Kingdom (Ezekiel 48:2)
- Some say <u>antichrist may be Jewish</u> (there is reason to believe this), and even <u>come from tribe of Dan</u>, explaining why this tribe not mentioned here among the 144,000 witnesses. (MORE ON THIS IN CH. 13)
- We do NOT know WHY not listed, at least not yet. Speculation abounds. Important, but we can't be sure right now.

IMPORTANT! 144,000 JEWISH. Not symbolic for others. Quite clear, God intentional about listing this way. 12,000 from 12 tribes, all Israel. Not symbolic for other people. Many try to claim identity/them, including Jehovah's Witnesses. Literal Jews, Messianic Jews (believers in Messiah Yeshua, more in ch 14)

- We have given title "witnesses" though word not used here.
- Actual = "servants" Greek duolos, bondservants, slaves to Messiah.
- Many believe 144,000 are witnesses for Yeshua during "time of Jacob's Trouble "(Tribulation). Like 144,000 Jewish "Billy Graham's."



 Others say sealed Jews are <u>literal number of Jews</u> saved through Tribulation (1/3 in Zechariah).

And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the LORD, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one—third shall be left in it: I will bring the one—third through the fire... (Zechariah 13:8-9a)

- If true, very small # compared to # of Jews in world today. More Jews today than 3X 144,000.
- Number <u>probably represents something OTHER</u> than total number saved through Tribulation.

- In O.T. Jews to be a "light to the Gentiles" to bring God's message to entire world. Failed, became arrogant, self contained. Thought God and His Messiah belonged to them alone.
- Here may be "second chance" <u>if they are</u> <u>witnesses</u>.
- Significant group seen next <u>tribulation saints</u>
 from all nations, = **result of Jewish witnesses?**
- HUGE SOUL HARVEST

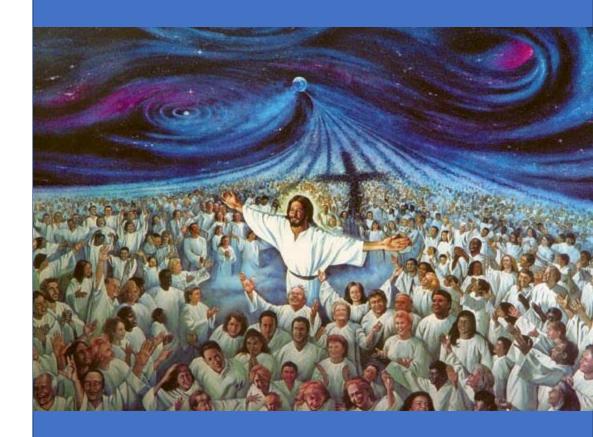
• 144,000 Jews sealed, protected/owned by God. *Has purchased them through blood of Jesus.*

144,000

- Holding back judgment on earth until they are owned and protected by Him, under His authority.
- God's plan will be completely, perfectly fulfilled.

NOTE: LIKELY same group in Chapter 14. Will not take time here, but keep in mind what is said of them... Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. ³ They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵ And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God. (14:1-5)



Literal fulfillment of beautiful verses in Zechariah:

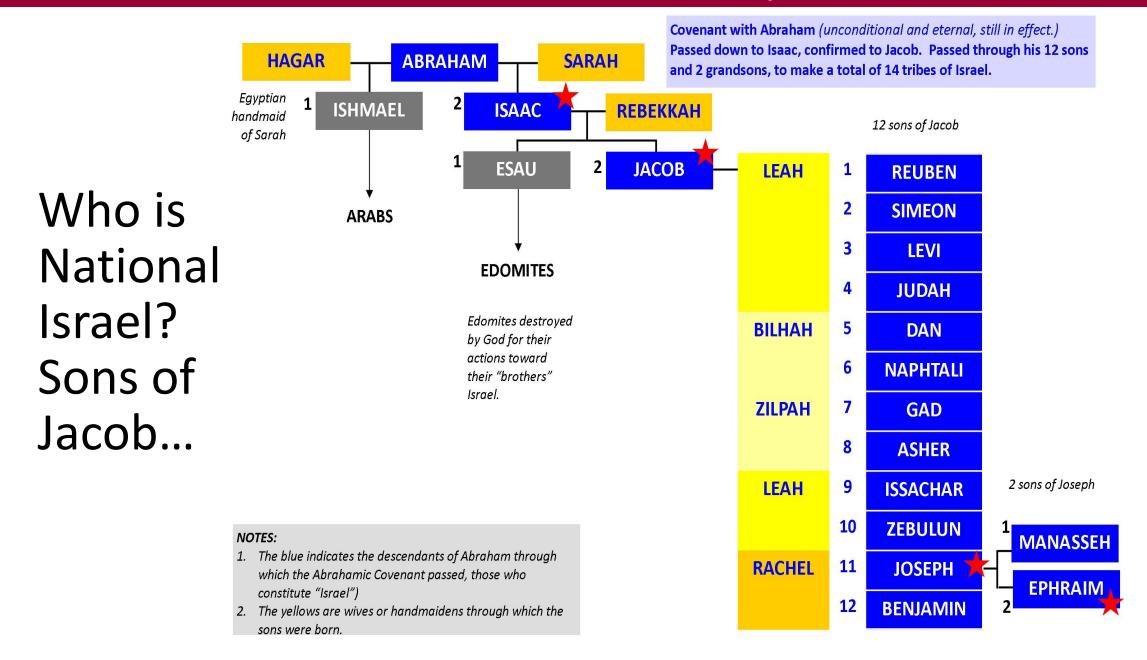
"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn." (12:10)

"In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness..." (13:1).

- God will indeed save Jews, but salvation will be through Yeshua, and only Jesus, (all humanity's salvation comes through Him). Fountain referenced is blood of Jesus.
- Later in Zechariah, terrible times for Jews: "...two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.'" (13:8-9)

- Those who trust in Jesus will be rewarded. *Perhaps* these are the 144,000 of Revelation 7?
- These verses, in particular sealing of 144,000 Jews, should put to rest blasphemous doctrine called "replacement theology."
- NO REPLACEMENT OF GOD'S PEOPLE. THERE IS <u>NO SUCH THING AS REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY.</u>
- Idea that Church replaces Israel in God's covenant promises. No reference Church has replaced Israel. Also impossible! (Abrahamic Covenant eternal!)

- Must understand difference between "national" Israel and "spiritual Israel."
- Northern Kingdom ("Ephraim") becomes "melo haGoyim" "fullness of nations" (Gentiles) after conquered in 722 BC by Assyria. (from blessing of Jacob to Joseph's son Ephraim). Never return.
- Southern Kingdom of Judah goes into captivity, but returns to land. Known as "Jews" from this time.
- Two Sticks of Ezekiel 37. ONE HOUSE of Israel. One King, One People. One Israel. Spiritual concepts.



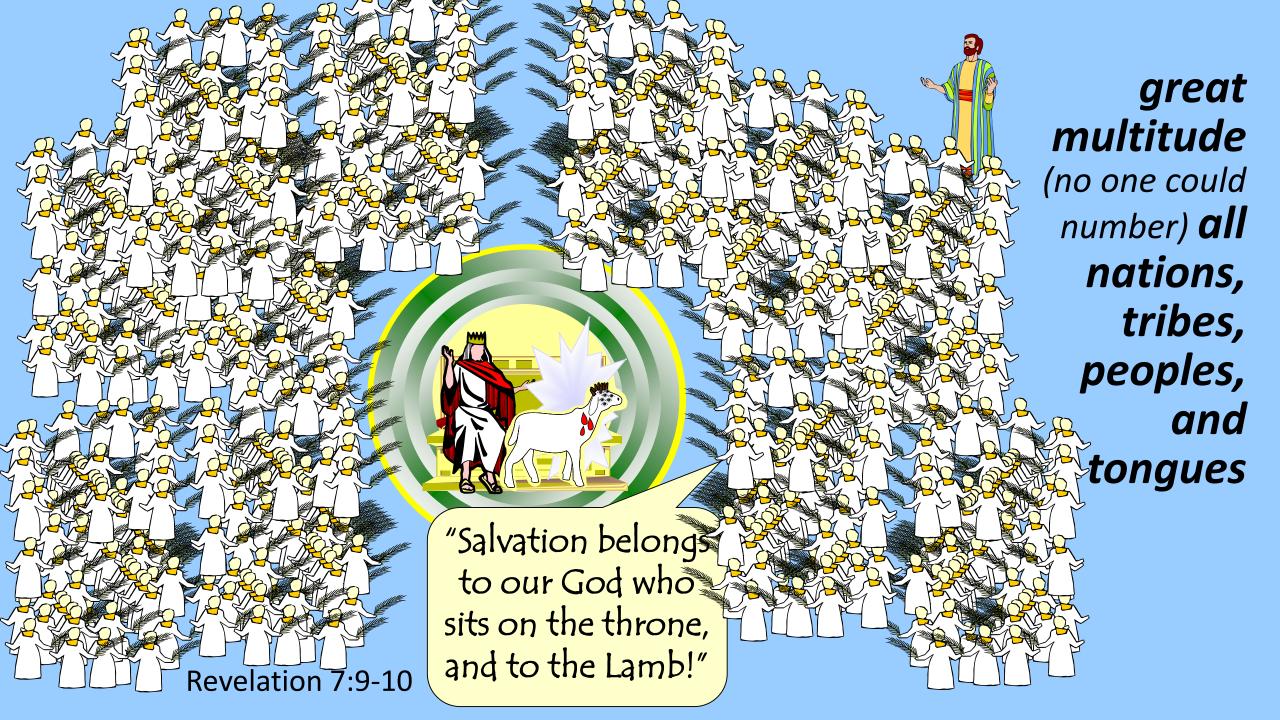
 Ephraim (Northern Kingdom, House of Israel) would not be listed here, became "fullness of nations." Gentiles (church). May be removed prior to this. God's Word so precise!!

• Romans 11:25 "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in."

- Promises given national Israel <u>unconditional and</u> <u>eternal</u> (can't forfeit these!) (Abrahamic covenant [Genesis 12], Eternal Possession of Land Covenant [Genesis 12, 13, 15], Davidic Covenant [2 Samuel 7], New Covenant [Jeremiah 31])
- Only conditional covenant = Mosaic covenant. Covenant broken, God did as He said He would.
- Old Mosaic covenant replaced by New Covenant.
- Promises to national Israel stand today, always will.

- Augustine and Origen began allegorical interpretation of scripture which led to this lie.
- All covenants still in place, eternal and unconditional, except Adamic and Mosaic.
- Both <u>conditional</u>, <u>temporary</u>. Broken, God did exactly as He said He would do. When He returns, both these covenants end, penalties of both destroyed.

⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"



- Back in throne room! 2nd group this chapter =
 believers, from ALL nations, tribes, tongues.
- First group ONLY Jews, but second group *may also* contain Jews if from EVERY nation.
- First group may not be only Jews saved during this time, <u>but elite group</u>, for specific purpose.
- Can't be counted. Again, huge soul harvest!
- These <u>standing</u>, **in contrast** to *those who cannot stand* in presence of Lamb (and His wrath) previous chapter.

- "White robes" = purity given to redeemed, righteousness of Messiah.
- **Palm branches** = victory (traditional at Feast of Tabernacles). These souls victorious.
- Identification made shortly.
- Their cry is truth: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb."



• No other way of salvation. (John 14:6)

¹¹ All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying:..."Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."



PERFECT PRAISE! List of 7 things offered to God...

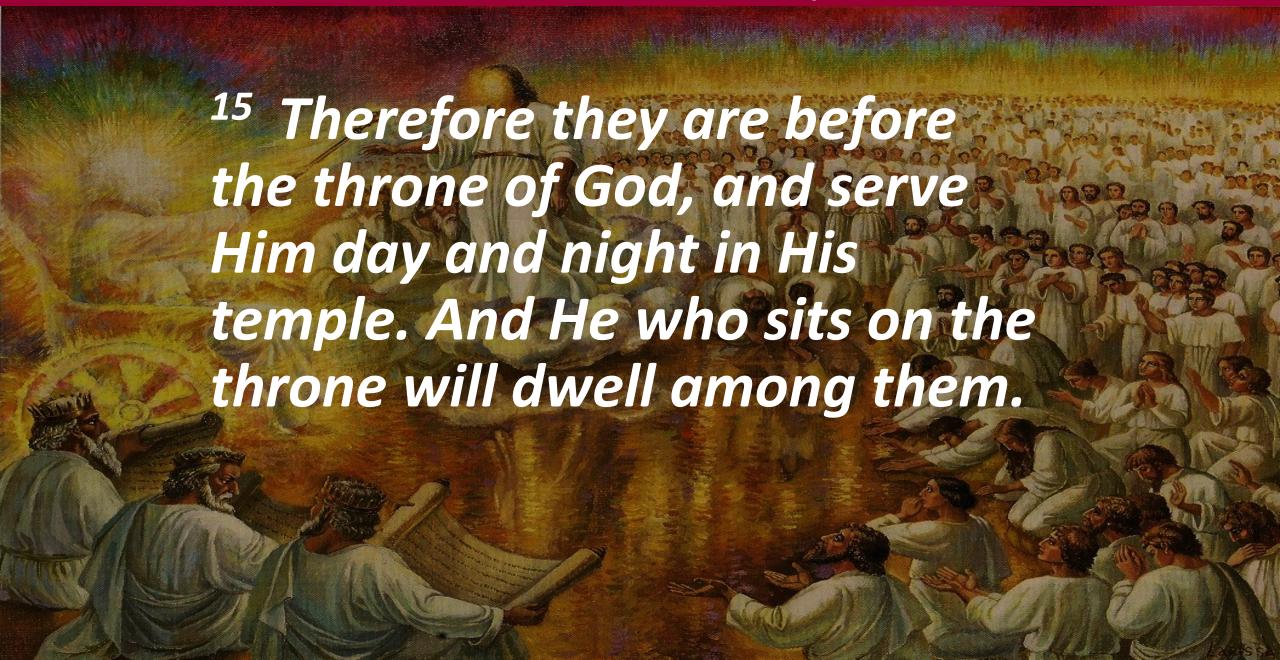
- 1. Blessing eulogia, elegant language, reverent adoration
- 2. Glory doxa, dignity, honor, praise, revealed nature
- 3. Wisdom sophia, natural and/or spiritual wisdom
- 4. Thanksgiving eucharistia, gratitude, grateful language
- **5. Honor** *time*, value, esteem of highest degree, preciousness
- **6. Power** *dunamis*, force, miraculous power, abundance, ability, might, strength
- 7. Might ischus, forcefulness, power, strength

- Praise bracketed by two "amens."
- List of 7, perfectly complete.
- All praise, all everything belongs to God.
- All these things also *come* from God.
- We owe everything to Him. There is no blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power or might that does not belong to Him or come from Him. *FUNDAMENTAL understanding of God!*
- Nothing else worthy or compared to Him.

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" 14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

- Multitude now identified = martyred saints.
- Elder (one of redeemed) asks John who these are.
 Was John supposed to know?
- Some suggest = <u>John did not recognize this group</u>, but deferred to elder to answer – <u>THEREFORE</u>, they must not be part of the Church.
- Referenced apart from Church. Also redeemed, but not prior to Tribulation. *Martyred, died during "time of Jacob's Trouble."*

- Washing "our robes" in the blood of the Lamb critical concept in our faith.
- These definitely redeemed, but *most likely* not part of Church. (Tribulation Saints)
- Notice "great tribulation" may be during last 3 ½ years

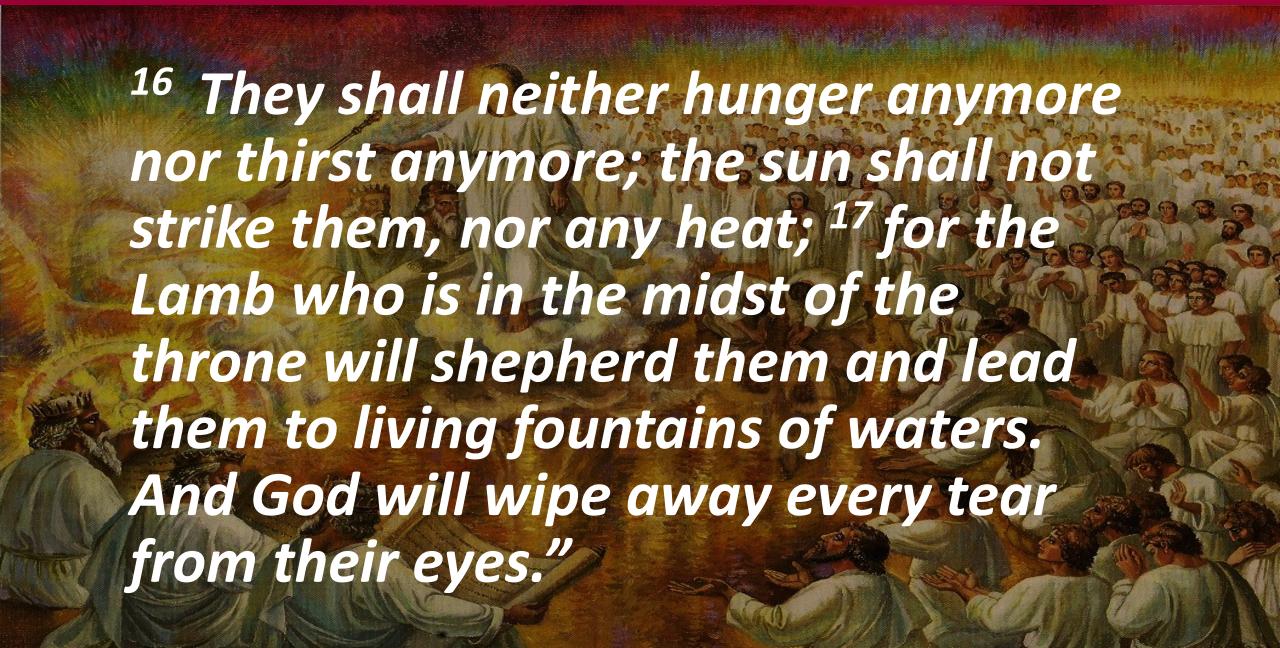


- "Tribulation Saints" before throne of God. He dwells with them. What better place to be?? In His presence, completely protected.
- Saints <u>serve God non-stop</u>. ("Day and night" may not be literal, reference to <u>never-ceasing</u> praise and service. No "night" in eternity.)
- Reference to serving God "in His Temple" interesting. No Temple in final eternal place of dwelling with God.

But I saw <u>no temple in it</u>, for the <u>Lord God Almighty and</u> <u>the Lamb are its temple</u>. ²³ The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. (21:22-23)

- Some speculate = <u>reference to Millennial Temple</u>, during 1,000 year reign. (*Ezekiel 40-48 references* another temple to be built, most think Millennial)
- Although chronology to Revelation, <u>must not be</u> bound by it. God inhabits eternity!





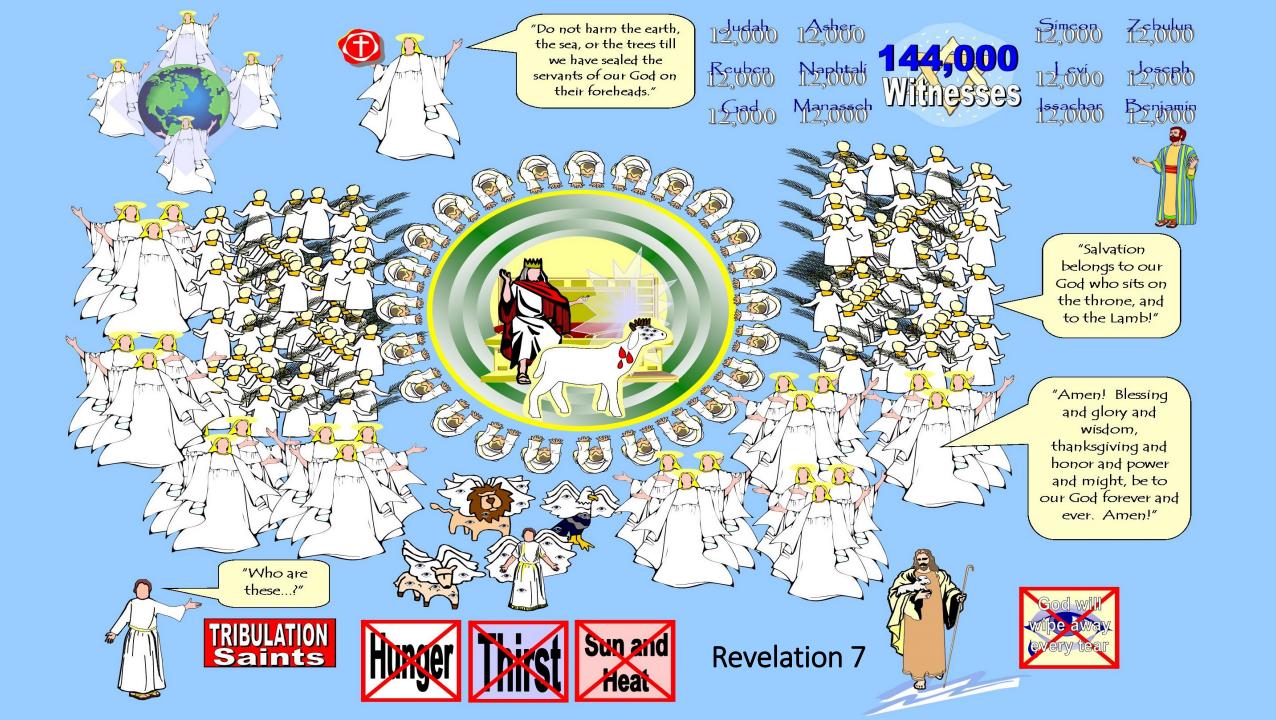
- Burning sun, heat, thirst, hunger <u>may be how they</u> <u>died</u>. If did not take mark of beast, not able to buy or sell. *Starvation, thirst, exposure may result*.
- Same thoughts 21:3-4...³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."
- Here (Ch 21) beyond Tribulation and Millennium, into eternity. An eternity of His care and love.

- Beautiful description of rewards for believers. Here, description of <u>immediate protection and relief upon</u> being martyred during Tribulation.
- Note strange sort of conditions only God can create:
- Lamb (sacrifice) also <u>Shepherd!</u>
- Sacrificial Lamb also our High Priest.
- Gentle, caring Lamb also full of wrath last chapter.
- God's plan truly amazing. These "ironies" speak of His many titles/roles: Protector, Provider, Intercessor, Sacrifice/Payment, and Judge.



Revelation 7:16-17

The 144,000	Tribulation Saints	Church
Jews (by tribe)	From every nation, tribe people and tongue	From every nation, tribe people and tongue
In Tribulation (on earth)	Come OUT of Tribulation (heaven)	"Caught up" before Trib? (heaven)
Sealed against harm, endure wrath	Come OUT of wrath, martyred (washed robes in blood of Lamb)	Does not experience wrath
Stand before the Lamb	Stand before the throne	Sit on thrones (like elders)
Not crowned (yet)	Not crowned (yet)	Crowned (victorious)
Servants of God (redeemed ch 14)	Serve Him day and night	Reign as kingdom of priests
Numbered	Cannot be counted	"24 elders" (represent all redeemed before Trib)



Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha May the LORD bless you and keep you

Ya'er Adonai panav elekha vihunneka

May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyasem Mekha shalom

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.