

“WHEN ALL TEARS ARE WIPED AWAY!”

Revelation 7:9-17

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

INTRODUCTION

Job 14:1: “Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.” Life is full of trials and troubles.

Picture 1 (7:1-8)—God’s people before the tribulation poured out (esp. Israel, including some Gentiles)

Picture 2 (7:9-17)—God’s people after the tribulation (esp. Gentiles, Jews included)

John here looks beyond the Tribulation to the hour of ultimate triumph! (Cf. Jesus’ Transfiguration after they had learned of his suffering). For those about to enter the world’s darkest hour, John gives a glimpse of eternal blessedness.

CHEER UP, YOU WHO SUFFER: ONE DAY ALL TEARS WILL BE WIPED AWAY.

Note here that John sees two groups: 1) God and his court; 2) The great multitude

I. THE SOVEREIGN GOD OF HEAVEN

A. All _____ Him (10-12).

1. The “Great Multitude” (v. 10)

a. The volume: loud voice

b. The content: **salvation**—from sin and all its consequences; anything keeping a believer from the blessedness described in vv. 15-17.

They are saying: “we owe our salvation to:

- God and his sovereignty—“sits on the throne”
- The Lamb and his sacrifice—“blood of the Lamb” (14)

2. The Angels-- including the elders and four living creatures (11-12)

a. Their posture (11)

- Standing for service – especially worship
- Falling on their faces in humility

b. Their praise (12)-- two “Amens” and a seven-fold praise (completeness): “*blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might*” (recognition of five divine qualities and two human ascriptions--blessing and thanksgiving)

- Such praise is for man’s completed redemption.
- God is fully deserving of all this worship and recognition.

B. All _____ before Him(9, 15)

C. All _____ Him (15)

II. THE SUFFERING SAINTS IN HEAVEN

This Group represents the whole sum of those coming out of the Great Tribulation, but includes all suffering Saints of all ages who share their fate.

A. Their Number (v. 9): “a great multitude which no one could count”—they stretch out as far as the eye can see!

B. Their Origin (v. 9)

- All nations (including Israel), tribes, peoples, languages
- This is about as comprehensive as one can get.

C. Their Appearance (9b)

1. White _____ -- washed in the blood of the Lamb

- Having his imputed righteousness
 - Having practical righteousness-- righteous character and deeds
 - Victory through sacrifice – both Christ’s and theirs
2. _____ Branches-- festive joy (compare the Triumphal Entry and The Feast of Tabernacles)
- D. Their Prior Suffering (13-14a)
- E. Their Past Salvation (14b)
- “Washed” is in the past tense-- speaking of their time on earth
 - They were not stained by unbelief or by the worship of the beast
- F. Their present ministry (15a): “They _____ Him.” *This is not an inferior position.*
1. Continually-- “day and night
 2. In the temple-- in heaven itself (cf. 21:22—“no temple in it”)
 3. All believers serve as priests.
 4. Life itself is regarded as service.
- G. Their Future Privileges (15b-17)
1. _____:
 - “Before the throne”
 - In His Temple
 - Access to His immediate presence
 - Our service finds both its stimulus and its reward **in the perpetual vision of God!**
 2. _____ (15b)--“He who sits on the throne shall spread his tabernacle over them.”

GOD DWELLS WITH HIS PEOPLE.
 3. _____ (16b)—the sun does not beat down on them or any scorching heat—representing the sum of all harmful and negative experiences.
 4. _____ (16a)
 - a. No hunger or thirst—Cf. Revelation 21 and 22
 - b. The Lamb (“in the center of the throne” – the focus of heaven and all the universe), the one who made sacrifice for sin and provided salvation, is **their Shepherd**. How strange that a Lamb is a _____! Has such ever happened before?
 - He guides them to **Life’s water springs**-- the emphasis is on **life**-- that is they find it in the immediate presence of God.
 - He gives them **joy-- wiping away all tears from their eyes**.

These tears are not expressive of grief over a wasted life. Rather they are like the tears of a child brought suddenly from sorrow to delight; they linger rather ridiculously on the faces of the redeemed!

CONCLUSION

Wow! What more can we say?

Heaven: I’m going there. Hallelujah!

Are you?

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