

Sealed, Sheltered & Shepherded Revelation 7:9-17

Introduction: Similar but different

Precept: The presence of two distinct groups, Jews and Gentiles should remind us that the first branch of the divine root was Israel, God chose them all the way back in *Genesis 12* and *Deuteronomy 7* as his people but the second group should call our minds to Ephesians 1:3-5.

Great Multitude – Revelation 7:9 – God chose Israel resulting in a remnant; then God chose the Church resulting in a multitude.

Question: Who are these? Martyrs and believers who have died in the Lord whether under stressful circumstances or in the safety of friendly environments.

Grand Doctrine - Romans 5, 6, 7 - says that faith is the way it is accessed (5:1-2, 5b) and this access is an act of God.

What I Learn: The gift of salvation is not a free pass with sin, it's a Holy Spirit guarantee that when I battle the flesh God is working with and in me for victory.

Great Union – Revelation 7:11, 13-14 – We discover that these gentile believers are not alone, there are others in heaven, angels and living creatures, who join the gentiles (13-14) who have come out of 'the great tribulation'.

What I Learn: Heaven is about unity, first, in the Godhead and also in the creatures of God, from living creatures to elders, to angels and human beings. This unity flows from common clothing, white robes; common washing, in the blood of the Lamb; and a common experience, all have come from great tribulation.

Other gifts from God – Revelation 7:15-17 – Shelter (15); Sustenance (16); Shepherding (17)

Great Adoration – Revelation 7:10, 12 – Adoration is never out of place and consists of two things; statements of truth (10) and words of adoration (12).

Conclusion: The overall sense of these verses is that God rewards faithfulness, and in the face of trials and persecution God shelters, sustains and shepherds his people as a way of nurturing faithfulness. (2 Timothy 1:8-10)

We might note the words of 1 Peter 1:10-12 - Prophets spoke from visions and angels remain curious. Nevertheless, they join in the celebration, they trust God that he knows everything and happily enter in worship and adoration for the one who has sheltered, sustained and shepherded them as well.

The victory of the Christian life is not in accomplishment or acquisitions, but in thankfulness for gifts and faithfulness to God for those gifts.