

“He Will Shelter Them with His Presence”
Revelation 7:13-17

Last Sunday: An Encouraging Intermission: The 144,000 and the Great Multitude

Today: He Will Shelter Them with His Presence

Outline:

7:1-3, Holding Back the Winds

7:4-8, The 144,000

7:9-12, The Great Multitude

7:13-17, Explanation by an Elder

7:9/ “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number...”

By way of reminder, what is this “Great Multitude”?

- Preterist (past): Either Christian martyrs after Jerusalem’s fall in AD 70, or the early church Christian martyrs.
- Historicist (timeline): The redeemed church of all ages.
- Idealist (spiritual): The 144,000 on earth are in reality the Great Multitude in heaven.
- Futurist (future):
 - Dispensational: The Gentile Tribulation Saints won to Christ by the 144,000 Jewish believers.
 - Classical: The redeemed church of all ages.
 - Mt. 24:21-22, “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and *never* will be. And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.”
 - Is Christ referring to the AD 70 destruction of Jerusalem or the Great Tribulation (lasting three and a half years of the seven-year tribulation)?

7:17/ “...and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” What does this phrase mean?

1. This is symbolic for no more sorrow (there will be no tears in heaven).
2. These are our tears as Christ answers our hard questions: particular trials, heartaches...
3. These are our tears from the loss of rewards we would have received if we had obeyed or had obeyed with better motives (1 Cor. 3).
4. These are the tears coming from reconciliation of one believer to another upon entering heaven:
 - a. Our tears of repentance toward those in heaven whom we have sinned against?
 - b. Our tears of forgiveness toward those in heaven who have sinned against us?

If you are in Christ:

1. Your sealing: permanent
2. Your focus: all the amazing benefits you have in Christ
3. Your expectation: trials and persecution