

Revelation 7

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Class notes, info & Directory posted to www.SJCalvaryBerean.com or scan the QR code

- i. For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. (Psalm 91:11)
 - a. Trump video & Jack Hibbs commentary https://tinyurl.com/utrvu58w
- ii. Help Take Back Our School Boards from Liberal, Anti-Family Trustees
 - a. marc.cooperwghs@gmail.com or call him at 510-759-8502.
- iii. Family Research Council Pray for America campaign
 - a. https://www.frc.org/get.cfm?c=CHECKOUT
- iv. <u>Understanding The Times:</u> Jan Markell interviews Dr. J.B. Hixson for the hour. One minute after the rapture of believers, everything will change. People will be filled with confusion, fear, and regret. The only kind of order out of the chaos will come from a man called Antichrist. Also discussed:
 - a. How will those who are not raptured explain the disappearance of so many? What does it mean to 'watch' for these signs & how do we not become obsessed with the rapture? Who are the 'Luciferian Elite'? Is an 'Alien Deception' part of the end times?
 - b. OliveTreeViews: https://bit.ly/31WMM0s YouTube: https://tinyurl.com/3x8er45r
 - c. Do we have time to make America great again? https://tinyurl.com/4453xpai
- v. Amir Tsarfati Weekly Update: https://tinyurl.com/mr3pv9cw
 - a. Sign up for Amir's Telegram page & daily alerts at https://t.me/s/beholdisraelchannel
- vi. Curtis Bowers Agenda Weely: "A Centimeter from Civil War" https://tinyurl.com/2p9h3rx7
- vii. Different Sources & Perspectives, But The Same Conclusion: https://tinyurl.com/mr5jvm4y
- viii. Newsom signs AB1955 into Law stripping Parents of their rights: https://tinyurl.com/yrd46fdm
- ix. Simple & Cost-Efficient way to prep for an Earthquake or Disaster: https://tinyurl.com/2dxxmemc
- II. Who were the Martyrs under the alter in Revelation 6:9-11?
 - a. The most common interpretation of this passage holds that these are the martyrs who believe on Christ as Savior during the first half of the tribulation. <u>These, then, would be people who come to faith in Christ after the rapture of the church</u>. (BibleRef.com)
 - b. Scripture records John saw "the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held" but there is no window or period-of-time indicated when these deaths occurred.
 - c. They are slain "for the testimony which they held." Does that martyrdom occur <u>only</u> during the Tribulation described in the Book of Revelation? What of the many martyrs who have already died for their faith?
 - d. Randy Alcorn's Eternal Perspective Ministries: 21 Observations Concerning Revelation 6:9-11 https://tinyurl.com/mr26fx96
 - 1. When these people died on Earth, they relocated to Heaven.
 - 2. These people in Heaven were the same ones killed for Christ while on Earth. <u>There's direct continuity</u> between our identity on Earth & our identity in Heaven.
 - 3. People in Heaven will be remembered for their lives on Earth. These were known and identified as ones
 - slain "because of...the testimony they had maintained".
 - 6. They called out in "a loud voice," not "loud voices." Individuals speaking with one voice indicate that Heaven is a place of unity and shared perspective.
 - 7. The martyrs are conscious & aware of each other, God, and the situation on Earth.
 - 9. <u>Those in Heaven can ask God questions</u> meaning they have an audience with God. <u>It also means they need to learn</u>. In Heaven, people desire understanding & pursue it
 - 10. People in the intermediate Heaven <u>know what's happening on Earth</u>. The martyrs know enough to realize that those who killed them have not yet been judged.
 - 11. <u>Heaven dwellers have a deep concern for justice and retribution</u> (v. 10). When we go to Heaven, we won't adopt a passive disinterest in what happens on the earth.



- 12. The martyrs clearly <u>remember their lives on Earth</u>. They remember some of the bad things from earth. Heaven's joys are not rooted in ignorance, but perspective.
- 15. Those in Heaven are distinct individuals: "Then each of them was given a white robe" (v. 11). There isn't one merged identity (i.e. Nirvana).
- 16. The martyrs' <u>wearing white robes suggests the possibility of actual physical forms</u>, because disembodied spirits presumably don't wear robes.
- 17. God answers their question, indicating communication & process in Heaven. <u>It shows we won't know everything in Heaven</u>—if we did, we wouldn't have questions.
- 19. <u>There is time in the intermediate Heaven</u>. The white-robed martyrs ask God a time-dependent question: "How long, Sovereign Lord..."
- 20. The people of God in Heaven have a strong familial connection with those on Earth, who are called their "fellow servants and brothers" (v. 11). We share the same Father, "from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named" (Eph 3:15, ESV).
- 21. Our sovereign God knows down to the last detail all that is happening & will happen on Earth (v. 11)

III. Revelation 7: Conclusion

- a. The Identity of the Great Multitude (verses 13-14)
 - i. "Then one of the elders answered": It was important that John knew the identity of this great multitude. But he didn't know that he should ask, so one of the elders prompted him to ask.
 - ii. "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation": pretty self- explanatory
 - iii. They had trouble on the earth during the great tribulation. In the ancient Greek grammar of this passage, "the" is emphatic. This was a time of great tribulation for this multitude. This leads most commentaries to report that most, if not all, of these are martyrs from the great tribulation.
- iv. The presence of so many tribulation saints is a powerful statement of God's grace and mercy. Even in this time of judgment and wrath on the earth, many are saved.
- v. Because "the great multitude" are mentioned right after the 144,000, many think they are due to the work of those 144,000 servants of God. Perhaps the 144,000 are evangelists who help reap this huge harvest for the kingdom during the great tribulation.
- vi. "... washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.": Those saved in the great tribulation are saved just like everybody else, by the blood of the Lamb. Even if they are martyred, their martyrdom does not save them. Only the work of Jesus can cleanse and save.
- b. What this Great Multitude Does & How It's Blessed (Verse 15)
 - i. "They are before the throne of God": In heaven, the redeemed enjoy the immediate presence of God. They can come right into the throne room & be with God. There are no barriers, no waiting lists.
 - ii. "... and serve Him day and night ...": In heaven, the redeemed serve God. We don't know how, but we do.
 - iii. "He who sits on the throne will dwell among them": In heaven, God will dwell with His people. This is the ultimate fulfillment of King David's great desire in Psalm 27:4: One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.
- c. God's Provision, Protection, & Pure Love
 - i. "The Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them": In heaven, the redeemed will know the loving care and nurture of their Savior. He will protect them from every affliction ("they shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat"). He will also provide for their every need ("lead them to living fountains of waters").
 - ii. "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes": In heaven, the redeemed will know no more sorrow or pain. The hurt and the struggle of this earthly life are gone, and tears are a thing of the past, because God will wipe away every tear.