

## **We Are His Saints!**

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Have you ever been in a large crowd, I mean, a really big crowd? I've been in some pretty big crowds, but when I think about the giant crowd mentioned in Revelation 7, I simply can't fathom it! I can't imagine seeing a crowd that's so large that it can't be numbered!

I started to look around and see what some of the records were for large crowds. The largest number of visitors to a single department store in one day (no, it's not WALMART!!) is an estimated 1.07 million who shopped at the Nextage Shanghai, in Shanghai, China on December 20, 1995.

The greatest number of live spectators for any sporting event is 10,000,000 over a three-week period at the annual Tour de France cycling race. All over the world, people gather in large crowds for many purposes, but as exciting as some of those gatherings might be, they're nothing compared to what's going on Revelation 7!

Open to Revelation 7. The crowd is praising Jesus Christ and the angels are joining in. Can you imagine what it would be like to be in the midst of that glorious worship service? Let's consider 6 things as we think about that day.

A Great Multitude! Verses 9-10, *"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"* People from every walk of life, every culture, every nationality were gathered to praise God! Now Jesus' commission to make disciples of all nations becomes real!

A Great Celebration! John describes this crowd as wearing white robes. White is a symbol of purity or righteousness. This is because of what Jesus has done! They're also waving palm branches, as a symbol of celebration. Can you imagine how exciting such a celebration would be? Here they are waving palm branches, and *"crying out with a loud voice, salvation belongs to our God."*

Folks, we need to learn to really worship, because as God's saints we're going to be doing it for a long time! These people are celebrating, even though they came out of the Great Tribulation. There's a lesson here for all of us. Regardless of what life dumps on us here on earth, when we get to Heaven, we'll be laughing and praising! Look at their worship of God. Verse 12, *"They're saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."*

A Great Deliverance! As we look at the events of the world around us, we see a pretty messed up world! We see hatred, anger, injustice, lack of care, and death. We're daily surrounded with things that when we hear of them, we feel we never thought we'd ever see that in our lifetime!

Verses 13-14, *"Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."* Believing in Jesus Christ as our Savior changes us! Even in the tribulation in which we live, where we're under attack for our faith, we have deliverance by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

A Great Responsibility. In a video I saw this week from pastor, Tony Evans, he made the comment that even though you live in a messed up world, the solution to change it isn't the job of those around you, it's yours! God's placed you here to make

the world more like Jesus, not like the rest of the world! You have the responsibility to share Jesus with the people in your world by what you believe, say, and do! Romans 12:12-13, *“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”* The world needs to see Jesus in you!

A Great Message. You're a sinner! I'm a sinner! We all are! In so many ways, we're just like the rest of the world. We many times want to go our own way and plan our own course! We deserve death not life, and surely not heaven forever! So how are you a saint?

By believing in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord and having your robe washed white in the blood of the Lamb. In the Bible, *“your robe”* is your life. As the Bible passage says, *“The blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.”* He shed His blood for you. By faith in Jesus Christ you are simultaneously saint and sinner!

A Great Gift. Look at verses 16-17. *“They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”*

God loves us with a never-ending love as our second lesson said. He's provided heaven for us through the death and resurrection of His Son. But we don't have to wait for heaven to see it! We receive it now as His saints as we walk by faith! God's blessed us with this gift. Despite all our guilt, our selfishness, and our sin, He's called us His own and we are His forever!

An American tourist visited the 19th century Polish rabbi, Hofetz Chaim. Astonished to see that the rabbi's home was only a simple room filled with books, plus a table and a bench, the tourist asked, *“Rabbi, where is your furniture?”* *“Where is yours?”* replied the rabbi. *“Mine?”* asked the puzzled American. *“But I'm a visitor here. I'm only passing through.”* *The rabbi replied, “So am I”.*

C. S. Lewis put it this way, *“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.”*

Live as redeemed saints of Jesus Christ, share Him everywhere, and eagerly seek heaven now and forever!