

## INTRODUCTION

1. How to live today knowing that we live in the last days? 2Pt3:10-18
2. Last study: *tribulation* - time of testing. Rm 5:1-5 live in hope. Tit 2:11-14; Hb 10:23-25 - churchmanship: *all the more as day nears*
3. Rv 7:9ff - Activity: worship [v9-12]; Identity: robed in wht [v13-14]; History: overcomers thru tribulation [v14]. Today - v15-17

### 1st: The Privilege of the Disembodied Saints: Worshipers Before the Throne

1. *For this reason* = v14 having come out of tribulation
  - i. Their victory is due to *the Lamb*. v14 cross [*blood*]; v17 *throne*
  - ii. Robed in white - true believers: passive faith: justified - Rv 5:9; over-comers: active faith: fruitful evidence of love - Rv 19:8
  - iii. Salvation is not "just justification" but is a life lived: sanctification
2. *before the throne* - 7:9 Lamb; 1:4 Holy Spirit Legal & living. Recent references to *throne* - where worship transpires: God/Lamb - 3:21
  - i. *God* - v10-12; v15a; v17c
  - ii. *Lamb* - v9; v17
3. *they serve Him, day/night; temple*: language of II<sup>nd</sup> commandment: worship
  - i. *day & night* - 4:8
    - a. Is the next age an eternal church service?
    - b. Jn shows us worship b/c we enjoy heavenly privileges in worship.
  - ii. *Serve* = vocab of II<sup>nd</sup>: commandment - priests [1Pt 2:9; Rv1:6; Rv5:10]
  - iii. *in temple*: heavenly temple [5:8]; local church [1Pt 2:5]; Xn [1C6:19 - body; Hb 10:14 - conscience; Rm 12:1-2 - entire humanity].
  - iv. Rv7 = heavenly worship, Xn already lives a heavenly life

### 2nd: The Blessings of the Disembodied Saints: Eternal Life w/ Lamb v15c-17

1. v16 = fulfillment of Isa 49:10 = promise to restore exiled Israel: "2nd Exo" - restoration from exile = type [picture] of resurrection to new cosmos

2. v17a enthroned Lamb is our Shepherd = Davidic Sheperd-King: guides, protects, feeds, restores, comforts, leads His sheep thru wilderness - Lk 6:21
3. v17b - Isa 49:10 *springs of water* - now *water of life*. [Isa 55:1-3; Jn 4:14]
4. v17c - God wipe away tears - Isa 25:8-9 - Lk 6:21.
5. Blessed by Him *who sits on throne, Lamb* - v15c *spread tabernacle* - thru wilderness - temple in land - Lord dwells w/ His people. [Rv 1]
6. Ezek 37:24-28 Davidic King = shepherd guides us & sanctifies us.

### **3rd: The Already & Not-Yet Experience of Eternal Blessings**

1. v13-17 past, present, future: when do we experience the blessings Rv 21:3-4
2. See disembodied saints already enjoy blessings: but = future: after we die
3. Also an "already" enjoyment for us en route in wilderness - knowing that our journey is essentially a blessing - we live heavenly lives on earth
4. Rv 22:14 *those who wash* [= pres ptc]; Rv 7:14 *those coming out of trib* - our journey in wilderness w/ our tabernacling Lord is an *entering*.
5. Our present experience of eternal blessing is given to us in the downpayment of the Holy Spirit who indwells & enables us to follow Him.
6. Lets live w/ hope, like we know where we're going & we're glad to be on our way. 1Ptr 1:3-9  
AMEN