

CMPC Sermon Notes ♦ Series: Revelation: Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow

♦ Text: Revelation 7.1-8 ♦ Message: Who Can Stand? (part2

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- What happens to the people of God on earth during seals one to six? Who can stand?

An Amazing Sight

• ***John gives us his visions in the order he receives them; the book of Revelation is not necessarily then in sequential chronological order (note that six times John says “after this” and then begins to describe a vision he heard or saw-: 4.1; 7.1; 7.9; 15.5; .)***

- *After this:* I heard... I looked
 - Back in chapter 6, John heard the description of the one found worthy to open the scroll
 - What did he hear? The Lion of Judah.
 - So when John turned to look, what did he see?
 - A Lamb that had been slain
 - He expected to see a Lion, but what he saw was a Lamb
- So, John hears a description of the sealed: 144,000
 - Verb tense- had been sealed
- *I looked,* ○ Expecting to see the complete people of God
 - Complete people of God with an idealized number
- Then he turns and sees
 - *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,*
 - The church that did not look like much on the earth, suddenly in heaven looks like a lot!
 - Not 12 neatly aligned groups of 12,000 people each
 - Rather, sees all the people of God from Adam until the last believer, and they are from every tribe on the nation of the earth, and they are too innumerable to count
 - Standing!
- The promise to Abraham.. Genesis 12.1-317.4-6
- Foreshadowed on the Day of Pentecost, Acts 2.9-11
- Great diversity: every nation, city dwellers, rural, people on the coasts, the plains, the mountains
- Great unity:
 - All are servants of God, 7.3
 - All wearing the same thing
 - Notice the description: *clothed in white robes,*
 - Clothed in white- holy; promise- Sardis 4.4-5
 - Palm Branches- victory (only here & John 12.13)
- Jesus defeated Satan, death, and the grave; joy is ours to celebrate and be eternally thankful for the redemption Christ obtained for us.

The Victory Celebration

- All joining in the same...
- The Church's Triumph Song

- Babel reversed... all one language
- Salvation belongs to God
 - Salvation is the emphasis of the song
 - This is the church of our Lord Jesus Christ singing
 - Through our *mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won*, when we sing, this is the song we are joining in!
- A Choral response, 11, 12
 - Seven statements- the completeness of God being praised
 - Praise and worship
 - Overwhelmed at the majesty of God

- These are the people of God who have known persecution... they've known hunger, thirst, tears... the woes of living in a fallen sinful world

A Key Question, 13-14

- Who are they? A teaching device
- Great Tribulation- only here and in Matthew 24.21
- What Not to Wear
- Their wardrobe
 - Washed in the blood of the Lamb, cf. Isaiah 1.18; Zechariah 3

Eternity in View, 15-17

- God's amazing care
 - Back to Psalms 100 & 23; Isaiah 49.10
- Living water
- Every tear- greatest news!

So What About Us?

- Who can stand? Those marked and sealed as God's treasure
- The significance of our worship: anticipates and participates
- Reflects eternal satisfaction with God and his promises
- Motivation to persevere
- Are your robes washed in the blood of the Lamb?