

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“He will guide them to springs of living water” (7.13-17)



➤ *Note: there will be no study on May 1 (if you come, see Rev 8.1)*

### Review From Last Week (Revelation 7.1-12)

1. “Who can stand?” (Rev 6.17)
2. God’s people are sealed, so that they are preserved as through go through tribulation (cf. Rev 6.1-8) and so that they can stand on the great day of wrath (cf. Ezekiel 9; Rev 9.4).
3. 144 000 sealed, from the every tribe of the sons of Israel
  - a. “I heard ... I saw” (Rev 7.4-5, 9; cf. Rev 5.5-6): 144 000 = the great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages
  - b. OT titles, images, and promises given to Israel are often applied to the church in the NT, because there is one covenant people (cf. Ex 19.4-6; 1 Pet 2.9-10; Rev 1.5-6; 5.9-10; Rom 2.28-29; Phil 3.3; Gal 3.27-29; Gal 6.15; James 1.1; 5.14)

**Revelation 7**

(refers to covenant people of God)

- 4 angels standing at the 4 corners
- 144 000 sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel (12 x 12 x 10 x 10 x 10)
- 12 000 from each tribe
- great multitude (every nation, all tribes and peoples and languages) stand before the throne and before the Lamb
- God tabernacles with his people
- springs of living water
- God will wipe away every tear

**Revelation 21**

(refers to covenant people of God)

- God tabernacles with his people
- God will wipe away every tear
- spring of living water
- vision of the Bride/Wife of the Lamb
  - holy city Jerusalem
  - gates with names of 12 tribes of the sons of Israel
  - foundation with names of 12 apostles of the Lamb
  - city is 4-square
  - city is a cube (12 000 stadia; cf. 10 x 10 x 10)
  - walls are 144 cubits
  - the city's temple is the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb

**Revelation 7.13-17**

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" <sup>14</sup>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.

<sup>15</sup>"Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

<sup>16</sup>They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

<sup>17</sup>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."

1. **Who are These?** Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" <sup>14</sup>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. (7.13-14; cf. Rev 2.7, 12; 3.4, 12)
  - a. "the great tribulation": *thlipsis*: "pressure" to compromise faith, both internal (e.g., false teaching) and external (persecution)

**Revelation 1.9:** I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

**John 16.33:** I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

**Acts 14.21-22** When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, <sup>22</sup> strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

**Romans 5.1-5:** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings (*thlipsis*), knowing that suffering (*thlipsis*) produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

**Romans 8.35-36:** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

**Romans 12.12** Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

b. “... washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”

**Hebrews 9.13-14:** For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

**1 John 1.7:** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin

**Revelation 3:4** Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.

**Daniel 11.32-35:** “By smooth *words* he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action. <sup>33</sup> “Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for *many* days. <sup>34</sup> “Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy. <sup>35</sup> “Some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time; because *it is still to come* at the appointed time.” (cf. Dan 12.10)

2. **The Lamb Will Be Their Shepherd:** “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. <sup>16</sup> They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup> 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.” (Rev 7.15-17)

### a. God's Tabernacling Presence

**Exodus 33.12-17:** Moses said to the LORD, "See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.'"<sup>13</sup> Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people."<sup>14</sup> And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."<sup>15</sup> And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here."<sup>16</sup> For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?"<sup>17</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name."

**Exodus 40.33-38:** So Moses finished the work.<sup>34</sup> Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.<sup>35</sup> And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.<sup>36</sup> Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out.<sup>37</sup> But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up.<sup>38</sup> For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

**1 Kings 8.9-12:** There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.<sup>10</sup> And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD,<sup>11</sup> so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.<sup>12</sup> Then Solomon said, "The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness."

**Ezekiel 37.26-28:** I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore.<sup>27</sup> My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.<sup>28</sup> Then the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst forevermore."

**John 1.14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt (*skēnoō*) among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Revelation 7.15** "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter (*skēnoō*) them with his presence.

**Revelation 21.3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place (*skēnoō*) of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."

### b. God's Overshadows his Covenant People

**Exodus 40.35:** And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on (*episkiazō*) it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

**Psalms 91.4:** He will shelter (*episkiazō*) you with his wings; you will find safety under his wings. His faithfulness is like a shield or a protective wall.

**Luke 1.35:** And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow (*episkiazō*) you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God.

**Luke 9.34:** As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed (*episkiazō*) them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.

**Acts 5.14-15:** And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,<sup>15</sup> so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on (*episkiazō*) some of them.

### c. The Church is God’s Tabernacle/Temple/Sanctuary (*naos*)

**John 4.10-14:** Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?<sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.”<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

**John 7.37-39:** On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.<sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”<sup>39</sup> Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (Joh 7:37 ESV)

**Acts 2.1-4:** When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.<sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.<sup>3</sup> And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.<sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (cf. Exodus 14.21)

**1 Corinthians 3.16-17:** Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?<sup>17</sup> If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.

**1 Corinthians 6.19-20:** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,<sup>20</sup> for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

**2 Corinthians 6.16:** What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**Ephesians 2.19-21:** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,<sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,<sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

#### d. Sheep in the Lord's Pasture

**Isaiah 49.8-18** Thus says the LORD: "In a time of favor I have answered you; in a day of salvation I have helped you; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages, <sup>9</sup> saying to the prisoners, 'Come out,' to those who are in darkness, 'Appear.' They shall feed along the ways; on all bare heights shall be their pasture; <sup>10</sup> they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. <sup>11</sup> And I will make all my mountains a road, and my highways shall be raised up. <sup>12</sup> Behold, these shall come from afar, and behold, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene." <sup>13</sup> Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted. <sup>14</sup> But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me." <sup>15</sup> "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. <sup>16</sup> Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me. <sup>17</sup> Your builders make haste; your destroyers and those who laid you waste go out from you. <sup>18</sup> Lift up your eyes around and see; they all gather, they come to you. As I live, declares the LORD, you shall put them all on as an ornament; you shall bind them on as a bride does.

**Isaiah 25.6-8:** On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. <sup>7</sup> And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. <sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. <sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

**Psalms 23** *A Psalm of David.* The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. <sup>3</sup> He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

#### HEIDELBERG CATECHISM: Q1. What is your only comfort in life and death?

That I am not my own, but belong—  
 body and soul,  
 in life and in death—  
 to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.  
 He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,  
 and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.  
 He also watches over me in such a way  
 that not a hair can fall from my head  
 without the will of my Father in heaven:  
 in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.  
 Because I belong to him,  
 Christ, by his Holy Spirit,  
 assures me of eternal life  
 and makes me whole-heartedly willing and ready  
 from now on to live for him.