**Revelation 7: In the midst of judgment, God shows mercy**

**I. Rev. 7 overview**

* **Chapter 7 represents an interlude to the judgments.**
* **The slaughter of innocent martyrs (6:9-11) leads to judgment and then, to Ch. 7.**
* **In His wrath, God remembers mercy (Hab. 3:2).**
* **In the midst of massive judgment from God, a massive movement to God**
* **The first four Seal Judgments and the Trumpet Judgments occur before the middle of the Tribulation - Matt. 24:4-14 with Rev. 6:1-7**
* **The Two Witnesses = first half; 144,000 = second half**

**II. The 144,000 and the tribe of Dan – Revelation 7:1-8**

**7:1-2**

* **“After this” = the next thing John saw.**
* **The four winds: linked to judgment? - Jer. 49:36-38; Dan. 7:2; Hos. 13:15**
* **Many judgments strike the earth and its environment - Rev. 8-9, 16**

**7:2-3**

* **Like Ezek. 9:4-6, the servants of God are marked.**
* **Set apart from evangelism and excluded from God’s wrath (9:4)**

**7:4-8**

* **The distinctly Jewish character of Revelation becomes more evident here.**
* **The 144,000: Jewish evangelists.**
* **The Church: No longer an effective instrument (Rom. 11:19-23).**
* **Males and virgins – Rev. 14:1-5**

**The tribes are different in that the tribe of Dan is replaced by Levi. Joseph (including Ephraim?) and Manasseh are in the list.**

* **Normally, Levi is out and Joseph is given a double-portion.**
* **In this list, Dan is replaced by Levi (Unfaithfulness?)**
* **May be due to the idolatry of Dan (Judges 18:30; 1 Kings 12:28-31).**
* **This list does not involve land, but those who evangelize the earth.**
* **Later, Dan is given a portion of the land (Ezek. 48:2, 32).**

**III. The Multitude - 7:9-17**

**This group is apparently the result of the ministry of the 144,000 (Mt. 24:14).**

**White robes: Four major impacts of the blood of Christ:**

 **1) Sins were “taken away” – John 1:29; Rev. 1:5**

 **2) The “New Man” was created – Eph. 2:13**

 **3) The basis of propitiation, redemption, justification – Rom. 3:24-26**

 **4) Maintains our fellowship with God – 1 John 1:7, Also 1 Cor. 10:16**

* **OT usage: Sacrifices were often for fellowship**
* **The robes: Elsewhere earned by good works – Rev. 19:8; 3:4-5; 16:15**

**7:9 - Palm branches celebrating the King - John 12:13**

**7:10 - “Salvation”**

* **From condemnation to eternal life (John 3:16-17)**
* **From the Beast (Micah 5:6)**
* **From the physical corruption of sin (Rom. 8:21-22; Isaiah 35)**
* **From the rebellion and enslavement of men (Ps. 2:9; Jer. 30:8-10)**
* **“Great tribulation” = last 3 ½ years (Mt. 24:21), the time of Jacob’s trouble (Jer. 30:7)**
* **They are now before the throne and have come out of the Tribulation; indicates their faithfulness to Christ - Matt. 25:31-46**

**Urgency for today and mercy for tomorrow – 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12**

**IV. The rewarded faithful: Rev. 7:15-17 (Isa. 49:8-13)**

**Having been faithful in such a difficult time, their reward is significant.**

**They are close to God and He to them. They serve Him.**

**All that is sad is forever a thing of the past and God will comfort them!**