

JESUS, THE SHEPHERD OF THE FAITHFUL
REV. 7:13-17

Introduction:

- A. "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, what are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?"
 - 1. answered = apokrinomai - to give a judicial answer, to respond.
 - 2. arrayed = periballo - to cast around.
 - 3. robes = stolas = long flowing garment.

- B. "And I said unto him, sir, thou knowest."
 - 1. sir = kurios = lord, master, owner.
 - 2. knowest = oida = to perceive, to know.
 - 3. The Apostle John was perplexed!

I. THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE HOST. V13,14

- A. "And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation."
 - 1. came = erchomai = to come or go.
 - 2. out = ek = out of, from among.
 - 3. great = megales.
 - 4. tribulation = thlipsis - pressure, compression, straitness, hence, pressure from evils, affliction, distress, to be oppressed with evils.

- B. The use of the word, tribulation.
 - 1. Matt. 24:21-22, Fulfilled in 70 A.D.
[These are prophetic.]
 - 2. Matt. 24:29, The seven years of tribulation.
 - 3. Mark 13:24.
 - 4. Luke 21:20-27.

- C. Tribulation is necessary to living a Christian life.

1. John 16:33, "These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace, In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."
 2. Acts 14:22, "...exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."
 3. I Thess. 3:3, "For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know."
 4. Rom. 5:3, "We glory in tribulation also, knowing that tribulation worketh patience."
 5. Rev. 1:9, "companion in tribulation."
- D. Tribulation by the church continues the suffering of Christ, for we are His body.
1. Rom. 8:35.
 2. II Cor. 1:3-5.
 3. II Thess. 1:3-12.
 4. Rev. 2:9, (Church in Smyrna.)
- E. Tribulation may be used by the Lord to bring about repentance.
1. The church in Thyatira, Jezebel.
 2. Rev. 2:22.
 3. The phrase, "great tribulation."
- F. It is a fundamental assumption that we will, "come out of great tribulation," if we practice N.T. Christianity.
- G. The basis of their standing before God.
1. "and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."
 1. washed = pluno - to wash inanimate things, to rinse.
 3. We are righteous because of His blood.

- A. "Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple."
1. before = enopion = in one's presence, face to face, being in sight.
 2. throne = thronos = a high seat and footstool.
 3. serve = latreno - to serve, of service with or without pay, to serve God.
 4. Temple = naos - dwelling, habitation, the interior and most sacred part.
 5. If we don't like to serve God now, what about then?
- B. "and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them."
1. dwell = skenoo - to dwell in tents, to pitch a tent, spread his tent over them.
 2. He shall be their God.
- C. "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore."
1. hunger = peinao - to be hungry, suffer hunger, hunger after, long for.
 2. thirst = dipsos - to thirst, thirst after.
 3. Matt. 5:6, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."
- D. "neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat."
1. Rev. 16:8.
 2. heat = kauma - the result of burning.
- E. "For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters;"
1. feed = poimaino - to shepherd.
 2. lead = odegesei - to lead along the way, to guide, The 23rd Psalm will always be true!
 3. living fountains of water = pege = spring, to life's water springs.
 4. The fountain of youth.

F. "and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."
Rev. 21:4.

1. wipe = eksaleipho - to wipe away, to smear out, blot out, obliterate.
2. tear = dakpuon = every single tear.

III. GOD'S PURPOSE IN JUDGMENT. ISAIAH 25:8

A. What God will do, for the individual.

1. "He will swallow up death in victory."
2. "Will wipe away tears from all faces."

B. What God will do for His people.

1. "and the rebuke of his people shall be taken away from off all the earth."
2. "this is our God, we have waited for him."