

There are two groups of witnesses described in Revelation 7.

- One group is numbered. They are 144,000 Jewish male virgins who are sealed by God and cannot die (Verses 1-8). They live to enter the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.
- The other group is composed of Gentiles: “**a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations...**” (vs 9). These are people who are converted during the Tribulation. People in this group can die. That is why they’re seen in heaven after coming out of the Tribulation. They will have part in Israel’s Kingdom on Earth. Notice that they are saved by the blood of the Lamb (vs 14), and not by works.
 - The fact that this is an innumerable number of people means that there are many people alive today who have not rejected Jesus Christ, but they don’t know Him. They are the ones who will enter the Tribulation and have an opportunity to be saved through the ministry of the Jewish witnesses.
 - The Christ rejectors will take the mark of the Beast, die during the Tribulation, and go to Hell.
- The Church was seen in Heaven sitting round about the throne in white raiment (Rev 4) before the start of the Tribulation. Their Kingdom is a spiritual kingdom.

God’s Commission for the Jews:

- God told the Jews to preach to the Gentiles.
- The Jews have always despised the Gentiles (Jn 18:28, Jn 4:9, Mt 15:27).
 - They refused to give them the truth.
- God has set the Jews aside for a time (2,000 years).
- During the Tribulation, God will appoint the Jews as His witnesses again and give them the same mission: Go tell the Gentiles the truth. (Jonah is the perfect picture of this entire cycle).

God’s Pattern: to the Jew First, then to the Gentile

Num 23:9 The Hebrew people have never been counted as being among the nations. They’re separate.

- They got the scriptures, the covenants, the offerings, the sacrifices, the revelation, the light.
- It was their responsibility to tell the world about their God.

Ezekiel 5::5 God considers Jerusalem to be the center of this world.

Gen 12:1-2 Abram received God’s blessing so that his descendants could be a blessing to others.

Deut 32:43 After God avenges His people, the Jews, all the nations will rejoice with them.

- This world will not know peace until Israel knows peace. That is why we pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6). We're praying for the Lord to come.
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Psalms 67:1-4 When the Lord is on the throne in Jerusalem judging the people, all the nations will be glad.

Isaiah 1:6-8 When the root of Jesse (Jesus) is the standard for righteousness in Israel, all the nations will seek Him for righteousness.

Acts 1:6-8 It was God's intention for His Gospel to go out to the whole earth, but He had an order: The Jews first, then the Gentiles. (note that "both" is the correct word to use in verse 8).

Rom 1:15-16 The Gospel was preached to the Jew first before it spread outward to the Greeks (Gentiles).

Rom 15:8-12 This passage quotes Old Testament verses that show that God always deals with the Jew first, then the Gentiles.

- It also reveals that the Old Testament "LORD" (Jehovah) is the New Testament "Jesus Christ" (vs 8). Jesus Christ is God.
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Rom 2:9-11 The Jew is first in judgment, then the Gentile. The Jew is first to receive millennial blessings, then the Gentile.

- (vs 11) God does not have respect of persons when it comes to His salvation.
 - Any person who repents and receives Jesus Christ will be forgiven.
 - Any person who rejects Jesus Christ will not be forgiven.
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