

REVELATION: Lesson 89
Chapter 7:11-17 Outward Righteousness

24 July 2020

A Different Cry

Vs 10 Tribulation saints: “**Salvation to our God.**” The emphasis is on being saved from physical tribulation. These saints see the Lamb of God executing judgment for sin. That’s why they prayed for the Lord to “**avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?**” (Rev 6:9). During the Tribulation, they long to see the One who will deliver them from their enemies. That’s what they praise Him for.

These saints have been delivered from hunger, thirst, devils, and many other terrible dangers. The focus of their praise is “Thank God I’m out of that trouble.”

Church Age saints pray to Him that “**washed us from our sins in his own blood**” (Rev 1:5) and “**Hast redeemed us to God by thy blood**” (Rev 5:9). When we look upon the Lord Jesus Christ, we see the Lamb slain for sin. Today we’re longing to see the One who already delivered us from sin and lives in our heart. That’s what we praise Him for.

For Church Age saints, most of us don’t suffer the difficulties that will be encountered in the Tribulation. Our “trials” are nothing in comparison to the Tribulation trials. Our greatest trials are about trying to be spiritual in a carnal world. We praise the Lord for washing us in His blood.

Vs 12 The angels: also praise the Lamb for what He’s done and praise God for His wonderful attributes.

Notice that God the Father is not recognized for His great “riches” in this verse. The Father has everything and is the source of everything. No one can give him riches.

The Lamb is praised for His riches in Revelation 5:12. Riches can be given to the Son because he made himself of no reputation and became a servant (Php 2:7) and can now receive riches.

They Washed Their Robes (vss 13-14)

The washed robes of the Tribulation saints represent practical righteousness. THEY made their robes clean. This is not salvation by works. They received what God had to give them on the inside and then revealed it by living a righteous life on the outside.

Christian application: We are given inward righteousness (Rom 5:17). When we let Christ’s righteousness rule our lives, our outward actions will be righteous for all to see, unto Christ’s glory.

The doctrine of the eternal security of the believer does not give us license to live a worldly life. Knowing that we’re children of God and we’ll be with Him in Heaven forever ought to make us want to start serving Him today to the very best of our ability.

There ought to be some outward evidence that you follow Jesus Christ that would cause people to ask you the reason of the hope that is in you (1 Pet 3:15). Unfortunately, there are a lot of people in churches who claim to be Christians, but they’re really goats pretending to be sheep, tares among the wheat, etc. (Mt 25:32, 13:30, 47, 49).

Vs 15 **“They serve him day and night in his temple.”** In First Chronicles 9:33, there were Levites who served the Lord day and night—because they were free to do so.

When you know the truth, **“the truth shall make you free”** (John 8:32). We serve the Lord, not because we have to, but because we are free to do so. We are free from sin (Romans 6:18-22); we don’t have to live sinful, worldly lives anymore.

Vs 16 The Tribulation saints have been saved from hunger, thirst, and suffering. Now the Lord comforts and cares for them (Psalm 23).

Romans 8:35-37, —You may suffer in this life, but whatever you suffer, it won’t separate you from the love of Christ.

Vs 17 **“The Lamb...shall feed them, and shall lead them.”** Don’t just eat what the Lord provides. Follow Him. He may lead you to places that will cause you to weep in this life, but in the end, **“God shall wipe away all tears”** from your eyes.
