

Revelation

Who Can Stand?

Revelation 7:1-17

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / October 25, 2026

I. Jesus Shows Us Who Can Stand

A. People Who Have Trusted in Him Can Stand Before Him

Revelation 7:9 “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.”

Notice they are clothed in white robes. All through the Bible, in both the Old and New Testament, being clothed in a white robe represented being clothed in the righteousness of Christ instead of your own sin.

Revelation 7:14 “...They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

You can either accept this robe from the Lamb by accepting Him as your Savior today, or you will face Him as your judge on that final day. These are the ones who trusted Jesus and asked Him to save them.

B. People Who Have Been Sealed by Him Can Live for Him

1. The 144,000 Are God's People Prepared for Battle

The 144,000 being described in **vv. 4-8** are the same group found in **vv. 9-10**.

These passages are two different camera angles of the same group of people being described in two different ways.

In **vv. 4-8**, believers are being described in an Old Testament, militaristic way, similar to when Israel would number the people or take a census to assess their military power.

While in **vv. 9-10**, He's emphasizing the global inclusivity of His saving grace that will rescue men and women from every nation, tribe, people, and language!

2. He Tells Us What He's Given Us for This Battle

Revelation 7:2-3 “Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, ³saying, ‘Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.’”

The seven churches in Asia would have understood exactly what was going on, because **Ezekiel 9** talks about the people of God being sealed and protected from God's judgment and wrath.

Ezekiel 9:4 “And the Lord said to him, ‘Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it.’”

That’s also what God is doing here in **Revelation 7** – sealing the servants of God. Every believer who trusts in Christ has been sealed by God.

If you know Jesus, you are marked as His child, not with a literal mark on your forehead, but with the Holy Spirit living in you.

Ephesians 1:13-14 “In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.”

You’re engaged to Him and belong to Him! And so, you will never ever face the wrath of God, even while you may see it being poured out on others all around you, it will never happen to you because He has sealed you with His Holy Spirit.

3. He Shows Us that Christians Will Face Tribulation in This Life

Revelation 7:14 “...These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation...”

Notice the way that verb is worded. Literally, in the original Greek language, it says “those who are coming out,” which implies that something was happening to them back then, in **A.D. 96**, and that something is still happening today.

The Greek word for “tribulation” is the word “thlipsis” that meant a crushing pressure. He’s talking about a mega “thlipsis” or “great tribulation,” but he’s not talking about something that is yet to come.

It was happening then, it’s happening now, and the New Testament says it will intensify as we get closer to the end. But we’re in it now, and have been in it from the start of the Church.

The book of Revelation was written for a people who were under pressure then, who are under pressure now, and who will be under pressure until the end. It’s a survival manual for Christians at every point in history – from Jesus’ first humble arrival here on earth to His glorious second coming!

Revelation could be summarized: He wins and so we’re safe with Him!

Start with Him, stay with Him, trust in Him, and you will be with Him in the end for all eternity!

C. People from Every Nation Will Be a Part of His Kingdom

Revelation 7:9 “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages...”

For the first time this list starts with the word “nations,” and that’s because he wants us to know that the promise God made to Abraham in **Genesis 12**, that He would bless all families of the earth through Him, has been fulfilled!

“Today a greater percentage of the world’s population than ever before is Christian, and Christianity adds to its ranks over fifty thousand persons a day, or just under nineteen million new people a year. Even in its beginnings, the movement of Jesus followers spread out in all directions outward from its Middle Eastern origins, not only to Europe but also to North Africa, to Turkey and Armenia, to Persia and India. ‘Christianity was a world religion long before it was a European one’... Christianity is the religion that is most equally distributed across the continents of the world.”

- Timothy Keller, *Making Sense of God*

No other religion has crossed cultural barriers and spread across continents like Christianity because this message of Jesus Christ and the Gospel is like no other.

II. Jesus Shows Us How It Will End for Believers

Revelation 7:15-17 “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. ¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ 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.”

It’s coming! But in the meantime, we live in the midst of tribulation with two kingdoms in conflict and spiritual warfare raging all around us.

To persevere until He comes, we need to do what the apostle Paul talked about in **Romans 8:22-39**. Because if we’ve been sealed with the Spirit, we need to be filled with the Spirit so that we can groan, hope, and wait.