

Revelation 7:15-17

Now we see a beautiful picture of heaven.

Where are the people? What are they always doing, day and night?

Read 1 John 1:1-3 (1534) to see how close Jesus was with the disciples. How close will God be to us in heaven? (Ruth 3:6-9)

They will never be _____ or _____ again.
Matthew 5:6 (1214), John 6:35 (1341)

The _____ will not harm them. Psalm 121:1-8 (763), Isaiah 49:10 (922)

The Lamb will be their _____. He will lead them to the water of _____. Psalm 23:1-3 (660), John 4:13-14 (1336)

God will wipe away every _____ from their eyes.
John 16:19-22 (1357)

To Think About...

If you are struggling because of sin and trouble in this world, does this chapter give you comfort and encouragement? How?

The Book of Revelation God's Picture of History and Heaven

Lesson 6, Chapter 7:1-17

To Begin...

When we are worried or upset, people often comfort us by saying, "It will be okay." Does that help you feel better? How?

The Seal of God's Promise and Comfort

Chapter 6 showed Jesus opening six seals of God's judgment against sin. There was famine, death, war, and people killing believers. That is terrible and frightening! But God tells us these things so He can also comfort us. In chapter 7, there is a different kind of seal – God's promise that we are His people. Jesus gives confidence and encouragement that His is always our true life.

The Seal of God

Revelation 7:1-3

John mentions 4 winds from the 4 corners of the earth (means north, south, east, west). What does the wind mean? Read Jeremiah 49:34-37 (1022).

Who did John see standing on the earth (vs. 1)? What were they doing?

Why did the angels wait? What had to happen first?

Revelation 7:4-8
Who did God seal?

What About...	<p><i>The Number 144,000?</i> <i>This number is sometimes misunderstood, especially by JW's. This number means the whole church of God on earth. $144,000 = 12 \times 12 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10$. You remember the number 12 means all of God's people. $12 \times 12 (=144)$ emphasizes they are God's people. The number 10 means complete, full, nothing more to add or do. $10 \times 10 \times 10 (=1000)$ emphasizes that meaning. So 144,000 very strongly says that God seals <u>all</u> of His people on earth, both Jews and non-Jews from <u>all</u> time. Not one person is missing. 12,000 from each tribe also shows the church is like God's army on earth (see Numbers 31:1-6 and 1 Chronicles 27:1-15).</i></p>
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Read verse 3 again. Where did the angels put the seal?

Read these verses from the Old Testament. In each one, what did God say about a person's forehead?

Exodus 13:8-9, 16 (80-81)

Exodus 28:36-38 (100)

Exodus 13 mentioned a "mark on your hand or a reminder on your forehead." Who can see a mark on your hand? Who can see a mark on your forehead? Why do you think God seals His people on the forehead?

Read Ephesians 1:13-14 (1466). What is God's seal on you? Is that seal hidden? How do other people see it?

The Large Crowd around God's Throne
Revelation 7:9-10

This is a different picture than the 144,000. That number emphasizes God's church on earth. Now we see the picture in heaven. Who did John see standing in front of the throne and the Lamb? Where were these people from?

Did they praise God for who He is, or what He does?

Revelation 7:11-12

Now the angels, leaders, and four special angels join in worshipping God. Jesus died to save us, not angels. But are the angels also excited about God's gift of salvation? Read 1 Peter 1:12 (1524)

The Great Promise of Heaven
Revelation 7:13-14

Who are those people in white robes. What are they coming out of (vs. 14)?

How did their robes (their soul, their life) become clean? Read Psalm 51:2,7 (688), Acts 22:16 (1400), Galatians 3:27 (1462).