**CrossRoads Community Church**

**Sermon Summary Sheet, Week of January 29, 2023**

***“AS IT WILL BE IN HEAVEN”***

**Part 3: Completed Membership, Revelation 7: 1-17**

**INTRODUCTION: *Revelation chapter 7 is considered an interlude as there is a change in tone from the subject of Judgment Day in chapter 6 as well as the delay until chapter 8 in opening the seventh seal. Two main subjects are dealt with in this chapter. John first sees the angels who will unleash destruction on earth restrained until the 144,000 servants of God from every tribe of Israel are sealed (vv.1-8). Then he sees an innumerable multitude clothed in white standing before the throne of God, who are identified as those who have come out of the “great tribulation.” (vv.9-17).***

***“REVELATION” - Original Word: ἀποκάλυψις (apokalupsis) - an unveiling, uncovering, revealing, revelation.***

***-is principally used of the revelation of Jesus Christ (the Word), especially a particular (spiritual) manifestation of Christ (His will) previously unknown to the extent (because of being "veiled, or covered").***

**1. sovereign interlude**

***“saying, ’Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.’” Revelation 7:3***

* + - ***God’s Plan (Bringing People to faith) - 1 Timothy 2:4***
    - ***God’s Power - Psalm 103:20***
    - ***God’s Pause - Exodus 40:36-37***

**2. sealing initiative**

***“And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:…” Revelation 7:4***

* + - ***God’s People***

***Jews or Jews/Gentiles - Ephesians 4: 30-32***

* + - ***God’s Purpose***
      * ***Ownership- 2 Cor. 1:20-22***
      * ***Protection- Rev. 9:4***

**3. salvation intensified**

***“and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’” Revelation 7:10***

* + - ***Rejoicing in the Savior - Revelation 5:13***
    - ***Reality of Suffering - Hebrews 10:32***
    - ***Relating to the Shepherd - Philippians 4:19***

**conclusion**

***As the judgments of Revelation 6 approached a fever pitch of ferocity, God granted the apostle John an interlude of mercy in Revelation 7. Such intermissions in the heavenly drama serve to reaffirm Christ’s central position, remind us of God’s great plan of redemption, and reassure us that God’s wrath isn’t without mercy. John needed the interlude. So do we. In fact, it might be wise for us to follow God’s example and work interludes into our own lives. Chuck Swindoll***