

# Who Are the Saints?

*Promise: we are made saints by the blood of the lamb, Jesus our Lord*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Revelation 7:2-17; Psalm 149; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

(All Saints' Sunday, 11/7/21)

*These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*  
— v. 14

**Lead In** – Two weeks in a row the first lesson is taken from the last Book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation. And once again I cannot resist preaching from this most mysterious Book. Despite the dangers of wayward interpretations, the Book can also vividly capture our attention and hold it with its rich imagination in portraying Gospel Truths. It we match the fanciful imagery with the truths taught elsewhere in the Bible, I believe the Book will prove most beneficial and inspiring.

## I. Pitfalls To Avoid In Reading Revelation

- A. Forgetting that most of the Book is a vision...
- B. Ignoring original readers, and the timeless teaching...
- C. Treating the details as coded puzzle to solve...

## II. What Is A Saint?

### III. Who Are the Holy Ones According to Our Lesson?

- A. They are sealed. Marked with the cross of Christ!
- B. Twelve tribes, twelve apostles, the full number...
- C. White robed with palm branches of victory...
- D. The saints learn to love worship...
- E. White robed because of the washing in the blood...

**Parting Shot** – Although we had planned the Rite of Confirmation for last Sunday, on the occasion of Reformation Sunday; it is altogether fitting that it take place on the occasion of All Saint's Sunday. Two young men stand before us who have been washed in the baptismal waters and been marked on the brow with the sign of the cross. That is how they have initially been made saints. And appropriately the rite in the hymn book is called "Affirmation of Baptism". It would be wrong to say that God did the initial work, and now its up to them to complete it. No! But the one who began the work will not bring it to completion without them. What garments will you wear? What banners will you wave? Whom will you worshipful serve? You will pledge this morning... And so will we pledge... Its all about living as saints...

**hagios** in Greek simply means a holy thing, or a holy person, that is, 'a saint'. The English word 'saint' comes from the Latin *sanctus* meaning to make sacred or holy.

"name, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever."

**Ep 4:30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

**Ga 3:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

**Is 61:10** For [God] has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness.

## Revelation 7:2-17 ESV

*The Multitude of the Saints*

<sup>2</sup>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, <sup>3</sup>saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." <sup>4</sup>And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: <sup>5</sup>12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad, <sup>6</sup>12,000 from the tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh, <sup>7</sup>12,000 from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar, <sup>8</sup>12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

<sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup>and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup>And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" <sup>14</sup>I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." <sup>15</sup>"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." <sup>16</sup>They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup>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."

**Jo 12:13** So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"

**Ep 5:25-26** Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.

**Ro 5:9** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

**Ph 1:6** And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**Ro 13:14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

"Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear his Word and share in his supper..."

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