

Are the Saints in the Tribulation?

Compiled/formatted by Tom Stephens

Some are convinced the Church will go through the seven year tribulation period because they have found the word “saints” mentioned several times in the Revelation. Therefore, they will answer “yes” to the question in this title. While it is true that, from the beginning of the 7-year tribulation (chapter 6), the text mentions “saints” 13 times. Revelation also mentions another group called elders, or Church Age saints who, after the rapture are dwellers of heaven! (Rev. 12:12). The 12 other “mentions” deal with those who were born again during the tribulation and begin with *Revelation 8:3-4*, which is smack-dab in the middle of the second set of very serious Seven-Trumpet Judgments on earth! This group of saints are those who failed to come to Christ during the Church Age...and now are facing demonic entities (exam: Chap. 9) in the tribulation period!

The evidence is very strong that the saints mentioned in the book of Revelation are those who washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb during the tribulation period—as martyrs—murdered by those who dwell on earth! The following scriptures tell us the evil that lies in the hearts of that reprobate group of “earth dwellers”. So, who are dwellers of the earth?

What Does John Say In Revelation About Those Who Dwell On The Earth?

- They slay each other with a great sword (Rev. 6:3,4).
- They are those who murder the Tribulation Saints. (Rev. 6:10).
- The Wrath of God "3 Woe Judgments" specifically falls on them. (Rev. 8:13).
- They murder, and rejoice over the deaths of the two Jewish witnesses. (Rev. 11:10).
- The message given by these two prophets will torment them. (Rev. 11:10).
- They worship antichrist, and their names aren't in the Book of Life. (13:8, 12).
- They will be deceived by the miracles of the false prophet. (Rev. 13:14).
- Will be intoxicated & blinded by a false one-world religious system (17:2).
- They will worship the beast (antichrist) and they will accept his mark. (20:4).

Please stay with me while we learn who the elders are as named in God’s Word:

Reading from Revelation 7:9-12

“⁹...a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes and palms in their hands; ¹⁰And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb. ¹¹And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, ¹²Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen. . . .

Notice the elders are worshipping along with the martyred Tribulation saints in heaven. Now we need to look closely at the rest of the passage, for Apostle John, now an elder, is having a discussion with another elder who was—in chapter 4—raptured into heaven. Their conversation is extremely important if we desire the truth as to who this massive, innumerable group of saints is. Verse 13 begins the conversation between these two members (Elders) of the Church Age. Note the elders and the saints are now dwellers of heaven—elders being the raptured Church of Jesus Christ!

As verse 12 states, the innumerable body of saints “fell before the throne on their faces, saying, Amen:

Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen.” Now let’s look closer at their conversation:

Verse 13: One elder to John: “*What (Who) are these arrayed in white robes? And where did they come from?*”

John’s response: ¹⁴“*Sir, you already know, don’t you?*”

The other elder answered John, “*Yes. These are they who came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵Therefore, they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more, neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*” (Rev. 7:13-17).

This group is those who were martyred during the 7-Trumpet judgments, (Rev. 7:7-13). They had their white robes but notice God wasn’t exactly telling them they would rule the world with Christ Himself. What the Word tells us is that these saints will continually serve God day and night; He will dwell among them, feed them; and they will not thirst. Unlike we who are saved during the period of grace, this group rejected Jesus during the Church Age when the Holy Spirit desired to bring them to Christ.

Some Christians today believe those who enter the tribulation period unsaved probably do not deserve another chance **during** the tribulation; Christ is being very gentle with this group He so loves; and because He loves them as His own, He blesses them many ways...by His eternal love. Yet, they will have jobs related to their judgments, and ruling with Christ may not be a reality for these.

Though God shows His commitment to bring **all men to Himself now**, many are still rejecting Him today—and will continue to reject Him in the future tribulation period, no matter how terrible this demonic time will be! Here’s what Apostle John wrote about this subject:

¹⁷*And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.* ¹⁸*By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.* ¹⁹*For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.* ²⁰*[And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: ²¹Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts”].* (Rev. 9: 17-21)

It’s amazing to me that in this demonic time of the Tribulation period men remain rebellious—rejecting Christ!

In every case, the elders of the New Testament Church were God-anointed men working and ministering under the Holy Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But the saints mentioned in Revelation 7:9-17 are an **uncountable** group. Many have been murdered during this time of tribulation. The **Great** Tribulation begins in the middle of the week and is the most

horrible time ever on earth—so much so that there will never again be a time like it! Yet, some tribulation saints likely will live into the 1,000 year millennial reign of Christ—under Christ’s ruler-ship. The elders will meet Christ in the air, then in Heaven—preparing for the wedding of The Lamb (Rev. 19:9). Then the raptured Church, immediately following the marriage supper of the Lamb, will mount up on horses with Christ to be a part of the victorious battle of Armageddon.

Are there further proofs that the Church was raptured in Revelation, chapter 4? The answer is yes! You can find several proofs in chapters 4:1-4 and 5:8-10. You will also find where the elders—the raptured church—continued in praises. I have written both portions of scripture for you, the reader.

¹⁰*The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth forever and ever, and **cast their crowns before the throne**, saying, ¹¹Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. (Rev 4:10,11)*

⁸*And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, **which are the prayers of saints**¹. ⁹And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and **hast redeemed us to God** by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; ¹⁰And **hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth**. (Revelation 5: 8-10)*

Only the King of kings and the redeemed wear crowns!

But hear this. The rapture of the “Church” (now elders) was a resurrection (incorruptible) and is no longer on earth. However the saints on earth still have corruptible bodies which can be destroyed in the tribulation! The saints then are still in their physical/carnal bodies; and most will be martyred.

You will find the elders in continuous praise of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ through the book of Revelation. Oftentimes the elders join in with the other angels and creatures—such as the four living creatures mentioned often in the book of Ezekiel. These creatures continually stayed by His throne in worship and praise—never out of the shadow of God Himself!

A passage of Scripture that should encourage us:

¹¹*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death. ¹²Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. (Revelation 12:11, 12).*

More reasons we can believe the Pre-Trib rapture: His church is...

- Sealed with promise at the time of salvation. (Ephesians 1:13).
- Sitting with Him in heavenly places right now. (Eph. 1:13; 1:20; 2:16; 3:10).
- Espoused (betrothed; engaged) to Him forever. (2 Corinthians 11:2).
- Not appointed to wrath; but to obtain salvation. (2 Cor.1:22; Eph. 4:30; 1 Thes. 5:9).
- To comfort one another with these words. (1 Thes. 4:18; 2 Thes. 2:17).
- A chosen generation, a royal Priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” (1 Pet. 2:9).
- Adopted of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, (Ephesians 1:5).

¹**Saints.** Denotes saints during the Church Age only. The Church Age is closed; and the tribulation will not begin until Rev. 6.

Who Are Elders Are: (see scripture references below)

- They cannot be any heavenly **or** earthly entity outside of The Father, Christ, or mankind.
- In the O.T., elders represented those who ministered in and around the Tabernacle.
- In the Old Testament, elders represented leadership and ministry within the Temple.
- In the New Testament, elders represented leadership/government within the Sanhedrin.
- In the New Testament, elders worked with God's leadership in the ministries of His Church.
- The Holy Spirit led Apostle Paul to ordain elders by the laying on of hands into every church.

Acts 14:22, 23:

²²Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. ²³And when they had **ordained them elders** in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

1 Corinthians 7:17: *But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so **ordain I in all churches.***

1 Timothy 2:7, 8: ⁷Whereunto I am **ordained** a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity. ⁸I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

Titus 1:4, 5: *To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour. ⁵For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and **ordain elders** in every city, as I had appointed thee.*

The elder will always show great leadership:

If you do not believe we are living in the day of supernatural gifts from God enabling His people to continue in healing and deliverance, prophetic ministries, Word of Knowledge, speaking in other tongues, and other ministries as delivered to the New Covenant saints on the day of Pentecost, then you most likely have never received a true and full revelation of who Jesus Christ really is.

I have one question to ask you. Hopefully you will meditate just a little while before giving the answer: "Do you read and study the Words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to learn at His feet the things closest to His heart; or do you read the Bible only to learn facts and contend for the faith?"

¹²Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. (Rev. 12:12).

(All signs of emphasis' are mine, the writer)

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