

The Revelation to St. John

John's Vision of the Church Militant: Revelation 7:1-8

“Church of God, elect and holy, be the people He intends; strong in faith and swift to answer each command your Master sends: Royal priests, fulfill your calling through your sacrifice and prayer; give your lives in joyful service—sing His praise, His love declare.” –James Edward Seddon; *LSB* 646, “Church of God, Elect and Glorious,” stanza 4

Understanding the Text

Read Revelation 7:1-3.

1. Revelation 6 closes with a vision of God's Judgment on the Last Day and the question, “Who can stand?” What answer does John receive as this interlude begins (v.1)?

2. What does the fifth angel come to tell the other four angels (vv.2-3)?

Read Revelation 7:4-8.

3. What is the significance of the 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel (v.4)?

4. What is unique about the listing of the tribes of Israel here (vv.5-8)?

Applying the Text

God keeps His Christians safe even when troubles are unleashed upon the world.

1. What is God doing for His Church in times of relative peace? What is God doing for His Church during times when opposition is heated?

2. Where do we continue to find security during earthly trouble?

God sends His Christians forth even when troubles are unleashed upon the world.

3. What is the Church's reaction to the persecutions and troubles from this world?

4. After the opening of the first six seals (Revelation 6), what comfort does God give us in the first part of Revelation 7?