

Revelation 7:2–17

²Then 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, ³saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." ⁴And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

⁵12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed,

12,000 from the tribe of Reuben,

12,000 from the tribe of Gad,

⁶12,000 from the tribe of Asher,

12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali,

12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,

⁷12,000 from the tribe of Simeon,

12,000 from the tribe of Levi,

12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,

⁸12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun,

12,000 from the tribe of Joseph,

12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

⁹After 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, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And 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,

¹²saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴I 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.

¹⁵"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.

¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;

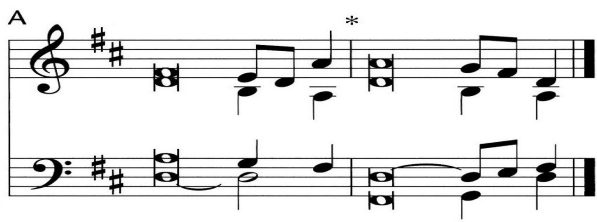
the sun shall not strike them,

nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷For 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."



Psalm 149

¹Praise the Lord!
Sing to the Lord a | new song,*
his praise in the assembly of the | godly!

²Let Israel be glad in his | Maker;*
let the children of Zion rejoice | in their
King!

³Let them praise his name with | dancing,*
making melody to him with tambou- |
rine and lyre!

⁴For the Lord takes pleasure in his | people;*
he adorns the humble with sal- | vation.

⁵Let the godly exult in | glory;*
let them sing for joy | on their beds.

⁶Let the high praises of God be | in their
throats*
and two-edged swords | in their hands,
⁷to execute vengeance on the | nations*
and punishments on the | peoples,
⁸to bind their | kings with chains*
and their nobles with fet- | ters of iron,
⁹to execute on them the judgment | written!*

This is honor for all his godly ones. |
Praise the Lord!

1 John 3:1–3

¹See what kind of love the Father has
given to us, that we should be called children
of God; and so we are. The reason why the
world does not know us is that it did not
know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children
now, and what we will be has not yet
appeared; but we know that when he appears
we shall be like him, because we shall see him
as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in
him purifies himself as he is pure.

Matthew 5:1–12

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on
the mountain, and when he sat down, his
disciples came to him.

²And he opened his mouth and taught
them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they
shall be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they shall
inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and
thirst for righteousness, for they shall be
satisfied.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall
receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they
shall see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they
shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted
for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when others revile
you and persecute you and utter all kinds of
evil against you falsely on my account.

¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great
in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets
who were before you."