Revelation 7:2–17

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

9 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, 10 and crying out with a loud voice,
"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on
the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 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,
12 saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and
wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and
power and might be to our God forever and
ever! Amen."

13 Then one of the elders addressed
me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in
white robes, and from where have they
come?" 14 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.
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.
16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst
anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.
17 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."



Psalm 149

1 Praise the Lord!
Sing to the Lord a | new song,*
his praise in the assembly
of the | godly!
2 Let Israel be glad in his | Maker;*
let the children of Zion rejoice |
in their King!
3 Let them praise his name with | dancing,*
making melody to him
with tambou- | rine and lyre!
4 For the Lord takes pleasure
in his | people;*
he adorns the humble
with sal- | vation.
5 Let the godly exult in | glory;*
let them sing for joy | on their beds.
6 Let the high praises of God
be | in their throats*
and two-edged swords |
in their hands,
7 to execute vengeance on the | nations*
and punishments on the | peoples,
8 to bind their | kings with chains*
and their nobles
with fet- | ters of iron,
9 to execute on them
the judgment | written!*
This is honor for all his godly ones. |
Praise the Lord!

1 John 3:1–3

1 See 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. 2 Beloved, 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. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Matthew 5:1–12

1 Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.
2 And 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.
12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."