**Heaven Is Not Full**

**Understanding the Reading – Revelation 7:1-8**

**The Question**

***“For the great day of their wrath is come, and who can stand?” (Revelation 6:17)***.

The preceding question: ***“O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” (Revelation 6:10).***

God tells them to be patient and rest for a little while. ***(Revelation 6:11) Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.***

With the opening of the sixth seal in verse twelve, judgment begins. ***(Revelation 6:12-17)I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.  13And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.  14Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.  15And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,  16and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!  17For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”***

The divine answer is found in chapter seven.

**The Answer: Part 1**

The destruction of Judgment halts while the faithful servants of God under the Jewish system are marked or sealed. ***(Revelation 7:1-8) After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.  2Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”  4And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:***

***5 of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed; 6  of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed; 7  of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed; 8 of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.*** Twelve thousand out of twelve tribes equals 144,000 souls.

The first part of the answer is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**The Answer: Part 2**

After the 144,000, John sees another group of people. ***(Revelation 7:9-17) After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,  10and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”***

…  ***13Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?” 14And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and 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 who sits on the throne will dwell among them.  16They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;  17for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”***

Who are these people? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

So the full answer to the question in 6:17 is faithful Israelites under the Mosaic system and faithful Christians under Christ’s system.

Why did the Israelites have a definite number and the Christians did not?

**The Confusion**

A definite number because the Jewish system of salvation had stopped.

Judaism had already saved all it ever would save.

On the other hand, the Christian scheme of redemption continues today. People are still being saved daily by the blood of the Lamb.

That number continues to grow because it is a multitude ***that no one could number***.

People living today aren’t part of the 144,000 because that number only applied to the number of saved Jews under a system that was nailed to the cross. ***Colossians 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross***;