

# THE SEVEN-FOLD VISIONS

## (6:1 – 16:21)

### FIRST VISION

SCENE 1-5 – Seals 1-5 (6:1-11)

SCENE 6 – Sixth Seal (6:12-17)  
(End of this World) (**NO Battle Scene**)

***The Interlude: Comfort and  
and Protection of the Church (7:1-17)***

SCENE 7 – Seventh Seal (8:1-5)  
(Introduces the Second Vision)



### SECOND VISION

SCENE 1-5 – Trumpets 1-5 (8:6 – 9:12)

SCENE 6 – Sixth Trumpet (9:13-21)  
(The Great Battle)

*The Interlude: The Church in Mission and  
God's Protection (10:1-11:14)*

SCENE 7 – Seventh Trumpet (11:15-19)  
(End of this World)

*The Interregnum*  
(Chapters 12-14)

### THIRD VISION

SCENE 1-5 – Bowls 1-5 (15:1 – 16:11)

SCENE 6 – Sixth Bowl (16:12-16)  
(The Battle of Armageddon)

SCENE 7 – Seventh Bowl (16:17-21)  
(End of this World)

# THE INTERLUDE: COMFORT AND PROTECTION OF THE CHURCH (7:1-17)



# **Outline of Revelation 7:**

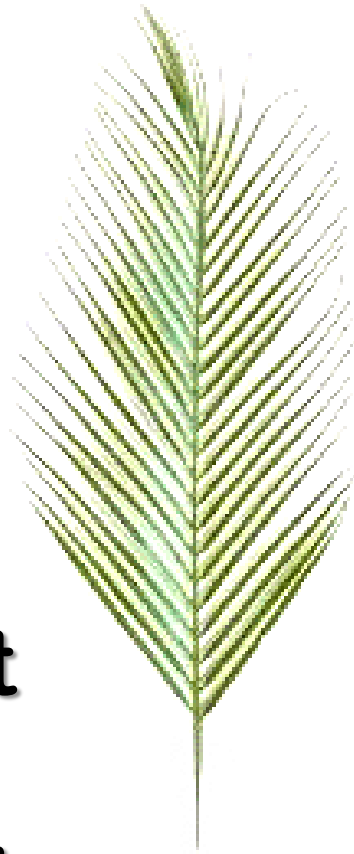
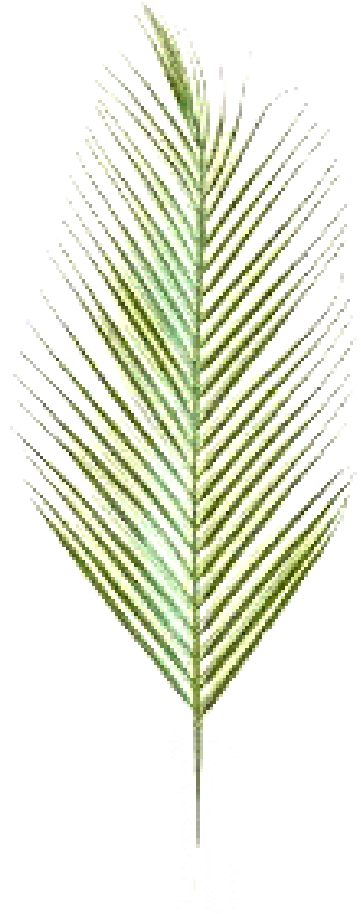
**The Interlude: A Vision of Comfort**

**The Church Militant (Scene #1)  
(7:1-8)**

**The Church Triumphant (Scene #2)  
(7:9-17)**

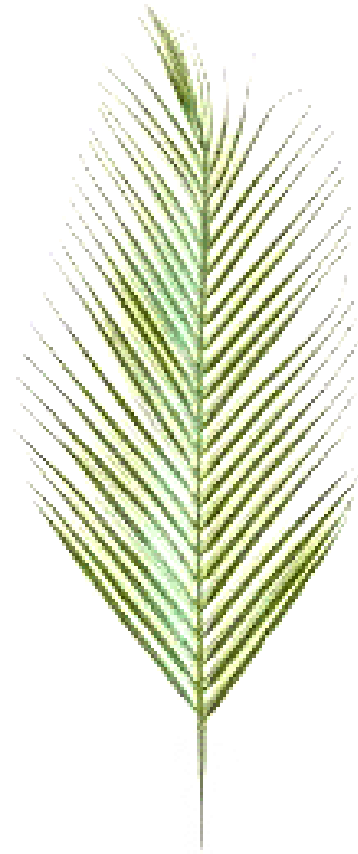
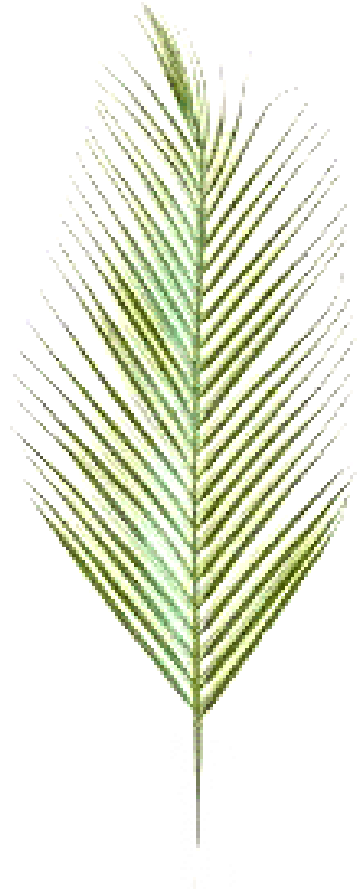
# The Church Militant (Scene #1) (7:1-8)

In the *first scene*, John sees the 144,000 sealed. The 144,000 represent God's saints on earth in perfect order and ready to march. This is the Church Militant – ready to carry out His orders – the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



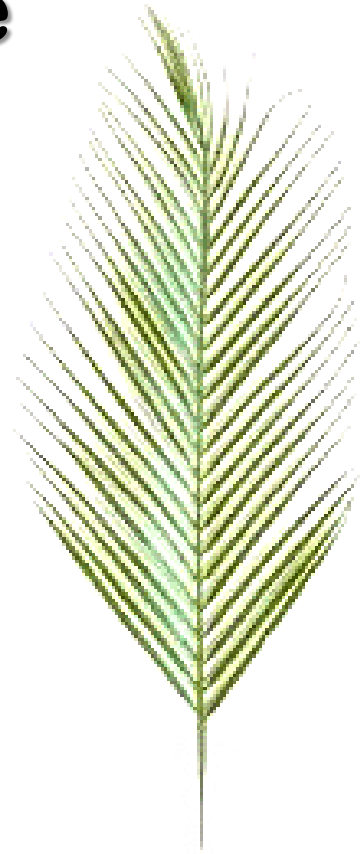
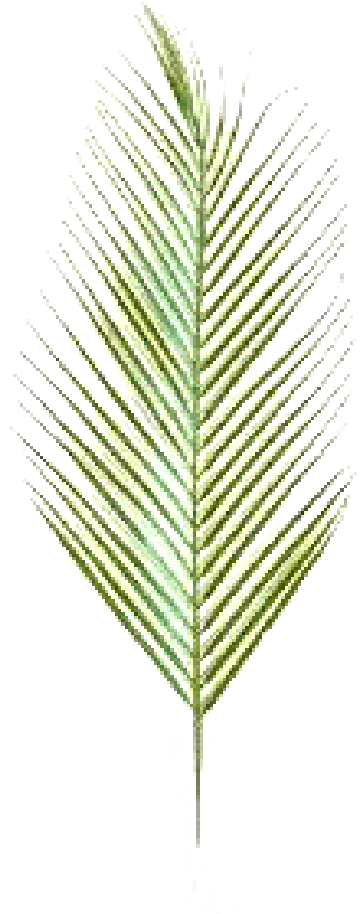
# The Church Militant (Scene #1) (7:1-8)

**v.1: *“The four winds”*** (of destruction) are held back while the church on earth has time to grow. The four winds are, again, references to agents of God’s judgment (cf. Jeremiah 49:36). These four winds are identified with the first four trumpets in 8:6-13. Details of and how this identification is made, will be covered then.



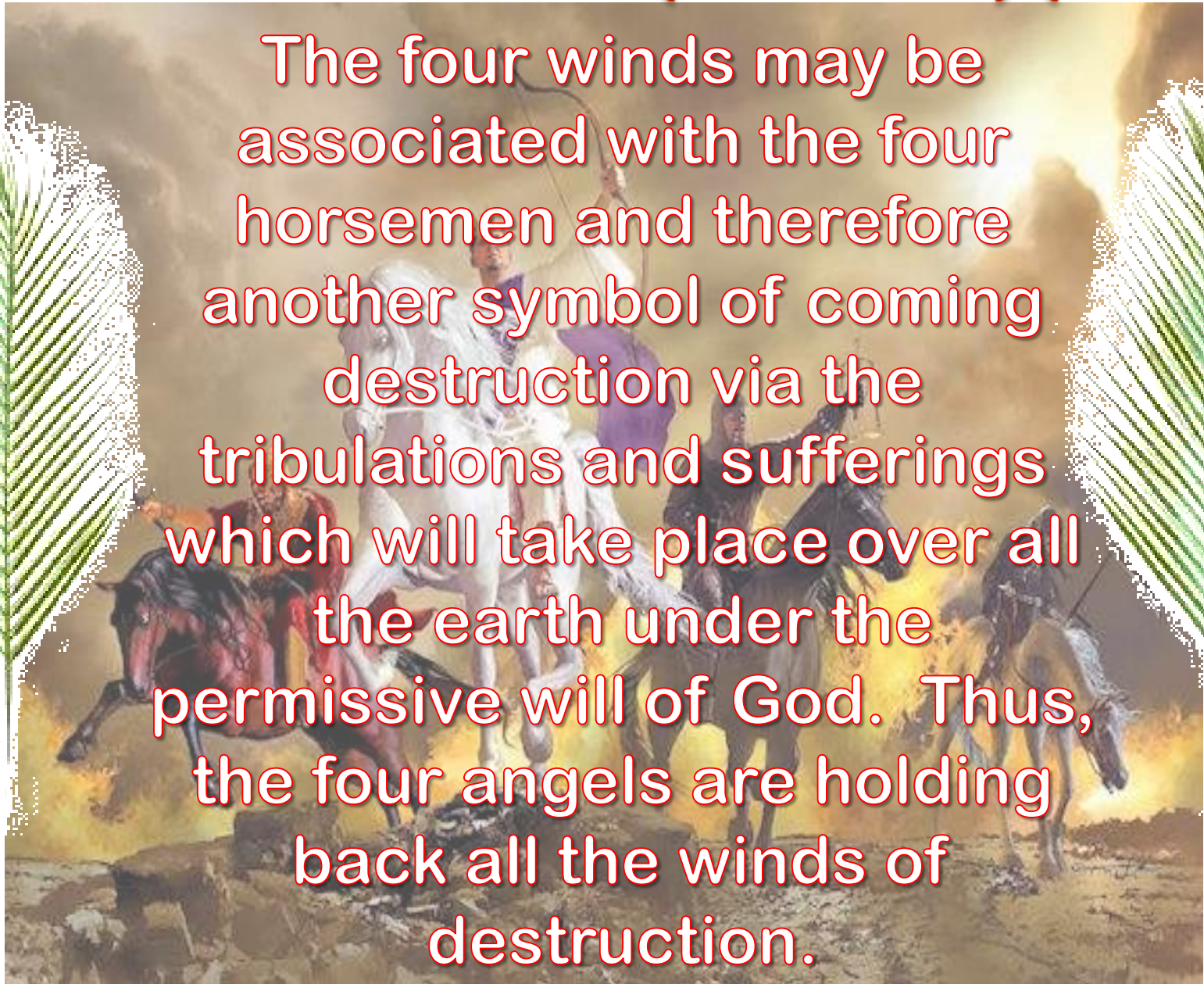
# The Church Militant (Scene #1) (7:1-8)

The point here is that these calamities are held off until the church has a chance to be established (7:3 *“Do not harm...until we have sealed...”*). When these disasters come (8:6 and following) the imagery of wind is no longer used.



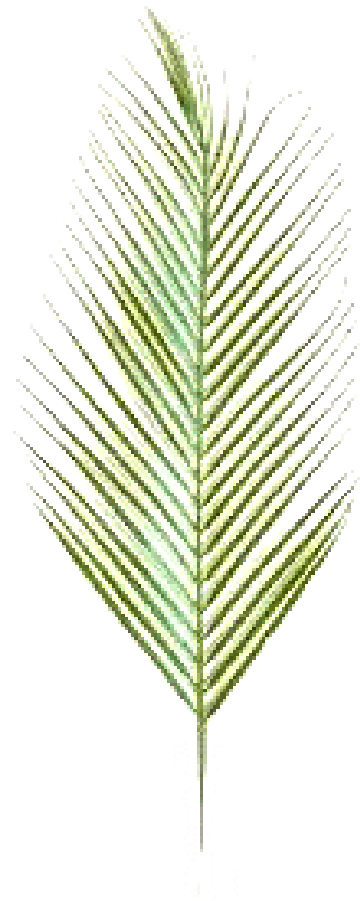
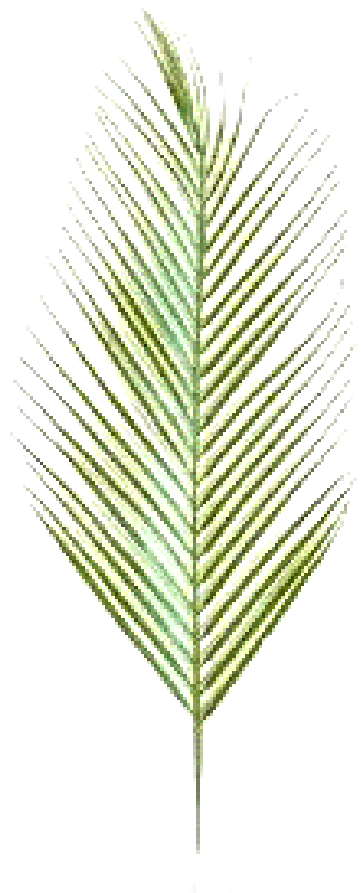
# The Church Militant (Scene #1) (7:1-8)

The four winds may be associated with the four horsemen and therefore another symbol of coming destruction via the tribulations and sufferings which will take place over all the earth under the permissive will of God. Thus, the four angels are holding back all the winds of destruction.



# The Church Militant (Scene #1) (7:1-8)

Vv.2, 3 – “...the seal of the Living God...” “Sealed...on their foreheads.” The Greek word: **σφραγίδα** in verse 2 is a noun; thus, God’s signet-ring.



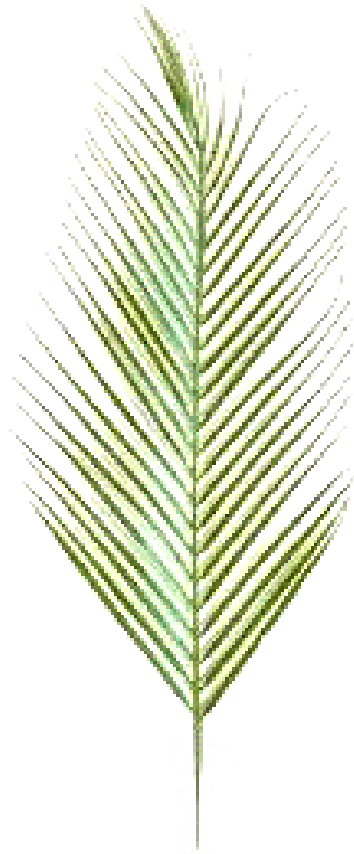
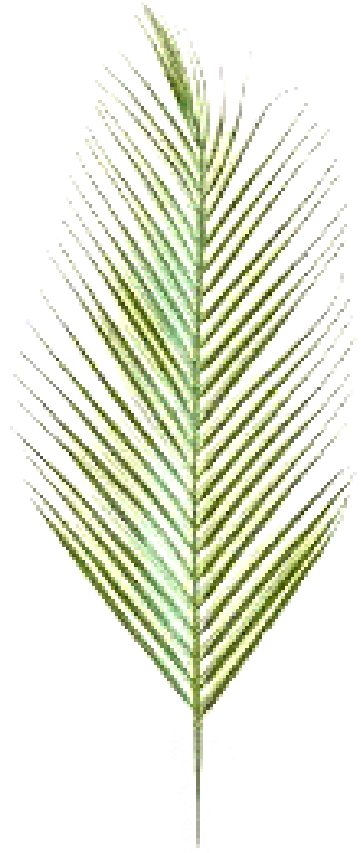


# The Church Militant (Scene #1) (7:1-8)

In verse 3, John uses Aorist Subjunctive Active, 1<sup>st</sup> Person Plural verb: **σφραγίσωμεν**.

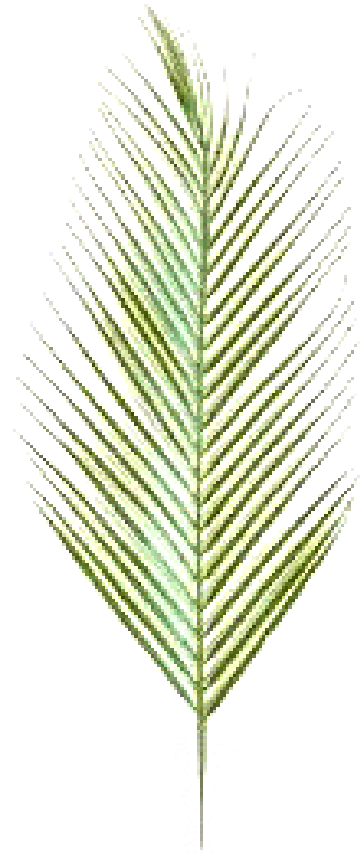
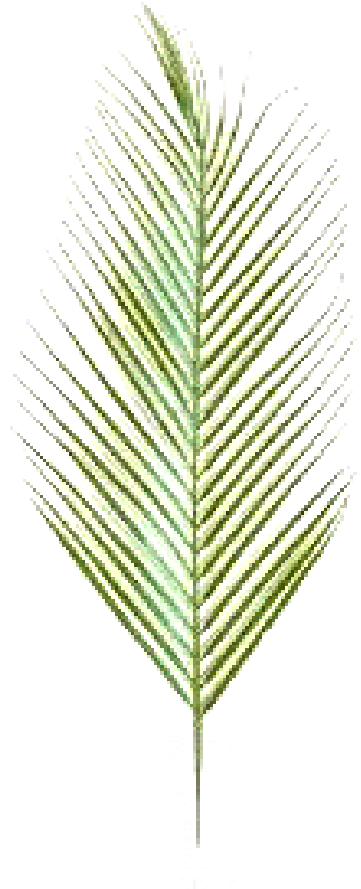
Thus, the sense of the word is that it's the Holy Trinity (1<sup>st</sup> person plural (we)) who is doing a simple, deliberative act...sealing!

See also Ezekiel 9:3-6.



# The Church Militant (Scene #1) (7:1-8)

**Vv.4-8 -- *The Number of those Sealed: "144,000"* -- Some groups understand this to be taken literally (Millennialists, many Baptists and Methodists, most "Churches of God" and Pentecostals; also many non-Christian groups -- Jehovah's Witness, and other cults). The question is -- can this be taken literally?**

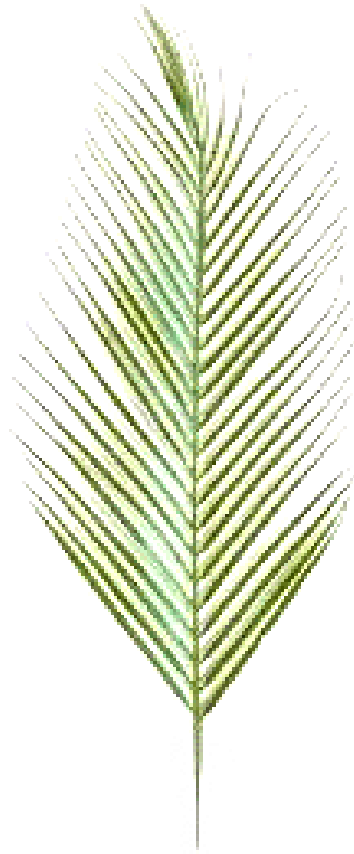
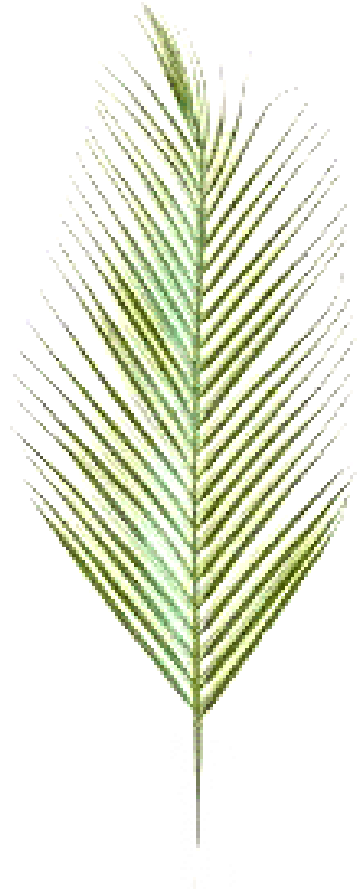


# The Church Militant (Scene #1) (7:1-8)

Does Scripture give any other clues as to who might be “Israel” here?

*Genesis 22:15-18*

-- Who is this a prophecy of?  
(Note: The Living Bible, the RSV, and the New English Bible are all grossly mistranslated here.)



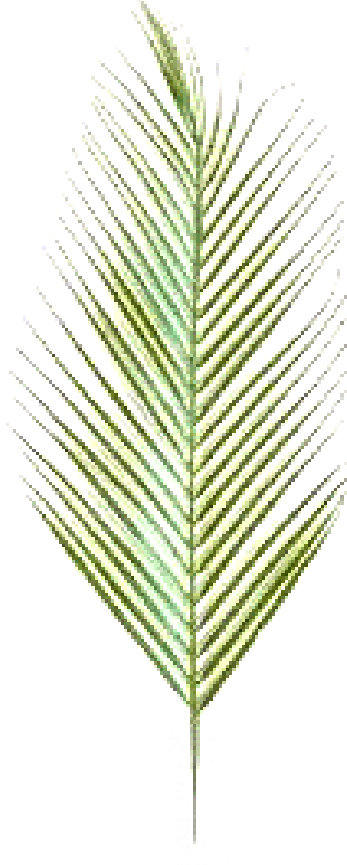
# **The Church Militant (Scene #1) (7:1-8)**



**Romans 9:6-8 -- Who are the true descendants of Abraham, according to God's Word?**

**Romans 2:28-29 -- What makes one a "Jew"?**

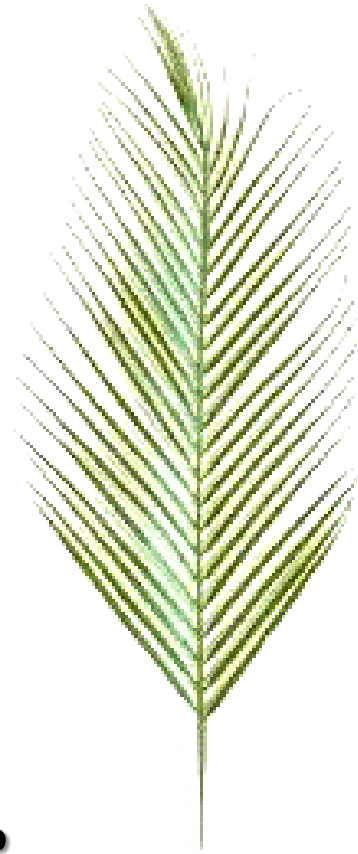
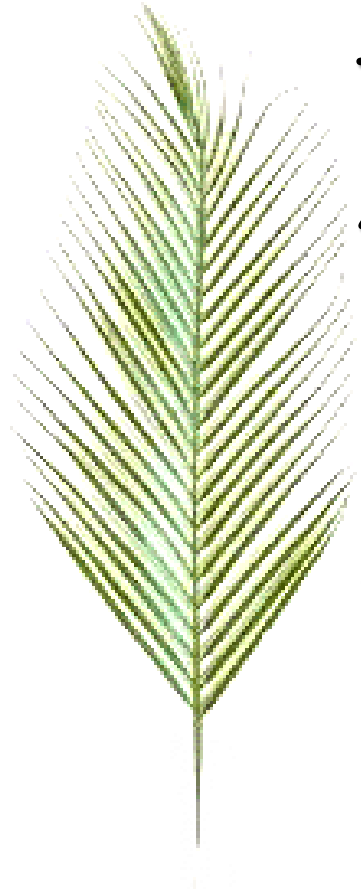
**Matthew 3:8-9 -- What information does Jesus add here to the identity of a true child of Abraham?**



# The Church Militant (Scene #1) (7:1-8)

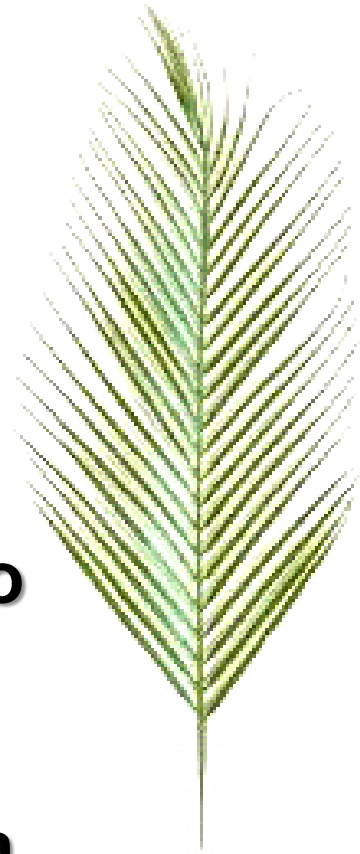
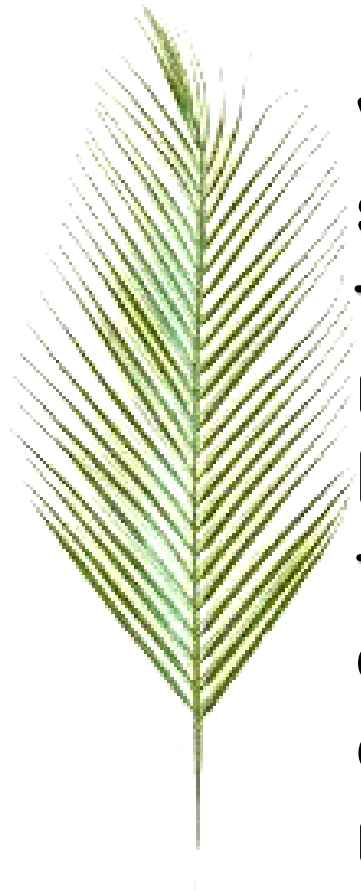
We arrive at the meaning of the 144,000:

*All the saved from the Old and New Testament Church. Those who are sealed for protection during the troubles to come are all the saved, forgetting none. Those who truly are God's children through the Lord Jesus need fear nothing, either in these woes or the related woes to come. This is a great comfort.*



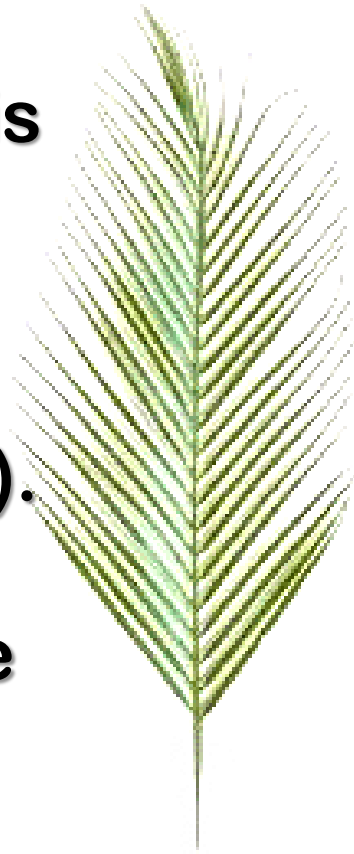
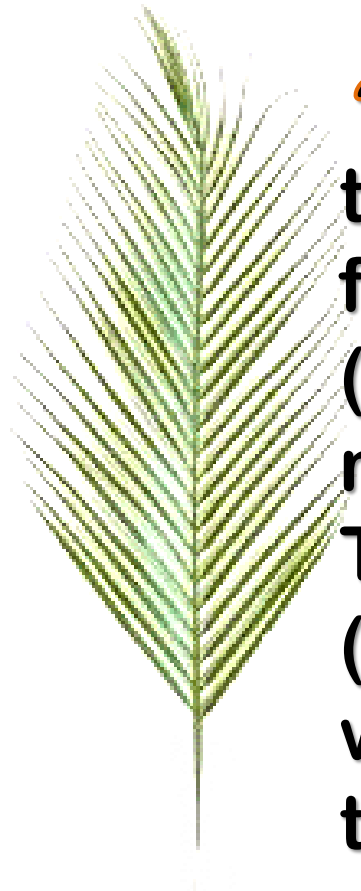
# The Church Triumphant (Scene #2) (7:9-17)

**v.9 – Here begins the second scene and it's much different from the first. The first thing we notice as we view this assembly before the throne of God is that the multitude was so great that no one could count it. This makes it clear that the 144,000 as the number of the saved in Christ is a symbolic number.**



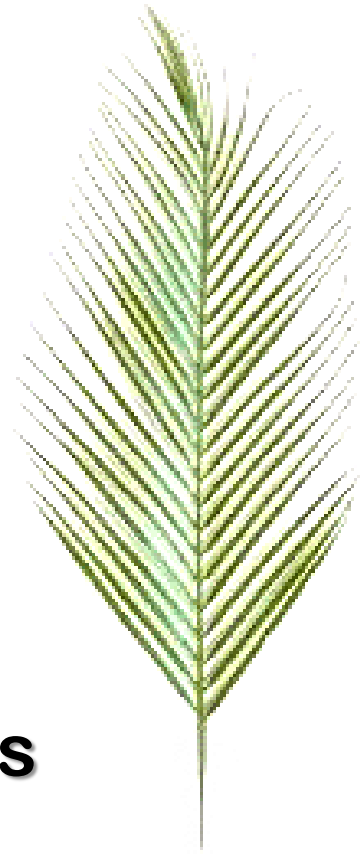
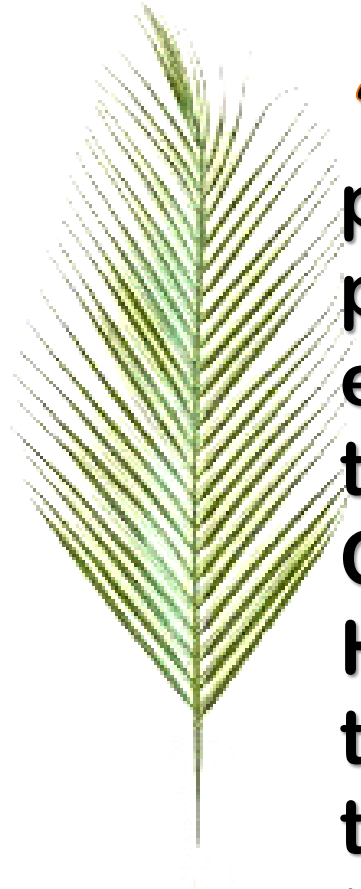
# The Church Triumphant (Scene #2) (7:9-17)

*“...arrayed in white robes”* – This is the third time that John sees figures dressed in white robes: (the twenty-four Elders, the martyred saints beneath the altar). They are clothed in the white (holiness and righteousness) robe with which the Lamb has clothed them (another sign that the saints are saved by faith in Jesus, not by their (our) works).



# The Church Triumphant (Scene #2) (7:9-17)

***“Standing”*** (perfect/active participle) -- these who were persecuted on Earth now stand, erect and confident, before the throne of God. They have taken Christ’s victory in the world and His holiness (which was given to them as a gift). This is what allows them to stand before their Heavenly Father.

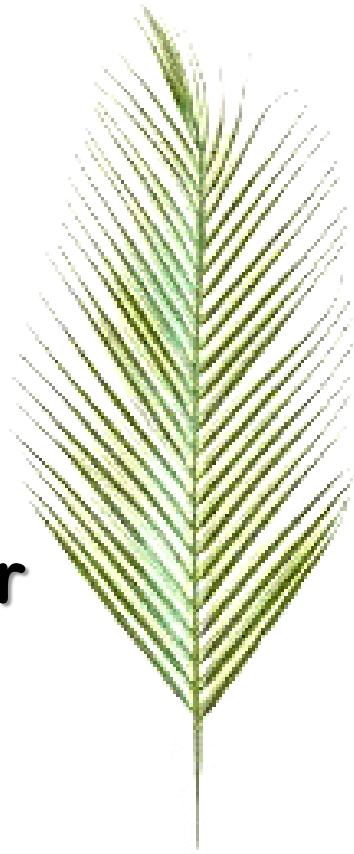




# The Church Triumphant (Scene #2)

## (7:9-17)

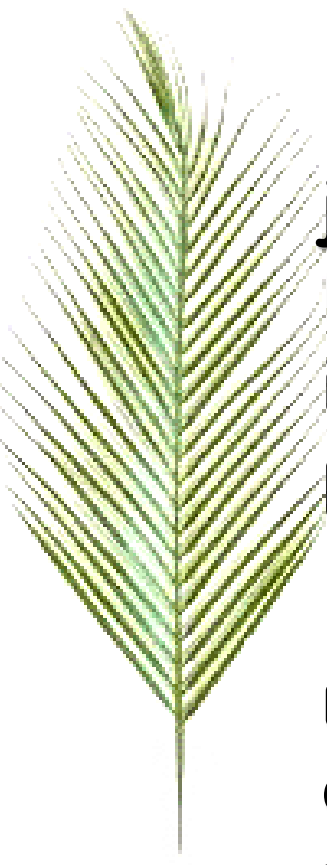
***“Palm branches”*** -- Further stresses that this is a time of festive joy. In OT times, it was specified that palm branches be used in connection with the Feast of Tabernacles, an end of the year harvest celebration in Israel, which also looked ahead to the time when the Christ would reap the redeemed unto Himself in heaven.





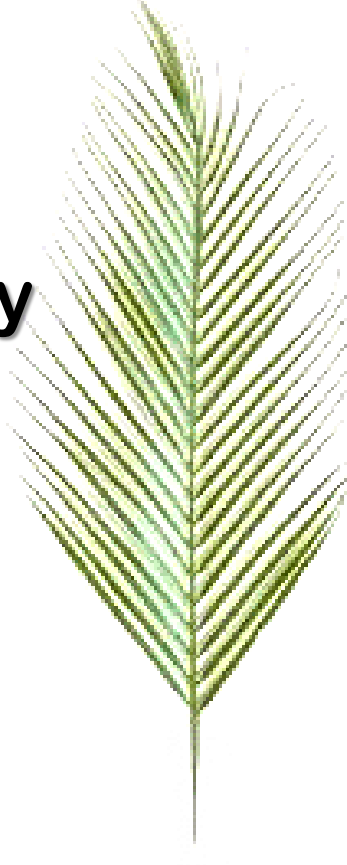
I cried with a loud voice,  
"Salvation to our God  
which sits upon the  
Throne and unto the Lamb!"

# The Church Triumphant (Scene #2) (7:9-17)



***“Salvation”*** -- They are filled with joy as no human before has ever known! This salvation is found only in the Lamb, which has been provided by our heavenly Father.

It is a cruel fiction that there are many paths to God. There is no other Name given among men whereby we must be saved, Acts 4:12.



Rev. 7:11-12

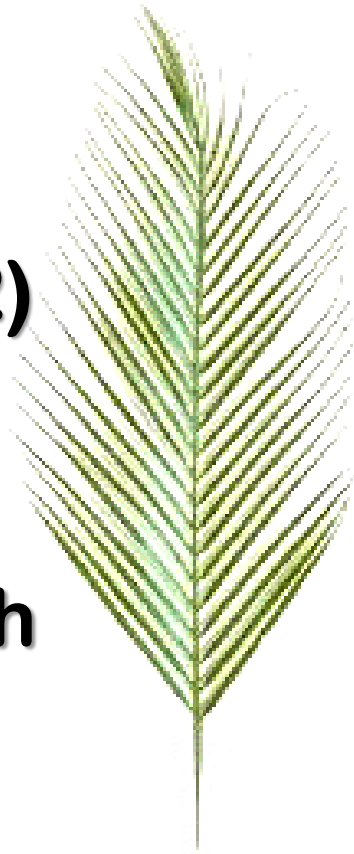
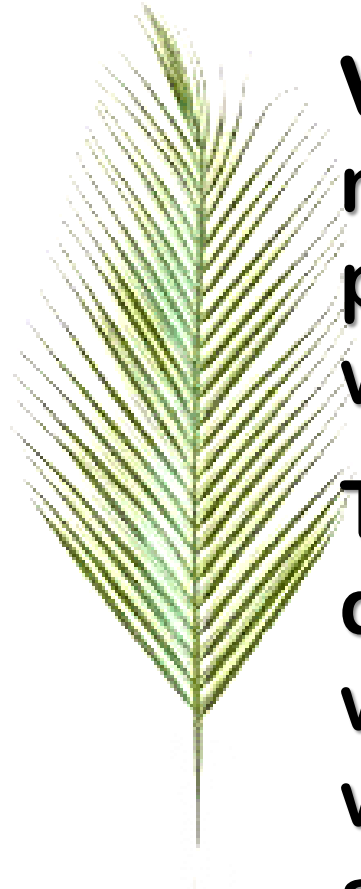
All the messengers stood round about the throne and the elders and the four Living Creatures, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshiped Yahweh, saying, "Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever, Amen."



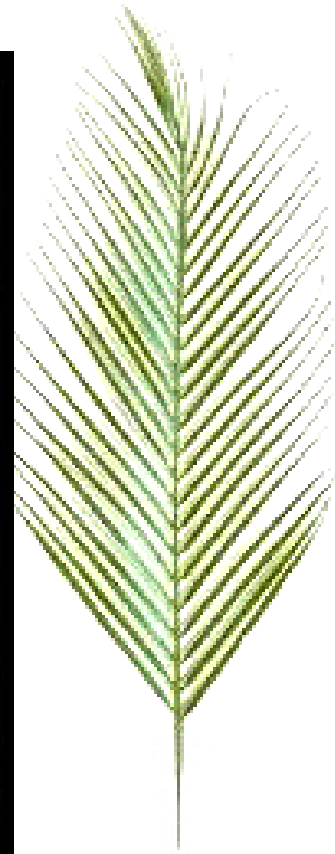
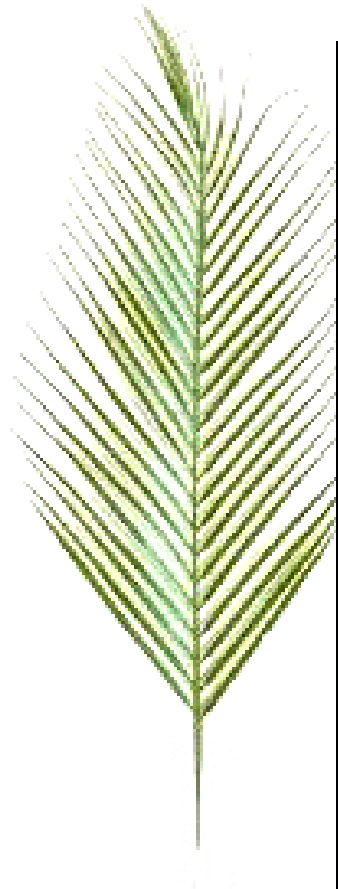
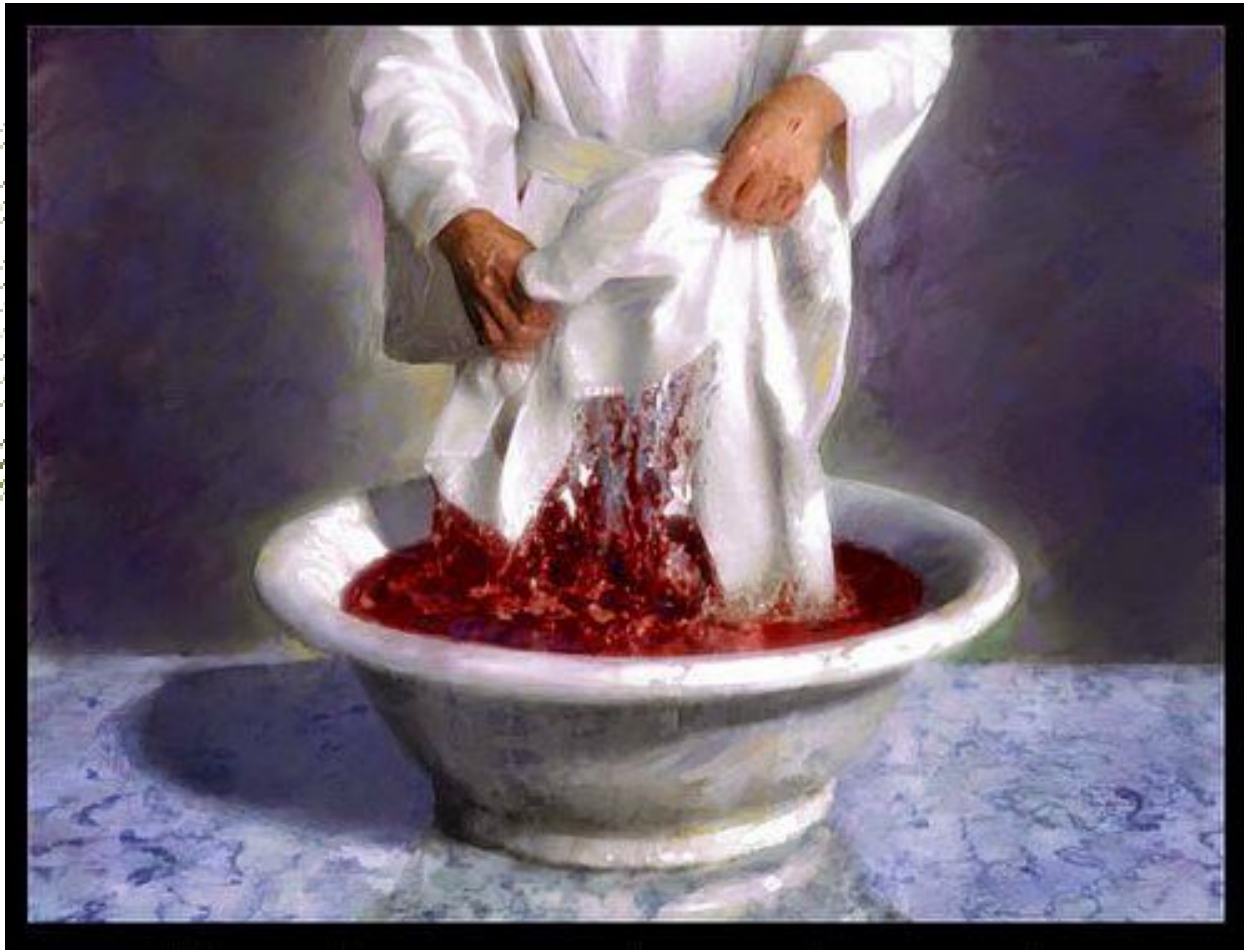
# The Church Triumphant (Scene #2) (7:9-17)

**Vv.13, 14 -- One of the elders now questions John on two points: 1) who are these? And 2) where did they come from?**

**These are two very specific questions, and John has enough wisdom to keep his mouth shut when he doesn't know the answer, a lesson which many theologians need to learn!**



# The Church Triumphant (Scene #2) (7:9-17)

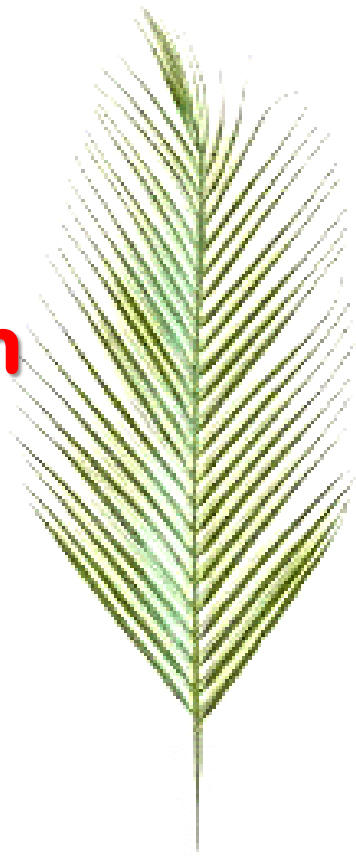
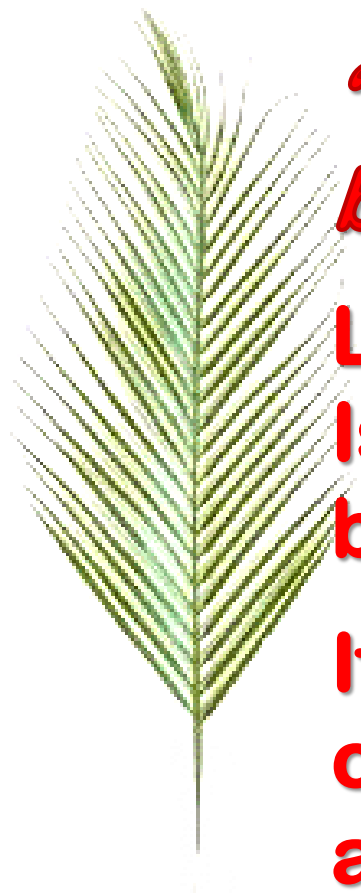


# The Church Triumphant (Scene #2) (7:9-17)

***“Washed their robes in the  
blood of the Lamb”***

**Let’s read 1 John 1:7-9 and then  
Isaiah 1:18 for the Scriptural  
basis of this language.**

**If these passages don’t make it  
clear enough that this washing  
and making white is not our  
doing, see Matthew 22:2-14.**



# The Church Triumphant (Scene #2) (7:9-17)

Vv.15-17 -- A picture of life in heaven for the redeemed is to be found in this description of life in heaven for these who came out of the tribulation. A number of the important aspects of life in eternity are spelled out here. Our fellowship with God will be perfect and intimate. We will serve Him, finally realizing perfectly the purpose for which we were made. And as we live this purpose, we will know Divine happiness.



# The Church Triumphant (Scene #2) (7:9-17)

And *“He...will dwell among them”* indicates the intimacy of this relationship. Verse 16 points out that the sources of suffering we knew in earthly life will be gone and forgotten. Verse 17 focuses on the intimacy which we will have with Christ. Note that even in heaven He will continue to be our source of all that is good.

