

EP63 Revelation 7 verses 9-14

144,000 (the Multitudes)

Revelation 7:9-11

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, having been standing before the throne and before the Lamb, having been clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they now cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who chooses to now be sitting on the throne, and to the Lamb." And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Still, Who Are They?

John was given the numbers (144,000) and then he was given the **Unusual List** of the Tribes of Israel with both Jewish and Gentile imagery, and then he was shown this great innumerable gathering of people from every tribe, peoples, tongue, and nation of the earth, but John still did not totally understand the sight. And since this image is too powerful, too significant, to leave to speculation, it had to be clarified.

Revelation 7:13-14

Then one of the elders answered, now saying to me, "These who have chosen to be clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who are now choosing to be coming out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

It is interesting that one of the Elders (those who symbolize the church) is the one who engages John versus an angel or a voice from the midst of the throne. It is probably in the vein of "it takes one to know one," because this image of the 144,000 is synonymous with the image of the 24-Elders—it is a picture of the church at large.

However, the Elder does not just explain right away what John is seeing, rather, in a heuristic fashion he asks John to tell him, as if John should easily know and understand this image. I am sure John felt a bit sheepish for not knowing what he was looking at; hence his response, "*you know*." But in asking John, this Elder is asking us, as if we should easily know and understand this image.

This dynamic is played out in the **Code**. When John speaks ("*I said*" and "*you know*"), he uses the *perfect active indicative* (to communicate the past action). But when the Elder "*said*"—it is rendered in the *aorist active indicative* (again communicating a past action). The difference is that what John said is to be understood as something that is still lingering around and not just a simple statement on what happened.

In other words, John really does not know, and so he said, “*you know*” as a lingering question of sort that still needs to be answered.

Fiction Alert

FICTION ALERT

Most of your translations say that these are those who “**come out of the great tribulation.**” Therefore, many have concluded that this is the proof they need to substantiate the claim that these are a new type of believer, these are the “**tribulation saints.**”

As previously stated, the fiction goes that this gathering is not a part of the church per se, but a group of people that trust in the Lord after the rapture of the church. This **fiction** is based on the notion that the church is already raptured, and the Spirit, in its operation in-and-through the church to restrain sin and darkness on this earth, has been removed from the earth.¹ Therefore, they conclude that this must be a special sort of “**tribulation saint**” that is destined to endure the “great tribulation” which they say includes the entire 7-year period.

Once again, sticking to the **Code**, the fiction quickly becomes evident. Let us consider the image:

First, “clothed” is rendered in the *perfect middle participle*. This gathering of people each have dug down deep in their soul and sometime in the past have chosen to continually be clothed in white robes. Therefore, according to the **Code**, we know they have chosen to be cloaked in the righteousness and purity that comes from **Yahweh Tsikdenu (Yahweh our Righteousness)**.

Second, their robes are white because they have washed them (literally plunged them) in the blood of the lamb. **The source matters, the source is everything!** These robes are white because of the Lamb.²

Third, they are even now choosing to be coming out of the great tribulation. And in this we find our key to understanding this image and why the traditional line of thought is fiction. Once again, the Spirit utilizes **Code** to imbed His message.

These are (*present tense*) those who have dug down deep in their soul and **are now choosing** to be coming out of the tribulation (*present middle participle*). If this image were of a completed action, it would have either been rendered in the *aorist indicative* or the *perfect tense* or perhaps even the *pluperfect*, but no, this is a statement on a present reality.

**THEY ARE NOW CHOOSING TO BE COMING OUT OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION,
COMING OUT OF THE TIME OF YAHWEH’S WRATH.**

And perhaps this is the reason this Elder asked John (asked us) the question, “*who are they and where*

¹ This **fiction** concludes that the Spirit is “he who restrains” in **2 Thessalonians 2:6-7**

² “white” is **Code** for righteousness and purity.

do they come from.” He wants us to know and to not be deceived by **fiction**, so we can choose to be among those who are now choosing to be coming out of the great tribulation.

In the letters to the churches, we discovered that Jesus continually made His promises of redemption and blessing to those who are now overcoming. And that is the same idea in this picture. We could say it this way:

“Even now, people are continually choosing to NOT be marked by the Beast with the number of his name (666). Even now people are continually choosing that Jesus is their only source of righteousness and purity. Even now there are those who believe in their spiritual poverty and are convinced that without Him they can do nothing. Even now there are those who are continually choosing to come to the Lamb to find themselves approved before God. Yes, even now there are those who have been converted by God and now dig down deep in their soul and choose to become a little child dependent upon God for all things, all the time—which is their ticket out of the Great Tribulation.”

Clearly, mankind is destined for the wrath of God, it is part of their nature as they are children of wrath.³ But there are those who are even now choosing to come out of that destiny, to come out of the great tribulation. They are choosing to now be believing and to now be overcoming. This is their present reality.

Thus, when a person chooses to dig down deep in their soul and now and continually makes the choice to look to the Lamb for their life, they are guaranteed to not participate in the great tribulation. Or said another way, they are guaranteed to be transferred out of the kingdom of this world (as those who abide in this world) into the eternal kingdom of God. They will participate in the first resurrection, the rapture of the church, which occurs prior to the great tribulation (which occurs within the second 3.5-year period).

And *“Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but **they will be priests of God** and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”*⁴

Before the Throne

Revelation 7:15-17

For this reason, they are now before the throne of God; and they now serve Him day and night in His Holy Place {or Sanctuary}; and He who chooses to now be sitting on the throne will tabernacle over {or among} them. They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

The bondservants of Jesus Christ are **now** before the throne of God and they **now** serve, or literally “minister” to Him day and night in the **Holy Place** or the inner sanctuary of His temple, the “*naos*”—the place that only **priests** can enter.⁵ They are not in the temple at large {the “*hieron*”} but they are

³ ***Ephesians 2:3***

⁴ ***Revelation 20:5-6***

⁵ *Note: in the Greek, “hieron” refers to the entire temple grounds, the building and surrounding area, however, the*

specifically in the Sanctuary of God. And all of this is presented to us as a *present* reality for all those who have been raised up with Christ and seated with Him in the heavenly places.⁶

So, what does this practically mean?

First, it means that the bondservants of Christ have a spiritual existence, a spiritual reality, that is not tied to this world. In practicality, however, their physicality tends to be such a strong component of their day-in-and-day-out existence, that often they are not even aware of the fact that they **have been** seated with Him who is choosing to now be sitting on the throne.⁷

Second, it speaks of an authority that they have been given, again, something of which they are so faintly aware. Because He is sitting at the right hand of the Father, Jesus sits far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. In fact, all things have been put in subjection under His feet.⁸ And since His bondservants are seated with Him, they share in the exercise of this authority; after all, they are joint heirs with Jesus Christ and have unlimited rights to share in all that He has been given.⁹

This speaks powerfully of the fact that a bondservant of Jesus Christ should never find himself living in fear of the enemy, whether Satan, the Beast, or any of their demonic minions. The enemy has power for sure, they are glorious for sure, but they are servants of **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of Heaven's Armies) and their ultimate purpose is to render service, or to minister, to those who are destined to inherit salvation.¹⁰ How amazing is that? This is also why when we are fully identified **in Christ**, secure with who we are in Him, we can stand firm against the forces of darkness regardless of what they bring our way, even extinguishing all their flaming arrows of deceit.¹¹

Third, it speaks to a purpose which is far grander than most of us who are stuck viewing our existence through the lens of the physical can understand. The bondservants of Jesus now serve Him day and night in the Sanctuary of **Yahweh**. They are part of a royal priesthood, purposed to proclaim the excellencies of Him who called them out of darkness and into His marvelous light.¹²

There is a promise deep in the **Codex** where **Yahweh** swore that His covenant with the Levites (the priests) will not be broken and where He promised to multiply the Levites who minister before Him.¹³ This promise is realized in the bondservants of Jesus Christ who even now minister before Him in the Sanctuary, as priests of **Yahweh**.

Fourth, it speaks of a place of safety and security. The bondservants of God exist in the Sanctuary of **Yahweh**, and so long as they remain in the Sanctuary, the enemy will not be able to touch them. In fact, the promises of God which speak of protection and safety from the enemy are realized when we abide in

"naos" (which is used in this passage) refers to the inner sanctuary, the Holy Place, where only the priests could enter.

⁶ **Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 3:1-3**

⁷ In **Ephesians 2:6**, "seated" is rendered in the *aorist active indicative*, something that has occurred in the *past*.

⁸ **Ephesians 1:21-22**

⁹ **Romans 8:17**

¹⁰ **Hebrews 1:14**

¹¹ See **Ephesians 6:10-17**

¹² See **1 Peter 2:9**

¹³ **Jeremiah 33:21**

the Sanctuary (or said another way, when we are found to be “**in Christ**”). This level of protection is clearly communicated in **Psalm 91**, and it is addressed to those who abide in the shelter of the Most High.

Fifth, it speaks of His abiding presence with His people.

Sixth, the **Code** suddenly switches to the *future* to address the promise that He will tabernacle, encamp, or to literally dwell with His people.¹⁴ It is what He will do. This is speaking of our **ETERNITY THEN**. “*They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.*” This entire promise is rendered in the *future* tense and therefore speaks of our **ETERNITY THEN**.

The bondservants of God are now before Him and they are His priests who now minister to Him, but this *future* promise of His physically dwelling within the midst of His Chosen ones is not realized until the things of this present world have passed, and **Yahweh** creates a new heaven and a new earth.

Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, now coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, now saying, “**Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them**, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

When **Yahweh** tabernacles with His people, it will be a glorious time, as all the difficulties and troubles of this life will have passed away. Today, the Spirit of God makes His abode in our **New Creation**, He tabernacles with each of us individually, but then those who are even now choosing to be coming out of the great tribulation will be joined as a collective, as a new city, and the Lamb will abide among them.

No Hunger & No Thirst

“*They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore.*” This is similarly rendered in the *future* tense and speaks of what will be. This is a promise that comes straight out of the **Codex**.

Isaiah 49:10

They will not hunger or thirst, nor will the scorching heat or sun strike them down; for He who has compassion on them will lead them and will guide them to springs of water.

This phrase about *hunger and thirst*, however, is to be understood as **Code** and not a statement on our

¹⁴ Rendered in the *future active indicative*

appetite in eternity. Similarly, the references to the scorching heat, sun striking them down, and springs of water are also all **Code**.

According to the **Code**, “*hunger and thirst*” speak not of food but of the incessant yearning and craving we have in our soul to be completed and fulfilled—to have something more. This is a hunger and thirst that exists in all mankind. God created mankind with a need to be completed in Him and by Him, and until that takes place this craving (the *hunger and thirst*) consumes our lives. Hence, most people spend their entire lives seeking to satisfy the cravings and sadly end up even more starving and thirsty than before they set out on their quest to be satisfied.

But in that day, the bondservants of Christ will be like Him, for they will see Him as He is. They are destined to be conformed into His image, which means that they will share in His divine nature.¹⁵ And they will be satisfied with His likeness, for they will be completed in Him.¹⁶

In our now, we get to see and experience a taste of this future reality during times of worship:

Psalms 63:3-5

Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips will praise You. So, I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.

Psalms 22:25-26

From You comes my praise in the great assembly; I shall pay my vows before those who fear Him. The afflicted will eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him will praise **Yahweh**. Let your heart live forever!

Psalms 107:8-9

Let them give thanks to **Yahweh** for His lovingkindness, and for His wonders to the sons of men! For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, and the hungry soul He has filled with what is good.

In that day, the bondservants of Christ will no longer feel that familiar ache and groan for more, for they will have everything, all that the Father has given to the Son, and they will be complete in Him.¹⁷

The Sun, the Heat

“...nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat.” Now, as far as **Code**, we have an interesting shift that needs to grab our attention. The description of their being before the throne and serving Him is rendered in the *present* tense, the realization of the promise (He will dwell or tabernacle among them and they will no longer hunger or thirst) is rendered in the *future* tense, but right in the middle the Spirit

¹⁵ See: **1 John 3:2; Romans 8:29; 2 Peter 1:4; John 17:24; 2 Corinthians 3:18**

¹⁶ See **Psalms 17:15**

¹⁷ See **Romans 8:17**

changed to the *aorist* tense and the *subjunctive* mood when the Elder told John that the sun will not beat down on them, nor any heat.¹⁸

Accordingly, this is a promise that is addressing their lives in general, but it is a promise with a contingency, hence, the *subjunctive* mood. The point is that this is **NOT** a promise for **ETERNITY THEN** – this is **NOT** about what will happen once they get to heaven.

The contingency in this promise is likely found in that decision they make to choose to now be coming out of the great tribulation. Those who are now making that choice will in effect be shaded from the sun and the heat. But since that “choice” is a process through which His bondservants choose to buy from Him gold refined in the fire, and the “choice” does not automatically happen upon saying a prayer, there is a contingency to this promise. Hence, the *subjunctive* mood.

By way of contrast, all the promises (no hunger, no thirst, the Lamb shepherding and guiding them to springs of water, and His wiping every tear from their eyes) are all rendered in the *indicative* mood. In other words, they are to be understood as unqualified statements of fact. It will be done. But in terms of the “*the sun not beating down upon them, nor any heat*” it is not an absolute promise, but a promise that comes with a contingency or a pre-condition.

Clearly, this promise is communicated in **Code**. And I believe this is connected to the little detail we were given at the very beginning of this passage regarding the angel that was ascending from the rising sun, the angel who just might be the Angel of the Lord. But let us first look in the **Codex** to this phrase’s origin.

Isaiah 49:10

They will not hunger or thirst, nor will the scorching heat or sun strike them down; for He who has compassion on them will lead them and will guide them to springs of water.

Overall, ***Isaiah 49*** is filled with promises regarding the gathering and comfort of God’s people. In short, it is all about the compassion which God will have on His afflicted ones. “*Shout for joy, O heavens! And rejoice, O earth! Break forth into joyful shouting, O mountains! For Yahweh has comforted His people and will have compassion on His afflicted.*”¹⁹

Therefore, we can understand this promise to be referring to the comfort and compassion which **Yahweh** will show to His people who have throughout their lives been beat down by the sun of affliction and the intense heat of persecution, but who have dug down deep in their soul and chosen, even now, to be coming out of the great tribulation.

This phrase is also reminiscent of the parable of the Sower and the Seed where some of the seed fell on the ground, but when the sun had risen, it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. Jesus explained that He was talking about the affliction and persecution which comes upon people because of His word, and how they immediately fall away due to their not being firmly rooted in Him. In

¹⁸ “beat down on them” is rendered in the *aorist active subjunctive*

¹⁹ ***Isaiah 49:13***

contrast, the seed that fell on the good soil established healthy roots and produced much fruit regardless of the heat of the sun.²⁰

And although the angel in **7:2** is approaching from the rising sun, a picture of ever-increasing affliction and persecution as the sun makes its way across the sky, God will provide His **bondservants** (those identified as the **oil** and the **wine**) some sort of protection from the scorching sun and the heat throughout their lives. This is a promise of which He hinted to us in the image of the black horse (which was also in the *subjunctive*) that this horse should not harm the oil and the wine.

For those who have committed to letting **Yahweh** go to war against every part of their being that stands in opposition to Him being their **I AM**, there are times where it seems that the beat down from the sun and the scorching heat will never end. At times this leaves them feeling hopeless, worn out, and filled with despair. But the God of Hope will fill them with joy and peace in believing so that they will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.²¹

It may seem sadistic, but the beat down from the sun and the heat are necessary, as they qualify the bondservants for the kingdom of God. After all, it is through much tribulation or affliction that we **now** must enter the kingdom of God.²² It is the very proof that we are sons of God and that the Father treats us as His sons. We may see it as terrible suffering and unjust persecution. But He sees it as necessary discipline in order that we might share in His holiness.²³ It is all a part of the war that He must wage against our *flesh*, or said another way, it is a result of our choosing to purchase from Him gold having been refined in the fire.²⁴ And He promises that if we **now** endure (the sun and the heat), that we will be amongst those who reign with Him.²⁵

As such, with much patient endurance, there will be a time when those who hold on and continue to bet their lives on **Yahweh** will become firmly established and will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he or she prospers.²⁶

Jeremiah 17:8

Blessed is the man who trusts in **Yahweh** and whose trust {literally, “refuge”} is **Yahweh**. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit.

The Apostle Paul once wrote the church at Thessalonica and told them that their suffering,

²⁰ See **Matthew 13:6, 21**

²¹ **Romans 15:13**

²² **Acts 14:22**. Note: In “through much tribulation we **must** enter” – “enter” is rendered in the *present active indicative*

²³ See **Hebrews 12:7-11**

²⁴ **Revelation 3:18**

²⁵ **2 Timothy 2:12**, “endure” is rendered in the *present active indicative*

²⁶ **Psalms 1:3**

persecutions, and afflictions were signs of God's righteous judgment so that they would be considered worthy of the kingdom of God. But then he said: "*For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, **and to give relief to you who are afflicted.***"²⁷ There it is! This is the promise that the sun will no longer beat down on them nor the oppressive heat. Another beautiful way to express this concept is as follows:

1 Peter 5:10

After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

Guide Them to Springs of Living Water

"...for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life..." This entire section is rendered in the *future* tense and therefore is a promise of what will be in our **ETERNITY THEN**. He promises to shepherd His Chosen ones and to guide them to the springs of the water of life.

Our Shepherd

The Lamb, Jesus Himself, takes responsibility for the lives of His bondservants. He will shepherd their lives and guard their steps ensuring that they walk in the steps established for them by **Yahweh Adonai** (**Yahweh** who is the absolute sovereign ruler over all things all the time).²⁸ This responsibility for our lives is tied in to one of the names of God, **Yahweh Raah**, literally, **Yahweh** who is our shepherd.

The use of the imagery of a shepherd is very fascinating, for it presupposes that we are mere sheep, a bit stupid, a lot stupid actually, smelly, unruly, and unable to genuinely care for ourselves, always running off into danger looking for that next patch of green grass. Thus, a shepherd's role is by necessity very hands-on, highly active, always present, and it is exceptionally intimate and personal in that a shepherd knows what the sheep need. He even knows his sheep by name, each-and-every-one.²⁹

The shepherd knows the sheep need good pasture with food that will satisfy their hunger and water that will cool their parched tongues. He even knows the best pathways on which to lead the sheep, even when the path must necessarily go through dry, rocky, and dangerous places to get to the desired pasture.

He is also vigilant, he has a watchful eye, and he knows the movements and tactics of those who would want to hurt the flock. The shepherd is committed and dedicated to his flock and is therefore willing to risk his life to fight against anyone or anything that intends to steal, attack, or infect the sheep. Hence, the shepherd does not leave the sheep, but is always with them.

The shepherd tends to the sheep who are sick, applies balm to their injuries, and removes the parasites that seek to enter through any wounds they have incurred. The shepherd looks after the flock day and night, seeks them out when they wander, disciplines them as necessary to teach them to stay with the

²⁷ **2 Thessalonians 1:6-7**

²⁸ **Psalm 23; 78:52; 80:1; Isaiah 40:11; Jeremiah 31:10; Ezekiel 34:11-13; Hebrews 13:20; 1 Peter 2:25; 5:4**

²⁹ **See John 10:3**

rest of the flock, and he rescues them when they are in trouble.

Ironically, sheep have something over us—a trait that we all need to learn, adopt, and practice. Rarely do sheep understand the journey or the paths which the shepherd chooses, but they follow him and trust his voice to safely lead them to provision. Sheep are very fearful by nature, but they **find comfort in following the voice of their shepherd and only their shepherd.**

This is an attribute He desires to develop within each of us—a pure trust to follow only His voice, all the while convinced that He is great at His job. And even if we do not understand the paths He has chosen, we can rest and be comforted knowing they are the best pathways for our lives, as His will for our lives is always good, pleasing, and perfect.³⁰

Psalms 32:8-9

Yahweh says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control."

The Hebrew says it a bit differently but with the same intent. *"I will instruct you and point the way (or literally teach you) the road, or course of life, in which you shall go, I will guide you with my eye."* The key verbs are all causative, which means that He will cause us to participate in His instruction and teaching and in the way He has marked out for our lives.

Moreover, He will guide us with His eye, He will watch over us, and He will ensure that we do as He has determined. As He says, a person can make their own plans, but He will direct their steps.³¹ Yes, He will ensure that our feet land exactly where He, as our Great Shepherd, has determined.³² Hence, the instruction for us to not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control.

In other words, one way or the other, He is going to ensure our feet land where He desires, so we might as well cooperate with Him. After all, as His bondservants, we have already told Him that He can have control of our lives and that we desire to do only His will.

Thus, our cooperation will make life significantly easier for us. *"Accept the way God does things, for who can straighten what He has made crooked?"*³³ We do not know the way to go, we just think we do. The Spirit is clear on this point. *"Man's steps are by **Yahweh**, how then can man understand his way?"*³⁴ The implication is that man cannot, but **Yahweh** can. **Yahweh** understands the way because He is the **Great Shepherd**.

Where Is He Leading Us?

Many, including me, have much to say when it comes to the paths that **Yahweh Raah** has chosen for

³⁰ **Romans 12:2**

³¹ **Proverbs 16:9**

³² See **Hebrews 13:20**

³³ **Ecclesiastes 7:13**

³⁴ **Proverbs 20:24**

us to walk. Sure, we know the verse which says that His will for our lives is good, pleasing, and perfect.³⁵ But in all honesty, it sure does not feel that way, and this truth is, practically, one of the hardest verses to believe and to bet our lives upon. Those who have lived a life of suffering and deprivation have a difficult time believing that there could not have been another way, another path, an easier path. But our Great Shepherd knows the way He needs each of His sheep to take. He does not lead them all along the same path, but He does lead them all to the same destiny—to the springs of the water of life.

This imagery is intended to cement a few things in our heart, mind, soul, and strength. 1) Jesus is **Yahweh Raah**, and He has determined the course for our lives. 2) He is not just a good shepherd, but a **Great Shepherd**—the one who is the guardian of our souls.³⁶ 3) He will lead us along the best pathways—those that will lead to the springs of the water of life. 4) He knows what each of us need, He knows the path we need to take, He knows how to care for us along the journey, and He knows what we will think and feel about each step we take. In fact, He is never surprised about how we are going to react to the paths He has chosen for us. He understands and He has made provision for each-and-every step.

Hence, we will find out in **Revelation 14:1-5** that these 144,000, the bondservants of Jesus Christ, follow Him wherever He goes. Or better said, they have chosen to let Him cause them to become **willing** to follow Him wherever He leads.

Springs of Living Water

According to the **Codex**, **Yahweh** Himself is the fountain of living water.³⁷ And the streams of living water, which is **Code** for the Holy Spirit, flow from the throne of God and of the Lamb. We will understand this imagery more thoroughly in **Revelation 22**.

With that said, we do not have to reach back far into the **Codex** to understand this picture, as it was already explained for us in 2-different scenes in which Jesus called out and invited people to come and drink of this living water. In the first scene, Jesus was talking to the famed “woman at the well.”

John 4:7-14

There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Therefore, the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you **living water**." She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? "You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; **but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water now and continually springing up to eternal life.**"

³⁵ **Romans 12:2**

³⁶ **1 Peter 2:25**

³⁷ **Jeremiah 17:13**

And with “springing up” being rendered in the *present middle participle*, we know that a person **MUST** even **now** be choosing to allow this water to be springing up from their lives. It will not force its way and it will not gush forth automatically, a person must dig down deep in their soul and choose to now let it be springing up.

The second scene is when Jesus was at the Great Feast, which is the Feast of Tabernacles, and in this passage, we receive the direct tie between the rivers of living water and the Holy Spirit.

John 7:37-39

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. **"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"** But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

There is also a beautiful psalm in the **Codex** that addresses this river or flow of the Holy Spirit. *“There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy dwelling places of the Most High.”*³⁸ In other words, the Holy Spirit is the source of joy both now and forever for those who are now before the throne of God and now serve Him day and night in His Sanctuary.³⁹

IS THIS SPEAKING ABOUT ETERNITY THEN OR OUR NOW?

Being rendered in the *future* tense indicates two things. Yes, this will absolutely be fulfilled in its entirety in **ETERNITY THEN** because then we will be like **Yahweh**, entwined in the fullness of the Godhead, and we will share in His divine nature.⁴⁰

With that said, however, even the passages in **Revelation 22** which speaks of the rivers of living water are all rendered in the *present* tense, as something dealing with our **ETERNITY NOW**. They are rendered in the *present middle participle*, indicating that a person **MUST** choose for this water to now be springing up from their lives. **Yahweh** will provide it, but they must choose to want it. Perhaps, that is why it is rendered here in the *future* tense. Just because someone wanted it today does not guarantee they will want it tomorrow. But if they do, He will provide it fully.

Being in the *future* tense also paints for us the picture that the lives of the Chosen of God are comprised of a journey on which **Yahweh Raah** must take them. The bondservants of God do not just wake up one day and choose to follow the Lamb wherever He goes; rather, they have learned through some very difficult paths **WHY** they should follow Him and **HOW** to follow Him. They have come to understand that He is a good, that His pathways are far better than the ones they would choose, and that He has a purpose for each-and-every step, for He will lead them on the best pathways for their life, those that lead to the springs of living water.

³⁸ **Psalm 46:4**

³⁹ **Galatians 5:22**, the fruit of the Spirit is joy

⁴⁰ **1 John 3:2, Romans 8:29, Peter 1:4**

The picture of “*the springs of living water*” indicates that **Yahweh** (Jesus, the Lamb) is the source, and the Holy Spirit which pours forth from Him will satisfy us and quench our thirst—that never ending ache in our souls which cries out for something more. However, He does not force the water down our throats, we must choose to drink and choose to be filled, and then choose to let Him flow from our lives and be to us a fountain of living water. Sadly, far too many people take a drink of the Spirit, but never choose to let Him be that flowing river.⁴¹

Jeremiah 2:13

For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, **the fountain of living waters**, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

In this image Jesus is broken hearted. The cisterns, or the wells which His people have dug are broken and they can hold no water. In other words, all that we do to try and satisfy our thirst is simply not enough. We cannot fill that ache in our souls; only He can. Those who come to Jesus will receive this living water, but they still must choose for it to be flowing from their lives. The Chosen will flow with living water, but the Called will not make that choice and will, in effect, bury the talent their master gave to them resulting in grave consequences.⁴²

Hebrews 6:4-8

For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have **fallen away** {or *gone apostate*}, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame. For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.

Wipe Every Tear from their Eyes

“...and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.” Rendered in the *future* tense, this is a promise that will be fulfilled when **Yahweh** tabernacles with His people. The idea however is not that He will just pat our faces dry as the tears roll down our cheeks and say, “there, there my little one.” Rather, it is the idea that He will remove, wipe-out, or obliterate all cause or reason for tears. This same Greek word is used when describing how Jesus obliterated or wiped-out sin.⁴³ As such, sin is no longer an issue which separates God and man, for every accusation that could be made against His people have been wiped out

⁴¹ See ***Hebrews 6:4-8, 10:29-31***

⁴² ***Matthew 25:18, 24-30***

⁴³ See ***Acts 3:19***

and cancelled.⁴⁴

In like manner, tears will be a thing of the past as there will be nothing to incite that painful expression from the lives of His people. This promise comes straight out of the **Codex**.

Isaiah 25:8-9

He will swallow up death for all time, and **Yahweh** God **will wipe tears** away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for **Yahweh** has spoken. And it will be said in that day, "Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is **Yahweh** for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."

The Spirit is communicating that the Chosen people of God (**Yahweh's** bondservants) will one day be safe, satisfied, unharmed, cared for, and that Jesus will personally tend to them. He will be their shepherd and they will be the recipients of every promise that He has ever made to them.

By the way, this promise is reiterated in **Revelation 21:4** where the Spirit describes the eternal reality of those who comprise the "New Jerusalem," which is **Code** for the complete collective of **Yahweh's** bondservants (all those captured in the picture of the 144,000—that great throng from every tribe, tongue, nation, and people).

Review

Revelation 7 reveals a time of repose, a time of praise, and it provides us a beautiful picture of God's protection over His people, the bondservants of Jesus Christ comprised of both Jew and gentile. His promises are for the time of the judgment of the four winds, as well as the time of the 7th seal and the 7-trumpets, as His people are marked on the forehead as belonging exclusively to the Lamb.

The scene spans across time as the images are all layered with some being in the *past* and some in the *future*, but the significant aspects of these believers' lives are all rendered in the *present* tense.

Yes, some of this is even happening now, especially the deep cry of our heart which cries out, "Salvation to our God who is choosing to now be sitting on the Throne and to the Lamb." "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might to our God forever and ever. Amen."

⁴⁴ **Colossians 2:14**