

Sermon Outline: Brent McKinney
Revelation 7: 1-17 (Sermon 13 in Revelation Series
May 21, 2023. Christ Community Church

- I. Introductory Comments (Slide 1 on screen)
 - Introduce self/moved to Iowa two months ago
 - Something different today; my style (meandering; invites interruption) requires back and forth engagement.
 - Also, you'll find it helpful to have access to a Bible (one in your row, an electronic version, or even your very own hard copy—teaching out of NASB so it may read differently than yours. Why? Because it has all my notes from seminary. When people ask me what is my preferred translation: the one you'll read). I do like to hear pages turning, though.
- II. Question for personal engagement (Slide 2) 2 minutes, take answers from congregation.
 - The abundant life literally means a life that transcends the ordinary. The Greek word is perissos, which means extraordinary.
- III. (Slide 3) As you know, we have been in a series on the book of Revelation—this is week 13—and today we'll be in Revelation, chapter 7, which I think can help us with our answer to what an abundant life is. Now, if we are in chapter 7 today, what is something we automatically know, (that's right! There were 6 chapters before that) so let's do a quick review (Slide 4)
 - The “revelation” (1:1) to John in the late 1st century. An “unveiling.” Think of a curtain at a play going up...we need to focus on what is SHOWN to us rather than guessing about timelines and symbolism.
 - We are “blessed” (1:3) to read these words together and heed the things we find...wasn't written to satisfy our curiosity but to bring us to a deeper, more intimate walk with Jesus
 - Book is outlined in Rev. 1:19, the things which WERE (background to where John was and how we got the letter (chapter 1), the things which ARE

(chapters 2-3, letters to the churches) and the things which ARE TO COME (chapters 4-22)

- Chapter 4 (scene in the throne room of heaven), Chapter 5 Book with 7 seals (only Christ can open), Chapter 6, six of the seals opened (interprets itself), 4 horses, warrior leads a war that kills ¼ of the population, and those faithful to Christ cry out for vengeance, then...let's stand, as I read verses 1-8 of chapter 7 (Slide 6)

(Read 1-8)

IV. Chapter 7: This is where we're going to walk through this together.

- What are the first words of v. 1? AFTER WHAT? Glad you asked
- Read 6: 15-17. WHO is affected? WHAT question do they ask? (Slide 7)

- Chapter 7 is an answer to that question.

• (slide 8)

- WHO do we see in v. 1 & what are they doing? Agents of God holding Back judgment of God
- WHO do we see in v.2-3 and WHAT does he have? Angel from east (in Bible salvation often comes from the east) with a seal (a symbol of ownership, like a king's ring) they are protected 144,000
- In v. 4, WHO is sealed?
- VV. 5-8

Two major schools of thought here:

First, literally 12K from Israel's tribes

Or, figurative, usually meaning the whole Church

Strength of literal: text says ISRAEL and lists tribes (Dispensational view)

Strength of figurative: if the Church is now Israel having been grafted in (often held by Covenant theologians)

These are coffee conversations and very nuanced

(Read vv. 9-17) (Slide 9)

V. After these things... (another vision) (Slide 10)

- In vv. 9-10, WHO is there and WHERE are they
From?
WHERE are they & WHAT are they doing?
HOW are they dressed?
Uncountable multitude,
Every nation &
tribe/language
Standing before the
Throne, white (purity)
Waving palm branches
(victory & joy—often at
Feast of Tabernacles,
Purpose is REST)

SINGING: Salvation (comes from God)
Seated (work is finished)

- In vv. 11-14, WHO else is there & WHAT are they
doing?
falling on face, worship

6 parts of content of their song: WHAT?
Blessing; spontaneous
Thanks
Glory; due honor
Wisdom; infinite knowing
Thanksgiving; fresh gratitude
Power; all powerful
Might; inherently powerful

v. 13: anticipates a question John would ask

v. 14: tell me, he does

GREAT TRIBULATION (from Dan. 12:1)
Again, multiple views on what this is
(literal/figurative)

No matter which view: it's a time of great
pressure to compromise true faith, both

from the world system and from inside the Church.

- (Slide 11) Finish by reading 15-17

(Slide 12) just a reminder, clues are here

(Slide 13)

WHERE ARE THEY?	Before the throne
WHAT are they doing?	Serving Him
WHAT is God doing?	Spreading his TENT over them & providing Shepherding us to the abundant LIFE

The LAMB is at the center

Applications: (Slide 14)

Take an INTENTIONAL next step to

Center your day around Jesus (see the world as God sees it)
(prayer before your feet hit the floor) (end of day)

Serve Him: God wired you for a reason. What is your gift?
(determine your gift, ask around, find places to use it)

Give hilariously, be creative... baked goods are a ministry, YFC
Ladies drove up and gave us groceries

(Slide 15)

(close in prayer

