In the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, they needed to reconsecrate the altar of sacrifice. "Now at the completion of the burnt offerings, the king and all who were present with him bowed down and worshiped. Moreover, King Hezekiah and the officials ordered the Levites to sing praises to the LORD with the words of David and Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with joy, and bowed down and worshiped." -- 2 Chronicles 29:29,30



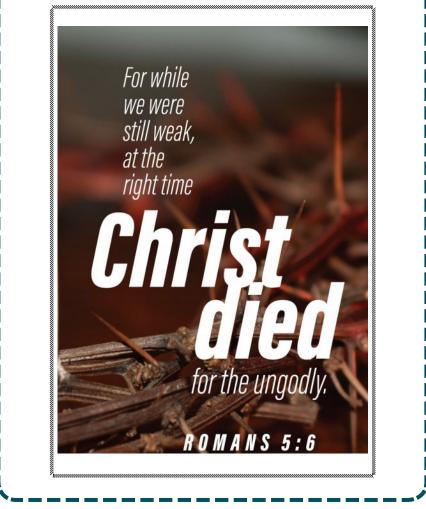
Taryn O'Connell, Taleah Wilson, and Indiana Icenogle winners of the 2025 Bible Bowl Christ's Church building Bozeman, MT

"For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? For you are our glory and joy." I Thessalonians 2:19,20



Lancaster, OH Family Camp - May 23-26 Ladies' Advance - May 1-3, 2025 at Fishtail MT Youth camp - June 8-13 at Fishtail Men's Peaks - July 24-26, 2025 Family Camp - Aug. 29 - Sept. 1, 2025

ing assembly

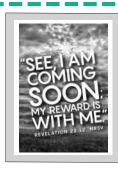


## Quotation of the week:

"Hearing all nature groan, seeing the agonies and pains of all that live, feeling the seeds of mortality thickly sown in our own persons, and tracing all these to their proper source, we discover that one sin, one act of rebellion, one single transgression, is the root of all this bitterness and grief. This brought death into the world, and all our woe. When we hear all the millions of human beings begin the journey of life with a scream, and see death lording it over them all; when we survey the rueful wastes, we begin to feel that there is a malignity in sin which no eye can see, which no tongue can utter and which no pencil can paint." -- Alexander Campbell, *Millennial Harbinger*, Mar. 1, 1830 - *History of Sin ... No. 1* 

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 101	Wednesday Night (3/19) — 52
Morning Assembly – 157	Butte Lord's Day — 9
Evening Assembly – 76	GF Lord's Day – 58,83 Wed 58



## Reasonings from Revelation The 144,000, the Multitude, and the Heavenly Host

The 144,000 – The angel ascending from the rising of the sun yelled to the four angels holding back the four winds not to harm anything "until we have sealed the bond-servants of God." The aged apostle then offers his description: "And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand from every tribe of the sons of Israel" (Revelation 7:3,4). Twelve times twelve times a thousand! The listing follows closely to what a person would expect, but with a couple of wrinkles (Revelation 7:5-8). The "tribe of Joseph" is mentioned, as well as "the tribe of Manasseh," Manasseh in old Israel being a descendant of Joseph", "Joseph" here may be a direct reference to "Ephraim," a non-listed

"tribe" of Israel. The "tribe of Dan" is not listed either, Dan having gone into idolatry early in Israel's history. As they are "sealed bond-servants of God," this probably represents symbolically the Israelite core of the new covenant church. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel," said the apostle Paul, "for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, *to the Jew first* and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). Of necessity, the groundwork for the gospel of Christ was laid first in God's special people of the Old Testament, and all the early converts were of Jewish origin.

The multitude – While not directly mentioned, the multitude that follows in the vision would have been "sealed" also, or they would not be "bond-servants of God." "After these things I looked," is John's record, "and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands" (Revelation 7:9). Here is a description of the influx of Gentiles, who were able to become part of the body of Christ following the immersion of Cornelius and those who were in his house as recorded in Acts chapter ten. The multitude of Jews shouting and waving palm branches at the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem, as He rode the donkey and its colt, is a mini-earthly picture of what John sees in the vision as the redeemed from the ranks of Gentiles lift their praises. John continues,

"...and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.' " (Revelation 7:10). Before His birth, the angel informed Joseph, "You shall call His name Jesus [Yahweh our Savior], for it is He who will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). These clothed in white robes know that there would be no salvation for them except for the plan of God and that which came through the sacrifice of the Lamb!

The heavenly beings – In addition to the 144,000 and those from every tribe and tongue, the heavenly beings join in the praises. John notes, "And all the angels were With one voice they glorify the God who is worthy, and the sacrificed Lamb!

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" (Revelation 7:11). As powerful and mighty as may be any of the host of heaven, they have no problem in prostrating themselves before Him who is infinitely mighty and so worthy of their obeisance. They are recorded as saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen" (Revelation 7:12). There are not enough words in any earthly language to declare the worthiness of our God in every consideration.

In this portion of the interlude, the vast assemblage is pictured as those of Israelite heritage who were sealed, of the Gentiles who have found their way to Zion, and of the heavenly beings. With one voice they glorify the God who is worthy, and glorify the Lamb who submitted Himself to be sacrificed. Who would not want to be a part of that vast assemblage for all eternity!

JAY WILSON