Goshen and the Three Groups

the series: **Tribulation to Glory — The Trail of the Saints**

Protected through the plagues, and how it all fits.

In previous posts, we followed the saints through four scenes in Revelation. One question remains: what happens to the living saints during the seven last plagues? Then we will see how the three groups fit together.

Goshen-Like Protection for the Surviving Saints

Scripture points to a Goshen-like exemption for living saints who remain on earth during the final judgments. The seven last plagues are directed at "the people who had the mark of the beast" (Revelation 16:2), not at those sealed by God.

This follows the Exodus pattern, in which the plagues struck Egypt while God declared, "On that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people live, so that no swarms of flies will be there... I will make a distinction between my people and your people" (Exodus 8:22-23). Goshen was not a place of endurance through Egypt's suffering but of exemption from it, just as the blood-marked doorposts caused the destroyer to pass over Israelite homes in Goshen (Exodus 12).

Paul states the governing principle: "God has not appointed us to suffer wrath" (1 Thessalonians 5:9). Christ's prayer is consistent with this: "I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them out of the evil" (John 17:15).

The Three Groups

Three groups emerge from this study, two nested inside the largest.

The Great Multitude (Revelation 7:9-17)**:** All the redeemed of all ages, the complete harvest, gathered at the throne of God after the First Resurrection. They are "from every nation, tribe, people, and language" (Revelation 7:9), including the surviving saints who were protected through the plagues.

The Sea of Glass Company (Revelation 15:2-4)**:** The end-time subset of the great multitude, martyred during the beast period, already before the throne before the seven last plagues. They are defined by a specific conquest over the beast, his image, and the number of his name.

The 144,000 (Revelation 7:1-8; 14:1-5)**:** "From all the tribes of the people of Israel" (Revelation 7:4). They are the living firstfruits, sealed before the time of trouble and gathered with the Lamb before the mark of the beast period enforcement. They are the first portion of the final harvest, taken in before the main harvest faces its defining trial.

One harvest. Three groups. Each is textually distinct, and each is placed chronologically by the markers the text itself provides.

Drafted in collaboration with Claude (AI), with all theological positions, Scripture selections, and final wording reviewed and approved by Sid Nash — Desiring to live by every word that comes from the mouth of Yahweh. (Deut8:3; Matt4:4). Version date: 11/10/2026 Latest version: https://sidnash.org/docs/GoshenPlus3Groups.html