

## 2023-2024 BSP#6 Group Time Discussion

### (A) 為查考和認識的題目 Questions for Studying and Understanding (10 minutes)

1. 讀 7:4-8。這裡，被列在第一位的不是雅各伯的長子勒烏本，而是猶大支派。您認為造成這種秩序「混亂」的原因是什麼？  
Read 7:4-8. Here instead of Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, being listed first, that place is given to the tribe of Judah. What do you think is the reason for this "mixed up" of order?
2. 似非而是論是邏輯上自相矛盾的說話或與一般期望相反的事物。若望有效地利用似非而是論向他的讀者傳達一些很不尋常的信息。例如：「在寶座和四個活物中間，並在長老們中間，站著一隻羔羊，好像被宰殺過的」（5:6）。你能從默 7 中找出兩個似非而是論例子嗎？
  - a. 「我看見了四位天使，站在大地的四角上，握住地上的四股風」（7:1）
  - b. 「我聽見蓋了印的數目：在以色列子孫各支派中蓋了印的，共有十四萬四千」（7:4）
  - c. 「在這些事以後，我看見有一大夥群眾，沒有人能夠數清，是來自各邦國、各支派、各民族、各異語的」（7:9）
  - d. 「他們曾在羔羊的血中洗淨了自己的衣裳，使衣裳雪白」（7:14）
  - e. 「那在寶座中間的羔羊要牧放他們，要領他們到生命的水泉那裏」（7:17）

A paradox is a logically self-contradictory statement or something that runs contrary to general expectation. John uses paradoxes effectively to bring messages that are highly unusual to his readers. For example: "a Lamb that seemed to have been slain" was seen "standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and the elders" (5:6). Would you be able to identify two paradoxes in Rev 7?

- a. "I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth" (7:1)
- b. "I heard the number of those who had been marked with the seal, one hundred and forty-four thousand marked from every tribe of the Israelites" (7:4)
- c. "After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue." (7:9)
- d. "They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (7:14)
- e. "For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water" (7:17)

**(B) 為反思和應用的題目。Reflection and application question (15 minutes)**

在默示錄 7:3 中，一位拿著永生天主的印記的天使命令其他四位天使不要破壞陸地和海洋，直到 144,000 名天主的僕人額上被蓋上了印記。按教理，這是指洗禮和堅振留下的不可磨滅的印記（CCC 1272-74, 1293, 1295, 1304）。教理也警告說，領受聖事但卻無法從中受益是可能的，因為「聖事的果子也取決於領受聖事的人是否恰當地領受」（CCC 1128）。您對自己在末日時被算作天主 144,000 名僕人中的一員有多大信心？為什麼你有信心或沒有信心？你可以做什麼讓自己更有信心？（提示：讀格林多前書 9:25-27、10:12）。

In Rev 7:3, an angel holding the seal of the living God ordered the four other angels not to damage the land and the sea until 144,000 servants of God had received the seal on their foreheads. According to the Catechism, this is a reference to the indelible mark left by baptism and confirmation (CCC 1272-74, 1293, 1295, 1304). The Catechism also warns that it is possible to receive the sacraments yet not benefit from them because “the fruits of the sacraments also depend on the disposition of the one who receives them” (CCC 1128). How confident are you that you will be counted as one of the 144,000 servants of God on the last day? Why are you confident or not confident? What can you do to give yourself more confidence? (Hint: Read 1 Cor 9:25-27, 10:12).