

Revelation Chapter 7

Chapter 7

144,000 Sealed

¹ After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. ² Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: ³ "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." ⁴ Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

⁵ From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed,
from the tribe of Reuben 12,000,
from the tribe of Gad 12,000,
⁶ from the tribe of Asher 12,000,
from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000,
from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000,
⁷ from the tribe of Simeon 12,000,
from the tribe of Levi 12,000,
from the tribe of Issachar 12,000,
⁸ from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000,
from the tribe of Joseph 12,000,
from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.

The Great Multitude in White Robes

⁹ After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,

and to the Lamb."

¹¹ All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying:

"Amen!

Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!"

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes--who are they, and where did they come from?"

¹⁴ I answered, "Sir, you know."

And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ Therefore,

"they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

¹⁶ Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat upon them,
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd;
he will lead them to springs of living water.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Rev 7:1-17 (NIV)

Verses 1-8

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MacArthur – The 7th seal contains the even more intense trumpet and bowl judgments, will be the worst of all (greater than 5 and 6 seals)

Who will survive the fury of divine judgment

a. verse 1-8 = Jewish evangelists who will be preserved on earth.

They will be protected from the murderous efforts of antichrist and his henchmen as well. They will enter the Millennial kingdom alive.

b. verse 9-17 = are those will be martyred and thereby ushered into the blissful rest of heaven, where they will be preserved.

God will remember mercy.

After this.... The 6th seal has ended and John is about to see a new vision.

The scene now shifts from judgment on the ungodly to special protection for the godly.

4 angels ... power over the elements of nature.

4 corner of the earth North south east and west....

No wind = no breeze, no waves breaking on the shore, no movements of the clouds, everything will be deathly still. **Wow – display of power!**

Holding back – suggests that the winds are struggling to break free from their restraint.

Verse 2-3

Another angel – (not Christ) identifies with the 4 in the work of sealing God's servants.

Ascending from the rising of the sun – from the east – the land of Israel –where God promised salvation came through Jesus

Seal of the living God – signet ring... seal denoted ownership and protection.

From the living God. Not dead idols worshiped by unbelievers.

Lenski-

Barclay – There are three elements in this picture

1. warning
2. assurance
3. promise

The earth (as they knew it at this time) is a square, flat earth; and at its four corners are 4 angels waiting to unleash the winds of destruction. The winds which came from due north, south, east, and west were all favourable winds; but those which blew diagonally across the earth were harmful.

The angels are bidden to restrain the winds until the work of the sealing the faithful should be completed.

Palmer –