

Revelation 7

Chapter Seven (7) serves as an interlude between the opening of the Sixth Seal and the Seventh Seal. Chapter Six (6) unveiled Six of the Seven seals being opened. There are a series of sevens in Revelation. There are Three (3) series of Seven judgments.

- Seven Seal judgments. Chapters 6-8:1
- Seven Trumpet judgments. Chapters 8:2-11:19
- Seven Bowl judgments. Chapters 15:1-19:10.

Seal One Judgment – White Horse. The False peace brokered by the Anti-Christ.

Seal Two Judgment – Red Horse. The judgment of World wide war and chaos.

Seal Three Judgment – Black Horse. The world wide judgment of famine.

Seal Four Judgment – Pale Horse. The judgment of Death and Hades.

Seal Fifth Judgment – Saints beneath the altar.

Seal Six Judgment – Universal cataclysm.

Seal Seven Judgment – The Silence in Heaven as an interlude to the beginning of the Seven Trumpet Judgments.

¹And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree

“And after these things”

After the events in the preceding chapter have occurred. *A new vision.*

“I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth...”

These four angels are not identified. Angels are frequently associated with judgment in the O.T. The four corners represent the entire earth

“that the wind should not blow...”

This is another image of judgment.

²And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

“another angel” - distinct from the previous four angels who were prepared to unleash the judgments of God upon the earth. No name or description is given to these angels, except that the angel has “the seal of the living God” in his hands and that he instructs the four angels to postpone their work of judgment.

“to hurt the earth and the sea” - The judgments of God will effect the entire planet.

³Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

“till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”

The seal represents ownership. Thus for one to receive the seal of God in their forehead symbolized their ownership by God.

This seal also stands in stark contrast to that of the coming Mark of the Beast.

⁴And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were* sealed an hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

“The number of them which were sealed...144,000.

What does this represent? Some argue that the number is symbolic and represents that all the people of God alive at the time of the Tribulation will receive this mark.

There is a problem with that interpretation, however. If this number represents all saints during the Tribulation era, why did Christ give so much detail as to how many and who would receive this seal

Secondly, why are the twelve tribes named? This would make no sense. Even those who argue that the Church is the true Israel have no grounds on which to argue for this interpretation. More specifically, while it is true that there are inferences in the N.T. about who a true Jew is, there are no references made to believers belonging to different tribes of Israel.

Out of each tribe there will be 12,000 Jewish evangelists. This would be in keeping with the Scripture that Israel will return to God. There will be those who accept Jesus Christ as the Jewish Messiah during the Tribulation.

⁵Of the tribe of Judah *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad *were* sealed twelve thousand. ⁶Of the tribe of Aser *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephtalim *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses *were* sealed twelve thousand. ⁷Of the tribe of Simeon *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar *were* sealed twelve thousand. ⁸Of the tribe of Zabulon *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin *were* sealed twelve thousand.

Note that there are two changes in the naming of the tribes. The tribe of Dan is not mentioned here nor Ephraim. The tribe of Levi did not exist in the O.T. The Levites were given cities but not a land of their own. They were to be servants to the priests.

Also note that Joseph is mentioned here as a tribe which does not occur in the O.T.

Why are Dan and Ephraim omitted in this list? There is great debate over this question. Some argue that it was because of their great idolatry. Still there seems to be no conclusive answer to this question. One would do well to remember that God knows and it all fits into His Sovereign plan.

Second Division

There is a are two groups found in this chapter. The Jewish Evangelists and the Martyred saints.

⁹After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

After this I beheld...a great multitude.”

After the vision of the sealing of the Jewish evangelists John was in awe as he looked and saw an innumerable mass of saints from all nations, cultures, etc., standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

“Clothed with white robes...” - symbolizing the purity of Christ and of righteousness, as well as, salvation.

“And palms in their hands.” - A representation of celebration, joy and victory.

¹⁰And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

Worship was the focus of their presence before the throne. They worshipped loudly shouting with a loud voice.

¹¹And all the angels stood round about the throne, and *about* the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

The angels who stood around the throne and about the elders and the four living creatures prostrated themselves before the throne, i.e., they bowed down face first, and worshipped.

¹²Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, *be* unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

The accolades of the angels in worship of God and Christ.

¹³And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

Notice that one of the elders asked John a question. This is one of the only occasions where an individual elder speaks. Who are all these people wearing white robes and where have they come from? This of course was a rhetorical question.

¹⁴And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

The answer is given clearly here. They are the ones who came out of Great Tribulation. It is rather obvious that they were tribulation saints who died during the Tribulation era.

¹⁵Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

These saints will never know hunger, suffering or deprivation again. Christ himself shall feed them and lead them to the waters of life and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. This clearly demonstrates the difficulties that God's people will face during the Great Tribulation, that is, those who are saved during that time.