



REVELATION 7.1-17

CLEANSED IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

Six seals on the Scroll have been broken:

1. **White Horse:** Introduction of the Antichrist. – “and he went out **conquering and to conquer**”
2. **Red Horse:** “to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword” – global nuclear war focused on Israel.
3. **Black Horse:** famine – the natural outcome of a global nuclear war.
4. **Pale Horse:** Death with Hades following close after; “power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.”
5. **Martyred Saints** below the Throne of God awaiting their glorified bodies.
6. **Great cataclysmic events** on earth: huge earthquakes, great meteor showers, people crying for death, every Island moved, every mountain shaken.

Great Revival is coming!

- **Tim LaHaye:** “The greatest revival the world has ever known is yet to come. It will not occur within the Church Age but during the Tribulation Period.”

Now, before the 7th seal is opened:

- Scripture takes a moment to explain how the Spirit seals some believers during then Tribulation against horrifying events.
- The evidence is sufficient for placing this sealing just before the midpoint of the seven-year Tribulation, at the end of the period called “the

beginning of birth pains.” Though the *meta touto* indicates a change of vision, this does not mean there is no relationship to the sixth seal. ¹

1 After these things I saw four angels standing at **the four corners** ² of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

- **After this** (μετα τουτο [meta touto]). Instead of the seventh seal (8:1) being opened, two other episodes or preliminary visions occupy chapter 7 (the sealing of the servants of God 7:1–8 and the vision of the redeemed before the throne 7:9–17). ³
 - ONE MIGHT THINK further judgments incongruent with the end of the age already depicted in 6:12–17. **But that John saw “after this” (7:1) a vision of the 144,000 (7:1–8) does not mean that the events of 7:1–8 occur after the sixth seal, any more than that “after this” in 7:9 means that the innumerable multitude there chronologically follows the 144,000.** Rather, the verb that follows “after this” is “saw”: John receives his next vision, and this one appears to report the state of Christ’s “servants” during the entire period of Tribulation. The earth, sea, and trees suffer during the Tribulation (8:7–8; 11:6). Clearly the command to seal God’s servants before harming the earth, sea, or trees (7:2) cannot follow the destruction of the earth and sky at the Tribulation’s end (6:12–16)! The point is simply that those who can withstand the day of God’s wrath (6:17) are those whom God has empowered to withstand the previous plagues (7:2–3). ⁴

¹ Robert L. Thomas, *Revelation 1-7* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, ©1992), Rev. 7:1.

² **Parenthetically, accurate modern geodetic measurements in recent years have proved that the earth actually does have four “corners.”** These are protuberances standing out from the basic “geoid,” that is, the basic spherical shape of the earth. The earth is not really a perfect sphere but is slightly flattened at the poles. Its equatorial bulge is presumably caused by the earth’s axial rotation, and its four “corners” protrude from that. The meaning of this verse, however, is undoubtedly that the angels located in four different key positions on the earth, perhaps one at each pole and two at opposite ends of a strategic equatorial diameter, are able to control the great atmospheric circulation which governs the winds of the earth. Henry M. Morris, *The Revelation Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Prophetic Book of the End Times* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, ©1983), 126.

³ A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, ©1933), Re 7:1.

⁴ Craig S. Keener, *Revelation*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, ©1999), 229–230.



Ezekiel 7:2-3

2 “And you, son of man, thus says the Lord God to the land of Israel: ‘An end! **The end has come upon the four corners of the land.**

3 Now the end has come upon you, And I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways, And I will repay you for all your abominations.

Angels are associated with the forces of nature: the wind (Rev. 7:1), fire (Rev. 14:18), and water (Rev. 16:5). ⁵

All winds on earth stop.

- Trees don't rustle, flags don't wave, kites won't fly, aircraft struggle to take off, no jet streams affecting the planet.
- Sail boats don't move.
- Weather patterns don't change or move.
- No hurricanes, no tornados, fewer ocean waves,

ANGELS:

- Christians have always believed in the divine beings created by Jesus for the purpose of ministering to the Saints.
- The Bible would hardly be believable if there we did not believe in Angels.
- **Only 3 Angels are named in our Canon of Scripture:**
 - Lucifer
 - Gabriel
 - Michael
- Many other Angels are named in the Apocryphal book of **Enoch**.
- The Roman Catholic church has named many Angels based upon presumption and fairy-tales.

⁵Wiersbe, W. W. (1996, c1989). *The Bible exposition commentary*. "An exposition of the New Testament comprising the entire 'BE' series"--Jkt. (Re 7:1). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

Angels fall into 2 categories in Heaven:

- Those that only obey their Captain/Commander & Chief **Jesus**
- Those that only obey their Captain **Lucifer**

Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against **principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**

2 Then 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 granted to harm the earth and the sea,

3 saying, “**Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees**

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

Revelation 6:17 **For the great day of His wrath has come**, and who is able to stand?”

- Who will possibly survive this horrible 7 years of Tribulation?
 - Only those that are the “sealed” servants of God.
 - Saved and Sealed Jews (vvs. 4-8)
 - Saved and Sealed Gentiles (vvs. 9-17)
 - **SEALED** for protection from the hatred of Lucifer and the Beast.
 - **God protects His own (so many example from Scripture):**
 - Noah and his family from the flood (Gen 5-9)
 - Joseph from his brothers and Potiphar (Gen 30-50)
 - All Jews from the plagues in Egypt. (Exodus)
 - Rahab and her family in Jericho. (Joshua 6)
 - Lot and his family from Sodom's destruction (Gen 19)
 - Jerusalem from Assyrian army of 185,000 warriors (2 Kings 18-19)
 - Esther, her family, and all the Jews from Haman (Esther)
 - 3 servants of JEHOVAH in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3)
 - Jerusalem from Cyrus the Persian (Isa 44-45)
 - Maccabean families from Antiochus the Greek
 - Joseph & Mary's family from Herod (Matt 2)

- **Prophetically** – the Saints of God, the Bride of Christ, (you and I) from the Tribulation and final Judgment

Ephesians 1:13–14

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed,

you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance

until the redemption of the purchased possession,

to the praise of His glory.

“The earth, the sea, the trees”:

- **These three parts of the created order will undergo God’s judgment in events to come.**

1. With the sounding of the first trumpet, a third of the trees are burned up (Rev. 8:7).
2. At the second trumpet, a third of **the sea** becomes blood (Rev. 8:8). At the pouring forth of the second bowl, the entire sea becomes blood as of a dead man (Rev. 16:3).
3. At the sounding of the first trumpet, a third of the earth is burned up (Rev. 8:7, NU and MT texts). At the pouring forth of the sixth bowl, the earth is utterly shaken (Rev. 16:18-20). ⁶

4 And I heard the number of those who were **sealed**.

One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

5 of the tribe of **Judah** twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of **Reuben** twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of **Gad** twelve thousand were sealed;

6 of the tribe of **Asher** twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of **Naphtali** twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of **Manasseh** twelve thousand were sealed;

7 of the tribe of **Simeon** twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of **Levi** twelve thousand were sealed;

⁶http://www.spiritandtruth.org/teaching/Book_of_Revelation/commentary/htm/chapters/07.html#Revelation%207%3A1

of the tribe of **Issachar** twelve thousand were sealed;
8 of the tribe of **Zebulun** twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of **Joseph** twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of **Benjamin** twelve thousand were sealed.

The Seal: what could it be?

Isaiah 44:1–6

1 “Yet hear me now, O Jacob My servant,
And Israel whom I have chosen.

2 Thus says the LORD who made you
And formed you from the womb, who will help you: ‘Fear not, O Jacob
My servant;

And you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.

3 For I will pour water on him who is thirsty,
And floods on the dry ground;
I will pour My Spirit on your descendants,
And My blessing on your offspring;

4 They will spring up among the grass Like willows by the watercourses.’

5 One will say, ‘I am the LORD’s’;
Another will call himself by the name of Jacob;
Another will write with his hand, ‘The LORD’s,’
And name himself by the name of Israel.

6 “Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
‘I am the First and I am the Last;
Besides Me there is no God.

There is nothing to allow us to presume these are lost Israel tribes.

- **God never loses anything.**
- The fact that specific tribes were mentioned and specific numbers from each tribe were indicated would seem to remove this from the symbolic and to justify literal interpretation. ⁷
 - This is not numbering a “spiritualized Christian Church” that has “replaced Israel” in God’s apocalyptic agenda.
 - **Replacement Theology** – replaces Israel with the Christian church in all of God’s former blessings.

⁷ John F. Walvoord, “Revelation,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 949.

- According to **J.B. Smith**, Scripture contains 29 lists of the tribes of Israel in the Old and New Testaments and **in no case are more than 12 tribes mentioned.** (A Revelation of Jesus Christ, p. 130). 8
- Much speculation has arisen about why the tribe of Dan is omitted. Joseph and one of his two sons, Manasseh, are listed, but Ephraim, Joseph's other son, is omitted. 9
 - Perhaps Dan was omitted here because it was one of the first tribes to go into idolatry (Jud. 18:30; cf. 1 Kings 12:28–29). However, Dan is mentioned in Ezekiel 48:2 in the millennial land distribution. 10
 - Dan is mentioned in Ezekiel 48:2 in the millennial land distribution. 11
- Irenaeus suggested that Antichrist was expected to come from the tribe of Dan and hence the omission here. 12

Jehovah Witnesses:

- They quote Rev 7:4 and Rev 14:1,3 as the proof text for their beliefs.
- Only 144,000 faithful servants will rule with Angel King Jesus in the heavenly sphere.
- According to Charles Russell the end of the sealing of the 144,000 saints occurred in 1914.
 - **Only those alive and already believers in J.W. in 1914 will achieve heaven.**
 - Those saved afterward would belong to a servant class called "the great company," who would rule only on earth under the watchful eye of the heavenly 144,000 J.W. saints.
- Those that are relegated to life eternal on earth will live as they do now, under a curse.
- The heavenly class of saints will live as Spirits only, without bodies, for eternity, as they believe Jesus did after his "re-creation" or spirit resurrection.

9 After these things I looked, and behold, **a great multitude which no one could number**, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,
 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying,
"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

⁸ John F. Walvoord, "Revelation," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 949.

⁹ John F. Walvoord, "Revelation," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 949.

¹⁰ John F. Walvoord, "Revelation," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 949.

¹¹ John F. Walvoord, "Revelation," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 949.

¹² A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Re 7:4.

- Of course, in the heavenly city (Rev. 21–22), all distinctions will cease and we shall all simply be the people of God in glory. But while God is working out His program in human history, distinctions still exist between the Jews, the Gentiles, the church, and the Tribulation saints. ¹³
- The parallel with **Matthew 24:14** also indicates that the 144,000 will witness for the Lord during the Tribulation. ¹⁴
Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached **in all the world** as a witness **to all the nations**, **and then** the end will come.
- **Dominion Theology**
 - **Matt 24:14** – only once the “church” has brought salvation to every nation and ethnos will Christ return.
 - Believes Pre-Trib Rapture Theology is the coward's escape belief.
 - They are essentially Post-Millennial believers.
 - Only a perfect, empowered and world – effecting church will help usher the return of Christ.

Kingdom Now theology

Kingdom Now theology is a branch of **Dominion Theology** which has had a following within Pentecostalism. It attracted attention in the late 1980s.

Kingdom Now theology states that although Satan has been in control of the world since the Fall, God is looking for people who will help him take back dominion. Those who yield themselves to the authority of God's apostles and prophets will take control of the kingdoms of this world, being defined as all social institutions, the "kingdom" of education, the "kingdom" of science, the "kingdom" of the arts, etc. C. Peter Wagner, the founder of the New Apostolic Reformation, writes: "The practical theology that best builds a foundation under social transformation is dominion theology, sometimes called 'Kingdom Now'. Its history can be traced back through R. J. Rushdoony and Abraham Kuyper to John Calvin."

Kingdom Now theology is influenced by the Latter Rain movement, and critics have connected it to the New Apostolic Reformation, "Spiritual Warfare Christianity," and Fivefold ministry thinking.

Kingdom Now theology should not be confused with Kingdom theology, which is related to inaugurated eschatology. ¹⁵

¹³ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 591.

¹⁴ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 590.

¹⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominion_theology



Redeemed before the Throne

11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **12** saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

14 And I said to him, "Sir, you

know."

So he said to me, **"These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and 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 dwell among them.

16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;

17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters.

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

God knows our anguish, our cries, our weeping and tears:

Psalm 56:8-11

8 You number my wanderings;
Put my tears into Your bottle;
Are they not in Your book?

9 When I cry out to You,
Then my enemies will turn back;
This I know, because God is for me.

10 In God (I will praise His word),
In the LORD (I will praise His word),

11 In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

Crying in heaven:

Revelation 5:4-5

4 And **I began to weep loudly** because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

5 And one of the elders said to me, **“Do not weep!** Behold, the lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.

Hebrews 12:1-2

1 **Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us,**

putting aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us, let us run with patient endurance the race that has been set before us, **2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the originator and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

No more death, pain, tears, sorrow or crying – but not until the very end!

Revelation 21:3-4

3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

4 **And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.**

There shall be no more pain,
for the former things have passed away.”