

Revelation 7

Verses 1-3

Revelation 7 presents a parenthesis between the sixth and seventh seal being broken. The seventh seal when broken brings about the seven trumpets.

While the seals are general in their descriptions, the trumpets and bowls or vials as they are sometimes called are much more specific in the description of the plagues or judgments.

Verses 1-3

In the context of the first six seals, it would mean that any destructive winds or looking ahead, any winds that would accompany any trumpets, would be held up until the 144,000 are sealed.

Cherubim were placed at the east entrance of the Garden of Eden – Genesis 3:24

Verses 1-3

Ezekiel 11 – God's glory leaves the Temple and Jerusalem by moving east.

Ezekiel 43:1-2 - Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east. ² And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory.

Verses 1-3

“Servants of God” – Servant in the Greek, doulous, normally means slave.

This sealing is similar to our sealing. Our sealing by the Holy Spirit ensures that we belong to Christ Jesus. We are heirs of God’s promises and blessings. We are inheriting eternal life through the atoning work of Jesus on the cross.

Verses 1-3

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 - ²¹ Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, ²² who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

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. (Eph 4:30)

Verses 1-3

This seal is also a sign of God's protection.

Revelation 9:3-4 - ³ Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴ They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. (See also Ezekiel 9:1-6)

Verses 4-8

There is no reason to think that the Bible is talking about anything else but 144,000 Jewish people who will accept Jesus as their Savior and be His witnesses during the Tribulation.

⁴ And I heard how many were sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand; [twelve thousand] sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: (AMP)

Verses 4-8

Judah is named first, although Rueben was the first born. It is also the tribe of David and Jesus. In Genesis 44 Judah did offer to be the substitute for Benjamin.

Jacob had twelve sons with Joseph being the last born, however Jacob adopted Joseph's sons, Ephriam and Manasseh. (This made 14 sons; however, Joseph's blessing went to his two sons, therefore only thirteen sons are counted.)

Verses 4-8

However, Levi, because they harkened to Moses (Exodus 32:26-29), Levi was given the privilege of ministering in the Temple and that was their inheritance, they received cities, but no land portions as the other tribes.

So, finally we have our Old Testament twelve tribes.

Verses 4-8

Dan is the only tribe that did not claim its God-given portion of land. It was too near the Philistines and went north.

They also persuaded Moses' grandson to become their priest and therefore rejected God from almost the very beginning. (Judges 18)

Verses 4-8

Ephriam became the head of the nation of Israel and setup their own tabernacle and priesthood because they did not want anyone going to Jerusalem which was in Judah. (Israel, unlike the Kingdom of Judah, never had a godly king.)

Yes, Joseph probably represents Ephriam, but because of their faithfulness to Jesus, they will not bare the name of idolators but of the man who remained faithful to God through adversity.

Verses 9-10

“Nations” can also be translated Gentiles.

These people are robed in white, that is, they have righteousness through Jesus and they have palm branches.

Palm branches were waved at the returning or conquering hero. Jesus' victory is assured.

Verses 9-10

Their song acknowledged both the Father and the Son in the plan of redemption. The Father sent the Son but the Father also sent/gave us the Holy Spirit. Each member of the Godhead has a part in the salvation of man; none have been idle.

Verses 11-12

The elders, symbolic of the raptured church are listed separately from those in verse 10.

Only the Father and Son are worthy to be blessed and thanked, to receive and possess all glory and all honor.

Power and might again means power or authority to reign and that they alone are omnipotent.

Verses 13-14

Some say the word “tribulation” refers to all the time after Jesus ascended into Heaven. The thought is the Bible and Jesus Himself, speaks about His followers having many trials and tribulations.

Since billions of people have found Jesus Christ in two thousand years, this explains the great multitude.

Verses 13-14

Some have even suggested that it was speaking to the great Roman persecutions that were going to take place that Jesus encourages the Church of Smyrna about.

The final thought is that these are those who come out of the Tribulation. The elder called this “The Great Tribulation”, literally “The Tribulation, the great one”.

Verses 13-14

When this vision take place. The 144,000 have been sealed to work for Jesus. They will not be idle themselves. As we saw last week, there are those who will find Jesus during the Tribulation and refuse the worship the Antichrist or take his mark. (Rev. 20)

Also, seal number five speaks of more martyrs that are still to come.

Verses 15-16

These appear to be different than any other group mentioned up to this point and they have a special assignment or gift in Heaven.

The thought is the rejected serving the Beast and therefore Satan, therefore they, having come through great persecution and holding fast to their faith, have the privilege to be before God and serve in the heavenly temple.

Verses 15-16

*Revelation 9:20-21 - ²⁰ But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. ²¹ And they did not repent of their murders or their *sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.*

**Pharmacia in the Greek, meaning drugs and magic potions*

Verses 15-16

The wickedness of idolatry is so deep and deceptive that idolaters refuse to repent in spite of the overwhelming evidence of God's displeasure with them. – Amplified Bible note

It would seem by the sixth trumpet, man has made his choice and it is possible that those who will be saved have been saved by this point, with most if not all losing their life.

Verse 17

Here is the picture of the Good Shepherd.

Isaiah 49:10 - They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat down on them. He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water.

Tears – Some say tears of joy, but there would be no need of comfort. This speaks about comfort and the fact that their battle is over.