

Blessed is he who reads  
and those who hear the  
words of this prophecy,  
and keep those things  
which are written in it; for  
the time is near.  
Rev. 1:3

# Verse by Verse Through the Book of Revelation

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## Revelation Chapter 7

Chapter 7 is parenthetical. It fits into the picture as describing events that take place between verses 12 and 14 of Chapter 6 just before our Lord returns in glory.

Each of the six seals that have been opened shows a different phase of the great controversy between Christ and Satan and each helps to demonstrate before the on-looking universe the righteousness of God. Rev. 5:13.



This chapter breaks the sequence of the seals in order to answer the question, “Who shall be able to stand?”

1. **And after these things I saw four angels** These angels represent divine agencies in the world holding back the forces of evil until the work of God on human hearts is complete and the people of God are sealed in their foreheads. This verse demonstrates God’s restraining hand is over all.

**Standing on the four corners of the earth,** Compare Isa. 11:12 This signifies that the whole earth is threatened.

**Holding the four winds of the earth,** The four winds denote the four directions of the compass (see Dan. 8:8; Mark 13:27) Here the four winds are plainly destructive forces. These angels belt the world and are keeping the armies of Satan at bay till the sealing of God’s people shall be accomplished.

A seal stands for ownership and protection. At the very time all the world is turning away from God, there are faithful ones on whom the Lord can place His seal.

**That the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.** The three items mentioned here—earth, sea, and trees—emphasize the universal nature of the threatened destruction.

2. **And I saw another angel** That is, in addition to the four holding the winds of verse 1.

**Ascending from the east,** Literally “from the rising sun” In ancient times east was the cardinal point of the compass. All directions were reckoned from the point of view of a person facing east. (See Ex. 3:1) It was from this direction that Ezekiel saw the glory of God entering the temple (Ezekiel 43:2-5) The sign of the Son of Man will appear in the east (Matt. 24:30). The direction from which the angel comes may therefore denote that he comes from, and is dispatched by, God.

**Having the seal of the living God:** From antiquity seals were used in the Near East much as signatures are today. They attested to authorship and ownership.

The concept of God’s placing a mark upon His people goes back to Ezekiel’s vision of the man with the writer’s inkhorn who was commanded to “set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in” Jerusalem. By virtue of the mark they were to be saved from destruction. (Eze 9:2-6). Jesus spoke of Himself as being sealed by the Father (John 6:27)

What is this seal?

Through the prophet Isaiah the Lord says: “Seal the law among My disciples.” Isaiah 8:16. God’s law is sealed in the hearts and minds of His people. God’s law was written in Christ’s heart (Psalm 40:8), and one of the blessings of the new covenant is: “I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts.” Hebrews 8:10. Only as God’s law is in the heart can we be victorious over sin, which is “transgression of the law.” (1 John 3:4). The Holy Spirit is the power by which we “are sealed unto the day of redemption.” Ephesians 4:30).

The sealing of God’s people prepares them to stand through the fearful times of stress that will precede the second advent.

**And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea.**

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3. **Saying, hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.** The forehead is the symbol of the mind. Notice that the seal is not in their hand which symbolizes service or works. (As the wicked have the mark of the beast either in their heads or hands. Rev. 14:1; 22:4) Works can never be a qualification for the reception of that seal. We are made perfect by grace alone.

Matt. 19:17 Jesus said: If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.  
 John 14:15 Jesus said: If you love Me, keep my commandments.  
 John 15:10 If ye keep my commandments ye shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love.  
 I John 2:3,4,5 And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected.  
 I John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.  
 Rev. 12:17 The remnant will keep the commandments of God....

The seal of God will mean that we are one with God in obeying Him, thinking like Him, loving like Him and desiring His character.

4. **And 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 redeemed of the Lord are an innumerable company, but among them is a special group designated as "the 144,000." This number is significant. Twelve is God's kingdom number. In ancient Israel there were 12 tribes; 12 rods; 12 stones gathered from Jordan; 12 stones in the high priest's breastplate, etc. In the New Testament there are 12 apostles. Their names are engraved on the 12 foundations of the wall of the New Jerusalem. The names of the 12 tribes are engraved on the 12 gates of the city. This number 12 is mentioned seven times in the Revelation. The circumference of the city is 12,000 furlongs.

Now, 144,000 is the square of 12, multiplied by 1,000. This company is mentioned again in chapter 14:1. This number symbolizes completeness.

The tribes cannot be the literal tribes of Jacob, because two of the original tribes, Ephraim and Dan, are not even named. Both were leaders in idolatry. The tribe of Ephraim was proud and haughty, while Dan was "a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward." Genesis 49:17.

5. **Of 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.** Judah is mentioned first because Judah is both the tribe of David and of Jesus the Messiah (Gen.49:8-12; Matt. 1:1)
  6. **Of the tribe of Asher were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Naphtali were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasseh were sealed twelve thousand.** (Manasseh appears in the place of Dan—He was the older son of Joseph and was to inherit Joseph's portion)
  7. **Of 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.** Levi had no tribal allotment but here is rewarded for faithfulness—he gains a place and Ephraim is left out [Joseph's younger son].
  8. **Of the tribe of Zebulun were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.** Everyone from the tribe of Benjamin was left-handed!
  9. **After 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, clothes with white robes, and palms in their hands.** This multitude is in addition to the special group of 144,000.
  10. **And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.** This song is recognition that God has redeemed them.
  11. **And 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,**
  12. **Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.** Here it is again, as in Chapter 5:8-14, a vision of the vindication of God and Christ. Upon the testimony of the saved, the hosts of heaven are again reminded that God is wise and righteous.
  13. **And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they?** The elder puts into
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words the question that was doubtless already in John's mind. No doubt John was asking about the special group of 144,000 since he already knew the identity of the "great multitude," for he had stated that it was from all nations, kindred, people and tongues.

14. **And 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.** Literally "the great tribulation." Most Biblical scholars hold that these are the people who stand through the final great tribulation which comes on the earth just before Jesus returns. The white robes signify that they are covered with Christ's righteousness and not of their own merit.
  15. **Therefore 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.** Never shall they be deprived of God's presence. To be without God's presence is total loss; to have Him dwell among us is salvation forevermore.
  16. **They shall hunger no more,** this verse seems to allude to Isa. 49:10 where abundance was promised to the returning exiles. The promise will find ultimate fulfillment in the experience of spiritual Israel.  
**neither thirst any more, neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.** Life will be perfect in Heaven.
  17. **For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne** The lamb is portrayed as closest of all to the throne of God.  
**Shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters:** Here the Lamb is revealed as the true shepherd.  
**And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.** This is a figure of speech signifying that in the future world there will be no cause for tears.
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# Sons of Jacob

MOTHER	SON	MEANING OF NAME	REFERENCE OF BIRTH	ORDER OF BLESSING	SYMBOL OF BLESSING	REFERENCE OF BLESSING
L E A H	Reuben	Behold, a Son	Gen. 29 32	1	Reckless	Gen. 49 3-4
	Simeon	Hearing	33	2	Violence	5-7
	Levi <small>Replaced Ephrim</small>	Attachment	34	3	Violence	5-7
	Judah	Praise	35	4	Lion	8-12
B I L H A H	<small>Manasseh replaced</small> Dan	Judgment	Gen. 30 6	7	Serpent	16-18
	Naphtali	Wrestle	8	10	Doe	21
Z I L P A H	Gad	Good Fortune	11	8	Raider	19
	Asher	Happy	13	9	Rich Food	20
L E A H	Issachar	Reward	18	6	Donkey	14-15
	Zebulun	Abode	20	5	Ships	13
R A C H E L	Joseph	May He Add	24	11	Fruitful	22-26
	Benjamin	Son of the Right Hand	Gen. 35 18	12	Wolf	27