

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE Book OF REVELATION

**Bereans Adult Bible Fellowship
Placerita Baptist Church**

Revelation 7:1–8:1

- 1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.
- 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,

Revelation 7:1–8:1

- 3 saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.”
- 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, 144,000 sealed from every tribe of the sons 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,

Revelation 7:1–8:1

- 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 were sealed.

Revelation 7:1–8:1

- 9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands;
- 10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

Revelation 7:1–8:1

11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and *around* the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

12 saying, “Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *be* to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

Revelation 7:1–8:1

- 13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?”
- 14 I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 7:1–8:1

15 “For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them.

16 “They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat;

Revelation 7:1–8:1

17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”

8:1 When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

Place in the Book of Revelation

- I. What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II. What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- III. What will take place after these things (Rev 4–22).

A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)

1. John's Position (4:1–2)
2. John's Vision (4:3–8:1)
 - a. "behold, a THRONE" (4:3–11)
 - b. "I saw . . . A BOOK" (5:1–14)
 - c. The SEALS Opened (6:1–8:1)

Sealing 144,000



A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)

(7) The INTERLUDE (7:1–17)

Pause between sixth and seventh in each series.

Answers question of 6:17.

- The Seal (7:1–3)
 - Four angels
 - “Seal”
 - “Of the living God”
 - Protective purpose

A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)

- The Sealed (7:4–8)
 - “The bond-servants of our God” (7:3)

Matthew 24:14

“This gospel of the kingdom
shall be preached in the whole world
as a testimony to all the nations,
and then the end will come.”

A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)

- The Sealed (7:4–8)
 - “The bond-servants of our God” (7:3)
 - These are not the Church, but Israel.

Romans 9:6

But *it is* not as though
the word of God has failed.
For they are not all Israel
who are *descended* from Israel;

Revelation 14:4

These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as **first fruits** to God and to the Lamb.

Question for Discussion

How does Romans 11:25–27
help explain Revelation 7?

A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)

- The Sealed (7:4–8)
 - “The bond-servants of our God” (7:3)
 - These are not the Church, but Israel.
 - A select group of martyrs.

Revelation 6:11

And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until *the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.*

Note on the 144,000

Problems in the list of tribes in Revelation 7:

- Inclusion of Levi.

Note on the 144,000

Problems in the list of tribes in Revelation 7:

- Inclusion of Levi.
- Inclusion of Joseph instead of Ephraim.

Hosea 4:17

Ephraim is joined to idols;
Let him alone.

Deuteronomy 29:18–21

18 so that there will not be among you a man or woman, or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of those nations; that there will not be among you a root bearing poisonous fruit and wormwood.

19 It shall be when he hears the words of this curse, that he will boast, saying, “I have peace though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart in order to destroy the watered *land* with the dry.”

Deuteronomy 29:18–21

20 “The LORD shall never be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the LORD and His jealousy will burn against that man, and every curse which is written in this book will rest on him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven.

21 “Then the LORD will single him out for adversity from all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant which are written in this book of the law.”

Note on the 144,000

Problems in the list of tribes in Revelation 7:

- Inclusion of Levi.
- Inclusion of Joseph instead of Ephraim.
- Exclusion of Dan.

Judges 18:30

The sons of Dan set up for themselves the graven image; and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land.

1 Kings 12:28–29

- 28 So the king consulted, and made two golden calves, and he said to them, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt.”**
- 29 He set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.**

A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)

- **The Great Multitude (7:9–17)**
“Will anyone be saved after the Rapture?”
 - Before the throne and the Lamb (7:9).
 - Clothed in white (cf. 6:9–11).
 - Palm branches: occur only one other time (John 12:13).
 - They direct their worship toward the Lamb and God on the throne (7:10; cp. 5:12–14).



A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)

- The Great Multitude (7:9–17)
“Will anyone be saved after the Rapture?”
 - “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation” (7:14).

Question for Discussion

Besides God's wrath and
righteousness,
what else characterizes
every major divine judgment?

A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)

- **The Great Multitude (7:9–17)**
“Will anyone be saved after the Rapture?”
 - “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation” (7:14).
 - Robes made white “in the blood of the Lamb” (7:14).
 - Their position might indicate some special service in the Millennial Temple (7:15–17).

A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)

Their Position

- Before the throne of God.
- In His Temple.
- With the Lamb-Shepherd.
- To springs of the water of life.

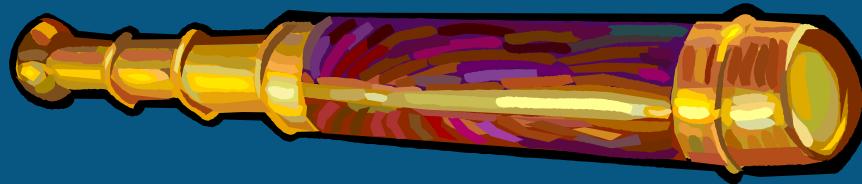
A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)

- The Great Multitude (7:9–17)
“Will anyone be saved after the Rapture?”
 - “God will wipe every tear from their eyes” (7:17; cp. 21:4).

A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)

(8) The Seventh Seal—Silence in Heaven (8:1)

Next group of judgments telescopes out of this seal.



Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

- Jesus is from the tribe of Judah (first tribe listed in Revelation 7).
- Jesus draws multitudes to Himself.
- Jesus is the source of salvation.
- Jesus shed His blood so that sinners might be robed in white.
- Jesus is the Shepherd of His servants (cp. Psalm 23).
- Jesus guides His own to springs of the water of life.