

Revelation 7

Revelation 7:1-8 NKJV

After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners 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. [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.” [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; 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.

Introduction:

- Everything that has happened in the way of judgments have been put into motion with the opening of the seven sealed scroll in chapter 6.
 - The first five seals were severe
 - The sixth seal was worse than the first five
 - But none will compare with the seventh seal.
 - Contains the trumpet judgments
 - Contains the bowl judgment
- Chapter 7 gives us a brief interlude between the opening of the sixth and seventh seal
 - The 1st group (vv 1-8) are Jewish evangelists that will be preserved during the Great Tribulation.
 - From the divine wrath
 - From the violence of the Antichrist
 - They will enter the millennial kingdom alive
 - The 2nd group are those who will be martyred and ushered into heaven .

1. (verses 1-8)

- a. "After this" (v 1)
 - i. The sixth seal vision has ended
 - ii. A new vision starts
- b. "Four angels...standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds"
 - i. Some have mistaken this to mean the earth is flat
 - ii. We know that that isn't the case
 - iii. This refers to the four directional points on the compass from which the winds originate
 - iv. Winds are often associated with judgment in Scripture
 1. Daniel 7:2 NKJV Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.
 2. Jeremiah 49:36 NKJV Against Elam I will bring the four winds From the four quarters of heaven, And scatter them toward all those winds; There shall be no nations where the outcasts of Elam will not go.
 3. Hosea 13:15 NKJV Though he is fruitful among his brethren, An east wind shall come; The wind of the LORD shall come up from the wilderness. Then his spring shall become dry, And his fountain shall be dried up. He shall plunder the treasury of every desirable prize.
 - v. There will be no winds, deathly still
 1. No breezes
 2. Seas will be calm
 3. No cloud movement nor clouds (i.e. the sky receded as a scroll)
- c. Forshadowing: the angels are something back
 - i. That something is more judgments
 - ii. The trumpet judgments in chapter 8
- d. The sealing of the 144,000
 - i. "Another angel" appeared (v 2)
 1. Some have identified as Christ
 2. (allos) means another of the same kind in number
 3. Christ has appeared as an angel of the Lord
 4. How is the angel described?
 - a. Appeared from the east

- b. Had the seal of the Living God→ often referred to as a signet ring
 - c. Loud voice
 - d. Could be, but the description here is far less descriptive than the descriptions of Christ in this book
 - ii. The angel says to hold up a minute (v 3)
 - 1. The judgments are held off momentarily
 - 2. The the angel tells us why
 - a. The servants must be sealed
 - b. They will receive the seal on their foreheads
 - i. They are to be protected so they can proclaim the truth of God about Jesus Christ during the Great Tribulation
 - ii. (cf. Genesis 19:22 NKJV Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there.” Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.
- iii. The servants number 144,000
 - 1. 12,000 from each tribe of Israel
 - a. Not the Jehovah’s Witnesses
 - b. Not the church
 - 2. They are the firstfruits of Israel (redeemed) before Christ returns
 - a. Romans 11:26 NKJV And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;
 - b. Tribal records were lost when the Romans sacked Jerusalem in 70 AD
 - i. “The ten lost tribes”
 - ii. God never lost them
 - iii. (cf. 1 Kings 19:18 NKJV Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”)
 - 1. He keeps His word, He never sleeps
 - 2. We can go nowhere to flee His presence (Psalm 139)
- iv. Twelve tribes will represented
 - 1. Judah is listed 1st even though Rueben was 1st born
 - 2. Genesis 49:8-12 NKJV “Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your

enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you. [9] Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? [10] The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people. [11] Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes. [12] His eyes are darker than wine, And his teeth whiter than milk.

- a. Ephraim and Dan are left out?
3. Those tribes were left out of this group of evangelist
 - a. They will take part in the millennial blessings
 - b. Both were consumed with idolatry (apparently worse than all the others)
 - c. Levi and Manasseh are included to make it twelve

2. (Verses 9-17)

- a. Info

Conclusion:

- info