

REVELATION REVEALED

THE FIRST SIX SEALS

Text: Revelation 7:1-17

Rev. 6:17 - who will withstand.

NO ONE!

Revelation 7 stands between the sixth and seventh seal judgments. Keep this in mind as we look at this chapter.

1-8 - God's servants will be able to endure or "stand" because of God's protective seal.

Perhaps this is why the great multitude is later portrayed as "standing" before the throne in 7:9

The seal does not exempt believers from physical persecution or suffering but does protect them from spiritual defeat and enables them to remain loyal to Christ.

Those who are not sealed, on the other hand, will be deceived by evil forces and will suffer God's wrath.

There may be occasional cease-fires and periods of recuperation, but we will always be in a spiritual struggle this side of heaven.

Just when you think life is rolling along nicely, the enemy launches another attack.

For this reason, we must first recognize our war-zone situation and learn to stand strong in resisting the devil's attacks.

We must also boldly follow the lead of the Spirit in launching attacks against the forces of darkness.

Above all, we must arm ourselves with the gospel of peace and the Word of God and make sure we fight like Christ.

We see in Revelation 12:11 that believers triumph over Satan through reliance upon Christ's atoning sacrifice, through maintaining their witness, and through a willingness to suffer.

This is part of what it means to fight like our Lord.

1. God will judge a wicked world.

- 1 Pet. 3:18–20

- 2 Pet. 2:5–10

2. There is a difference between human persecution and divine judgment.

3. God promises spiritual protection over his people.

- Ephesians 1:11-14

4. Believers are called to a life of spiritual warfare.

Our praise is our weapon

By some counts, there are over twenty hymns in Revelation. Here are some:

1:5–6, 4:8–11, 5:9–14, 7:10–12, 11:15–18, 12:10–12, 14:3, 15:3–4, 16:5–7, 19:1–8

In every case, these expressions of worship are directed toward either God or Jesus Christ (or both).

They are sung by John, the four living creatures, the twenty-four elders, other angels, the people of God, heavenly voices, or all created beings.

They are spoken, sung, or shouted, and are often accompanied by falling down, crying out, and playing instruments.

They take various forms: doxology, acclamation, amen, victory hymn, thanksgiving, and praise.

They bring attention to attributes (e.g., holiness, glory, power, strength, wisdom) and actions (creating, being slain, bringing salvation, judging, rewarding, defeating evil, the arrival of the wedding of the Lamb) of God and the Lamb.

Since music played a vital role in the emperor cult, it is no surprise that Revelation uses music to honor God and the Lamb, while also shaping and strengthening the allegiance of the worshipers.