

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
August 10, 2022
144,000

Revelation 7:1-8 KJVS

[1] And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. [2] And 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 given to hurt the earth and the sea, [3] Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. [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. [5] Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. [6] Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephtalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. [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. [8] Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

We begin our lesson today with the opening phrase in verse 1. "And after these things..." Let's back up a bit. What things? Speaking of the Kings and mighty men, John quotes them...

Revelation 6:16-17 KJVS

And [they] said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: [17] For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Apparently the Day of God's Wrath begins right here. We have learned that the Horsemen of chapter 6 were directed by worldly rulers and political leaders under the lead of the antichrist. We saw the martyred saints waiting for vindication. Finally we saw the terrible beginning of the collapse of nature. Jesus called it a sign. Mathew 24:29-30, Luke 21:25-28. Obviously something powerful is happening and it is clear He is speaking to His disciples and to the Jews as indicated in the opening verses of those chapters. Impending doom is preceded by great mercy and compassion. His wrath is beginning as we view a pause in chapter 7. Though not restricted to such figures of speech, John's book is rich in symbolism. The number 4 is always tied to nature and the earth. The four angels, the four corners and the four winds of verse 1 all direct us to a literal natural pause in the workings of nature. Wind stops. Weather stops. All things stop. This pause will be followed shortly by a half hour of silence in all of heaven. These dramatic halts underscore the gravity of the things about to commence. Imagine the apprehension when the lights go down and the audience comes to a hush when a performance is about to begin. These four angels have great power and are about to release it when suddenly our scene is interrupted by an angel from the east crying loudly, stopping all motion having the seal of God's authority. What is so urgent as to hold back such power? This seal must be secured upon its rightful recipients. God chooses 144,000 Jewish faithful who will

represent God and His Grace. Could these men be the ones addressed by the author in Revelation 1:7? Something has changed to cause these people to suddenly be protected by their once alienated Father. What is the seal or mark they received? The location of the seal is interesting. The forehead. 7:3. When most hear of a mark on the forehead they think of the antichrist. Few understand that God our Creator has always initiated the seal of His servants. Ephesians 1:13-14, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22. He especially seals His servants prior to His judgement on others. Ezekiel 9:4-5. He is actively protecting us even now. Psalm 91:1-16. This pertains to us as well as David and his Messiah. We are invincible unless God determines otherwise. The evil seal we find in Revelation 13:16 is as always a forgery, a copy done through deception by the father of lies. We also find some helpful details concerning Christ's seal in the following; Revelation 14:1,3, and 22:4. This perfect Seal is His Wonderful Name placed upon us in the Holy Spirit of Almighty Eternal God. Consider this joy in comparison to the result of the false seal of the antichrist in 14:9-11.

Now let's look into these sealed Jewish believers. 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel. Symbolism again reminds us that 12 is the number of Divine Government. These chosen ones will lead many to faith in the Messiah. It is suggested by some commentators that they may live on into the millennium to rule and govern, one man from each tribe for one year each. Then every tribe will provide governors for 1000 years. Maybe. We may note that the tribe of Dan is left out. Possibly because some believe that Dan is the tribe of the soon coming antichrist based on a possible reference in Jeremiah 8:16. The Danites also introduced idolatry into the nation. Genesis 49:17, Judges 18:30. This tribe by the way must see a wonderful redemption because Ezekiel tops his list of Millennial tribes with Dan. Ezekiel 48. Joseph's tribe is made up of Ephraim and Manasseh. Joseph must include Ephraim even though it is interesting that Ephraim also led Israel into idolatry. Hosea 4:17. Finally who are these tribes? They are protected through all of God's Wrath and meet up with Him later. Revelation 14:1. They are the beginning of a great harvest. 14:4. They are pure and faithful. V5. Most important they represent the result of the promised mystery of God's Word. Romans 11:1, 25-26, Isaiah 49:8. Every moment and shift in direction that Revelation takes has great meaning to all who desire to see the fulfillment of the history of mankind as worked according to the plan of the One Who was from the beginning. Ephesians 3:9. Our job? Stay within His blessings and share them. Ephesians 2:10