

# Revelation 7:1-17 - Parenthesis -




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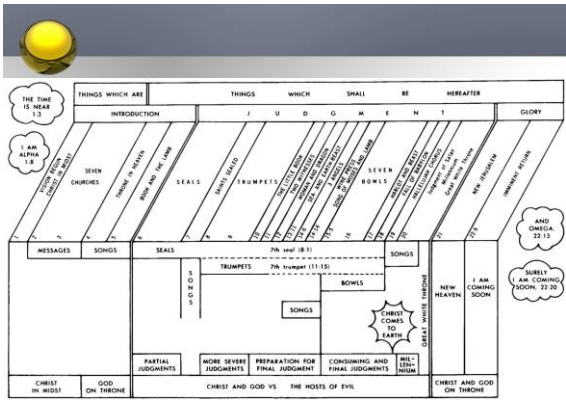
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## Revelation 7

- This chapter is really a parenthesis or interlude between **Revelation 6** – the Sixth Seal – and **Revelation 8** and the opening of the Seventh Seal
- This pause in action allows God to seal His servants (**7:1-4**)
  - Four angels hold back the winds
  - Winds here most likely symbolize God’s judgment
  - Four corners of the earth – figure of speech signifying four main compass directions
  - Wind is also used to describe God’s breath or Spirit (**Eze. 37:3; Zec. 6:5**) which is often used in judgment
  - Seven years of Egyptian famine were brought about by an east wind (**Gen. 41:6, 27**)
  - Plague of locusts brought upon Egypt came on the east wind (**Ex. 10:13**)
  - Daniel’s vision, it was the “four winds of heaven” which stirred up the “Great Sea” (Gentile nations), which brought forth the four beasts (**Dan. 7:2**)
  - These same four winds control the upcoming rise of **Antichrist** in judgment (**Rev. 13:14**)
  - The winds speak of the impending global judgments and their initiation and sovereign control by God

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## Revelation 7

- **Revelation 7:3** – no harm to earth, seas or trees until seals applied
- Because mankind loves worshiping Creation instead of Creator, God will destroy this idol (earth, seas and trees)
- Environmentalists normally place higher value on animals and the earth itself over human beings
- This reverses God's created order and He will deal with it
- These are most likely literal references to the earth, the seas and the trees because of the verses and chapters that follow
- 144,000 Israelites are sealed with a specific seal from God (v4) on their foreheads (v3; symbol of ownership)
- This seal is a seal of protection similar to the one in [Eze. 9:4](#)
- Satan, via Antichrist, comes along later to counterfeit this seal with his followers (**Revelation 13**)
- In eternal state, God's Name will be on the foreheads of ALL faithful ([Rev. 22:4](#))
- This seal may not be visible to other people

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## Revelation 7

- **144,000 sealed** is literal. There is little to no justification to seeing this as symbolic because 12,000 are taken from each tribe
- "all the tribes of the children of Israel"
- These 144,000 are Jewish evangelists, raised up and sealed by God to spread the Gospel during this time of the Tribulation
- The idea that this cannot be referring to Israel because ten of the tribes are allegedly no longer in existence is absurd...
- Whether WE know who the ten tribes are is not the question...does GOD know? Of course!
- Verses 5-8 specifically note the 12 tribes of Israel

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## Revelation 7

- **Revelation 7:9** – *"after these things"*
- This signifies a chronological order to the reader
- This also shows a cause and effect relationship of what just occurred and what will happen
- 144,000 Israelites sealed brings about massive revival throughout the earth
- John sees the results of this – an innumerable host of people standing before the throne (heaven) out of the Great Tribulation
- They have met with death and gained the victory
- Please notice the 144,000 come from the 12 Tribes of Israel
- These believers before the throne come from "...all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues..."
- Palm branches signify anticipation of the Lord's return to earth as they were used in His first coming; triumphal entry
- The angels (v11), are differentiated from Living Creatures and Elders
- Elders are either redeemed men or separate class of angels

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## Revelation 7

- **Revelation 7:13** – *the multitude*
- These are new arrivals to heaven, not the previous martyrs of **Revelation 5**
- **Revelation 7:14** – these martyrs are continually coming out of the Great Tribulation due to the heavy persecution
- The Greek denotes continuous action of martyrdom and death
- This is *THE* Great Tribulation; denotes a very specific period of time in God's prophetic calendar (**Mt 24:21**), not simply general tribulations that occur all the time
- They will serve Him night and day – those who come out of the Great Tribulation may have a different ministry than those believers who died prior to it
- God in Christ will dwell among them; tabernacle with them, will literally camp among them
- They will not hunger or thirst (v16), reminding us of what they suffered while on the earth for His Name

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## Revelation 8

- Next TIME:
- **Revelation 8** opens with Seventh Seal AND the Prelude to the Seven Trumpets

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