

**Revelation 7:1-17 RSV - *The righteous have been sealed by God!***

**[1] After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree.**

*The righteous need not worry about the judgment – they have been sealed by God!*

*This chapter contrasts the wicked and the righteous.*

*Holding the winds is for protection of believers*

**[2] Then I saw another angel ascend from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea,**

**[3] saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God upon their foreheads.”**

*Sealing conveyed:*

- 1) protection against tampering
- 2) ownership
- 3) certification of genuineness. Christians are sealed in this 3-fold way

*Those with the seal on their forehead should not fear the trumpets of judgment. The trumpets are for the wicked, persecuting world. This sealing is “the most precious thing under heaven.”*

**[4] And I heard the number of the sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand sealed, out of every tribe of the sons of Israel,**

*144,000 – What does this number represent?*

- 1) a literal 144,000 with 12,000 from each tribe. This is seen as the number of Jews saved during 3.5 years of the great tribulation.
- 2) A symbolic number meant to represent all the people of God throughout the ages.

**[5] twelve thousand sealed out of the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand of the tribe of Reuben, twelve thousand of the tribe of Gad,**

**[6] twelve thousand of the tribe of Asher, twelve thousand of the tribe of Naphtali, twelve thousand of the tribe of Manasseh,**

**[7] twelve thousand of the tribe of Simeon, twelve thousand of the tribe of Levi, twelve thousand of the tribe of Is'sachar,**

**[8] twelve thousand of the tribe of Zebulun, twelve thousand of the tribe of Joseph, twelve thousand sealed out of the tribe of Benjamin.**

**[9] After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,**

*The second vision is of the redeemed of all ages around the throne. This is the church triumphant as it shall be throughout eternity.*

*The redeemed are characterized in this way:*

- 1) *Can't be numbered (v.9)*
- 2) *People from all nations, tribes, people, and tongues (v.9)*
- 3) *Arrayed in white with palm branches indicating purity and victory (v.9)*
- 4) *Saved and protected by the blood of Christ (v14)*
- 5) *Forever free from trials and tribulations (vv.14-17)*

*They stand before the throne, indicating that they have fellowship with, render service to, and share in the honor of the Lamb.*

*The palm branches indicate salvation.*

**[10] and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!"**

**[11] And all the angels stood round the throne and round 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 for ever and ever! Amen."**

**[13] Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and whence have they come?"**

**[14] I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

**[15] Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night within his temple; and he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence.**

*Our service which begins on earth will reach its highest fulfillment in heaven! We are not idle.*

**[16] They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.**

**[17] For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."**