

Revelation 7-8a: Throne and Trumpets

7.1-17: First Interlude – Saints on Earth and Heaven

7.4-8: The Remnant Sealed

12x12x1000 – a complete number; 1000 – Military division

21.12-14: Names of twelve tribes and twelve apostles in the New Jerusalem

Dan excluded – idolatrous (Judges 18; 1 Kings 12.25-30)

Seal – a sign of belonging to ‘the Living God’ (Deut. 5.26; Josh 3.10; Matt. 16.16)

Biological Jews or Symbolic of the Church?

Galatians 3.29: ‘If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed’

Romans 2.29: ‘A man is a Jew if he is one inwardly, and circumcision is circumcision of the heart’

1 Peter 2.9: the Church is ‘a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation’

Are these believers in all ages? Only Martyrs? Only believers in final era of history at tribulation?

7.9-17: A Great Multitude beyond Counting

Saints who are sealed on earth (7.1-8) are in heaven rejoicing in God’s victory (7.9-17)

‘The great tribulation’ – victory over forces of evil and faithfulness to Christ

White robes: given to overcomers (3.4-5), martyrs (6.11), and victorious Christians

Palm branches – John 12.13; 1 Macc. 13.51

‘Washed their robes . . .’ – spiritual deliverance from sin through Christ

11-12: Worship

‘All the angels’, ‘many angels’ in 5.11

Prostration in the presence of God – 4.10 (elders); 5.8 (living creatures); 5.14 (elders)

Blessing, Glory, Wisdom, Thanksgiving, Honor, Power, and Might – ascribed to God

13-14: The Elder Speaks

The Great Tribulation – (Daniel 12.1) described in Revelation 3-19

Blood of the Lamb – atonement/*hilasterion* (Romans 3.25); ransom/*luton* (Ephesians 1.7)

15-17: Perseverance and Purity

A hymn unto YHWH

Tent – tabernacle; Exodus 25.8; Leviticus 26.11-12; John 1.14 – “the Word ‘tabernacled’ among us”

7.16: Suffering Removed – Isaiah 49.10

7.17: YHWH as the Shepherd – Genesis 48.15; 49.24; Psalm 68.7

8.1: The Seventh Seal

The Great silence – to what purpose?

Priestly sacrifices in temple made in silence

8.2-11.19: Seven Trumpets

8.2-6: Trumpet Judgments Begin

Seven archangels in Apocrypha – Uriel, Raphael, Raguel, Michael, Saraqa’el, Gabriel, Remiel (1 Enoch 20.2-8)

Seven priests blowing trumpets – Joshua 6.4-8; 1 Chronicles 15.24; Nehemiah 12.41

In Jewish life, there were at least 21 blasts of the trumpet daily in the temple, and on feast days as many as 48 (Osborne 342).

Trumpets will announce the eschaton – Mathew 24.31; 1 Corinthians 15.52; 1 Thessalonians 4.16

The Golden Censer – 1 Chronicles 9.29; an open-topped pan made of bronze (Exodus 27.3) or gold (1 Kings 7.50) used to carry live coals from the altar of burnt offering for making sacrifices (Leviticus 16.12); often incense was placed on the coals in the censer and offered before YHWH (Numbers 16.6-7)

‘Smoke of the incense’ – the cloud of smoke that filled the Holy Place; Levit. 1.9; Eph. 5.2; Phil. 4.18

8.5 – the coals become a symbol of the fire of God’s judgment (Ezekiel 10.2-7)

8.7-12: The First Four Trumpets

1. Hail and fire mixed with blood (Seventh plague, Exodus 9.13-35)
2. ‘Something like’ a huge mountain of fire was cast into the sea (First plague, Exodus 7.14-21)
3. Huge star – ‘Wormwood’ - blazing like a torch, fell from heaven (a symbolic, bitter shrub [Prov. 5.4])
4. 1/3 of Sun, Moon, and Stars are darkened (Ninth plague, Exodus 10.21-23)