

Revelation 7: Saints Gathered Around the Throne

6.12-17: Sixth Seal – Shaking of the Heavens

Christ opens the sixth seal

Sun becomes 'black as a sackcloth of goat's hair' (lit.) Worn in times of mourning

Red like blood – Joel 2.31, Acts 2.17-21; Stars falling – Isaiah 34.4; Mark 13.25

6.15-17: Terror

Rev. 19.17-18, 21; Ezekiel 38.2-6

Kings of the earth, the noblemen, the generals, the wealthy, the powerful; every slave and freeman

What will people do?

1. Hide in caves and rocks – Genesis 19.30; Joshua 10.16; 1 Samuel 22.1; 13.6
2. Cry out to the mountains and caves

The second judge – the Lamb

Jesus as judge (John 5.22, 30; 8.15-16; 9.39)

Day of YHWH is a Day of wrath – Ezekiel 7.19; Zephaniah 1.14-16; 2.2-3; Matt 3.7-8; Romans 1.18

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

7.4-8: The Remnant Sealed

12x12x1000 – a complete number

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

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

1000 – Military division

7.1-8 – the (martyred?) saints are sealed

Seals of judgment (scroll), seal of election (forehead)

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

'From every nation' – also 5.9

The Divine Throne of judgment (chapter 6) and reward (chapter 7)

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

Who? Probably an angel (4.4)

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)