

Rev. Chapter 7:1 'And after these things,' ... after what things?

After the Lamb of God, 'as if slain from the foundation of the World,' begins to open the 7 seals on the scroll He has taken from the right hand of Him Who sits on the Throne, God, the Father. The Lamb is the only One in Heaven, on Earth or under the Earth Who is worthy to open the seals on the scroll which is, likely, the scroll of certain things Daniel was given to write but then commanded to seal up, which would, then, only be opened in the Last Days during the 7-year period of the Tribulation, the 70th Week of Daniel's great prophecy in Daniel 9, the 70 Weeks of Daniel: 'But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.' Dan 12:4

The Lord Jesus Christ, 'the Lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the World' Rev 13:8, has opened 6 of the 7 seals: the 4 Horsemen on different colored horses, the many souls under the altar in Heaven and a 'great earthquake' have all happened.

Now... after these things John continues: '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.'

And, as we can see from our own 2 dimensional maps of the Earth, Israel is at the very center of the Earth: This is interesting: as John looks down upon the Earth and all that will transpire during the Tribulation, he is not seeing the Earth as a globe; otherwise he would be unable to see all that is happening upon the Earth at the same time. God is showing John the Earth as a flat, four cornered live, moving map. This is why John is able see these 4 angels holding back the wind as if from the 4 corners of the Earth. And, as we can see from our own 2 dimensional maps of the Earth, Israel really is at the very center of the Earth.

John was seeing something like this with these 4 angels standing at the corners, holding back all the winds so that nothing could be felt anywhere; we can imagine what it would be like if there was no wind and no sound of the wind. After all that had already happened, it would be a terrible time of expectation.

Verse 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 sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.'



We see that the plan for these 4 powerful angels is to 'hurt the earth and the sea.' After so many have died from the 'missions' of the 4 Horsemen, we'll see that all of the created order is in for unimaginable Judgment and Wrath from the hands of God and His angels. Even during the worst of times in Earth's history, nothing has ever compared to what lay in store for those who have despised and rejected the love, forgiveness and salvation of our God and of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

However, we'll see that a certain group of 'servants of our God' will be protected, at least, for a time; the Seal of the Living God will be in their foreheads... this may be something that is seen in the physical realm but it is certainly something that is seen in the spiritual realm, as we will see later in following chapters.

We do, also, carry with us the Seal of the Living God; Paul writes, to the Corinthians: '*Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; ²² Who hath **also sealed us**, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.*' 2Cor 1:21

The Seal of God which is in us and upon us is most certainly seen in the spiritual realm. Every one of us has been protected from untold, unseen and unknown danger and evil. God has given His angels charge over us to protect us and to minister to us: Psm 91:11, Heb 1:14

Warning: tangent coming...

But if that is true, since we are sealed by God and given His Holy Spirit, why is there so much pain and suffering even within the Body and Bride of Jesus Christ? We've suffered the loss of so many of our loved ones here in our little body of the New Bereans. We recently lost a number of our little flock with others currently battling various ailments. Why isn't there more protection?

Many Charismatics claim that God's will is that we walk in perfect health and yet, their numbers of diseased and dying are no different than our own even though they spend much time in cursing and rebuking the devil, trying to break, so called, 'generational curses,' etc, etc, etc.

The reason for sickness and dying is the sin, even among the Body and Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. I'm not saying that there was any hidden sin in the lives of those I've mentioned; we live in a lost and dying sin filled, polluted World.

When Adam and Eve were created, they were physically perfect, designed to live forever. Even after they sinned, their bodies were so resilient that they and their descendants to the time of Noah lived long lives, many to almost 1000 years.

After the flood, God's protective canopy of cloud, encasing the Earth, was removed; the billions of gallons of moisture there contained was a large part of the waters that eventually covered the Earth.

After Noah and his family landed on Mt. Ararat, the sun beating down quickly shortened Man's lifespan. Abraham was born while Shem the son of Noah, was still alive. Abraham lived only 175 years, still a long time but nothing like Methuselah's 969 years.

Here's a point: Abraham, being born not that long after the flood was, genetically, still very sound and healthy. The descendants of his grandson, Jacob, lived and multiplied within the cocoon of slavery in Egypt; they only married and grew within the DNA pool of their 12 ancestors, the sons of Jacob. Since that time, Jews have, more than any other nationality, maintained that relatively pure gene pool. Research quickly shows that Ashkenazi Jews, the ones who migrated north to fill Europe and who later began to refill their national homeland, are far, far ahead of any other group in areas of intelligence, health, inventing... everything around the World, if Jews are involved, it flourishes because of their genetic wholeness and Gods protection.

But about us... our genetic makeup goes all around the World while most of us are the descendants of pagans and barbarians. Throughout, our ancestral lines are filled with sin, criminality and rejection of God.

That sin, in the lives of our ancestors, has had the cumulative effect of our bodies being, to one degree or another, sickly, weak and vulnerable to disease.

Just one example which clearly makes the point: today, homosexual men have lifespans that are clinically found to be 20 years shorter, on average than non-homosexual men.

When we examine that scientific proof in relation to specific areas of sin... we can begin to see how we are held hostage to our ancestors' lifestyles... whatever their chosen sins might have been.

We each hold, within our own unique genetic sequence, tendencies toward or protection against various disease and ailment.

We suffer the consequences of generational sinfulness because our physical bodies have not been redeemed. That redemption will only occur, finally, at the moment of the Rapture when we will suddenly, in a moment, be changed; our corruptible, sinful bodies will be changed, instantaneously, into glorified, eternal bodies like that of the Lord Jesus Christ.

To claim or to teach that our physical bodies have, or should have, enjoyed the benefits of Jesus Christ's redeeming work on the Cross is simply untrue; with that, we will be blessed, beyond any measure, at the Rapture, the final installment of our complete salvation to which we received the down payment in the Holy Spirit's eternal residence in us and on us from the moment we trusted in Jesus Christ.

God does protect and He does heal but only according to His own plans and purposes; He does as He will and no amount of demanding, commanding or pleading will cause Him to change His perfect plan and will.

To be certain, if Debbie were sick, I would never stop praying and pleading but I would also pray, nevertheless, let Your will be accomplished in her and in me and help me, Lord, to trust You always in all things.

Some of us are sick, some of us have died but it is not because of sin in our lives; it is far more the result of sin in our ancestors' lives and the resulting polluted environment.

Never forget: the Rapture is coming and He is coming soon for us; keep watching, waiting, looking and hoping; He in His coming is our Blessed Hope.

If we do lose loved ones, we can be assured that we will see and be with them again very soon and even better, we will see and be with the Lord Jesus Christ forever.

Verse 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.'*

144,000 are to be protected from the 'hurt' unleashed by those 4 angels. These sealed, and protected ones are Israelites; they are not part of the Church; the Church was removed at the beginning of chapter 4. These are true Messianic Jews; their faith and trust is in the Lord Jesus Christ, knowing that He has always been their true Messiah; God will have revealed Himself to them and drawn them to Himself shortly after the Rapture.

Verse 5: *'Of the tribe of Judah 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 Asher were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Naphtali were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasseh 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 Zebulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.'*

As to the listing here of the sons of Jacob/Israel, normally the first listed would be the oldest, Reuben; but here, those of his tribe are listed second, following Judah which is listed first.

The probable reason for listing Judah first is to the honor of the Lord Jesus Christ's human body having come through the tribe of Judah; one of His Titles being, The Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

We also see that not only is Joseph's tribe listed but also his son, Manasseh; this, too, stems from honor given to Joseph as a type of Jesus Christ in providing salvation for the entire family of Israel which would, then, through the following 400 years, grow to be God's chosen Nation of Israel. Although Manasseh is, in fact, listed, Joseph's other son, Ephraim is not. And, if Manasseh is inserted, why don't we see **13x12,000: 156,000?**

One son of Jacob is missing here: Dan; the entire tribe of Dan is nowhere to be found.

When the Israelites were finally allowed into the Promised Land, the tribe of Dan settled Laish, north of present day Gaza, and lapsed into idolatry: *'And the children of Dan set up the graven image: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.'* Judges 18:30

and: *'Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. ²⁹And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. ³⁰And this thing became a sin: for the people went to*

worship before the one, even unto Dan. ³¹ And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.' 1 Kings 12:28

144,000 men of Israel are sealed with the Seal of God in their foreheads.

We assume that these 144,000 immediately went out in the same Great Commission, from the Lord Jesus Christ, that we are under: 'And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.' Mark 16:15

These men will be responsible for the long awaited, long trumpeted, always just around the corner to some of today's groups... this will finally be the greatest revival and harvest of souls, the world has ever known.

The very next verse tells us:

Verse 9: 'After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; ¹⁰ And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.'

Souls innumerable have been told the Gospel, they've believed and they've been martyred for their faith. These saved are primarily Gentiles from all nations, etc.

Verse 11: 'And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, ¹² Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen.'

All these angels are worshipping God because of His glorious plan to save men and glorify Himself. Peter implies that God's plans were kept secret, even from the angels: '... unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; **which things the angels desire to look into.**' 1 Pet 1:12

Verse 13: 'And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? ¹⁴ And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and 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 in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. ¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

These are the first wave of Tribulation Saints who will be killed for their faith. Whereas these are mostly Gentiles, the great salvation of Israelites will be immediately upon Jesus Christ's return at Armageddon:

'In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them. ⁹ And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. ¹⁰ And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. ¹¹ In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon (Armageddon)' Zech 12:8