



- God is not judging the world for any impure purpose – the Bible teaches us that God must judge the world because He is holy. He cannot simply overlook sin.
- When Jesus opened the sixth seal, there was a great earthquake. The sun was turned to darkness and the moon to blood (signs of the Day of the Lord).

## **Revelation 7**

**1 After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.**

**2 Then 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 granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”**

**4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed: 5 of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed; 6 of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed; 7 of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed; 8 of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.**

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### **7.1. The sovereignty of God.**

- Let's note again that that God is sovereign. Nothing is happening in the Book of Revelation unless God allows it.
- So one angel is reminding the others not to do anything until God's servants are sealed. An important theme throughout the book is God's preservation of His own chosen ones.

### **7.2. The knowledge of God.**

- God knows who His own are! He knows His servants, and He chooses them.

### **7.3. The purposes of God.**

- Often God is working out multiple purposes at the same time. All of the mysteries of God are coming to their ultimate fulfillment and conclusion here, and that includes the mystery of Israel.
- Paul says in Romans that he does not want the church to be ignorant of this mystery, that a partial blindness has come upon the people of Israel until the full number of Gentiles has come in.
- In the meantime, there is one final trouble or we could even say one final holocaust which awaits the people, the time of "Jacob's Trouble."
- Christians don't want to see this happen, but in fact God is engineering things even now so that the Church will arise in love for the Jews as their older brother.
- Who is it that removes the veil of Jewish unbelief?
- The end is glorious, as Israel gradually and then all at once receives Yeshua!

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*I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? (Romans 11:11-15 NKJV)*

*“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.” (Zechariah 12:10 NKJV)*

#### **7.4. The 144,000**

- God will reveal Himself in a personal, powerful way to 144,000 literal Jews.
- They are chosen to bear witness for God and bear witness to Israel.
- Are there any “lost tribes?”

**9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”**

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**11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen.” 13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?”**

**14 And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. 16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”**

**7.5. A Great Multitude.**

Why didn't John know who they are? Probably because of the size and composition of the crowd! The Church in Heaven had become a great multitude no one could count.

**7.6. Who are they?**

We know they are believers because they have washed their robes in the Blood of the Lamb, meaning that they have been born again through the Cross of Christ.

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**7.7. How have they arrived in Heaven?**

This ties in to the issue of the Rapture. The Rapture is the New Testament doctrine which tells us that not all believers will experience physical death. Paul says, *“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (1 Corinthians 15:51-52 NKJV)*

There are several main viewpoints as to the timing of the Rapture. The issue for most people is when does it occur in relation to the last seven years before Jesus returns. Do these come out of tribulation it because they are killed or because God takes them out?

### **7.8. Their reward.**

God is with them and will personally wipe the tears from their eyes. Imagine... What a glorious future awaits all those who endure suffering for the sake of Christ!

## **Revelation 8**

**1 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. 3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. 5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.**

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Intercession is not wasted. It arises to God like incense, like perfume. At the right time, there is a release of the judgments of God in response to the prayers of the saints.

**6 So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. 7 The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.**

**8 Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. 9 And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.**

**10 Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. 11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.**

**12 Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.**

**13 And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"**

**(Revelation 8:1-13 NKJV)**

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### **8.1. The scope of the judgments.**

We cannot be sure what John means when he talks about a third of the Earth and so forth. Is he speaking of a particular portion of the Earth?

### **8.2. The source of the judgments.**

There is a question as to whether these judgments come directly from God or whether some of them are the aftereffects of nuclear war or something of that type. But whatever the source of these judgments, natural or supernatural, we have to note that it is God who controls their scope and their timing.

### **8.3. The mercy of God.**

God in His holiness has been greatly provoked by He only touches a third of what man needs to live – vegetation, water, and light. He does not want people to perish in these judgments and be eternally condemned. This is the merciful heart of our Father! *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)*

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