

July 03, 2022
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Seven: A Study of the Book of Revelation
Ep. 5: 144,000
Revelation 7:1-8

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. **2** Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: **3** “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” **4** Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. **5** From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed from the tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, **6** from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000, ⁷ from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000, ⁸ from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, **from the tribe of Joseph** 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.

In chapter 7 of Revelation we see a pause of the breaking of seals and the choosing of 144,000 witnesses.

The Characters of Revelation 7

- **Vs. 1 Four destroying angels: The four angels represent totality.**
 - **North, South, East, West Vs. 1** *“After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree.”*
 - **Zechariah 6:5** *So I inquired of the angel who was speaking with me, “What are these, my lord?”* **5** [And the angel told me. “These are the four spirits of heaven, going forth from their station before the Lord of all the earth.](#) **6** *The one with the black horses is going toward the land of the north, the one with the white horses toward the west, and the one with the dappled horses toward the south.*
- **Vs. 2 A commanding angel.**
- **Vs. 4 The tribes of Israel.**
 - Tribe of Joseph has replaced the tribe of Dan.
- **Vs. 4 144,000 witnesses**

WHO ARE THE 144,000

- **Vs. 3 They are chosen.**
 - **We are chosen: Eph 1:11** In him we were also **chosen**, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will
- **They are sealed for protection:** These believers are sealed with the name of the Father on their foreheads rather than the mark of the beast as they have rejected the things of this world.

- **Revelation 9:4** They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.
 - **We are sealed: 2 Corinthians 1:21-22** Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.
 - **They are servants of the living God.**
 - **Vs. 3** “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the **servants** of our God.”
 - **We are servants: 1 Corinthians 4:1** This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
 - **They are witnesses whose work results in a great multitude coming to know Christ as Lord during the tribulation.**
 - **They stand on Mt. Zion with God**
 - **Revelation 14:1** Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.
 - **We stand on Mount Zion with God.**
 - **Hebrews 12:2** But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Warning: Hebrews 12:14-15 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. ¹⁶ See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. ¹⁷ Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.

Small Group Questions:

1. What does the removal of the tribe of Dan from the 12 tribes list in Revelation 7 possibly tell us?
2. Pastor Adam's sermon focused on how the 144,000 witnesses were a prototype of the kinds of believers we should emulate. Describe these 144,000
3. Revelation is full of warnings. Why do you think this is? Should we be concerned with these warnings?
4. What does it mean to be a servant of God?