

Revelation – Chapter Seven

Sealing the 144,000

Revelation 7:9-17



The Covenantal Treaty Structure

SECTION	NAME	PURPOSE
1.	PREAMBLE	To identify and establish the authority of the Suzerain
2.	HISTORICAL PROLOGUE	To review the historical relationship between the Suzerain and the Vassal
3.	ETHICAL STIPULATIONS	To explain the conduct expected of the Vassal and the benefits which accompany obedience to the covenant
4.	SANCTIONS	To define violations of the covenant and the consequences of disobedience to the covenant
5.	SUCCESSION ARRANGEMENTS	To warn of the grave consequences of succeeding the covenant

THE SECONDARY OUTLINE

PART ONE: THE UNFAITHFUL WIFE (1:1 – 11:19)

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| I. THE PREAMBLE: JOHN'S VISION OF THE SON OF MAN | 1:1-20 |
| II. HISTORICAL PROLOGUE: LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES | 2:1-3:22 |
| III. STIPULATIONS: THE SEVEN SEALS | 4:1-7:17 |
| IV. SANCTIONS: THE SEVEN TRUMPETS | 8:1-11:19 |

III. ETHICAL STIPULATIONS 4:1-7:17

A. You are Worthy, O LORD4:1-11

B. Worthy is the Lamb.....5:1-14

C. Opening the First Six Seals.....6:1-17

D. The First Interlude.....7:1-17



III. ETHICAL STIPULATIONS: THE SEVEN SEALS..... 4:1 – 7:17

D. First Interlude.....	7:1-17
1.144,000 of Israel are Sealed.....	7:1-8
2.An Innumerable Multitude Praise God and the Lamb.....	7:9-12
3.The Elder’s Inquiry.....	7:13
4.John’s Reply.....	7:14a
5.The Elder’s Explanation.....	7:14b-17

The First Interlude (7:1-17)

- Chapter six records the opening of the first six seals (Review)
- However, in verse one we read the four horseman *have not yet been loosed*.
- Review the imagery of the “seven sealed scroll”; it would not be opened until the seventh seal was broken.





Revelation – Chapter Six

What are the Four Horseman?

Reference	Horseman	Meaning
1-2	White	Jesus Christ
3-4	Red	Sword
5-6	Black	Famine
7-8	Green	Pestilence

- **Jeremiah 21:4-10**
- Jeremiah 29:17
- Jeremiah 32:24
- Ezekiel 5:12
- Ezekiel 5:17
- **Ezekiel 14:21**

Fifth Seal: Souls Under the Altar

Revelation 6:9-11





Sixth Seal: Earthquake and Cosmic Chaos

Revelation 6:12-17

The First Interlude (7:1-17)

- Chapter six records the opening of the first six seals (Review)
- However, in verse one we read the four horseman *have not yet been loosed*.
- Review the imagery of the “seven sealed scroll”; it would not be opened until the seventh seal was broken.
- The purpose for this “interlude” is revealed *in verse 3*.
 - There is another “interlude” in chapter 10:1 – 11:19
 - Note this interlude follows the sixth seal and the second interlude follows the sixth trumpet.
 - No interlude follows the sixth bowl of wrath.
- **Read: Matthew 24:4-14**



144,000 Are Sealed of Israel are Sealed (7:1-8)

- This imagery corresponds to the numbering in Exodus 12:12-13 and Ezekiel 9:1-5
- Like many of the numbers in Revelation the 144,000 *is not literal*.

TRIBE	NUMBER	REFERENCE
GRAND TOTAL	144,000	Vs. 4
1. Judah	12,000	Vs. 5
2. Reuben	12,000	Vs. 5
3. Gad	12,000	Vs. 5
4. Asher	12,000	Vs. 6
5. Naphtali	12,000	Vs. 6
6. Manasseh	12,000	Vs. 6
7. Simeon	12,000	Vs. 7
8. Levi	12,000	Vs. 7
9. Issachar	12,000	Vs. 7
10., Zebulun	12,000	Vs. 8
11. Joseph	12,000	Vs. 8
12. Benjamin	12,000	Vs. 8

The 144,000

- Many numbers are **symbolic** in Revelation
- “The seven churches in Asia” does not mean there were no other churches **Col. 4:12-16**
- **3** = divine number
- **4** = world number
- **7** = perfection
- **10** = completeness
- **4** x **3** = **12** = religious organization
- **12** squared = **144**
- **10** cubed = **1000**
- **144** x **1000** = **144,000**

144,000 Are Sealed of Israel are Sealed (7:1-8)

- Like many of the numbers in Revelation the 144,000 *is not literal*.
- It is meant to represent a “complete” number
- **But sealed for what?**

TRIBE	NUMBER	REFERENCE
GRAND TOTAL	144,000	Vs. 4
1. Judah	12,000	Vs. 5
2. Reuben	12,000	Vs. 6
3. Gad	12,000	Vs. 6
4. Asher	12,000	Vs. 6
5. Naphtali	12,000	Vs. 6
6. Manasse	12,000	Vs. 6
7. Simeon	12,000	Vs. 7
8. Levi	12,000	Vs. 7
9. Issachar	12,000	Vs. 7
10., Zebulun	12,000	Vs. 8
11. Joseph	12,000	Vs. 8
12. Benjamin	12,000	Vs. 8

Did you notice?
 The tribe of Dan is omitted from the tribes and the tribe of Levi is counted (it is usually excluded). Don't become distracted by these details, it simply reinforces that this is not a *literal census*, instead it is a **symbolic number**.

12 tribes, squared
(144)

Times ten, cubed
(1,000)

144 x 1,000 =

144,000

An Innumerable Multitude Praise God and the Lamb (7:9-12)

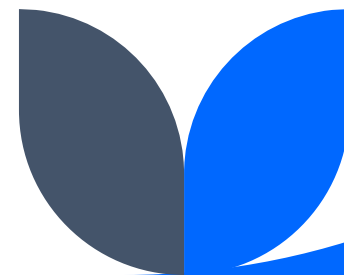
- This is **not** the same number as those sealed – vs. 9
- The 144,000 is on earth – Vs. 3
- The innumerable multitude is before the Throne and the Lamb – Vs. 9
- The innumerable multitude is praising God and the Lamb for sealing of the 144,000 – Vs. 10
- The innumerable multitude is “of all nations, tribes, peoples, tongues”



The Elder's Inquiry and John's Reply (7:13, 14)

Outline	Verse
The Elder's Inquiry	Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" (Rev 7:13 NKJV)
John's Reply	"And I said to him, 'Sir, you know.' (14:a NKJV)

This is another symbol that is not left to uncertainty; **we are given the answer!**

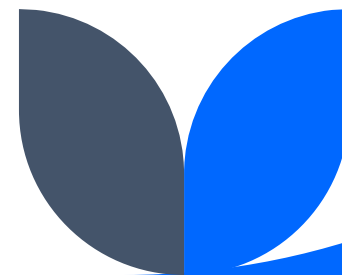


Who are the 144,000?

- “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**. 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. **They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; 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.**”

(Revelation 7:14-17 NKJV)

- **Read Revelation 14:1-5 (Is this literal?); 21:1-4**



An Innumerable Multitude Praise God and the Lamb (7:9-12)

- This is **not** the same number as those sealed – vs. 9
- The 144,000 is on earth – Vs. 3
- The innumerable multitude is before the Throne and the Lamb – Vs. 9
- The innumerable multitude is praising God and the Lamb for sealing of the 144,000 – Vs. 10
- The innumerable multitude is “of all nations, tribes, peoples, tongues”
- This represents the entire church rejoicing over the preservation of their righteous brethren out of Jerusalem.



Quote by Marcellus Kik

“One of the most remarkable things about the siege of Jerusalem was the miraculous escape of Christians. It has been estimated that over a million Jews lost their lives in that terrible siege, but not one of them was a Christian. This our Lord indicated in verse 13: ‘But he that endure to the end, the same shall be saved.’ That the ‘end’ spoken of was not the termination of a Christian’s life but rather the end of Jerusalem is evident from the context. Immediately after this verse Christ goes on to relate the exact time of the end. Christians who would live to the end would be saved from terrible tribulation. Christ indicates also the time for the Christian to flee from the city so that he could be saved during the destruction. This is verified in a parallel passage (Luke 21:18): ‘But there shall not an hair of your head perish.’ In other words, during the desolation of Jerusalem, Christians would be unharmed, although in the period previous to this some would lose their lives through persecution.”¹

¹J. Marcellus Kik, *An Eschatology of Victory* (Nutley, NJ: The Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1971), pp.

“The Great Tribulation” (vs. 14b)

- Like much in Revelation there has been countless speculation about “the great tribulation”, but this is not the only place it is mentioned
 - Matthew 24:9, 21, 29 - “there will be great tribulation”
 - Mark 13:9, 24 – “there will be tribulation such as has not been...”
 - Luke 21:20-24 – When? “When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies know that her desolation is near.”
- What tribulation could be greater than this?



Revelation – Chapter Seven

Sealing the 144,000

Revelation 7:9-17

