

THE SEALED

- Chapter 7 represents that the visions are multifaceted
- This is what is happening while the other seals have been opened
- The events in Chapter 7 answers the question:
 - “What is happening to the believers during this time?”

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- “I” read Revelation time-agnostic, spiritually focused
- The concept of a Rapture gives hope for relief, but...
- Each “after this” is in reference to the timing of the visions, not the timing of the events
- Regardless of our leanings, the importance falls on the fullness of Revelation, not the individual details

THE SEALED

- **Holding Back the 4 Winds**
 - The 4 winds likely are the force behind the 4 horsemen
 - Zechariah 6:1-6
 - God is in control of them and is actively holding them back with His angels until the appointed time
 - Being held back reflects their destructive nature

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- Another Angel
 - Coming from the east likely denotes a place of blessing
 - Eden was in the east (Genesis 2:8)
 - Glory of God coming from the east (Ezekiel 43:2)
 - Wise men coming from the east with news of Christ (Matthew 2:1-2)

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- Seal of the Living God
 - Represents ownership
 - Indicates protection
 - This angel has authority over the other 4 angels

THE SEALED

- The Seal
 - The word means “sealed permanently” implying finality to God’s choice
 - Ezekiel 9:1-11
 - Ezekiel 14:21-23

THE SEALED

- The Seal
 - As previously discussed, the spiritual is of more permanent value than the physical
 - The Seal then is a spiritual protection and an assurance of the power of God to enable the saints to persevere
 - The Seal enables the trial to be faith-enhancing rather than faith-destroying

THE SEALED

- 144,000
 - Definite numbers imply completion, showing that none will be missing or unaccounted
 - Represents the perfect total of Israel
 - The spiritual representation of Israel – “The Church”
 - Likely the 12 Tribes times the 12 Apostles

THE SEALED

- 144,000
 - No Tribe of Dan
 - Could be an indication that the antichrist comes from the lineage of Dan – Jeremiah 8:16
 - Order of the Tribes
 - Judah fulfills prophecy of the messianic king
 - In 20 lists of the tribes in the OT, there are 18 orders

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- 144,000
 - Richard Bauckham - the number indicates an army
 - A census in the OT always determined military strength
 - The count always included males of military age (Rev 14:1-4) – “male virgins”
 - Early Qumran community viewed the text this way
 - Washing of the robes is a war tradition

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- Every...
 - Showing universality of the group
 - No ethnic group of people not represented
 - Further representing that the 144,000 from the Jewish tribes are representing spiritual Israel rather than physical Israel

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- Location
 - Before the Throne and before the Lamb
 - Christ is again given a place of prominence with the Father
 - The Redeemed are in the direct care of God

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- White Robes and Palm Branches
 - Symbolizing justification and victory
 - Saints are given the victory through Christ's Victory
 - Further reiterated through the statement of the saints
 - Salvation belongs to God and to the Lamb
 - Inseparable but individual

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- All the Angels
 - This is a culminating moment
 - Their “Amen” signifies agreement in the message
 - Angels are in awe of the work of God through Christ
 - 7 attributions represent “the” blessing to God, not merely “a” blessing

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- Who Are the Redeemed?
 - Great Tribulation
 - “Come out of” implies a present tense demonstrating an ongoing action
 - The tribulation is both the tribulation at the end and also the ongoing tribulations of this world

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- Who Are the Redeemed?
 - White in the Blood of the Lamb
 - Redemption only possible in the sacrifice of Christ
 - This group comprises the totality of the redeemed and not just the martyrs
 - Only because of Christ's death are we able to stand before the throne properly clothed

THE SEALED

- Who Are the Redeemed?
 - We see a genuine existence in the presence of God.
 - Clothed in Christ, covered with the glory of God
 - The blessing of existing in the presence of God
 - Why do the redeemed live in a state free from torment and distress?

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- Who Are the Redeemed?
 - The lamb is our shepherd
 - God will wipe away every tear from their eyes
 - God's tender care means complete provision for His people.
 - This is a good Father.

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- Reflection
 - Juxtapose this description of the care of God and the redemption of Christ and the scene unfolding in the throne room to the scene unfolding on earth from the pouring out of the destructive consequence of sin

THE SEALED

- Reflection
 - Mighty on earth are screaming to be crushed by rocks
 - Meek in heaven are enjoying redemption in Christ
 - Clear delineation of the path of sin and path of Christ
 - A call to be blessed in what we have (redemption)
 - An even greater call to evangelism