

## Revelation- Class 6 (Revelation 7-8) "Grace within Judgement"

### Recap:

Last week we took time to focus on Jesus breaking the first six seals  
Remember, we are looking at this from the **futurist** perspective  
Meaning that these event WILL happen in the future.  
Also, from a **pre-tribulation** rapture meaning at this point  
The Church will be in heaven with John.

As we do a refresher from last week, keep in mind  
There is time between breaking the seals.



### The Six Seals:

- **First Seal: The Anti-Christ**
  - Coming under the guise of peace
  - Welcomed by the world as it's Messiah
  - Conquering and to Conquer...
    - We'll get more detailed about this in chapter 13  
Put simply, he'll bring the world into one government
    - Forcing people to take the mark of the beast
      - In order to eat, work, live.
    - Ultimately, forcing people to worship him (Mark 13)
- **The Second Seal: War and Carnage**
  - Peace is taken away and the world will be at war with itself.
  - Current day: chemical, weapons, EMP's, and cyber attacks
    - Revealing the fragility of our world.
- **The Third Seal: Worldwide Famine and Economic Collapse**
  - Starvation
  - One idea is that the rich get richer/ poor get poorer

- **The Fourth Seal: Death**
  - ¼ of the world's population killed (2 Billion)
  - War, disease, hunger, becoming Alpo... eaten by wild beasts
  
- **The Fifth Seal: The Martyr's Cry**
  - Those that were killed during the tribulation
  - Taking a stand for Jesus even when it cost their lives
  - Men, women, children... receiving a white robe of right standing with God
  
- **The Sixth Seal: Cosmic Acts of God**
  - The moon turning to blood
  - Stars falling, mountains and islands disappearing
  - The sky described as being rolled up like a scroll.
    - Plumes? Dust? Fire?

**And yet, even though it was hell on earth...**

Even though the martyrs proclaimed the reason for all this  
And the answer to free them

***Revelation 6:15-17 (ESV), "15 Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"***

**Now we come to Chapter 7...**

**For sake of time, I will give the 10,000 foot view of this chapter.**

**Several notes:**

- There will be four angels that cover a compass (NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, AND WEST)
  - They will hold back the wind
  - Some believe this is **JUDGEMENT**
  - Others believe that this will be the horsemen from continuing judgements
  - They'll hold the judgements back until...
    - Another angel will seal/stamp 144,000 foreheads



**Revelation 14:1 (ESV), "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."**

- i. They are called *the children of Israel* ([Revelation 7:4](#)).
- ii. Their tribal affiliation is specific ([Revelation 7:4-8](#)).
- iii. protected and triumphant through the period of God's wrath, meeting with Jesus at Mount Zion at His return ([Rev. 14:1](#)).
- iv. They are celibate ([Revelation 14:4](#)).
- v. They are the beginning of a greater harvest ([Revelation 14:4](#)).
- vi. They are marked by integrity and faithfulness ([Revelation 14:5](#)).



#### **Sealing :**

- i. Jesus was sealed; *God the Father has set His seal on Him.* ([John 6:27](#))
- ii. We are sealed with the Holy Spirit as a down payment of our eventual total redemption. Paul wrote: *God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.* ([2 Corinthians 1:21-22](#))
- iii. This sealing of the Holy Spirit belongs to every believer when they are saved: *having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.* ([Ephesians 1:13](#))
- iv. The sealing of the Holy Spirit is meant to be both a *comfort* and a *challenge* to us. We are comforted in that it assures us that we belong to Him. We are *challenged* by it to depart from all evil and identify ourselves with the One we belong to: *Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."* ([2 Timothy 2:19](#)) *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.* ([Ephesians 4:30](#))<sup>1</sup>

#### **In short:**

These 144,000 people are believed to be completed Jews/messianic Jews

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<sup>1</sup> <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-7/>

Jews who believe in Jesus and are sent out to the world to proclaim Him.

Imagine 144,000 Paul's, knowledgeable of the Old Testament  
And anointed to point the world to Jesus!

A question I received last week was: will people who go through the tribulation be saved  
Yes! There is an opportunity for everyone to come to the saving grace of Jesus.  
Let's see what many believe to be the impact of the 144,000...

***Revelation 7:9-10, "9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"***



Can you imagine? There will be diversity in Heaven!  
Can you use your holy imagination and picture what this worship will look like?  
sound like? Feel like?

Hearing the name of Jesus proclaimed in so many different languages  
known and unknown in our day and age!  
Jesus! Yeshua! Yesu-sama-wo! Jesus (hey-sus!)  
clothed with the white robe of righteousness a right standing with God.

I wonder what John must have looked like,  
his known understanding of the world must have been limited  
and now to see the masses! The voices! The cries!  
If I were John I would be dumbfounded!

So an elder possibly see's John's wonderment and prompts the question

**Revelation 7:13-14 (ESV), <sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” <sup>14</sup> I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”**

How did they die?

die from war? Famine? Celestial events?

Some commentators state that the word “the”

was written in the Greek as emphatic meaning, “THE great tribulation” referring to the possibility of them being martyred.

Before we move on....

How many people were saved? A great multitude that no one could number.

So if this were to happen within our life time,  
it may be safe to assume Billions of people.

**What does this reveal about the character of God?**

- He is graceful even in His judgement.
- He is merciful even in His wrath
- He is the same in the cost for the people to make it...
  - it wasn't their possible martyrdom that allowed them into heaven they chose to wash their robes **IN THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.**

**\*Reference Passover (importance of applying the blood by choice)**

**Revelation 7:15-17 (ESV), <sup>15</sup> “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 shelter them with his presence.**

**<sup>16</sup> They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.**

**<sup>17</sup> For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”**

This is a beautiful picture of God's loving grace

His willingness to pursue those who wanted nothing to do with Him.

The idea here is that there is light at the end of the tunnel

The hell these people literally walked through will come to an end.

There are still many questions:

How will these people serve?

What does it look like to shelter them and from what?

They shall never hunger? Will they eat?

The main idea is that their troubles will come to an end.

Jesus will be their shepherd, their protector and provider

He will continue to lead them and guide them to living water

To be refreshed, renewed, nourished...

**Can we humanize these people?**

- Are there abused people?
- Are there people who have only known survival?
- Are there people who feel unworthiness and shame?

Can you see the care of Jesus for these kinds of people

It's ok... it's ok...

But then it's His hands that wipe away every tear from their eyes..

What I love is that it's Jesus' hands...

It's multiple tears, not just one fat tear (that's all you get)



Even yet, while judging the world... He still have the space, time, and capacity

To shepherd and care.

He doesn't berate /shame them

He doesn't say "stop being a sissy!"

The character of Jesus weeps, mourns, and ministers

in the context of this passage, he ministers to those who died during the tribulation

But we have

***Revelation 21:4, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."***

For our unsaved family members, friends, colleagues, etc.

Will we cry? I assume many of us will.

Will it hurt? I think it will

But we can hold on to and trust that Jesus will minister and walk us through it.

He will still wipe away your tears...

to the point of no more crying or pain

How? I can't grasp my head around it!

I don't like thinking about it... but we can trust that Jesus

Will walk us through it

***Revelation 8:1 (ESV), "When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour."***

After the last tear is wiped from those that died during the tribulation  
Jesus comes back and opens the last seal

Some ideas to why the silence:

1. Breathing space... a lot has happened... catch your breath!
2. The angels silence their worship so the prayers of the saints can be heard
3. A collective soberness from the joy of what the world is about to face.

### **Half and hour...**

what is interesting about this is that in Heaven there is constant worship

In Revelation 4 we see the creatures crying out "HOLY!"

Now... silence... possibly the first time since creation

Judgement like the world has never experienced before is about to come

***Revelation 8:2 (ESV), "2 Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them"***

Trumpets in the ancient days were used to sound the alarm for war

This would rally the troops but also strike fear into their enemies.

Before these trumpets are blown something significant happens first...



***Revelation 8:3-5 (ESV), "3 And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, 4 and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. 5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake."***

**“More potent, more powerful than all the dark and mighty powers let loose in the world, more powerful than anything else, is the power of prayer set ablaze by the fire of God and cast upon the earth.” (Torrance)**

The picture of incense is a picture of the Holy of Holies  
Where incense was an offering made to God  
Along with the incense were the prayers of all the saints  
John painting the picture that it was accepted before the Father

The cries for justice, hope, that Jesus would return, God help!  
Is filled with the fire from the alter and thrown down to Earth

***Revelation 8:6, “6 Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.”***

Before we move on... here’s where a lot of people are not agreed

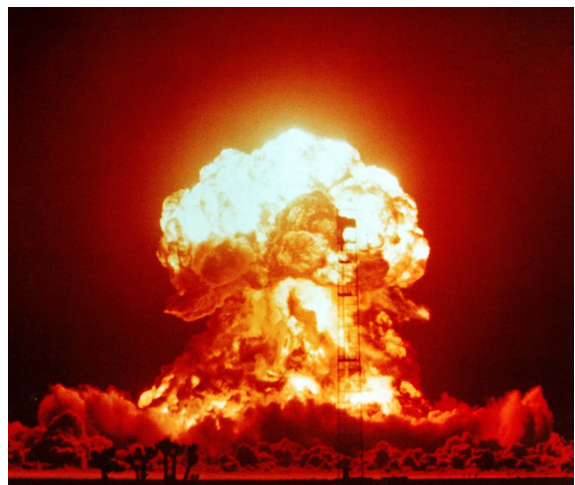
- Some believe John is using poetic repetition
  - Meaning that this basically details the seal judgements that already took place
- Other believe that these judgements stand alone
  - Meaning that they are in addition to the seal judgements.

Either way... It’s judgement

***Revelation 8:7, “7 The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.”***

Many contemporary commentators believe that this is referring to a nuclear holocaust.

“The fact remains that upon the detonation of a nuclear warhead, two hundred fifty mph winds of fire follow. In addition, aboveground nuclear tests on the island of Bikini cause the surrounding water to shoot thousands of feet into the air, where it froze and returned as hailstones big enough to destroy the equipment intended to monitor it.”<sup>2</sup>



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<sup>2</sup> Jon Courson, *Application Commentary*, Pg. 1709



**Revelation 8:8-9 (ESV), “<sup>8</sup> The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. <sup>9</sup> A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.”**

The word Like... so it may not be a literal mountain  
Can be symbolic of a meteor  
Can be a plum cloud from a nuclear bomb  
It could be symbolic of a nation (mountain= nation)

**A third of the sea became blood...**

Think for a moment of what that would smell like?  
Dead fish, whales, people, oil loosed

People will not look at these events and think...  
Isn't this a coincidence?



**Revelation 16:9, “<sup>9</sup> They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.”**

**Revelation 16:11, “<sup>11</sup> and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.”**

**Revelation 19:19, “Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army.”**

**Revelation 8:10-11 (ESV), “<sup>10</sup> The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water— <sup>11</sup> the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.”**

Could be a meteor, nuclear bomb, or something else God creatively thinks up  
Impacting a third of the fresh water ecological system  
Wormwood= bitterness and sadness



**Revelation 8:12 (ESV), <sup>12</sup>“The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, 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 turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.”**

Whatever is used to cause so much destruction  
It's impacts will be clearly seen throughout the world  
Dust, ashes, fire, blood, death, lightning, thunder, darkness

Example: Fire in Redding.

And yet... Not only are 144,000 people witnessing



**Revelation 8:13(ESV), <sup>13</sup>“As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: “Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!”**

Other translations will say an angel was flying  
Saying, “woe! Woe! Woe!”  
Since there were no exclamation marks in Greek  
The repeated woe meant, exclamation!

**Let's land the plane here...**

Even in God's judgements there is great mercy.  
He impacted a third of the world  
When he could have easily destroyed it all.



**We can trust God's limitations as a means of grace....**

Not only in judgement  
But His correction in our lives  
He is the perfect surgeon, not taking out more than necessary.