

REVELATION 6:12 - 7:17

- A. Revelation 6:12-13 - And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; Rev 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

1. As the sixth seal begins to be poured out, there is a great convulsion of nature. The earthquake is probably one of the greatest earthquakes the world has ever experienced. It is the "granddaddy" of them all.
2. The tremendous volcanic eruptions spewing vast amounts of ash-steam and gases into the upper atmosphere will cause the sun to look like it is black with the moon appearing in the color red.

Joel 2:30-31 - And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. Joel 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

Zephaniah 1:15 - That day *is* a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

Isaiah 13:9-10 - Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. Isa. 13:10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

Acts 2:19-21 - And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: Acts 2:20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

*Evidently meteorites and asteroids will pummel the earth creating devastation upon impact. So much for today's theories.

- B. Revelation 6:14 - And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Because of the turmoil of events, the earth's foundations are moved as the earth's crust begins having slippages. *Can you imagine the Continental Drift or the ocean's Ring of Fire moving!?

Isaiah 13:13 - Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

- C. Revelation 6:15-16 - And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; Rev. 6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

1. Man's response is amazing! After God's wrath humbling them, making them helpless, they still refuse to turn to God in faith. They would rather try to hide from Him among the caves to protect themselves.

2. We see here God, the Father, and the Lamb's wrath being poured out. So they cried out to **Mother-**Earth for help!

D. Revelation 6:17- For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

1. Remember, the seal judgments happen the first three and one-half years of the Tribulation. This is just the **beginning**.
2. John ends this chapter with a question: "Who will be able to stand as God's wrath is being poured out?" They will have two more **sets** of seven judgments!

*At least the inhabitants of earth will admit God's **existence** here, but they still remain defiant!

Revelation 9:20-21 - And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Rev. 9:21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

Revelation 16:10-11 - And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, Rev. 16:11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

E. Revelation 7:1- And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

1. Who is able to stand? Chapter seven answers that. Before Christ opens the seventh seal, which introduces the seven trumpets, God introduces a parenthetical **insert** or explanation of **added** information which is chapter seven. This insert looks back to the beginning of the Tribulation and identifies those who will stand.

*This demonstrates that even though the world is being judged by God, though it is awful, yet in the midst, God's **grace** is available to those who will believe God's message and messengers.
2. The point here is stillness, not even a leaf moves as the Tribulation is about to begin. This also shows the supernatural will be a **common** experience during this time.
3. The angel's abilities will be **unveiled**, showing how God uses them to fulfill His purpose. Here we see the angels control the wind engines of the world!

Psalms 103:20 - Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

*It only takes four angels to **stop** the circulation of the atmosphere's unbelievable winds. How will that affect earth?

F. Revelation 7:2-3- And 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 given to hurt the earth and the sea, Rev. 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

1. A mightier angel in authority appears. He orders the four angels to hold off temporarily the judgment of earth until after a **special** group of male **Jewish** believers will hear the two witnesses and respond to their Kingdom Gospel message in **faith**.

2. The two witnesses?

- a. Revelation 11:3 - And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

*For **1,260** days, the first three and one-half years of the Tribulation, God has two witnesses who will be prophesying. They will minister mainly to Israel, but their message will be seen world-wide through international satellites. The world will be aware and **affected** by them.

- b. Who are these two witnesses? No doubt one of them will be Elijah.

Malachi 4:5 - Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

- (1) *The other witness, some say is Enoch because, like Elijah, he had not **died** but was translated up.

- (2) But to me, I believe it is Moses. Remember who was on the Mount with Elijah in Matthew 17? Moses relates also to the plagues in the Tribulation. *But whoever they are, they will have a **turbulent**, but **fruitful** ministry during the first half of the Tribulation.

3. These Jewish believers are sealed indicating ownership and protection. Evidently, this seal will be **visible** on their foreheads.

Revelation 9:3-4 - And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. Rev. 9:4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

*What is the seal of security?

Revelation 14:1 - And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

- G. Revelation 7:4-8 - And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were* sealed an hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. Rev.7:5 Of the tribe of Juda *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad *were* sealed twelve thousand. Rev.7:6 Of the tribe of Aser *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephtalim *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses *were* sealed twelve thousand. Rev.7:7 Of the tribe of Simeon *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar *were* sealed twelve thousand. Rev.7:8 Of the tribe of Zabulon *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin *were* sealed twelve thousand.

1. The 144,000 are from the 12 tribes of Israel, 12,000 from each tribe (**not lost**).

2. As we compare the past 12 tribes, we will notice that Dan and Ephraim are not mentioned. This is because they had moved to the northern part of Israel and became guilty of going into **idolatry**. Consequently, they are left out of these 12 tribes (Dt. 29:18-21, 24-26; Judges 18:2, 30-31; I Kings 11:26, 12:28-30; and Hosea 4:17)

***Levi** and Joseph are inserted here to take their place.

3. These 144,000 saved Jewish males are given a mission that their earlier fathers had failed to do (Matthew 28:19-20; Galatians 2:9). Their ministry in the Tribulation will not be limited to only Israel, but they will circle the **globe**.

*It could also be they will have a response of faith at the beginning of the Tribulation from Israel
- Revelation 2-3 churches.

H. Revelation 7:9 - After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

1. These were mainly Jews who had been scattered. Remember, Israel needs to be saved **first**. They will be preaching the set-aside kingdom message, and to tell all Christ is coming.

Acts 3:19-21, 25-26 - Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; Acts 3:20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Acts 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. Acts 3:25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Act 3:26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

2. In verse 9, these converts are in heaven (before the throne), evidently having been martyred for believing, and almost as **fast** as they believed!

Revelation 7:13-14 - And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? Rev. 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

3. Note: It is important to remember that these are those who are left **behind** at the Rapture. They had missed being saved during our Age of Grace, but this is **not** a second chance.

*Those that have heard the Gospel of Grace, were convicted by the Holy Spirit, saw their need for the gospel, then **rejected** it, they will be the ones who will be blinded and **receive** the mark of the beast. But there are multitudes of people (especially **Jews**) who will be saved by the preaching of the 144,000 (Revelation 20:4).

4. What happens to the 144,000 Jewish evangelists?

- a. *They maintain their faith - **purity** and **do not** participate in Israel's apostate religion **nor** the beast's system of **Baal** - worship - fornication.

Revelation 14:5 - And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

- b. They are taken up to Heaven with the two witnesses at **mid**-tribulation.

Revelation 11:7, 11-12 - And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. Rev. 11:11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. Rev. 11:12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

Revelation 14:1, 3-4 - And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. Rev. 14:3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. Rev. 14:4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

- I. Revelation 7:10-12 - And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. Rev. 7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and *about* the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Rev. 7:12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, *be* unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

1. Both the martyrs and angelic hosts break **out** in praise and worship of God. The **redeemed** thank God for their salvation in the sacrifice of Him sending His Son, and the Lamb's sacrifice for them.
2. As the redeemed are praising God, the angelic hosts **join** in by giving God a sevenfold doxology for all to hear:
 - a. [blessing] This has the idea of eulogy, to speak **well** of God. It is their heart's response to God.
 - b. [and glory] This is the greek word "doxa," from where we get our word doxology. It means one is **thinking** of God favorably.
 - c. [wisdom] God knows all and is **wiser** than all.
 - d. [thanksgiving] Interesting is that it is coming from angels, who are moved about **our** salvation! It means God has good grace.
 - e. [honour] It means to place value on God. It is **inestimable**!
 - f. [power] This is the word "dunamis," speaking of the awesomeness of God (Genesis 1:1).
 - g. [might] This speaks of God's amazing **ability** to do what He wishes to fulfill His plans.

A final thought on the 144,000: Revelation 12:5 - And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and *to* his throne.

3. [man child...was caught up] This is not Jesus Christ. Remember, everything about Chapter 12 is **future**, even from where we are today. The birth of Christ is **past** from where we are now!
4. [man child] I believe this **could** be the 144,000, along with the overcomers of Chapters 2-3 (Rev. 3:12).
5. The next verse, (12:6) is where Israel flees into the **wild**erness for the final three and one-half years of the Tribulation. This means the "man child" (144,000) is caught up to Heaven in the middle of the Tribulation. That **coincides** with:

Revelation 14:2-3 - And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: Rev. 14:3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

- a. John sees here the instruments, singers, as they sing an unknown new song. **Only** the 144,000 could learn it, or have the right to sing this song.
- b. They knew that God had **saved** them, supernaturally, sealed, and used them, for three and one-half years on earth. They then sing because they will have been caught up just **before** the great Tribulation began - what a deliverance!

- J. Revelation 7:15 - Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

The overcoming martyred believers, now in Heaven, will be **rewarded** by being allowed to be in God's presence to continue to serve Him. This will be a place of unique privilege and **honor**.

- K. Revelation 7:16 - They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

These believers will no longer experience the Tribulation's hunger, thirst and heat. Remember, in the Tribulation, believers will be illegal, so they will not be able to buy food or drink (horrible).

Revelation 13:17 - And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

*But here in Heaven, God will provide for all their needs.

- L. Revelation 7:17 - For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

1. The Lamb will be shepherding over them, leading them to fresh food and still waters (Psalms 23).
2. God will wipe their tears - heartaches away. He will hold and comfort them from the horrific ordeal they had experienced.

*They will never - ever again have to endure suffering, pain, sorrow or death. This is completely fulfilled in:

Revelation 21:3-4 - And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God. Rev. 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.