

The Revelation of Jesus Christ to the Apostle John
Vision 2: Christ the Lamb and the Sealed Scroll
Unit 12: Breaking of the 5th and 6th Seals
Revelation 6:9-7:17
November 26, 2023

YOUR CUES TO
UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

VISION 2c: SOULS UNDER THE ALTAR (Revelation 6:9-11)

9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the **altar** the **souls** of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. 10 They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and **avenge** our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to **rest** a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

VISION 2d: THE WRATH OF THE LAMB (6:12-17)

12 When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great **earthquake**, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, 13 and the **stars of the sky fell to the earth** as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. 14 The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. 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?**"

VISION 2e: THE 144,000 TRIBULATION SAINTS (7:1-17)

1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the **earth**, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. 2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the **rising of the sun**, with the **seal of the living God**, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." 4 And I heard the number of the sealed, (from every tribe of the sons of Israel: 5 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad, 6 12,000 from the

SOULS UNDER THE ALTAR (Revelation 6:9-11)

(9) *altar* - symbol of blood sacrifice

(9) *Souls* - disembodied (pre-resurrection) spirits of believers with Christ in Paradise

(10) *Avenge* - to procure justice / vindicate
 Acts 7:60 and Luke 23:34

(11) *rest* - Closely Connected to Christ - but prior to RESURRECTION OF THE BODY at the Last Day.

THE WRATH OF THE LAMB (6:12-17)

(12) *earthquake* - dislocation of the universe

(13) *stars of the sky fell* - See Isaiah 13:6-11 and 2 Peter 3:10

(16) *Wrath of the Lamb* - the world is transformed and re-created because of participation in sin

(17) *who can stand?* - God (Immanuel) cannot co-exist in the presence of sin and evil.

SEALING OF 144,000 TRIBULATION SAINTS (7:1-17)

(1) *the earth* - The state of the Church Militant on earth

(2) *seal of the living God* - End of the World is postponed until the full number of believers have been sealed (See Matthew 24:14) ... the Mark of Ownership

(2) *rising of the sun* - EAST signals Source of Goodness and Blessing (See Genesis 2:8 and Malachi 4:2)

tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh, **7** 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar, **8** 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed. **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!" **11** And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **12** saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." **13** Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" **14** 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." **15** "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. **16** They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. **17** 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."

(4) **144,000 sealed** - Not a literal number - recall symbolic numbers

- * 12 in the number of THE CHURCH
- * 12 Tribes of Israel in the Old Testament
- * 12 Disciples of Jesus in the New Testament
- * 1,000 is the uncountable number of infinity
- * $12 \times 12 = 144 \times 1,000 = 144,000$
- * 144,000 Sealed Saints = Sum total of OT and NT believers from Creation to Second Coming of Christ.

(14) *ones coming out of the great tribulation - Faithful and true believers in Christ are shielded from the Wrath of the Lamb. Hallelujah!*



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