

# The Revelation

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Revelation 7:1-17

Vss. 1-3

- John 16:12
- And so John saw the world as he expected: flat with four corners. That he did not see a sphere is unimportant. What is important is:
  - That the winds serve God's purpose, as does all Creation.
  - There are "Angels of Service" who we will see again in 14:18 and 16:5. Here, they serve God by holding back the 4 winds.
- A fifth angel appears. He comes from the east where the sun rises. He brings with him the seal of the Living God (as opposed to the lifeless gods of the pagans)
- The mark: Ezekiel 9:1-6; a seal is generally understood as wax that is stamped with the signet (the tomb of Jesus was sealed Matt. 27:66; a letter or document would be sealed)
- God knows His own. The shepherd knows his sheep. God is sealing and securing His people (Eph. 4:30)

Vss. 4-8

- The 144,000 is not a final fixed number, but is 12 x 12, representing completeness and perfection. Indeed, in vs. 9 we see the 144,000 joined by countless multitudes from all over the world.
- Nor is the number to be understood as a purely Jewish thing. Paul had long argued that to be a Jew was a matter of the heart, not lineage (Romans 2:28-29; 9:6-7). Also note that the tribe of Dan is missing, leading some to suggest that the anti-christ will come from Dan.

## Vss. 9-17

- White is the ancient world's color of victory. Palm branches are a symbol of victory.
- Endless circles and circles of celebration around the Lamb and they offer to God a blessing.
- Those in white are those who have persevered, who have remained faithful through the tribulation, and have won for themselves a great reward.
- They are made clean by the blood of the Lamb. So the sacrifice of Christ affects our past (we are forgiven of past sins) our present (we have that peace that passes understanding no matter what may come) and the future (our eternal life is secured).
- Matt. 5:8; They are eternal Levites.
- The suffering they endured on earth they will never endure again, and Christ Himself will care for them (Ps. 23).