

Rev 7:1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

Winds harm (v.2) but angels protect

Mat 18:10 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

Rev 7:2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,

1) seals protect against tampering as in Jesus tomb
Mat 27:66 And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.

2) seal marks ownership

She speaks to her beloved in Song 8:6 "Put me like a seal over your heart, Like a seal on your arm.

3) seal certifies genuine character Est 3:12

Est 3:12 Then the king's scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and it was written just as Haman commanded to the king's satraps, to the governors who were over each province and to the princes of each people, each province according to its script, each people according to its language, being written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet ring.

Rev 7.3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

The church:

1) enjoy Father's protection Eph 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation— having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

2) Son has purchased Act 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

3) certifies genuine character Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

Rev 7:4-8 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: (5) from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, (6) from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand,

7 from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, (8) from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.

sealed also at Rev 14

notice 12X12X1000 a symbolic number - they are still on earth (saved of OT and NT),

Rev 21:12-13 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.

representing the true children of God

Rev 2:9 'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Can't be physical Israel on earth since 10 tribes disappeared in Assyria, Judah and Benjamin lost existence when Jerusalem fell in 70 AD

Dan and Ephraim omitted (Ephraim and Manasseh ½ tribes of Joseph)

At Rev 14:1-5, same number on earth Rev 14:1 Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

Christ purchased, Acts 20:28 ... to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

God protects

Mar 13:20 "Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

Rom 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose

Let judgments come, no harm from outside to the elect

Rom 8:35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? ...

Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (36) Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." (37) But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. (38) For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THE VISION CHANGES (After these things)

Rev 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands;

The Church Triumphant

2Ti 2:19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."

- flowing robes - no lack of blessing

- white - purity

Rev 3:4 'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

*Rev 7:10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying,
"Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to
the Lamb."*

KJV NAS "Salvation to our God" does not indicate
that he is saved but that he has salvation for man.

ESV, NIV, NKJV "Salvation belongs to our God"

Rev 7:11-12 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."

two fold amen and 7 fold blessing

Rev 7:13-14 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" (14) I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Tribulation shall come to those faithful to God! Deut 4:30; I Sam 26:24; Jn 16:33 Acts 14:22 Rom 5:3; 8:35; 12:12, II Cor 1:4; 7:4; I Thess 3:4; II Thess 1:6; Rev 2:9-10

Act 14:22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

1Pe 4:16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

all persecutions and trials of God's people are symbolized
by the great tribulation

Heb 4:9-11 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest
for the people of God, (10) for whoever has entered
God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from
his. (11) Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that
no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

white in the blood ("Have you been to Jesus for the
cleansing power? Are you washed in the blood of the
lamb?)

see at v. 17 the lamb is the shepherd

Rev 7:15 "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them.

The temple in heaven is a place of comfort – He will not just dwell (KJV NKJV) but will shelter them (NAS NIV NET)

Rev 7:16 "They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat;

Mat 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Psa 121:5-8 The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade on your right hand. (6) The sun will not smite you by day, Nor the moon by night. (7) The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul. (8) The LORD will guard your going out and your coming in From this time forth and forever.

their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

The lamb is the shepherd Ps 23.1 The Lord is my shepherd

Joh 10:11-15 "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. (12) "He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

(13) "He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. (14) "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, (15) even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father:

Water of life is given, i.e. eternal life

Rev 22:1 Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,

Rev 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

Rev 21:4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes;

One of the problems we have is that many do not have the tribulations yet that are designed to help them turn to God and to remain faithful.

We trust that our Lord will protect us, but we will have tribulation in this life.

Mat 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (30) For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."