

INTRODUCTION

1. Haunting question: Rv 6:16-17 *who is able to stand?* Scene is FJ - *who will stand?* Rv 7:9. How? Jd 1:24-25 Solas.
2. Phil 2:12-13 - on earth. Now we see those who have overcome in heaven.

1st: Restraining the Wind - v1-3

1. *After this I saw:* sequence of visions: #4 - symbolic # => earth [Rv 20:8]. Thgs done in heaven affect what occurs on earth - Mt 16:18-19. 5th angel: *rising of sun* => begin a new day: hope
2. *4 winds* => judgment - Jer 49:36-37 v36 military defeat; v37 Ld's wrath
3. Rv 7 - *4 winds* threaten *earth, sea, tree* [repeated in v1,2&3], but restrained - preliminary to 6:13's *grt wind*: FJ - dismantling of creation.
 - i. Next cycle, incremental intensification - Rv8:7-9 1/3rd [6:8 - 1/4th]
4. 4winds affect world in similar ways as 4hrsmn: execute judgment. Zech 6:5 The chariots are the *4 spirits/winds*. 4 winds execute same judgment as 4hrsmn - described as intensifying w/ more detail. Angelic activity; powers & principalities - Hb 1:7 cites Ps 104:3-4
5. Chpt 7 backs up & informs what was not said in Rv 6 - 7:3. When are the servants sealed? Before the 4hrsmn/winds are sent. The 4hrsmn & 4winds occur concurrently as servants are being sealed.

2nd: Sealing God's Servants - v3

1. Angels seal God's servants - *we have sealed the servants*. Tribulation & sealing come from the throne - 1C10:13.
2. What is *seal*? King's insignia: authentic; ownership. Rv 14:1; 22:3-4
3. Seal = protection from judgment. Ezek 8 - time for judgment - Ezek 9:1-7
4. Seal => protection from attacks of Satan, PPs, unbelievers, trib, apostasy. Metaphor for salvation: 2T 2:19 *Seal* rts to *name*:
 - i. Preservation: 1Th 5:9; 2Th 2:13
 - ii. Perseverance: 2T 2:19; Phil 2:8-9; 1C12:3

5. What is the seal? Eph 1:13; 4:30 Holy Spirit - alive in family of Father.

3rd: Those Sealed - v4-8

1. Inclusio: v4 & v8 *were sealed*. 144K = symbolic #. True Israel of God. Tribes listed in unique order: Judah 1st; Dan & Ephraim omitted; Joseph mentioned but he was not a tribe [sons Ephraim & Manasseh = 2 tribes; Levites not mentioned].
2. Multitude in heaven, no man can count [7:9] yet here are 144K identified in some way w/ names of tribes of Israel. 144K & tribal names symbolize the *Israel of God* [Gal 6:16].
3. Listing tribes to delineate God's army [Numbers]. 144K = King's army
 - i. 7:4-8 = army of the Lion who learn to overcome by employing the strategy of the Lamb - Rv7:14.
 - ii. Rv = manual of war for overcomers who enter the Land.

Applic #1: Are You Sealed?

1. Yes - w/ 1 of 2 marks: Satan marks his people - Rv 13:16-17; 14:9-11
2. Forehead: how one thinks; on hand: what one does.
3. Aaron had gold plate on forehead: "Holy to the Lord" [Ex 28:36-38]. You, NCov royal priestly sons are sealed to be holy to the Lord.
 - i. Vanity Fair/Babylon may entice [1Jn 2:15-17], but you're sealed.
 - ii. The Spirit teaches you to think & behave so as to honor Jesus' name & love Him above all else.
4. You're sealed - with whose seal? What are you thinking? How are you living? 2T 2:19
5. Listen to Jesus pray for you - Jn 17:6, 12, 26. 2Th 3:3-5