

7:1-3 The suspension of God's judgment
7:4-8 The sealing of the Jews
7:9-17 The salvation of the Gentiles

Suspension of the judgment between the 6th and 7th seals / Without chapter 7 you would have a narrative of the 7 seals - this chapter is parenthetical. This seems to be a prayer of the prophet Habakkuk in 3:2. God's mercy stayed before a great judgment.

God remembered mercy on the Passover in Egypt, before the flood of Noah, and at Calvary when He shook the earth and brought it into darkness. In that hour of Christ's death God might have closed the books on man in judgment, but rather He remembered mercy, and salvation was revealed to the world.

THE SUSPENSION OF GOD'S JUDGMENT, 7:1-3

7:1, *And after these things I saw four angels* - Μετὰ τοῦτο εἶδον τέσσαρας ἀγγέλους -

standing on the four corners of the earth, - ἐστῶτας ἐπὶ τὰς τέσσαρας γωνίας τῆς γῆς -
four corners of the earth, Isa. 11:12; Jer. 49:36; Matt. 24:31

holding the four winds of the earth, - κρατοῦντας τοὺς τέσσαρας ἀνέμους τῆς γῆς -

that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. - να μὴ πνέη
ἄνεμος ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς μήτε ἐπὶ τῆς θαλάσσης μήτε ἐπὶ πᾶν δένδρον -

7:2, *And I saw another angel ascending from the east*, - καὶ εἶδον ἄλλον ἄγγελον
ἀναβαίνοντα ἀπὸ ἀνατολῆς ἡλίου -

having the seal of the living God: - ἔχοντα σφραγίδα θεοῦ ζῶντος -

and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, - καὶ ἔκραξεν φωνῇ μεγάλη τοῖς
τέσσαρσιν ἀγγέλοις - four angels, God's ministers: Heb. 1:7,14

to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, - ἵς ἐδόθη αὐτοῖς ἀδικῆσαι τὴν γῆν
καὶ τὴν θάλασσαν -

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. - - "till"/ temporary restraint

THE SEALING OF THE JEWS, 7:4-8

7:4, 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.

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.

7:6, Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand.
Of the tribe of Nepthalim were sealed twelve thousand.
Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.

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.

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.

144,000 are the not the church, because the Church is neither strictly Jewish or Gentile: Eph. 2:11-18; Gal. 3:27-28; Rev. 7:9 / and the church is already in Heaven.

*The full representative number is always 12. Jacob had 13 sons, one or the other is always omitted from the lists. Levi is generally omitted. In Revelation Dan and Ephraim are omitted. Both of these tribes accused of being in idolatry in Israel, the probable reason for blotting out their names in Deut. 29:18-21. But in the end grace triumphs: Dan is named first in the future distribution of the land in Ezek. 48:2, but is the furthest removed from the temple in the extreme north.

*The fact that the 12 tribes of Israel are singled out for special reference is another evidence that the term "Israel" is invariably a reference to the descendants of Jacob. Gal. 6:16 is no exception to this rule. The idea that the church is the true Israel is never used of Gentiles and refers only to those who are only descendants of Jacob or Israel.

THE SALVATION OF THE GENTILES, 7:9-17

7:9-10, The saved during the tribulation. 2 Thess. 2:10-12
Their position: before the throne
Their purity: clothed in white robes
Their protection: Palms - picture and symbol of joy and victory
John 12:12-13; Neh. 8:15-17

Their praise: salvation to our God and unto the lamb.

7:11-15 Their privilege

7:16 Their provision

ὅτι τὸ ἀρνίον τὸ ἀνά μέσον τοῦ θρόνου ποιμανεῖ αὐτούς, καὶ ὀδηγήσει αὐτούς ἐπὶ ζωῆς πηγὰς ὑδάτων· καὶ ἐξαλείψει ὁ θεὸς πᾶν δάκρυον ἐκ τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν αὐτῶν.

7:17, **For the Lamb** - ὅτι τὸ ἀρνίον -

which is in the midst of the throne - τὸ ἀνά μέσον τοῦ θρόνου -

shall feed them, - ποιμανεῖ αὐτούς – Fut Act Ind -

and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: - αὶ ὀδηγήσει αὐτούς ἐπὶ ζωῆς πηγὰς ὑδάτων – Fut Act Ind

and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. - καὶ ἐξαλείψει ὁ θεὸς πᾶν δάκρυον ἐκ τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν αὐτῶν – Fut Act Ind -