



REVELATION 7:1 — 7:8

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Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." <sup>4</sup>And I heard the number of those who were sealed. *One hundred and forty-four thousand* of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed.

[REV 7:3-4]



# REVELATION 7

1 After these things, I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that they should not blow upon the earth, nor upon the sea, nor on any tree.

#### After this I saw

NUM 22:31, the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face; LUKE 5:26-28, they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!" <sup>27</sup>After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." <sup>28</sup>So he left all, rose up, and followed Him.

# Four angels standing

LUKE 1:11-12, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>And when Zacharias saw him, *he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.* 

### Four corners on the earth

ISA 11:11-12, It shall come to pass in that day That the Lord shall set His hand again the second time <u>To recover the remnant of His people</u> who are left, From Assyria and Egypt, From Pathros and Cush, From Elam and Shinar, From Hamath and the islands of the sea. <sup>12</sup>He will set up a banner for the nations, And will assemble the outcasts of Israel, And *gather together the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth*.

# Holding back the four winds

JER 49:35-39, "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, The foremost of their might. <sup>36</sup>Against Elam *I will bring the four winds From the four quarters of heaven*, And scatter them toward all those winds; There shall be no nations where the outcasts of Elam will not go...

#### Four winds of the earth

ECC 1:6, The wind goes toward the south, And turns around to the north; *The wind whirls about continually, And comes again on its circuit*:

MARK 13:26-27, they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>"And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect *from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven*;

MATH 24:30-31, the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup>"And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect *from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other*;

EZE 37:9-10, He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord God: "*Come from the four winds*, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."" <sup>10</sup>So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

# Prevent any wind from blowing

2KING 3:14-17, ... <sup>16</sup>he [Elisha] said, "Thus says the Lord: 'Make this valley full of ditches.' <sup>17</sup>"For thus says the Lord: 'You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you, your cattle, and your animals may drink';

JOHN 3:8, The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but *cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes*. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.

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### When was the first time?

ISA 11:11-12, It shall come to pass in that day That the Lord shall set His hand again *the second time* To recover the remnant of His people who are left... <sup>12</sup>He will ... assemble the outcasts of Israel, And gather together the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.

#### Wind... on the land

JER 5:10-13, "Go up on her walls and destroy, But <u>do not</u> make a complete end. Take away her branches, For they are not the Lord's. <sup>11</sup>For the house of Israel and the house of Judah Have dealt very treacherously with Me," says the Lord. <sup>12</sup>They have lied about the Lord, And said, "It is not He. Neither will evil come upon us, Nor shall we see sword or famine. <sup>13</sup>And *the prophets become wind, For the word is not in them.* Thus shall it be done to them".

### Wind... on the sea

JONA 1:9-16, he said to them, "I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "Why have you done this?" For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

11 Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?"-for the sea was growing more tempestuous.

12 And he said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For *I know that this great tempest is because of me*"...;

MARK 4:39-41, *He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!*" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup>But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" <sup>41</sup>And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

### Wind... on any tree

ISA 7:1-2, ...<sup>2</sup>it was told to the house of David, saying, "Syria's forces are deployed in Ephraim." So his heart and the heart of his people were moved as the trees of the woods are moved with the wind.





# REVELATION 7

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the sign of the living God; and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

#### Then I saw

ISA 21:5-6, Prepare the table, Set a watchman in the tower, Eat and drink. Arise, you princes, Anoint the shield! <sup>6</sup>For thus has the Lord said to me: "Go, set a watchman, *Let him declare what he sees*".

### Another angel coming up

2SAM 18:26-28, Then the watchman saw another man running, and the watchman called to the gatekeeper and said, "There is another man, running alone!" And the king said, "He also brings news"... <sup>28</sup>And Ahimaaz called out and said to the king, "All is well!" Then he bowed down with his face to the earth before the king, and said, "Blessed be the Lord your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king!"

### From the east

NUM 2:1-3, ... <sup>3</sup>" On the east side, toward the rising of the sun, those of the standard of the forces with Judah shall camp according to their armies.

### Sun

GEN 19:23-24, *The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar*. <sup>24</sup>Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the Lord out of the heavens.

# Seal of the living God

HEB 10:30-31, we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." <sup>31</sup>It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

### He called out... to the four angels

EZE 9:1-2, Then He called out in my hearing with a loud voice, saying, "Let those who have charge over the city draw near, each with a deadly weapon in his hand"...

### Four angels... given power to harm the land

1CHR 16:19-22, When you were few in number, Indeed very few, and strangers in it [the land]. <sup>20</sup>When they went from one nation to another, And from one kingdom to another people, <sup>21</sup>He [God] permitted no man to do them wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes, <sup>22</sup>Saying, "*Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm.* 

### Four angels... given power to harm... the sea

ACTS 18:9-10, the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; <sup>10</sup>" for I am with you, and *no one will attack you to hurt you*; for I have many people in this city".

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### The scene on earth

The remnant are few in number. Something very similar to the situation occurred in: 1CHR 16:19-22, When you were few in number, Indeed very few, and strangers in [the

land... <sup>21</sup>[God] *permitted no man to do them wrong*; Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes, <sup>22</sup>Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm.



# REVELATION 7

3 Saying: Hurt not the earth, nor the sea, nor the trees, till we sign the servants of our God in their foreheads.

#### Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees

ISA 27:6-12, ... 8In measure, by sending it away, You contended with it. He removes it by His rough wind In the day of the east wind. 9Therefore by this the iniquity of Jacob will be covered; And this is all the fruit of taking away his sin: When he makes all the stones of the altar Like chalkstones that are beaten to dust, Wooden images and incense altars shall not stand...

### Until

NUM 32:14-18, ... <sup>16</sup>Then they came near to him and said: "We will build sheepfolds here for our livestock, and cities for our little ones, <sup>17</sup>"but we ourselves will be armed, ready to go before the children of Israel until we have brought them to their place; and our little ones will dwell in the fortified cities because of the inhabitants of the land. <sup>18</sup>"We will not return to our homes *until every one of the children of Israel has received his inheritance*.

### Seal

2TIM 2:19-20, the solid foundation of God stands, having *this seal* [σφραγίδα]: "*The Lord knows those who are His*," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." <sup>20</sup>But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor;

SOS 8:5-7, The Shulamite to Her Beloved <sup>6</sup>Set me as a seal upon your heart, As a seal upon your arm; For love is as strong as death, Jealousy as cruel as the grave; Its flames are flames of fire, A most vehement flame. <sup>7</sup>Many waters cannot quench love. Nor can the floods drown it...

# Servants of our God

JOEL 2:12-16, "Now, therefore," says the Lord, "Turn to Me

with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." <sup>13</sup>So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the Lord your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm. <sup>14</sup>Who knows if He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him-A grain offering and a drink offering For the Lord your God? <sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; <sup>16</sup>Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room;

LEV 26:40-42, if they *confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers*, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to Me, <sup>41</sup> and that I also have walked contrary to them and have brought them into the land of their enemies; <u>if their uncircumcised hearts are humbled</u>, and they accept their guilt <sup>42</sup>then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will remember the land;

1KING 19:14-18, ...<sup>18</sup>"I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him".

### On their foreheads

REV 9:2-4, he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. <sup>3</sup>Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. <sup>4</sup>They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but *only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads*.

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# Are each of these designated people groups represented in Revelation?

JOEL 2:15-16, Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; <sup>16</sup>Gather *the people*, Sanctify *the congregation*, Assemble *the elders*, Gather *the children and nursing babes*; Let *the bridegroom* go out from his chamber, *And the bride* from her dressing room.



# REVELATION 7

4 And I heard the number of them that were signed, an hundred forty-four thousand were signed, of every tribe of the children of Israel.

#### Then I heard

NUM 1:16-19, ...<sup>18</sup>they assembled all the congregation together on the first day of the second month; and *they recited their ancestry by families, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names*, from twenty years old and above, each one individually. <sup>19</sup>As the Lord commanded Moses, so he numbered them in the Wilderness of Sinai.

#### The number of those who were sealed

ROM 9:27-32, Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved. <sup>28</sup>For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, Because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth." <sup>29</sup>And as Isaiah said before: "Unless the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, We would have become like Sodom, And we would have been made like Gomorrah"...;

JER 3:2-15, ... <sup>12</sup>"Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say: 'Return, backsliding Israel,' says the Lord; 'I will not cause My anger to fall on you. For I am merciful,' says the Lord; 'I will not remain angry forever. <sup>13</sup>Only acknowledge your iniquity, That you have transgressed against the Lord your God, And have scattered your charms To alien deities under every green tree, And you have not obeyed My voice,' says the Lord. <sup>14</sup>"Return, O backsliding children," says the Lord; "for I am married to you. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. <sup>15</sup>"And *I will give you shepherds according to My heart*, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

#### 144,000

REV 14:1-7, I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads... <sup>3</sup>They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. <sup>4</sup>These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. <sup>5</sup>And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

### All the tribes [Dan?]

JUDG 18:26-31, the children of Dan went their way... <sup>28</sup>they rebuilt the city and dwelt there. <sup>29</sup>And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born to Israel. However, the name of the city formerly was Laish. <sup>30</sup>Then *the children of Dan set up for themselves the carved image*; and Jonathan the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land. <sup>31</sup>So they set up for themselves Micah's carved image which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

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### Each tribe will receive its own inheritance:

NUM 36:7-9, the inheritance of the children of Israel shall not change hands from tribe to tribe, for every one of the children of Israel shall keep the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers...

9"Thus *no inheritance shall change hands* from one tribe to another, but every tribe of the children of Israel shall keep its own inheritance."

# All the tribes [Ephraim?]

HOS 9:11-17, As for Ephraim, their glory shall fly away like a bird-No birth, no pregnancy, and no conception! <sup>12</sup>Though they bring up their children, Yet I will bereave them to the last man. Yes, woe to them when I depart from them! <sup>13</sup>Just as I saw Ephraim like Tyre, planted in a pleasant place, So Ephraim will bring out his children to the murderer... <sup>15</sup>"All their wickedness is in Gilgal, For there I hated them. *Because of the evil of their deeds I will drive them from My house*; I will love them no more. All their princes are rebellious...

### **Tribes of Israel**

NUM 31:3-8, Moses spoke to the people, saying, "Arm some of yourselves for war, and let them go against the Midianites to take vengeance for the Lord on Midian. 4"A thousand *from each tribe of all the tribes of Israel you shall send to the war*." 5So there were recruited from the divisions of Israel one thousand from each tribe, twelve thousand armed for war. 6Then Moses sent them to the war, one thousand from each tribe; he sent them to the war with Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, with the holy articles and the signal trumpets in his hand...

#### Children\* of Israel

\* NOTE — This phrase is found in some translations HOS 3:4-5, For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim. <sup>5</sup>Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They shall fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days.





# REVELATION 7

5 Of the tribe of Juda, were twelve thousand signed: Of the tribe of Ruben, twelve thousand signed: Of the tribe of Gad, twelve thousand signed:

6 Of the tribe of Aser, twelve thousand signed: Of the tribe of Nephthali, twelve thousand signed: Of the tribe of Manasses, twelve thousand signed:

### Tribe of Judah 12,000

ZECH 12:7-9, "*The Lord will save the tents of Judah first*, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall not become greater than that of Judah. <sup>8</sup>"In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the Lord before them. <sup>9</sup>"It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

### Tribe of Reuben 12,000

1CHR 5:1, the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel-he was indeed the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph, the son of Israel, so that the genealogy is not listed according to the birthright.

# Tribe of Gad 12,000

1CHR 12:8, Some Gadites joined David at the stronghold in the wilderness, *mighty men of valor, men trained for battle*, who could handle shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as gazelles on the mountains; 1CHR 12:14-15, These were from *the sons of Gad, captains of the army*; the least was over a hundred, and the greatest was over a thousand. <sup>15</sup>These are the ones who crossed the Jordan in the first month, when it had overflowed all its banks; and they put to flight all those in the valleys, to the east and to the west.

### Tribe of Asher 12,000

DEUT 33:24-27, of Asher he [Moses] said: "*Asher is most blessed of sons*; Let him be favored by his brothers, And let him dip his foot in oil. <sup>25</sup>Your sandals shall be iron and bronze; As your days, so shall your strength be. <sup>26</sup>"There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, Who rides the heavens to help you, And in His excellency on the clouds. <sup>27</sup>The eternal God is your refuge, And underneath are the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, And will say, 'Destroy!'

### Tribe of Naphtali 12,000

PSM 68:22-28, ...<sup>26</sup>Bless God in the congregations, The Lord, from the fountain of Israel. <sup>27</sup>There is little Benjamin, their leader, The princes of Judah and their company, The princes of Zebulun and *the princes of Naphtali*. <sup>28</sup>Your God has commanded your strength; Strengthen, O God, what You have done for us.

### Tribe of Manasseh 12,000

JOSH 22:7-8, to half the tribe of Manasseh Moses had given a possession in Bashan, but to the other half of it Joshua gave a possession among their brethren on this side of the Jordan, westward. And indeed, when Joshua sent them away to their tents, he blessed them, <sup>8</sup> and spoke to them, saying, "Return with much riches to your tents, with very much livestock, with silver, with gold, with bronze, with iron, and with very much clothing. *Divide the spoil of your enemies with your brethren*".

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The Lord will make a determined end, yet a remnant will be saved.

ISA 10:21-23, The remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, To the Mighty God. <sup>22</sup>For though your people, O Israel, be as the sand of the sea, *A remnant of them will return*; The destruction decreed shall overflow with righteousness. <sup>23</sup>For the Lord God of hosts Will make a determined end In the midst of all the land.



# REVELATION 7

7 Of the tribe of Simeon, twelve thousand signed: Of the tribe of Levi, twelve thousand signed: Of the tribe of Issachar, twelve thousand signed:

8 Of the tribe of Zabulon, twelve thousand signed: Of the tribe of Joseph, twelve thousand signed: Of the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand signed.

### Tribe of Simeon 12,000

JOSH 19:9, The inheritance of the children of Simeon was *included in the share of the children of Judah*, for the share of the children of Judah was too much for them. Therefore the children of Simeon had their inheritance within the inheritance of that people.

### Tribe of Levi 12,000

EXO 32:21-28, ...<sup>25</sup>when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies), <sup>26</sup>then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, "Whoever is on the Lord's side-come to me." And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him. <sup>27</sup>And he said to them, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.' " <sup>28</sup>So *the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses*. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day.

# Tribe of Issachar 12,000

GEN 49:14-15, "Issachar is a strong donkey, Lying down between two burdens; <sup>15</sup>He saw that rest was good, And that the land was pleasant; *He bowed his shoulder to bear a burden*, And became a band of slaves.

#### Tribe of Zebulun 12,000

DEUT 33:18-19, of Zebulun he said: "*Rejoice*, *Zebulun*, *in* your going out, And Issachar in your tents! <sup>19</sup>They shall call the peoples to the mountain; There they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness; For they shall partake of the abundance of the seas And of treasures hidden in the sand".

# Tribe of Joseph 12,000

GEN 48:3-6, Jacob said to Joseph: "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, <sup>4</sup>"and said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and *I will make of you a multitude of people*, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession'...

### Tribe of Benjamin 12,000

JER 6:1-8, "O you children of Benjamin, *Gather yourselves to flee from the midst of Jerusalem*! Blow the trumpet in Tekoa, And set up a signal-fire in Beth Haccerem; For disaster appears out of the north, And great destruction. <sup>2</sup>I have likened the daughter of Zion To a lovely and delicate woman. <sup>3</sup>The shepherds with their flocks shall come to her. They shall pitch their tents against her all around. Each one shall pasture in his own place".

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All the tribes? Where is Dan? Where is Ephraim?

JUDG 18:30, Then the children of Dan set up for themselves the carved image; HOS 13:12-16, The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; His sin is stored up.



# GROUP DISCUSSION

REV 7:1, After these things...

1. What things had just occurred?(see REV 6:1-12)

REV 7:1-4, After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, *holding the four winds of the earth*, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree... <sup>3</sup>"Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." <sup>4</sup>And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed.

MARK 13:24-27, in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; <sup>25</sup>"the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>"And then He will send His angels, and *gather together His elect from the four winds*, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

 2a. What are some similarities and differences between these two events?

(see also MATH 24:21-25, ROM 11:1-7 & ISA 27:11-13)

**⇒** 2b. When might the Son of Man *gather* His elect?

(see also REV 14:1-3, REV 14:12-20 & REV 20:4)

JONA 4:5-8, Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city. <sup>6</sup>And the Lord God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant. <sup>7</sup>But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered. <sup>8</sup>And it happened, when the sun arose, that *God prepared a vehement east wind*; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

 $\oplus$  3. Why might the winds be 'held' in Revelation 7:1?

(see also ISA 27:6-9, GEN 8:1-4 & EXO 15:6-12)

REV 7:4, I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of *all the tribes* of the children of Israel were sealed.

⊕ 4a. The tribes of Dan and Ephraim were not sealed.
 For what reasons might they have been excluded?
 (see also GEN 49:16-17, NUM 1:32-33 & NUM 26:37)

4b. Though Dan and Ephraim were not sealed, will they be saved?

(see also DEUT 33:27-29, ISA 45:15-17, JER 23:5-6 & ROM 11:25-27)

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THE SERVANTS OF GOD

**Revelation 7:9 — 7:17**