

Revelation 7

Table Revelation 7:1-17

- 1 *And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.*
- 2 *And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal 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,*
- 3 *Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.*
- 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.*
- 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.*
- 6 *Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.*
- 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.*
- 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.*
- 9 *After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;*
- 10 *And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.*
- 11 *And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,*
- 12 *Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.*
- 13 *And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?*
- 14 *And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*
- 15 *Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.*
- 16 *They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.*
- 17 *For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

See Dr Ruckman's commentaries *The Book of Daniel* p 96, *The Book of Revelation* pp 156-180, his booklet *Bible Numerics* p 35 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 62, 339, 821, 1096, 1163, 1436, 1625, 1651-1652.

1. **Revelation 7:1.** The statement concerning that which John bears witness to **“four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth”** indicates the four compass points that correspond to the earth’s four prevailing winds as set out in scripture. See the attached study **East Wind**.

Noting from that study that **“He caused an east wind to blow in the heaven: and by his power he brought in the south wind”** Psalm 78:26 and from the context of Revelation 7:1-8 that **“four angels”** are indicative of angels as **“...all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation”** Hebrews 1:14 it is *God* Who is responsible for the operation or cessation of Ecclesiastes 1:6 **“The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.”**

In turn therefore it is *God* Who ministers according to Mark 4:39 **“And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm”** and today’s believer can take comfort that *God* can minister in the same way in the believer and in his circumstances according to Job 34:29 **“When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble?”**

2. **Revelation 7:2.** **“...another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God”** is **“the Lord Jesus Christ”** Acts 11:17, 15:11, 16:31, 28:31, Romans 1:7, 13:14, 15:30, 1 Corinthians 1:3, 16:22, 2 Corinthians 1:2, 13:14, Ephesians 1:2, 6:23, Philippians 1:2, 3:20, Colossians 1:2, 1 Thessalonians 1:1 twice, 2 Thessalonians 1:1, 2, 12, 1 Timothy 5:21, 2 Timothy 4:1, 22, Titus 1:4, Philemon 3, James 1:1, 2 John 3, 28 occurrences, **“...the Son of man...for him hath God the Father sealed”** John 6:27 **“...the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve”** Acts 27:23.

Noting therefore that **“The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth...”** 1 Samuel 2:10 it is **“...Jesus Christ: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him”** 1 Peter 3:21-22 Who delegates power to **“angels...being made subject unto him”** to fulfil His purposes in the End Times according to Haggai 2:6 **“For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land.”**

Today’s believer has this assurance of the Lord’s power to fulfil His purposes *for ministry* through him according to Acts 1:8 **“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”**

3. **Revelation 7:3.** The sealing of Revelation 7:3 is predicated upon the sealed individuals being numbered among **“...you that fear my name...”** Malachi 4:2 in the End Times *not* during the Church Age like those *doctrinally* in the time of **“the old testament”** 2 Corinthians 3:14 of Romans 2:7 **“...them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life”** as set out depicting the End Times in Ezekiel 9:3-6 **“And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer’s inkhorn by his side; And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.”**

Today's believer can *by contrast* draw assurance of salvation and eternal security from Ephesians 1:12-13 **"That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise."**

4. Revelation 7:4-8. The statement **"there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel"** is:

An End Times application to Israel of 2 Timothy 2:19 **"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his..."**

An indication of God's faithfulness to repentant Israel according to the prayer of Nehemiah 1:8-9 **"Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations: But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there"**

An assurance that all Israel are Jews **"...the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob"** Jeremiah 33:26 as Paul revealed, an apparent contradiction notwithstanding, according to:

Acts 21:39 **"But Paul said, I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city..."**

Acts 22:3 **"I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia..."**

Acts 26:6-7 **"And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers: Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews"**

Philippians 3:4-5 **"...If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;"**

The twelve tribes configuration depicts Israel and each tribal group is the same size according to the principle applicable especially to the End Times of Zechariah 12:7 **"The LORD also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah"** and especially to today's believer of 1 Corinthians 4:6 **"And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another."**

It is noteworthy that whereas historically **"The twelve tribes of Israel"** Genesis 40:28, Exodus 24:4, Ezekiel 47:13, Matthew 19:28, Luke 22:30 are listed *organisationally* as **"Reuben...Simeon...Judah...Issachar...Zebulun...Ephraim...Manasseh...Benjamin...Dan...Asher...Gad...Naphthali...But the Levites after the tribe of their fathers were not numbered among them"** Numbers 1:5-15, 47, Revelation 7:5-8 show certain changes applicable to the duration of the End Times:

"Levi" Revelation 7:7 is numbered among the other tribes. Though it does appear to have a cleansing ministry in the End Times – see attached note **Wisdom on Scripture from Scripture** Excerpt pp 11-12 - the Levitical priesthood does not function as such during the End Times according to the precedent set at the beginning of the Church Age according to 1 Peter 2:5 **"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."**

“**Joseph**” Revelation 7:8 has been substituted for “**Ephraim**” because God pronounced a particular judgement on Ephraim as a tribe in Hosea 5:9 “**Ephraim shall be desolate in the day of rebuke: among the tribes of Israel have I made known that which shall surely be.**” Note of course that the Lord has similar rebukes for Judah in Hosea 5:5, 12-14 but “**Juda**” Revelation 7:5 is listed in answer to King David’s prayer “**For thy servant David’s sake turn not away the face of thine anointed**” Psalm 132:10 insofar as “**...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him**” Acts 10:38 and “**...it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda...**” Hebrews 7:14.

“**Dan**” has been omitted because by means of Genesis 49:17, Deuteronomy 33:22 “**Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path...And of Dan he said, Dan is a lion’s whelp...**” the tribe is connected with him of whom Peter and John testify “**...your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour...that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world...**” 1 Peter 5:8, Revelation 12:9 such that Dan would appear to be the tribe in the ancestry of “**the beast**” Revelation 13:2 the “**...instead of God**” Exodus 4:16 i.e. the antichrist “**that man of sin...revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God**” 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 “**...thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end**” Ezekiel 21:25.

Providentially in part because God no doubt took merciful account of Judges 21:6 “**And the children of Israel repented them for Benjamin their brother, and said, There is one tribe cut off from Israel this day**” Dan and Ephraim are restored post-Second Advent as is the Levitical priesthood as such via “**the sons of Zadok**” according to Ezekiel 48:1, 5, 10-11 “**Now these are the names of the tribes. From the north end to the coast of the way of Hethlon, as one goeth to Hamath, Hazarenan, the border of Damascus northward, to the coast of Hamath; for these are his sides east and west; a portion for Dan...And by the border of Manasseh, from the east side unto the west side, a portion for Ephraim...And for them, even for the priests, shall be this holy oblation...It shall be for the priests that are sanctified of the sons of Zadok; which have kept my charge, which went not astray when the children of Israel went astray, as the Levites went astray...**”

Today’s believer of course should have no apprehension about even temporary rejection as imposed upon the tribes of Dan and Ephraim because as Paul testifies for the Church Age saint “**...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day**” 2 Timothy 1:12.

The sealing of the twelve tribes of Israel in Revelation 7:4-8 is in accordance with God’s commission to *believing* Israel on earth in the End Times of Isaiah 49:6 “**And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth**” whereby against “**...the seat of the beast; and his kingdom...**” Revelation 16:10 “**...this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come**” Matthew 24:14.

For Gentiles “**this gospel of the kingdom**” includes as a necessary part of End Times salvation taking care of *destitute* Jews in the End Times as the Lord Jesus Christ reveals in Matthew 25:34-36, 40 “**Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me...And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.**”

“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad...” James 1:1 reveals **“this gospel of the kingdom”** as it applies to Jews ministering to fellow Jews in James 2:14-17 **“What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”**

James further reveals the *initial* outcome of that preaching of **“this gospel of the kingdom”** as it pertains to all of repentant Israel *prophetically* at the Second Advent when **“Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures”** James 1:18 with respect to Israel receiving her Messiah in ultimate fulfilment of:

Isaiah 66:8 **“Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children”**

Zechariah 3:9 **“For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day”**

Zechariah 12:10 **“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn”**

Matthew 24:30 **“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”**

Today’s believer’s commission to preach *now* is clear according to 2 Timothy 4:2, 5 **“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine...watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.”**

5. **Revelation 7:9-10.** See remarks above with respect to James’ revelation of the *initial* outcome of that preaching of **“this gospel of the kingdom”** as it pertains to all of repentant Israel *prophetically* at the Second Advent when **“Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures”** James 1:18 with respect to Israel receiving her Messiah in fulfilment of the scriptures listed above.

Revelation 7:9-10 set out the outcomes of that preaching of **“this gospel of the kingdom”** with respect to **“more fruit...much fruit”** John 15:2, 8 of **“a great multitude...stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands”** Revelation 7:9 i.e. now in **“the third heaven”** Corinthians 12:2 according to the End Times fulfilment of Isaiah 60:1, 3 **“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee...And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.”**

The clothing of that multitude and their hand-held display of palm branches denote **“the heavenly vision”** Acts 26:19 *of the blessings initially reaped by repentant Israel but bestowed upon End Times Gentiles who followed* **“this gospel of the kingdom”** Matthew 24:14 namely **“...the garment of praise...that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified...for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness...”** Isaiah 61:3, 10.

The declaration by that multitude of Revelation 7:10 follows therefore and is a declaration to which today's believer should always be faithful according to Acts 4:12 **"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."**

Revelation 7:11-12. The angelic worship of Revelation 7:11-12 in **"the third heaven"** 2 Corinthians 12:2 *will match that of men on earth when at the Second Advent according to Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" "...the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" Titus 2:13 **"...God and our Saviour Jesus Christ"** 2 Peter 1:1 *God answers* Matthew 6:9-10 **"...Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven"** as these scriptures show:*

Psalm 41:13 "Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen"

Psalm 72:17-19 "His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed. Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen"

Psalm 89:52 "Blessed be the LORD for evermore. Amen, and Amen."

Concerning the attributes of praise bestowed upon the Lord by the angelic worship of Revelation 7:12 **"...Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen"** that will be offered up by men on earth following the Second Advent see this extract¹ with additions.

Revelation 5:11-12. Revelation 5:11-12 are **"the heavenly vision"** Acts 26:19 of **"...a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"** Luke 2:13-14 insofar as **"the lamb that was slain"** Revelation 5:12 Who **"...once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself"** Hebrews 9:26 is **"Worthy...to receive"**:

"power, and might" because **"The mighty God"** Isaiah 9:6 **"...the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ"** Titus 2:13 **"...God and our Saviour Jesus Christ"** 2 Peter 1:1 **"...Jesus Christ...is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him"** 1 Peter 3:21-22. In sum **"God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet"** Psalm 47:5

"riches" because **"The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts"** Psalm 72:10

"wisdom" because **"With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding"** Job 12:12. See Daniel 7:22 and Micah 5:2 with respect to **"the Ancient of days"** and **"he...that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting"** and note that a wise man worships the Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 2:1, 11 **"...behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem...And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him..."**

"strength" because – and this is as strong as it gets - **"...in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed...but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever...and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven...And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed"** Daniel 2:44, 7:13-14

“**honour, and glory, and blessing**” because – and this is as honourable and glorious and blessed as it gets – **“They shall fear thee as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations...Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him”** Psalm 72:5, 11

“**thanksgiving**” because **“O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come...And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD”** Psalm 65:2, Isaiah 66:23.

Today’s believer should therefore consistently seek to apply *with a view to the attendant blessing of obedience* John 14:21 **“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him”** which blessing is to be like King David and Him of Whom he speaks in Acts 2:25-26 **“For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope.”**

Today’s believer should in addition seek to abide by – and it’s hard – 1 Thessalonians 5:18 **“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”**

6. **Revelation 7:13-14.** The Q and A content of Revelation 7:13-14 is an example of godly teaching and learning.

The teacher, **“one of the elders”** Revelation 7:13, directs specific questions to the learner, **“saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?”** Revelation 7:13.

The learner, unable to answer the questions but nevertheless willing to learn and whose trust the teacher has secured, respectfully replies, **“Sir, thou knowest”** Revelation 7:14.

The teacher then gives accurate specific answers to the questions commensurate with the learner’s level of understanding and in order of priority, **“These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”** Revelation 7:14. The remaining answers that Revelation 7:15-17 list will be considered below.

The above illustration of godly teaching and learning is **“the heavenly vision”** Acts 26:19 of a fulfilment of these scriptures that today’s believer should abide by in *any* calling with respect to young believers to **“bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”** Ephesians 6:4:

Isaiah 54:13 **“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children”**

Jeremiah 3:15 **“And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding”**

Malachi 2:6-7 **“The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity. For the priest’s lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.”**

“they which came out of great tribulation” refers to those who are on earth during the End Times of which the Lord states **“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened”** Matthew 21:21-22 *and who elected themselves* because like Moses and in principle as it should be for today’s believer **“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.”**

“These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” did so because they did **“...hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end”** Hebrews 3:6 *until the Second Advent when* **“Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death”** Revelation 12:10-11.

Note that today’s believer is *not* of **“...they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”** **“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him”** 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 *and because he is of* **“...the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood”** Acts 20:28 blood that is of **“Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth...him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood”** Revelation 1:5. That wrath is **“the wrath of God...poured out without mixture”** Revelation 14:10 in the End Times. End Times saints, though saved from it, will nevertheless be here when **“Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger...And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity”** Isaiah 13:9, 11 **“...for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience...For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience”** Ephesians 5:6, Colossians 3:6.

Nevertheless today’s believer should always be ready to abide by Hebrews 13:12-14 **“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.”**

7. **Revelation 7:15-17.** The elder, Revelation 7:13, continues his answers to John concerning God’s blessings upon **“they which came out of great tribulation”** Revelation 7:14 in that Revelation 7:15-17 are **“the heavenly vision”** Acts 26:19 of the fulfilment *on earth* post-Second Advent specifically for *End Times* saints both Jew and Gentile *noting beneficial climate change* of:

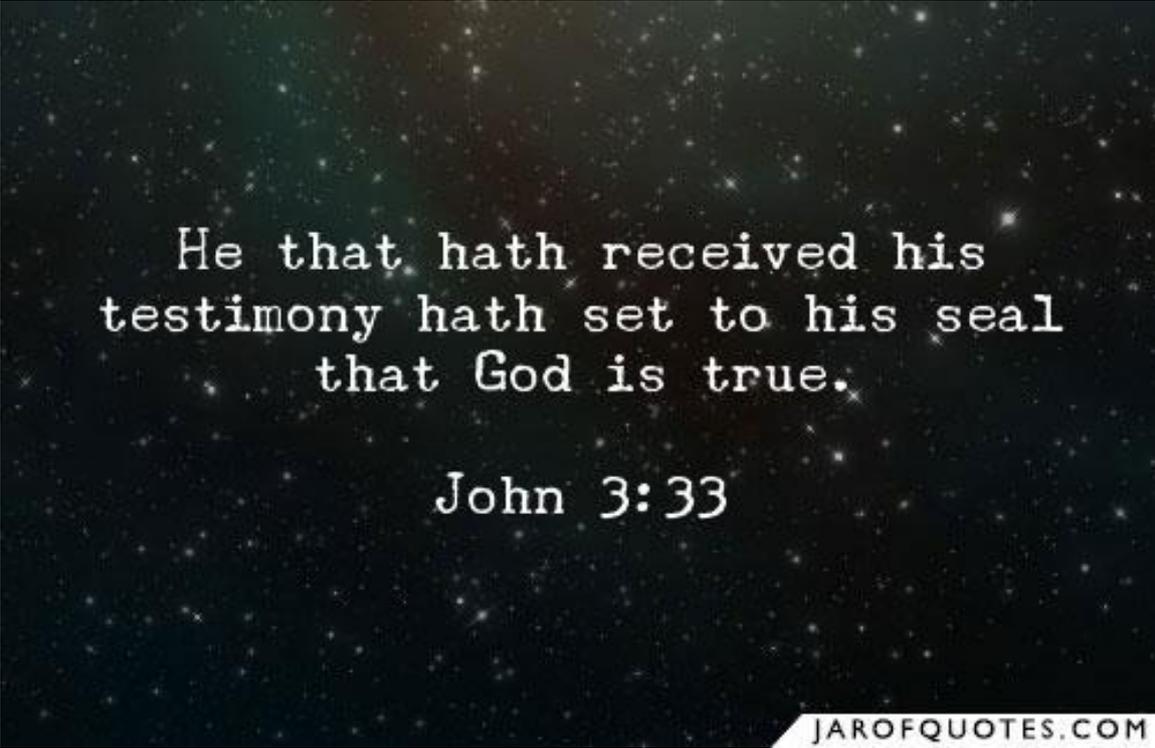
Psalm 102:19-22 **“For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth; To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death; To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem; When the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the LORD”**

Isaiah 2:2-3 **“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem”**

Isaiah 25:8-9 “He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it. And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation”

Isaiah 49:8-10 “Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee... That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places. They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.”

Today’s believer “*rightly dividing the word of truth*” 2 Timothy 2:15 should abide *doctrinally* by and seek to *apply practically* 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”



He that hath received his
testimony hath set to his seal
that God is true.

John 3:33

Revelation 7 Study Questions and Sample Answers

Study Questions

1. What do Revelation 7:1-3 reveal about God's judgements?
2. What do Revelation 7:4-8 reveal about God's ministers?
3. What do Revelation 7:9-12 reveal about the manner and fruit of effective ministry?
4. What do Revelation 7:13-17 reveal about God's blessing upon those effectively ministered to?

Sample Answers

1. God's judgements fall **"...to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men..."** Daniel 4:17.
2. **"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them"** Ephesians 2:10.
3. **"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen"** 1 Peter 4:11.
4. **"Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified...and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified"** Psalm 40:16, 70:4.

East Wind³

“By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth? Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder; To cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man; To satisfy the desolate and waste ground; and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth?” Job 38:24-27...

It is *“the outgoings of the morning and evening”* Psalm 65:8 that God oversees, not Lucifer, that bring about *“By what way is the light parted”* Job 38:24 as the Lord Himself described with respect to the light of the sky taking on a *single, particular* colour that is distinct from light’s usual colour.

“He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?” Matthew 16:2-3.

“Jesus...was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light” Matthew 17:1-2.

“...what way is the light parted” according to *“the outgoings of the morning and evening”* appears to be that *“which scattereth the east wind upon the earth.”*

The expression *“east wind”* occurs **20** times in scripture, Genesis 41:6, 23, 27, Exodus 10:13 twice, 14:21, Job 15:2, 27:21, 38:24, Psalm 48:7, 78:26, Isaiah 27:8, Jeremiah 18:17, Ezekiel 17:10, 19:12, 27:26, Hosea 12:1, 13:15, Jonah 4:8, Habakkuk 1:9, more times than *“north wind”* Proverbs 25:23, Song of Solomon 4:16 **2** times, *“south wind”* Job 37:17, Psalm 78:26, Luke 12:55, Acts 27:13, 28:13 **5** times, *“west wind”* Exodus 10:19 **once** only. Scripture therefore mentions the *“east wind”* more than twice as often as the other three winds put together. The *“east wind”* is also the *first* particular wind to be mentioned in scripture, Genesis 41:6, 23, 27. As those references show, God does serious business with the *“east wind.”*

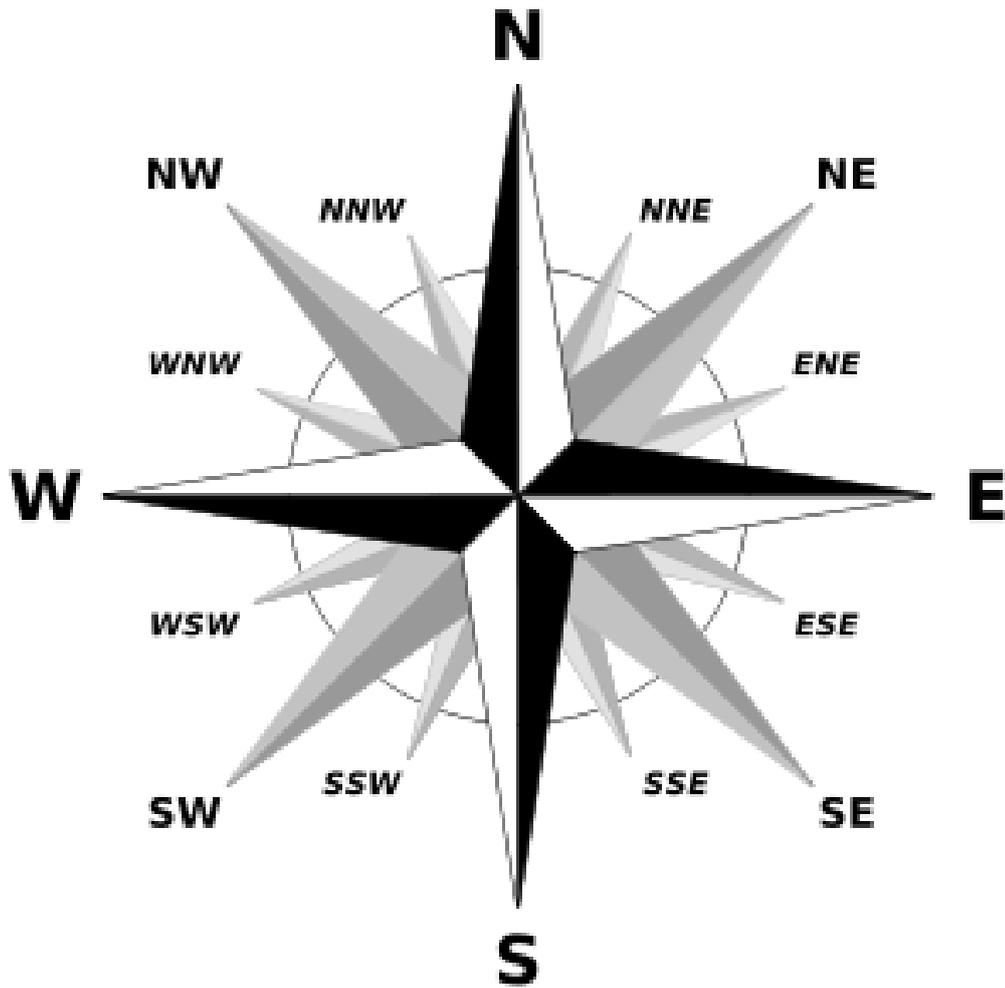
Note that God used *one* dominant river to create *four* rivers. *“And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads”* Genesis 2:10.

It appears that the *“east wind”* is God’s dominant wind and according to the procedure that Genesis 2:10 suggests, *“...what way is the light parted”* according to *“the outgoings of the morning and evening”* Psalm 65:8 as that *“which scattereth the east wind upon the earth”* is how God uses His dominant wind the *“east wind”* to create the *“four winds”* Jeremiah 49:36, Ezekiel 37:9, Daniel 7:2, 8:8, 11:4, Zechariah 2:6, Matthew 24:31, Mark 13:27, Revelation 7:1 **9** occurrences.

Note how Solomon associates *“the outgoings of the morning and evening”* with the circuits of the winds as they exist today. *“The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose. The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits”* Ecclesiastes 1:5-6.

Apart from Ecclesiastes 1:6, which is really a description of *“the wind...according to his circuits”* the scripture only mentions two winds together on one occasion. That particular scripture strongly suggests that the *“east wind”* is God’s dominant wind for God’s procedure *“which scattereth the east wind upon the earth”* Job 38:24 for establishing the *“four winds.”* God first brought about the *“east wind”* and from it the *“south wind”* making one quadrant, then possibly the west and north winds respectively to establish all four quadrants, leading to today’s familiar compass rose. God first brought about the *“east wind”* and from it the *“south wind”* making one quadrant, then possibly the west and north winds respectively to establish all four quadrants, leading to today’s familiar compass rose⁴.

“He caused an east wind to blow in the heaven: and by his power he brought in the south wind” Psalm 78:26.



A [compass rose](#) showing the four cardinal directions, the four ordinal directions, plus eight further divisions

Wisdom on Scripture from Scripture⁵

The speckled horse – actually horses, plural, see remarks on Zechariah 6:2-3 - is the *plague* horse of Revelation 6:8 and is therefore **“a pale horse”** but not of a single colour as F. Jones shows. Note the association of the *speckled* horse with the colours *red* and *white* in Zechariah 1:8 *in the absence of black* so that the colour association of the *pale, speckled* horse is emphasised for the colours *red* and *white*. *Red* and *white* are *plague* colours, as F. Jones emphasises, *red* and *white* depicting *leprous blotches* on an otherwise *pale* skin, citing the descriptions given in the Book of Leviticus e.g.:

“Or if there be any flesh, in the skin whereof there is a hot burning, and the quick flesh that burneth have a white bright spot, somewhat reddish, or white; Then the priest shall look upon it: and, behold, if the hair in the bright spot be turned white, and it be in sight deeper than the skin; it is a leprosy broken out of the burning: wherefore the priest shall pronounce him unclean: it is the plague of leprosy” Leviticus 13:24-25 and context.

Note that Revelation 7:4, 7 **“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...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”** indicate that no distinct Levitical priesthood exists during **“the time of Jacob’s trouble”** Jeremiah 30:7 **“great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be”** Matthew 24:21 heralded by the horse and rider judgements of Revelation 6:2, 4, 5, 8.

Israel’s believing remnant of that time **“...the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ”** Revelation 12:17, see remarks under Isaiah 18:1-2, 19:7 on Revelation 11:2, 12:14-16, and **“the saints...they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”** Revelation 14:12 are nevertheless enjoined to **“Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments”** Malachi 4:4 no doubt including Leviticus 13. Those who would implement Leviticus 13 would therefore be **“the rulers of the synagogue...the chief ruler of the synagogue”** Acts 13:15, 18:8, 17 because synagogues exist during **“the time of Jacob’s trouble”** Jeremiah 30:7 until **“...they have burned up all the synagogues of God in the land”** Psalm 74:8 at which point **“the rulers of the synagogue...the chief ruler of the synagogue”** and their followers would **“fly into the wilderness...nourished for a time, and times, and half a time”** Revelation 12:14. Again, see remarks under Isaiah 18:1-2, 19:7 on Revelation 11:2, 12:14-16.

It would appear that during **“the time of Jacob’s trouble”** Jeremiah 30:7 the cleansing from plague or leprosy marked by **“...a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image”** Revelation 16:2 for a *repentant* idolater is as it was for Naaman according to 2 Kings 5:14 **“Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean”** by means of an *End Times not Church Age* application administered by **“the rulers of the synagogue...the chief ruler of the synagogue”** Acts 13:15, 18:8, 17 of 1 Peter 3:21 *where baptism is both* **“the putting away of the filth of the flesh...the answer of a good conscience toward God.”** Today’s believer can of course rejoice in John 15:3 **“Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”**

References

¹ www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ Revelation 5 pp 6-7

² www.jarofquotes.com/view.php?id=he-that-hath-received-his-testimony-hath-set-to-his-seal-that-god-is-true

³ www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ Job 38-39 pp 31-32

⁴ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardinal_direction

⁵ www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ Wisdom on Scripture from Scripture pp 11-12