

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 16

The 144,000
Selected Cross-references

Revelation 7

1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).

2

Revelation 7

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 land, on the sea or on any tree. I saw another angel coming up from the east with a seal from the living God, and he shouted to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea, "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads!" I heard how many were sealed—144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el: From the tribe of Y'hudah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Re'uven 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naftali 12,000, from the tribe of M'nasheh 12,000, from the tribe of Shim'on 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Yissakhar 12,000, from the tribe of Z'vulun 12,000, from the tribe of Yosef 12,000, from the tribe of Binyamin 12,000.

3

After this, I looked; and there before me was a huge crowd, too large for anyone to count, from every nation, tribe, people and language. They were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches in their hands; and they shouted, "Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" All the angels stood around the throne, the elders and the four living beings; they fell face down before the throne and worshipped God, saying, "Amen! "Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks, honor and power and strength belong to our God forever and ever! "Amen!" One of the elders asked me, "These people dressed in white robes—who are they, and where are they from?" "Sir," I answered, "you know."

4

Then he told me, "These are the people who have come out of the Great Persecution. They have washed their robes and made them white with the blood of the Lamb. That is why they are before God's throne. "Day and night they serve him in his Temple; and the One who sits on the throne will put his Sh'khinah upon them. "They will never again be hungry, they will never again be thirsty, the sun will not beat down on them, nor will any burning heat. "For the Lamb at the center of the throne will shepherd them, will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

5

Four corners/winds

Revelation 7:1	References
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 land, on the sea or on any tree.	Zech 6:1,4-5 Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four chariots ...Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" (5) And the angel answered and said to me, "These are going out to the four winds of heaven, after presenting themselves before the Lord of all the earth.

6

The Seal of Protection

Revelation 7:2-3	References
I saw another angel coming up from the east with a seal from the living God, and he shouted to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea, "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads!"	Ex 12:13 The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

7

The Seal of Protection

Revelation 7:2-3	References
I saw another angel coming up from the east with a seal from the living God, and he shouted to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea, "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads! "	Rev 14:1 Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

8

The Seal of Protection

Revelation 7:2-3	References
..."Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads! "	Eze 9:4-6 And the LORD said to him, "Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it." 5 And to the others he said in my hearing, "Pass through the city after him, and strike. Your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity. Kill old men outright, young men and maidens, little children and women, but touch no one on whom is the mark. And begin at my sanctuary."

9

The Seal of Protection

Revelation 7:2-3	References
..."Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads! "	Rev 9:3-4 Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. 4 They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

10

The Seal/Mark of the Beast

Revelation 7:2-3	References
..."Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads! "	Rev 13:15-17 And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. 16 Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, 17 so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.


11

The Seal of God's Word

Revelation 7:2-3	References
..."Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads! "	Exo 13:9 And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth. For with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt.

12

We are to be sealed with God's Word

Revelation 7:2-3	References
	<p>Deu 6:6-8 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.</p>

13

The 144,000

Revelation 7:4-8	References
<p>I heard how many were sealed—144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el: From the tribe of Y'hudah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Re'uven 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naftali 12,000, from the tribe of M'nasheh 12,000, from the tribe of Shim'on 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Yissakhar 12,000, from the tribe of Z'vulun 12,000, from the tribe of Yosef 12,000, from the tribe of Binyamin 12,000.</p>	

14

The Redeemed 144,000

Revelation 7:4-8	References
I heard how many were sealed—144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el:...	Rev 14:1-3 Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, 3 and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

15

The Undeclared 144,000

Revelation 7:4	References
I heard how many were sealed—144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el:	Rev 14: 4-5 It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

16

The Undeified 144,000 = an Army?

Rev 7:4	References
I heard how many were sealed—144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el:	1 Samuel 21:3-5 Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here.” 4 And the priest answered David, “I have no common bread on hand, but there is holy bread—if the young men have kept themselves from women.” 5 And David answered the priest, “ Truly women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition. The vessels of the young men are holy even when it is an ordinary journey. How much more today will their vessels be holy? ”

17

The Undeified 144,000 = an Army?

Rev 7:4	References
I heard how many were sealed—144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el:	Numbers 31:2-5 “Avenge the people of Israel on the Midianites. Afterward you shall be gathered to your people.” 3 So Moses spoke to the people, saying, “Arm men from among you for the war, that they may go against Midian to execute the LORD’s vengeance on Midian. 4 You shall send a thousand from each of the tribes of Israel to the war. ” 5 So there were provided, out of the thousands of Israel, a thousand from each tribe, twelve thousand armed for war.

18

The Undefined 144,000 = an Army?

Rev 7:4	References
I heard how many were sealed— 144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el:	Num 31:48-49 Then the officers who were over the thousands of the army, the commanders of thousands and the commanders of hundreds, came near to Moses 49 and said to Moses, “Your servants have counted the men of war who are under our command, and there is not a man missing from us. ”

19

The Undefined 144,000 = an Army representing Firstfruits?

Rev 7:4	References
I heard how many were sealed— 144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el:	<p>Rev 14: 4-5 It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.</p> <p>Rom 11:16, 26: If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches... And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”;</p>

20

The list of the 12 Tribes: A baker's dozen

Rev 7:4	References
I heard how many were sealed—144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el: Y'hudah, Re'uven, Gad, Asher, Naftali, M'nasheh, Shim'on, Levi , Yissakhar, Z'vulun, Yosef, Binyamin	<p>Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Joseph, Benjamin</p> <p>Joseph later split into two "half-tribes": Ephraim and Manasseh</p> <p>Omit Levi: Reuben, Simeon, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Benjamin, Ephraim and Manasseh</p>

21

The list of the 12 Tribes: Levi?

Rev 7:4	References
I heard how many were sealed—144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el: Y'hudah, Re'uven, Gad, Asher, Naftali, M'nasheh, Shim'on, Levi , Yissakhar, Z'vulun, Yosef, Binyamin	<p>Num 1:49-50 "Only the tribe of Levi you shall not list, and you shall not take a census of them among the people of Israel. 50 But appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over all its furnishings, and over all that belongs to it. They are to carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings, and they shall take care of it and shall camp around the tabernacle.</p>

22

The list of the 12 Tribes: Dan?

Rev 7:4	References
I heard how many were sealed— 144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el: Y'hudah, Re'uven, Gad, Asher, Naftali, M'nasheh , Shim'on, Levi , Yissakhar, Z'vulun, Yosef , Binyamin	Joh 6:70 Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.”



23

The list of the 12 Tribes: Ephraim

Rev 7:4	References
I heard how many were sealed— 144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el: Y'hudah, Re'uven, Gad, Asher, Naftali, M'nasheh , Shim'on, Levi , Yissakhar, Z'vulun, Yosef , Binyamin	Hoseah 4:17 Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone.


24

The list of the 12 Tribes

Rev 7:4	References
I heard how many were sealed— 144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el: Y'hudah, Re'uven, Gad, Asher, Naftali, M'nasheh , Shim'on, Levi , Yissakhar, Z'vulun, Yosef , Binyamin	2 Chr 15:9 And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and those from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who were residing with them, for great numbers had deserted to him from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him. Jas 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

25

After this

Revelation 7:9	References
After this, I looked; and there before me was a huge crowd, too large for anyone to count, from every nation, tribe, people and language. They were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches in their hands;	

26

Victory = Salvation!

Revelation 7:10-12	References
and they shouted, "Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" All the angels stood around the throne, the elders and the four living beings; they fell face down before the throne and worshipped God, saying, "Amen! "Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks, honor and power and strength belong to our God forever and ever! "Amen!"	Psa 98:2 The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

27

Sir, you know

Revelation 7:13	References
One of the elders asked me, "These people dressed in white robes—who are they, and where are they from?" "Sir," I answered, "you know." Then he told me, "These are the people who have come out of the Great Persecution. They have washed their robes and made them white with the blood of the Lamb."	Eze 37:3 And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

28

The Sheltering Shekinah

Revelation 7:15	References
That is why they are before God's throne. "Day and night they serve him in his Temple; and the One who sits on the throne will put his Sh'khinah upon them . (ESV: will shelter them with his presence.)	Eze 37:27 My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

29

The Sheltering Shekinah

Revelation 7:15	References
That is why they are before God's throne. "Day and night they serve him in his Temple; and the One who sits on the throne will put his Sh'khinah upon them . (ESV: will shelter them with his presence.)	Rth 3:9-11 He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer." 10 And he said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. 11 And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman.

30

Shelter from the Heat

Revelation 7:16-17	References
<p>"They will never again be hungry, they will never again be thirsty, the sun will not beat down on them, nor will any burning heat. "For the Lamb at the center of the throne will shepherd them, will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."</p>	<p>Isa 4:5-6 Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy. There will be a booth (tabernacle) for shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.</p>

31

Living Water

Revelation 7:16-17	References
<p>"They will never again be hungry, they will never again be thirsty, the sun will not beat down on them, nor will any burning heat. "For the Lamb at the center of the throne will shepherd them, will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."</p>	<p>Isa 49:10 they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them.</p>

32

No more tears

Revelation 7:16-17	References
<p>"They will never again be hungry, they will never again be thirsty, the sun will not beat down on them, nor will any burning heat. "For the Lamb at the center of the throne will shepherd them, will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."</p>	<p>Isa 25:8 He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.</p>

33

No more tears

Revelation 7:16-17	References
<p>"They will never again be hungry, they will never again be thirsty, the sun will not beat down on them, nor will any burning heat. "For the Lamb at the center of the throne will shepherd them, will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."</p>	<p>Revelation 21:4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."</p> <p>Revelation 21:6 And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.</p>

34

