

## Revelation 7 & 8

7:1- Is describing the calm before the storm.

7:3 & 4 Speak of a seal being placed upon 144,000 'servants'.

During the "church age" in which we are currently living, believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 1:13-14)

Later in Rev. 13 the Antichrist will give the "mark of the beast" as a seal to those who follow him.

There are two groups of people described in Chapter 7

### 7:1-8

144,000 Jews

Sealed on earth

### 7:9-17

Unnumbered Gentiles from all nations

Standing in heaven before God

**7:5-8** The **tribe of Judah** is mentioned first because it was the royal tribe of Israel (Gn 49:9-10) into which Jesus was born (Rv 5:5). **Reuben** is next because he was Jacob's firstborn (Gn 49:3). The tribes of Dan and Ephraim are omitted from the listing, perhaps because of their instances of gross idolatry (Jdg 17-18). They are replaced by **Joseph** and **Levi**, neither of which was included in the military encampment of tribes in Numbers 2.

9- The 'great multitude' is identified in 7:14 as "Those who have come out of the great tribulation."

White robes and palm branches symbolize victory: they were true overcomers!

7:17- "God will wipe away every tear"

Mentioned again in Rev. 21:4

Will there be tears in heaven?

8:1- Finally, the Seventh Seal is opened. It leads to Seven Trumpets.

Trumpet Judgments and Bowl Judgments are coming. Note that each cycle of judgments increases in intensity. From Seals to Trumpets to Bowls.

The Trumpet and Bowl judgments touch on the same areas:

<b>The Trumpets</b>	<b>The Judgment</b>	<b>The Bowls</b>
8:1-7	The earth	16:1-2
8:8-9	The Sea	16:3
8:10-11	The Rivers	16:4-7
8:12-13	The Heavens	16:8-9
9:1-2	Mankind-Torment	16:10-11
9:13-21	An Army	16:12-16
11:15-19	Angry Nations	16:17-21

The Trumpet judgments are released during the first half of the Tribulation, and the bowl judgments during the last half, which is also called “the wrath of God” (Rev. 14:10; 15:7)

The ‘silence in heaven’ may have been in awe of the details of God’s glorious plan unfolding.

(Wiersbe)

According to Numbers 10, trumpets had three important uses: they called the people together, they announced war; and they announced special times.

3- ‘golden censer, incense and prayers’

In the Old and New Testaments, burning incense on the altar was a picture of prayer ascending to God. (Psalm 141:2)

Who are the saints? Vs. 3 & 4

For centuries, God’s people have been praying, “Thy kingdom come, ~~They~~ will be done!” and now those prayers are about to be answered.

Additionally, the Tribulation martyrs prayed for God to vindicate them (6:9-11).

8:13- The Three Woe's announce the final three trumpets which are more intense than the first four.

'inhabitants of the earth' or 'them that dwell on the earth' is found twelve times in Revelation. It refers to a kind of people: those who live *for* the earth and the things *of* the earth. These are just the opposite of people who have their citizenship in heaven (Phil. 3:18-21).

Whereas the first four trumpets affected everyone (or at least those in one-third of the earth), the final three are only for unbelievers. The seal mentioned in 7:3 protects the remaining believers from the demonic oppression of the final three trumpets (see 9:4).