

BOOK OF REVELATION – REVELATION 7:1-8

THE THINGS SEEN AND ARE AND WHAT SHALL TAKE PLACE

By Kevin E. Hughes

Revelation 6 – The 3 Visions of John - Overview

1st Vision John “saw” on Earth: Rev 6:1-8

The first 4 Seals of God Judging Unbelieving Mankind or Nations, Killed by God’s Angels, on Earth.

2nd Vision John “saw” in Heaven: Rev 6:9-11

The 5th Seal of God, Not God Judging, of Martyrs Killed during the time of first 4 Seals, in Heaven.

3rd Vision John “saw” on Earth: Rev 6:12-17

The 6th Seal of God Judging Unbelieving Mankind or Nations, Killed by God’s Disturbances, on Earth.

The 4 Angels Granted to Harm the Earth, Sea, and Trees, and the Interlude

Working Outline > Read Revelation 7:1-3 (Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible)

Revelation 7:1-3

- I. 1 After this I (John) saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, 20:8, Mk 13:27, Isa 11:12
 - A. holding back the four winds of the earth, Dan 7:2, Jer 49:36,
 1. so that (Reason) no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. Ps 147:18
- II. 2 And I (John) saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun (East),
 - A. having the seal of the living God; 2 Cor 1:21-22, Eph 1:13, Eph 4:30
 1. and he (Angel) cried out with a loud voice
 2. to the four angels to whom it was granted (given) to harm the earth and the sea, 7:1
 - B. 3 saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees
 - a. until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.”

The Judgment Interlude

Rev 7:1-17 is an Interlude or interrupting period between the 6th Seal and the 7th Seal.

The Seals will not continue “until” God’s bondservants are sealed.

Rev 7:1-17 also answers the question in Rev 6:17, “who is able to stand (to endure)” in the Tribulation.

Seals 1-4 and Seal 6 focus on God Judging Unbelieving Mankind but Rev 7 focuses on those who are Not Judged during the Tribulation but are “bondservants” or believers in “white robes”, like those in Seal 5.

4th Vision John “saw” on Earth: Rev 7:1-3, Rev 7:4-8

“After this” or After what John saw and heard concerning the 6 Seals, especially the 6th Seal.

“After this” or “After these things”, usually introduces a New Vision, Rev 7:9, 1:19, 4:1a, 4:1b, 9:12, 15:5, 18:1, 19:1, 20:3

I (John) saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, Read Rev 20:8, Mk 13:27, Isa 11:12

“the four corners of the earth”, means the farthest reaches, without exception, of every place on earth.

This is a “metaphor”, attributing something “not having real existence but representing some truth about a situation or other subject”, Cambridge Dictionary Example: I traveled all the four corners of the world.

The “four angels standing at the four corners” means they are at the far reaches or limits of the world.

“holding back the four winds of the earth”, means the farthest reaches, without exception, of every wind on earth, in the normal movement of air on earth caused by differences in air temperature and pressure.

The assumption is there are winds of the earth, and those winds are controlled by God, Ps 147:18

This also is a “metaphor”, as described hereon.

This “no wind” is a type of Judgment by God on Earth, as the 6th Seal was a Judgment by God on Earth. But “another Angel” shows up, a 5th Angel, “having the seal of the living God”.

and he cries out “to the **four angels** to **whom** it was **granted** (given) to **harm** the **earth** and the **sea**”. This means “**harm**” by “**no wind**” **Judgment** which includes the “**harm**” of the **earth**, **sea**, and **trees**.

The **four angels** are told, “Do not **harm** the **earth** or the **sea** or the **trees**

until we (**Angels**) have **sealed** the **bond-servants** of **our God** on **their foreheads**.”

Harm to the **earth**, the **sea**, and the **trees** comes in **Trumpet Judgments 1, 2, 3, and 4**, **Rev 8:7-13**

Therefore, the **4 Angels** were about to **harm** the **earth**, as in **Judgment on earth**, and were stopped by

a **5th Angel**, telling **them** to Not harm the **earth until God’s bond-servants** are **Sealed**.

The **5th Angel**, “having the **seal** of the **living God**”, this **Seal** is to be put on **their “foreheads”** **Rev 7:3, 14:1**

and is only for **those** who are **bondservants** of **God** and Not for **Unbelievers**. **2 Cor 1:21-22**, **Eph 1:13**, **Eph 4:30**

Q1: WHAT was “on **their foreheads**” the **foreheads** of the **144,000 men** ? **Read Rev 14:1**

A: “**His (the Lamb’s) name** and **the name of His Father** written on **their (144,000) foreheads**”, **Rev 14:1**

The Number - of those **Sealed Bondservants** of **our God**, by the **Angels**, **Rev 7:4**

Read Revelation 7:4

4 And **I (John)** heard the **number** of those who were **sealed**,

one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every **tribe** of **the sons of Israel**:

Number - Literal Interpretation of Prophecy – Literal/Historical/Grammatical Interpretation

First: “the **number** of those who were **sealed**” was **144,000** (Literally **144,000 People** were **Sealed**)

Number - Non-Literal Interpretation of Prophecy – Symbolic Interpretation

“the **number** of those who were **sealed**” was **144,000** (Not Literally **144,000**, a **Symbolic Number**)

They say, **144,000** is a **Symbol** that stands for or represents something else.

They say, **144,000** is **Symbolic** and Not to be understood **Literally**

“one should note, is $12 \times 12 \times 1000$, which is the number of **God’s people** (12) multiplied by itself (12) and then by the number of completeness (1000)”, *Gordon Fee, Revelation (pp. 107–109)*.

“this would Not mean, of course, that only **144,000** people are **saved!** The number **144,000** is a **symbolic number**. It’s the number of **tribes of Israel** (12) times the number of **apostles** (12) multiplied by a 1,000 ten to the third power! To depict the great multitude of **God’s people**.”, *Rose Guide to End Times Prophecy, p. 234*

If we were to accept **Symbolic Interpretation** as valid, then what are the **Rules** for **Symbolic Interpretation** ?

When should **Symbolic Interpretation** be applied and when should it Not be applied ?

Where is the **Rule** that a **number** should Not be understood **Literally** ?

Where is the **Rule** that 12 should be multiplied by 12 and then multiplied by 1000 ?

Where is the **Rule** that **numbers** need to be multiplied times each other to derive **their** meaning ?

Where is the **Rule** that **numbers** need to be squared or taken to the third power to derive **their** meaning ?

Where is the **Rule** that 1000 is “the **number** of completeness” and be taken to the third power ?

Where is the **Rule** to multiply **tribes** x **apostles** x **ten** to the third power ?

How do you know these **Rules** exist and How do you know When and Where to apply those **Rules** ?

Answer: There are No such **Rules**, they break almost every **Rule of Literal Interpretation**. *See Lesson 4*

Non-Literal Interpretation is any Interpretation Method applied to **Prophecy** *See Lesson 4*
other than Normal **Literal/Historical/Grammatical Interpretation**.

This includes: “**Allegorical**”, “**Spiritual**”, “**Mystical**”, “**Symbolic**”, and “**Imaginative**” Interpretation.

“**Biblical Numerology** is the use of **numbers** in the **Bible** to convey (assign) a meaning outside of (Not Literally) the **numerical value** of the **actual number** being used.” *Wikipedia*

They interpret the **Numbers**, **144,000** and **1,000**, with **Symbolic Interpretation**, But **They** interpret **1260** days, **11:3**, **12:6**, **42** months, **11:2**, **13:5**, and **3 1/2** years other **Numbers Literally** ? What **Rule** is applied ?

The People - of those **Sealed Bondservants** of our God, by the **Angels**, **Rev 7:4**

Read Revelation 7:4

4 And I (John) heard the **number** of those (**bondservants**) who were **sealed**,
one hundred and forty-four thousand **sealed from** every **tribe** of **the sons of Israel**:

People - **Literal Interpretation of Prophecy – Literal/Historical/Grammatical Interpretation**

Second: “**144,000 sealed from** every **tribe** of **the sons of Israel**”: (Literally **144,000 People** were **sealed from** every **tribe** of **the sons of Israel**) and **tribe** means **tribe** and **sons of Israel** means **sons of Israel**.

People - **Non-Literal Interpretation of Prophecy – Symbolic Interpretation - People**

“**144,000 sealed from** every **tribe** of **the sons of Israel**” (Not Literally, “**the sons of Israel**”) and **sons of Israel** does Not mean **sons of Israel**

They say, **the sons of Israel** is “**apocalyptic language**” or “**figurative language**” and Not **Literal**.

They say, **tribes of Israel** and **the sons of Israel** is **the Church** and Not **Literally Israel**.

They say, **the Church** is “**the Israel of God**”, **Gal 6:16**, and therefore “**Israel**” means **the Church**, in **Rev 7:4**.

Claiming, **the Church** is “**the Israel of God**” and “**Israel**” is **the Church** is **Reformed Theology**.

They say, **the Church** is “**spiritual Israel**”. Not Physically **Israel**, But **Spiritually Israel**.

“**spiritual**” as in Grk. *pneumatikon*, “the Non-Material or Non-Physical aspect of Reality”, **1 Cor 15:44, 46**

They use **Replacement Theology** to say that “**the Church**” has replaced or superseded “**Israel**”.

Whenever they see “**Israel**” mentioned, they at their own discretion, redefine “**Israel**” as “**the Church**”

They say, **the sons of Israel** refers to “the **people of God**”, **the Church**, or **Gentile/Jew Believers**, **1 Pet 2:10**

They also use what I call, **Bait and Switch Interpretation**, they read the **Text**, then claim it doesn't mean what it says, then they immediately refer to a different **Text** in a different **Context**, they give the meaning of that **Text** and then apply it back to the original **Text**, without having dealt with the **Context** of either **Text**.

Bait and Switch “the ploy of offering a person something desirable to gain favor (such as political (or Biblical) support) then thwarting (oppose successfully) expectations with something less desirable” *Websters*

They use **Texts** from a different **Context** or **Out of Context** to justify a new meaning of the original **Text**.

“A **Text**, **Out of Context**, Becomes a **Pretext**, for a **Proof Text** !”

Pretext (**Out of Context**) “a pretended reason (not the real reason) for doing something

that is used to hide the **real reason**” *Cambridge Dictionary* See **Lesson 4**, for a more on this.

Q: What is the **real reason** that they don't want you to **interpret** a passage **Literally** ?

A: Because the **Literal Interpretation** disagrees with their adopted **Reformed (Covenant) Theology**

Reformed (Covenant) Theology **Reformed** - *Richard Belcher*

“**God** has **one people**, represented by **the saints** in the **OT** and **the saints** of the **NT** era.”

“**God** has **one people** —**the church**—for whom **He** has **one plan**, in all ages since **Adam**”

“**The church** existed prior to the **NT** era, including all the redeemed since **Adam**.”

“**Pentecost** was not the beginning of **the church**...”

“**Christ** came to die for our **sins** and to establish the **New Israel**, the **NT** manifestation of **the church**.”

“The promises of the **New Covenant** mentioned in **Jeremiah 31:31-34** are **fulfilled** in the **NT**.”

Dispensational Theology

God has **two distinct peoples**, **Israel** the **earthly people** and **the church** the **heavenly people**.

God has **two separate distinct plans** for these **two distinct peoples**. All **Covenants** belong to **Israel**, **Rom 9:4**

The church, by definition, did not exist until **Pentecost**, when the **New Covenant** was first applied.

The church, was a **mystery**, “not made known to **the sons of men**”, “the **Gentiles** are fellow heirs”, **Eph 3:1-7**

The **New Covenant** in **Jeremiah 31:31-34** was specifically given to **Israel** and will be **fulfilled** in the future.

The Tribe - of those **Sealed Bondservants** of our God, by the **Angels**, **Rev 7:4**

Read Revelation 7:4

4 And I (John) heard the **number** of those (**bondservants**) who were **sealed**,
one hundred and forty-four thousand **sealed from** every **tribe** of **the sons of Israel**:

The Tribe - **Literal Interpretation of Prophecy** – **Literal/Historical/Grammatical Interpretation**

Third: “**from** every **tribe** of **the sons of Israel**” (Literally **144,000 People** were **sealed from** every **tribe** of **the sons of Israel**) and **tribe** means **tribe** and **sons of Israel** means **sons of Israel**.

The Tribe - **Non-Literal Interpretation of Prophecy** – **Symbolic Interpretation**

“**from** every **tribe** of **the sons of Israel**” (Not **Literally**, “**from** every **tribe**”)

They say, **John** “didn’t intend these **tribes** to be taken as the twelve **tribes** of **ethnic Israel**”¹

They say, **John** “meant **his** listing of **tribes** to be taken as a **symbol** of something other than **ethnic Israel**”²

They say, **John’s** List of **12 Tribes** is different than any **tribe** list in the Bible, therefore a problem.

Answer: List of **12 Tribes** is different in **Rev 7**, just like all **tribe** lists in the Bible, therefore Not a problem.

A-Mill, **Post-Mill**, and **Historic Pre-Mill** say, “the **144,000** symbolize the followers of **Jesus** (**believers**) on **earth**, the full number of **those** (**believers**) who endure (suffer) the **tribulation**”³

A-Mill, **Post-Mill**, and **Historic Pre-Mill**, use “**Allegorical**”, “**Spiritual**”, “**Mystical**”, “**Symbolic**”, and “**Imaginative**” **Interpretation** to say, **144,000** is Not **144,000**, that **Israel** is Not **Israel**, that **Every Tribe of Israel** is Not **Every Tribe of Israel**, that **12,000** is Not **12,000** (12 times), that **tribe** is Not **tribe** (12 times), that **Judah** is Not **Judah**, that **Reuben** is Not **Reuben**, that **Gad** is Not **Gad**, that **Asher** is Not **Asher**, that **Naphtali** is Not **Naphtali**, that **Manasseh** is Not **Manasseh**, that **Simeon** is Not **Simeon**, that **Levi** is Not **Levi**, that **Issachar** is Not **Issachar**, that **Zebulun** is Not **Zebulun**, that **Joseph** is Not **Joseph**, that **Benjamin** is Not **Benjamin**.

They say all this is speaking of “**the Church**” and Not **Israel** ?

This List is **40 things** that **Reformed (Covenant) Theology** does Not take **Literally**, but **Spiritually**.

Q: What is the reason that **Reformed (Covenant) Theology** does Not want this passage to mean **Israel** ?

A: Because **Reformed Theology** removes all distinction between the **Nation of Israel** and **the Church**.

They say, **the Church** is “**the Israel of God**” and “**Israel**” is **the Church** and there is one “**People of God**”.

Reformed (Covenant) Theology interprets Scripture based upon either **two** or **three implicit Covenants** that are not **explicitly** called out in Scripture.

They deemphasize the distinctions between the **Biblical Covenants**.

They deemphasize or ignore **God’s promises** to **restore Israel** in the **Latter days** in many **OT** passages.

They say **The Lord’s Covenant Promises** made to the **Nation of Israel** are **Conditional**, and have either been forfeited because of **their** rejection of **Jesus** or are reinterpreted as applying to **the Church**.

They say there is essentially no future for **Israel** as a **nation**, except for the individual salvation of **Jews** who happen to come to faith as part of **the Church**.

They say, “The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed; the Old is in the New revealed.”

Reformed (Covenant) Theology, **Post-Mill** and **Post-Trib View** says:

“The prophecies concerning the **seals** and the **trumpets** have to do specifically with the imminent **judgment** of **Israel** by the **Roman armies**, a **judgment** culminating in the destruction of **Jerusalem** and the **temple** in **AD 70**. The prophecies concerning the **bowls** have to do with the **judgment** of **Rome**.”

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/understanding-johns-prophecy>

¹ Rose Guide to End Times Prophecy, p. 232

² Rose Guide to End Times Prophecy, p. 232

³ Rose Guide to End Times Prophecy, p. 233

Those of the sons of Israel, who are Sealed Bond-servants of our God, by the Angels

Working Outline > Read Revelation 7:4-8 (Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible)

Revelation 7:4-8

- I. 4 And I (John) heard the **number** of **those** (**bond-servants/servants**) who were **sealed**, 7:3
 - A. **one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel**: 14:1-5
 1. 5 From **the tribe of Judah**, **twelve thousand** were **sealed**,
 2. from **the tribe of Reuben** **twelve thousand**,
 3. from **the tribe of Gad** **twelve thousand**,
 4. 6 from **the tribe of Asher** **twelve thousand**,
 5. from **the tribe of Naphtali** **twelve thousand**,
 6. from **the tribe of Manasseh** **twelve thousand**,
 7. 7 from **the tribe of Simeon** **twelve thousand**,
 8. from **the tribe of Levi** **twelve thousand**,
 9. from **the tribe of Issachar** **twelve thousand**,
 10. 8 from **the tribe of Zebulun** **twelve thousand**,
 11. from **the tribe of Joseph** **twelve thousand**,
 12. from **the tribe of Benjamin**, **twelve thousand** were **sealed**.

The **5th Angel**, “having the **seal** of the **living God**”, this **Seal** is to be put on **their “foreheads”**, Rev 7:3, 14:1

This **Seal** is for **those bond-servants of God**. **Read** 2 Cor 1:21-22, Eph 1:13, Eph 4:30

Q1: WHAT is a **bond-servant of God**? **Read** Rev 1:1, 11:18, 19:5

A: **bond-servant** or **Slave**, Grk, *doulos*, 128 times in NT, Person owned as property by another, and the relationship that bound the owner and **the slave**, *Baker encyclopedia of Bible*, in this case the **Believer** is a **Bond-Slave** bound by and owned by **Christ**.

Q2: WHAT was “on **their foreheads**” of the **144,000 men**?

A: “**His (the Lamb’s) name** and **the name of His Father** written on **their (144,000) foreheads**”, Rev 14:1

Q3: WHERE did these **144,000 men** come from?

A: “**one hundred and forty-four thousand men** who had been **purchased** from **the earth**.”, 14:3

“**These** have been **purchased** from among **men** as **first fruits** to **God** and to **the Lamb**”, 14:4, 5:9

“**purchased**”, Grk, *agorazō*, *having been bought for a price*, as in **redeemed**, to buy back for a price. Rev 5:9

Q4: WHAT else do we know about these **144,000 men**? **Read** 14:1-5

A: “**These** are the ones who have not been defiled with **women**, for **they** have kept **themselves** chaste”, 14:3

“**These** are the ones who follow **the Lamb** wherever **He** goes”, 14:3

“no lie was found in **their** mouth; **they** are blameless”, 14:5

Q5: WHAT “**People Group**” are these **bond-servants from**?

A: “**from every tribe of the sons of Israel**”, 7:4, the physical sons of **Abraham**, **Isaac**, and **Jacob**, Matt 1, Luke 3

Q6: WHAT is the Reason that **144,000 of Israel** are **Sealed** as **Believers**?

A: The Reason **144,000 of Israel** are **Sealed** is because **they** were Not **Sealed before** this time.

Therefore, **they** were Not **Believers** before this time and Not **Gentiles** and Not part of **the Church**.

Also, Because the “the fullness of the **Gentiles** has come in” Rom 11:25–26

25 For I do not want **you, brethren**, to be uninformed of this **mystery**—

so that **you** will not be wise in **your** own estimation—

that a **partial hardening** has happened to **Israel until** the fullness of the **Gentiles** has come in;

26 and so **all Israel** will be **saved**; just as it is written,

“the **deliverer** (**Jesus**) will come from **Zion**, **He** will remove **ungodliness** from **Jacob**.” Rom 11:25–26

Q7: WHY would **God Seal** or **Save** only **People** from the **Nation of Israel** and Not **Gentiles**?

A: One Reason is Because the **Revelation 4-19** primarily focuses on the **Nation of Israel**.

Rev 12: 1-6, Is about the **woman** (**Israel**) who gave birth to a **male child** who is to **rule the nations**, **Jesus**.

Rev 12: 13-17, Is about the **dragon** who persecutes the **woman** and **she** flees to the **wilderness** for **3 ½ years**.

Q8: WHY would **God Seal** or **Save** or **redeem** or **purchase** only **People** from the **Nation of Israel** in **Revelation** ?

A: One Reason is because this parallels many major events in the **Book of Exodus**.

The Book of Exodus

A **New King (Pharaoh)** arises, commands that all **newborn** of the **sons of Israel** be **killed**, Ex 1:16-17, 1:22
Then the **newborn Moses** is **rescued** from the Nile and lives **40 years** and **Kills** an **Egyptian**, Ex 2:1-12
Then **Moses** lives **40 years** in **Midian** and **the Angel of the Lord (Jesus)** meets **him** on **Mt Sinai**, Ex 3:1-22
Then **God**, Ex 3:6, 15, sends **Moses** to **Egypt** to **rescue** or **redeem His People Israel** from **suffering**, Ex 3:7, 17
Then **God** says **He** will **rescue** the **sons of Israel** to bring **them** to the **Promised Land**, Ex 3:8, 17
Then **Moses** appears before **Pharaoh**, and says **the Lord** says let **My People** Go, but **Pharaoh** refuses, Ex 5:1

Exodus 6:6

6 “Say, therefore, to the **sons of Israel**, ‘**I am the LORD**,
and **I will** bring **you** out from under the **burdens** of the **Egyptians**, and **I will** deliver **you** from **their bondage**.
I will also **redeem you** with an outstretched arm and with **great judgments**.”

Then **the LORD** gives **10 Plagues** or **great judgments** on **Unbelieving mankind**, to let **His People** Go,
Then the **10th Plague** or **Judgment kills** all the **first-born sons of Unbelieving Egypt**.

Exodus 12:12–13

12 ‘For **I will** go through the **land of Egypt** on that night, and will strike down all the **firstborn** in the **land of Egypt**, both **man** and **beast**; and against all the **gods of Egypt I will** execute **judgments—I am the LORD**.
13 ‘The **blood** shall be a **sign** for **you** on the houses where **you** live; 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**.”

The Book of Exodus and the Book of Revelation

The Lord Judges **Unbelieving mankind** and **Rescues, Redeems, or Purchases** the **sons of Israel**, Rev 7:4, 14:4
The Lord protects the **sons of Israel** from the **dragon** who **persecutes** the **woman (Israel)**
and **she** flees to the **wilderness** for **3 ½ years**. Rev 12:13-17

Pharaoh is like the **Dragon/Antichrist** who **persecutes Israel**.

The **10 Plague/Judgments** of **God** on **Unbelieving mankind** are like the **7 Seal Judgments** of **God**.

God passing over/protecting **Israel** from **Judgment** is like **God** protecting **Israel** from the **Dragon/Antichrist**.

God promising Israel the **Land of Canaan** is like **God promising Israel** the **Millennial Kingdom**. Ezek 48

Both **Land of Canaan** and **Millennial Kingdom** are the **Land Promised** to **Abraham**. Gen 12:7, 17:8, Ex 32:13

The 144,000 Conclusion

The **144,000**, are **those Sealed** by the **Angels** on **their foreheads** with “**the seal** of the **living God**”, Rev 7:3, 14:1

The **144,000**, are **bond-servants** or **Slaves** of **God** or **Believers**. 2 Cor 1:21-22, Eph 1:13-14

The **144,000**, are exclusively “**from every tribe** of **the sons of Israel**”, 7:4, 7:5-8

The **144,000**, are the physical sons of **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**, Matt 1, Luke 3, and of **ethnic Israel**.

The **144,000**, are part of **believing Israel**, because “the fulness of the **Gentiles** has come in”, Rom 11:25

The **144,000**, are part of “**He (God)** will remove **ungodliness** from **Jacob**”, Rom 11:26

The **144,000**, are part of “this is **My (God’s) covenant** with **them**, when **I** take away **their sins**.” Rom 11:27

“**My (God’s) covenant** with **them**” is the **New Covenant**, Jer 31:31-34, Heb 8:8-12, Heb 10:16-17, Ezek 36:24-28,

The **144,000**, are part of “all **Israel** will be **saved**”, Rom 11:26

The **144,000**, are part of “the **latter days you (Israel)** will return to **the Lord your God**”, Deut 4:25-31

The **144,000**, are part of “Moreover **the Lord your God** will circumcise **your heart** and the **heart** of **your descendants**, to love **the Lord your God** with all **your heart** and with all **your soul, ...**”, Deut 30:1-10

The Tribe List: Is it a Problem or Not ?

Many Commentators find a problem with **List of Tribes**, But this varying and omitting **tribal** names is not unusual but is **typical** in the Bible. There is no standard way of listing the **12 tribes**.

There are at least nineteen different ways of listing **Tribes** in the Old Testament, none of which agree with the **Tribe List** given here.

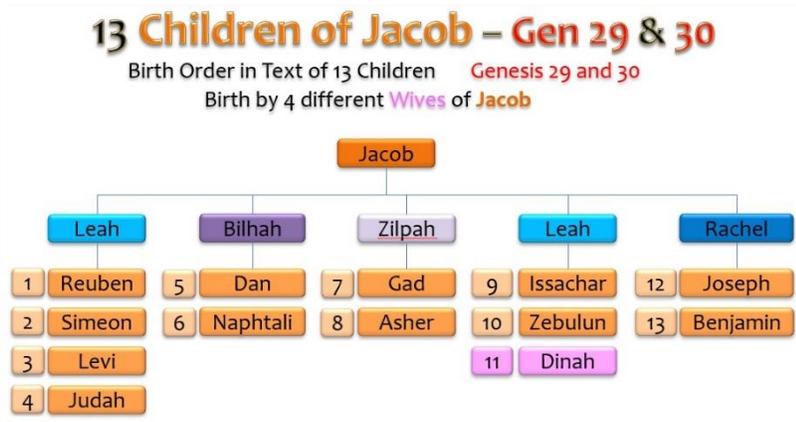
Each location in scripture needs to be looked as to its **Context** and **Purpose**, for "Whom", what **Tribe**, is Added or Subtracted.

Was the **Tribe List** given to reveal the **12 physical sons of Jacob** ? **Gen 29 & 30**

Was the **Tribe List** given to reveal the **12 sons** and the **2 grandsons** blessed by **Jacob** ? **Gen 49**

Was the **Tribe List** given to reveal the **12 tribes** portion of **Land** in the **Millennial Kingdom** ? **Ezek 48**

See **Tribe Charts**



12 Sons of Jacob – Gen 29 & 30

Birth Order in Text of **12 Sons** **Genesis 29 and 30**

Wife	Order	Wife	Order	Son	Order
Jacob	1	Leah	1	Reuben	1
	2	Leah	2	Simeon	2
	3	Leah	3	Levi	3
	4	Leah	4	Judah	4
Wife	3	Bilhah	3	Dan	5
	4	Bilhah	4	Naphtali	6
Wife	4	Zilpah	4	Gad	7
	5	Zilpah	5	Asher	8
Wife	1	Leah	1	Issachar	9
	2	Leah	2	Zebulun	10
Wife	2	Rachel	2	Joseph	11
	3	Rachel	3	Benjamin	12

Sons of Israel > Birth, Tribe - Rev 7

Birth – Gen 29	Tribe – Rev 7
1 Reuben	1 Judah 7:5, 12,0000
2 Simeon	2 Reuben 7:5, 12,0000
3 Levi	3 Gad 7:5, 12,0000
4 Judah	4 Asher 7:6, 12,0000
5 Dan	5 Naphtali 7:6, 12,0000
6 Naphtali	6 Manasseh 7:6, 12,0000
7 Gad	7 Simeon 7:7, 12,0000
8 Asher	8 Levi 7:7, 12,0000
9 Issachar	9 Issachar 7:7, 12,0000
10 Zebulun	10 Zebulun 7:8, 12,0000
11 Joseph	11 Joseph 7:8, 12,0000
12 Benjamin	12 Benjamin 7:8, 12,0000

No Ephraim
No Dan

Context > Determines what Names Added or Subtracted

Sons of Israel > Birth, Blessed, Tribe - Rev 7

Birth – Gen 29	Blessed – Gen 49	Tribe – Rev 7
1 Reuben	1 Reuben	1 Judah 7:5
2 Simeon	2 Simeon	2 Reuben 7:5
3 Levi	3 Levi	3 Gad 7:5
4 Judah	4 Judah	4 Asher 7:6
5 Dan	5 Zebulun	5 Naphtali 7:6
6 Naphtali	6 Issachar	6 Manasseh 7:6
7 Gad	7 Dan	7 Simeon 7:7
8 Asher	8 Asher	8 Levi 7:7
9 Issachar	9 Naphtali	9 Issachar 7:7
10 Zebulun	10 Gad	10 Zebulun 7:8
11 Joseph	11 Joseph	11 Joseph 7:8
12 Benjamin	12 Benjamin	12 Benjamin 7:8

No Ephraim
No Dan

Context > Determines what Names Added or Subtracted

Sons of Israel > Birth, Land, Tribe - Rev 7

Birth – Gen 29	Land – Ezek 48	Tribe – Rev 7
1 Reuben	1 Dan	1 Judah 7:5
2 Simeon	2 Asher	2 Reuben 7:5
3 Levi	3 Naphtali	3 Gad 7:5
4 Judah	4 Manasseh	4 Asher 7:6
5 Dan	5 Ephraim	5 Naphtali 7:6
6 Naphtali	6 Reuben	6 Manasseh 7:6
7 Gad	7 Judah	7 Simeon 7:7
8 Asher	8 Benjamin	8 Levi 7:7
9 Issachar	9 Simeon	9 Issachar 7:7
10 Zebulun	10 Issachar	10 Zebulun 7:8
11 Joseph	11 Zebulun	11 Joseph 7:8
12 Benjamin	12 Gad	12 Benjamin 7:8

No Joseph
No Levi

Context > Determines what Names Added or Subtracted

Great Multitude Presented before the throne and the Lamb, in Heaven

Working Outline > Read Revelation 7:9–12 (Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible)

Revelation 7:9–12

- I. 9 After these things I (John) looked, and behold,
 - A. a great multitude (believers) which no one could count, 7:14
 1. from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues,
 - a. standing before the throne (of Father) and before the Lamb,
 - i. clothed in white robes, Rev 3:4-5, 3:18, 4:4, 6:11, 7:13, 7:14 See Lesson 8
 - ii. and palm branches were in their hands; Lev 23:40, Jn 12:13
 - B. 10 and they (multitude) cry out with a loud voice, saying,
 1. “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”
 - C. 11 And all the angels were standing
 1. around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; 4:4, 4:6
 2. and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 4:10
 - D. 12 saying, “Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might,
 1. be to our God forever and ever. Amen.” 4:8, 22:5

5th Vision John “saw”, in Heaven: Rev 7:9–12

“After these things”, or After what John saw “144,000 sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel”

“After this” or “After these things”, usually introduces a New Vision, Rev 7:1, 7:9, 1:19, 4:1a, 4:1b, 9:12, 15:5, 18:1, 19:1, 20:3

Rev 7:1-17 also answers the question in Rev 6:17, “who is able to stand (to endure)” in the Tribulation. Seals 1-4 and Seal 6 focus on God Judging Unbelieving Mankind but Rev 7 focuses on those who are Not Judged during the Tribulation but are “bondservants” or believers in “white robes”, like those in Seal 5.

The “144,000 sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel” are on Earth.

The “great multitude which no one could count”, of All Nations, are in Heaven.

Believers standing before the throne

Verses 9:9-10, are concerning innumerable Believers standing before the throne from every Nation

Believers standing before the throne (of Father) and before the Lamb

Believers clothed in white robes, Rev 3:4-5, 3:18, 4:4, 6:11, 7:13, 7:14 Overcomers, See Lesson 8

Believers with palm branches were in their hands, like Israel at the Triumphal Entry, in Jn 12:13

Believers crying out in worship, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb”

Angels standing around the throne

Verses 9:11-12, are concerning Angels standing around the throne, the (24) elders, and the 4 living creatures;

Angels who fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 4:10

Angels saying, “Amen, blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power and might, be to our God forever

Compare with the Throne Room scene in, Rev 4:1-11

Great Multitude *Interpreted* before the throne and the Lamb, in Heaven

Working Outline > **Read Revelation 7:13–17** (Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible)

Revelation 7:13–17

- I. 13 Then one of **the** (24) **elders** answered, saying to **me** (John),
- A. “**These** who are clothed in the **white robes**, **Rev 3:4-5, 3:18, 4:4, 6:11, 7:9, 7:14** See *Lesson 8*
1. **who** are **they**, and **where** have **they** come from ?”
- B. 14 **I** (John) said to **him**, “**My lord, you** know.”
- C. And **he** said to **me**, “**These** are the **ones** who come out of **the great tribulation**,
1. and **they** have washed **their** robes and made them white in the **blood** of **the Lamb**. **7:9**,
- D. 15 “For this reason, **they** are before **the throne** of **God**; **7:9, 3:4-5, 3:18, 4:4, 6:11, 7:9, 7:14**
1. and **they** serve **Him** day and night in **His temple**; **22:3**,
- E. and **He** who sits on the **throne** will spread **His** tabernacle over (shelter) **them**.
1. **16** “**They** will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; **Isa 49:10**
 2. nor will the sun beat down on **them**, nor any heat; **Isa 49:10**
- F. 17 for **the Lamb** in the center of **the throne** will be **their shepherd**, **Ps 23:1, Matt 2:6, Jn 10:11**
1. and will guide **them** to springs of **the water of life**; **Jn 4:14, Rev 21:6, Rev 22:1**
 2. and **God** will wipe every tear from **their** eyes.” **Isa 25:8, Rev 21:4**

Q: WHO are “**These** who are clothed in the **white robes** ?

A: They are **Believers** clothed in **white robes**, **Rev 3:4-5, 3:18, 4:4, 6:11, 7:9, 7:14** **Overcomers**, See *Lesson 8*

Q: WHERE have **they** come from, “**These** who are clothed in the **white robes** ?

A: They are **Believers** apparently **martyred** by **unbelieving mankind** during **Seals 1-4** and **Seal 6**, early in the **7 year tribulation**, like those **martyrs** under the **altar** in **Heaven**, in **Seal 5**.

They came out of the early years of the **7 year (70th week)** of **Dan 9:27 tribulation**.

“the **great tribulation**” mentioned in **7:14** is Not “the **great tribulation**” mentioned in **Matt 24:21**, because that “**great tribulation**” comes **after** the “**abomination of desolation**” appears, **Matt 24:15** because that “**great tribulation**” is an unequalled time of **great tribulation**, **Matt 24:21**

“the **great tribulation**” mentioned in **7:14** is Not the **tribulation** that covers the last **3 ½ years** of the **Antichrist**, that begins in **Rev 12** where the **Dragon** comes on the scene to **persecute Israel**.

“the **great tribulation**” mentioned in **7:14** is Not the **tribulation** that covers the last **3 ½ years** of when the **saints** of **Israel** are given into the hands of the **Antichrist**, in **Dan 7:25**.

“the **great tribulation**” mentioned in **7:14** is Not the **tribulation** that covers the last **3 ½ years** of when the **holy people** of **Israel** are under an unequalled “**time of distress**”, in **Dan 12:7**.

The **144,000** of **Israel** were **sealed “bondservants”**, **sealed** before **more** “**Harm**” or **tribulation** came from **the Lord** through **His Seal Judgments** toward **unbelieving mankind**.

The **144,000** of **Israel** were on **Earth** according **God’s purpose** and **plan**.

God’s purpose was to **save** them from “**Harm**” that is associated with **His tribulation** that follows in **Rev 8**.

The two groups seen by **John** were the **144,000 sealed Israelites** and a **great multitude** from every **nation**, of mostly **Gentiles** but including some **believing Israelites** and who were **martyred** in the **tribulation** time coinciding with **Seals 1-6**, who were not of the special **144,000 sealed Israelites**.

Rev 6 focus on **God Judging Unbelieving Mankind** but **Rev 7** focuses on **those** who are Not **Judged** by **God** specifically of **Israel** during the early **tribulation** but are **redeemed “bondservants”** or **believers** in “**white robes**”, like those in **Seal 5** who were slain for their testimony, **Rev 6:9**.

In the **early tribulation**, **God Judges unbelieving mankind**, during **Seals 1-4** and **Seal 6**, **Rev 6:1-8, 6:12-17**

In the **early tribulation**, **unbelieving mankind slays believing mankind**, before **Seal 5**, in **Rev 6:1-8**

but How they were **slain** and by Whom they were **slain** is Not given in **Rev 6:1-8**.

Therefore, you have the **Wrath of God**, in **Rev 6:1-8, 6:12-17**, and the **Wrath of Man**, before **Rev 6:1-8**.