

REVELATION



The 7 Seals and the 144,000

Revelation 7:1-8:1

Recap: Chapter 6

The 6 Seals

- (1) Pure Message (31-100 AD)
- (2) Stained Message (100-313 AD)
- (3) Corrupted Message (313-538 AD)
- (4) Restricted Message (538-1517 AD)
- (5) The Reformation (1517-1755 AD)
- (6) The Awakening (1755-2nd Coming)
- (7) Conflict Ended

REVELATION



Knowing
Revelation:
Interlude

Interludes in Revelation

Revelation 6 = 6 seals

Revelation 7 = Interlude (Sealing of 144, 000)

Revelation 8-9 = 7th seal (includes 6 trumpets)

Revelation 10-11:13 = Interlude (Little book, 2 witnesses)

Revelation 11:14-19 = 7th trumpet (includes 6 bowls)

Revelation 12:1 -15:8 = (Background for bowl judgements)

Revelation 16:1 – 22:21 Bowl judgments and Kingdom

Interlude: Answering the Question

for the great day of
God's wrath has come,
**and who
is able to
stand?**

Revelation 6:17

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REVELATION

Interlude: The Three Fours

- **Rev. 7:1** After these things I saw **four angels** standing at the **four corners** of the earth, holding **the four winds of the earth**, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.
- **Rev. 7:2** Then 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 granted to harm the earth and the sea,
- **Rev. 7:3** saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”

Revelation 7:1-3

REVELATION

- 4 Angels

- 4 Corners

Matthew 24:31

- And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

- 4 Winds

Jeremiah 39:46

- Against Elam I will bring the four winds from the four quarters of heaven, and scatter them toward all those winds; there shall be no nations where the outcasts of Elam will not go.

Daniel 7:2-3

- Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. ³ And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

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- **4 Angels**
 - A contrast to the four horseman (Rev 6:1-8)
- **4 Corners**
 - “the four points of the compass”
 - Describe the global significance of the event
- **4 Wind**
 - Destructive forces by which God executes judgement on the wicked.
 - May represent the earthly catastrophes that occur under the trumpets (Rev 8:2-21;11:15-18) and bowls (Rev 16:1-21).

Revelation 7:1-3

REVELATION

Interlude: The Angel from the East

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- Revelation 7:1-3
- Who is This?
 - Scriptural Examination
 - Ezekiel 43:2
 - And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory.
 - Matthew 24:27-30
 - ²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ²⁸ For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. The Coming of the Son of Man²⁹ “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

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- **Rev. 7:3** saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”
- Who is This?
 - Jesus Christ

Revelation 7:1-3

REVELATION

Interlude: The Seal

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Revelation 7:1-3



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Revelation 7:1-3

REVELATION

- Sealing in History
 - A sign of ownership
 - Normally bears the name of the authority figure
- Sealing in Scripture

2 Timothy 2:19

- Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

Ephesians 1:13-14

- ¹³ In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

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Revelation 7:1-3

REVELATION

- Sealing in History
 - A sign of ownership
 - Normally bears the name of the
 - Name
 - Title
 - Territory

- Sealing in Scripture

Revelation 14:1

- Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads.
- See also (Ezek. 9:1–11 c.f. Exod. 12:21–23).

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Revelation 7:1-3

• Who Will Be Sealed?

Revelation 14:1

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REVELATION

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Revelation 7:1-3

REVELATION

• Who Will Be Sealed?

Revelation 14:12-13

- ¹² Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* those **who keep the commandments** of God and the faith of Jesus. ¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.*’ ” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”

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Revelation 7:1-3

• Who Will Be Sealed?

• According to Revelation 14...

- those who will be sealed are those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus.
- i.e. God's commandment-keeping people.

REVELATION

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Revelation 7:1-3

- Where will they be sealed?
 - In their foreheads



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- What is the Seal?
 - The Sabbath?
 - The Holy Spirit?
 - Something else?

Revelation 7:1-3

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Revelation 7:1-3

• What is the Seal?

- A Scriptural Case for the Sabbath?
- *“Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you.*”

Ex 31:13, c.f. v.17

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Revelation 7:1-3

• What is the Seal?

- A Scriptural Case for the Sabbath?
- *Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.*

Ezekiel 20:12, c.f. v. 20

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Revelation 7:1-3

• What is the Seal?

- A Scriptural Case for the Holy Spirit?
- *Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God ⁵who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.*

2 Corinthians 1:21-22, c.f. v. 5:5

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Revelation 7:1-3

- What is the Seal?

- A Scriptural Case for the Holy Spirit?
- *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.*

Ephesians 1:13

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Revelation 7:1-3

• What is the Seal?

- A Scriptural Case for the Holy Spirit?
- *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

Ephesians 4:30

REVELATION

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Revelation 7:1-3

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• What is the Seal?

- A Scriptural Case for the Name of God?
- Both a case could be made for the Sabbath and the Spirit. Those who bear the seal must be Commandment Keepers. This involves both Sabbath and Spirit. In order to be sealed, the Sabbath, a commandment, must be kept along with the others. The Spirit is God’s “first installment and our assurance of salvation. God knows we abide in Him (1 John 3:24) and it is this same Spirit that helps us to do God’s will (i.e. keep His commandments, see Romans 8:9).

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Revelation 7:1-3

• What is the Seal?

- A Scriptural Case for the Name of God?
- Nevertheless, according to the context of Revelation, the seal of God, written in the foreheads of the faithful, as revealed in Revelation 14:1 is the NAME OF GOD.
- To bear this name, you **MUST** be a **COMMANDMENT KEEPER**. In order to do this, you **MUST HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT**.

REVELATION

Interlude: The 144,000

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

Revelation 7:4

- The Tribes.

- Not literal Israel but Spiritual Israel
Romans 14:6
- Therefore *it is* of faith that *it might be* according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all

Galatians 3:7

- Therefore, recognize that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.

REVELATION

Interlude: The 144,000

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Revelation 7:4

REVELATION

- “I Saw I Heard Pattern”
- Chapter 1:
 - John first hears “a loud voice as of a trumpet” behind him (1:10); when he turns around, he instead sees Jesus walking [amid] the seven lampstands (1:12–13).
- Chapter 5:
 - John first hears that the Lion from the tribe of Judah has overcome; when he turns to see the Lion, he sees the Lamb as having been slain (5:5–6). Both are the images of Christ: the Lion shows what Christ did and the Lamb how he did it.

Interlude: The 144,000

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Revelation 7:4

REVELATION

- “I Saw I Heard Pattern”
- Chapter 17:
 - John hears of “the great prostitute sitting on many waters” (17:1); what he later sees is “a woman sitting on a scarlet beast” whose name is Babylon (17:3). This shows that the beast and the waters refer to the same political, secular entity specified in 17:15.
- Chapter 21:
 - John first hears of “the bride, the wife of the Lamb” (21:9), but he actually sees “the holy city Jerusalem” in its glory (21:10–11)

Interlude: The 144,000

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

Revelation 7:4

- “I Saw I Heard Pattern”
- Chapter 7:
 - John first hears the number 144,000 as being God’s embattled, sealed people (7:4); when he sees the same group, they appear to him as a great multitude that nobody could count (7:9). The groups are thus the same saints in different roles and circumstances.

REVELATION

Interlude: The 144,000

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

Revelation 7:4

- Literal or Figurative

- Based on the text, the 144,000 appears symbolic.
- A transition from a militant church broken up into divisions on earth, to a triumphant church multitudinous in heaven.
- Is this the right question?
- Who shall be able to stand?

REVELATION

Interlude: The 12 Tribes

- **Rev. 7:5** of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand *were* sealed;
- of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand *were* sealed;
- of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand *were* sealed;
- **Rev. 7:6** of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand *were* sealed;
- of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand *were* sealed;
- of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand *were* sealed;
- **Rev. 7:7** of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand *were* sealed;
- of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand *were* sealed;
- of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand *were* sealed;
- **Rev. 7:8** of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand *were* sealed;
- of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand *were* sealed;
- of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand *were* sealed.

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Revelation 7:5-8

Interlude: The 12 Tribes

Revelation 7	Genesis 49	Numbers 1:5-15	Ezekiel 48
Judah	Reuben	Reuben	Dan
Reuben	Simeon	Simeon	Asher
Gad	Levi	Judah	Naphtali
Asher	Judah	Issachar	Manasseh
Naphtali	Zebulun	Zebulun	Ephraim
Manasseh	Issachar	Ephraim	Reuben
Simeon	Dan	Manasseh	Judah
<u>Levi</u>	Gad	Benjamin	Benjamin
Issachar	Asher	Dan	Simeon
Zebulun	Naphtali	Asher	Issachar
<u>Joseph</u>	Joseph	Gad	Zebulun
Benjamin	Benjamin	Naphtali	Gad

REVELATION

Interlude: The Great and Diverse Multitude

- **Rev. 7:9** After these things I looked, and behold, **a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,
 - **Rev. 7:10** and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”
 - **Rev. 7:11** All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,
 - **Rev. 7:12** saying: “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *Be* to our God forever and ever.
 - Amen.”
- A Gospel for All
 - The gospels impact is far reaching.
 - The gospels is not to be kept from others because of our own prejudice.
 - A Gospel with Results
 - The question has been answered.
 - Who shall be able to stand?
 - Not a few, but a great innumerable multitude.

REVELATION

Revelation 7:9-12

Interlude: The Reward of the Redeemed

- **Rev. 7:13** Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"
 - Rev. 7:14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."
 - **Rev. 7:15** Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.
 - **Rev. 7:16** They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;
 - **Rev. 7:17** for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."
- **Who Are They?**
 - These are they who
 - Have been tried and have been faithful.
 - Who have been tested and stood firm.
 - Who have believed in Christ and accepted His sacrifice.
 - **What do They Receive?**
 - Food to prevent hunger
 - Water to prevent thirst

REVELATION

Revelation 7:13-17

Interlude: The Reward of the Redeemed

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- **Rev. 7:16** They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;
- **Rev. 7:17** for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

• A God Who Dwells

John 14:23

- Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

REVELATION

Revelation 7:13-17

The Seventh Seal

- **Rev. 8:1** When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

Revelation 8:1

Revelation 6:10

- And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

REVELATION

The Seventh Seal

- **Rev. 8:1** When He opened the seventh seal, there was **silence** in heaven for about half an hour.

Revelation 8:1

What is this Silence?

- **There are many opinions, but nothing can be deemed as concrete.**

1. Some think that the silence relates to the offering of the prayers of the saints (8:3–4).
2. Others hold that this silence corresponds to the silence at the beginning of the creation—that is to say, in Genesis 1:2 all was dark and silent.
3. The silence is also considered to be the astonished universe in the expectation of the judgments of God about to be launched on the wicked (cf. Hab. 2:20).

REVELATION

The Seventh Seal

- **Rev. 8:1** When He opened the seventh seal, there was **silence** in heaven for about half an hour.

Revelation 8:1

What is this Silence?

Zephaniah 1:7

- Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD; For the day of the LORD *is* at hand, For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests.

Zechariah 2:13

- Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!”

REVELATION

The Seventh Seal

- **Rev. 8:1** When He opened the seventh seal, there was **silence** in heaven for about half an hour.

Revelation 8:1

What is this Silence?

Habakkuk 2:20

- But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Psalms 11:4

- The LORD *is* in His holy temple, The LORD's throne *is* in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.

REVELATION

The Seventh Seal

- **Rev. 8:1** When He opened the seventh seal, there was **silence** in heaven for about half an hour.

Revelation 8:1

What is this Silence?

- What follows the seals are Trumpet warnings to the inhabitants of the Earth.
- These warnings are intended to wake up those sleep to the reality of a Holy and Righteous God.

REVELATION

The Seventh Seal

- **Rev. 8:1** When He opened the seventh seal, there was **silence** in heaven for about half an hour.

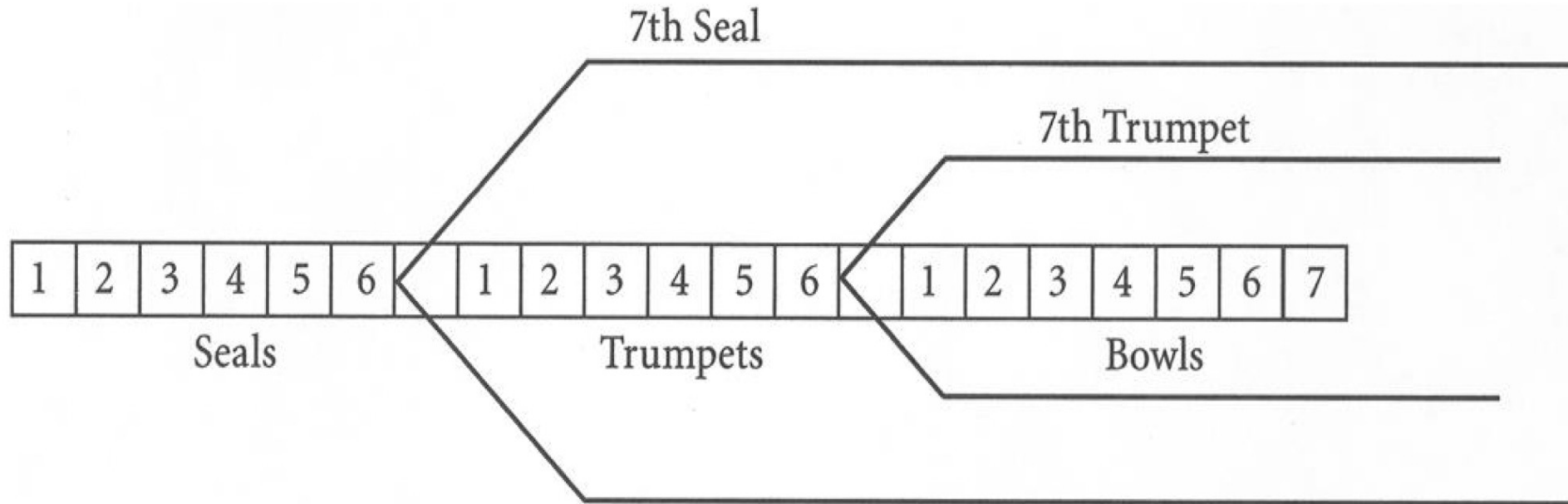
Revelation 8:1

What is this Silence?

- Therefore, though the text does not make it clear, based off scriptural connection and the context of this passage, it appears the silence anticipates Divine Judgement.

REVELATION

Transition to the Trumpets



REVELATION