

Picturing God's People

△ Rev Chapter 7

What has gone before

△ Ch 5 - 6

Ch5 The Scroll and the Lamb

A scroll with 7 seals is given to the Lamb (representing Jesus)

24 Elders & 4 Creatures praise the Lamb

Heavenly Court

as the only one who can open the seals

Ch6 7 Seals

Six seals are opened, and each of them is form of judgement

1-4: horses of apocalypse: Conquest, War, Judgement and Death

Ukraine?

Ukraine ?

5 recognises those who died for their faith

China, Indonesia, N Korea, Iran

6 seal natural disasters

like the one in Turkey

This things have happened and are happening now

Holding back

△ Rev 7:1-4

But then the scene changes

While we just read all the affects of the opening of the six seals

We now get a different view

four angels hold the four winds

the four horses of the apocalypse?

So that they cannot do any damage

The seals are opened, but the damage that they allow is put on hold

Why?, because something else needs to happen

God's faithful need to be secured

first

Another seal is introduced

The seal of the Living God

Brought in by an angel from the rising Sun

"Do not damage the earth or the seas or the trees until we have marked the servants of our God with a seal on their foreheads"

△ v 3

The seal seems similar as the blood on the door posts with the 10th plague in Exodus, where God's first born children were protected from death, by the blood of sacrifice

John then hears and sees two different things

He hears a voice stating the number of people who were sealed

△ v 4

144,000 of every tribe of Israel

12,000 per tribe of Israel

But the list of tribes is a bit different

Dan is missing

Levi is added

Did not have land as it was the priestly tribe

Joseph is normally split in Ephraim and Manasseh

Manasseh is mentioned,

Joseph is also

but not Ephraim

But the lists of tribes are not consistent throughout the Bible

144,000 is a symbol of the completeness of the people of Israel?

Or those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Messiah?

As it is clearly not all Israel who are being sealed, but 'out of every tribe', a selection?

But it is clear that Israel has still a separate status than the rest of the world!

John **hears** one thing, but then he **sees** a different thing:

^ v 9

A great multitude, that no one

could count!

from every nation, every tribe,
every people, every language

Robed in white

Standing before the throne
and before the Lamb

Worshipping God

Memory verse

**Salvation belongs to our God, who
is seated on the throne, and to the
lamb**

△ v10

Worshipping amidst
worshipping angels, the elders
and the four beast

All thanking God and praising his
name

Memory verse:

**Amen! Blessing and glory and
wisdom and thanksgiving and
honour and power and might be to
our God for ever and ever! Amen!**

△ v12

The multitude in white

Have washed their robes and
made them white in the blood of
the lamb

the lamb

And that's why they are clean

The have come out the great
ordeal

Not having denied Jesus in their
lives

John hears and sees
different realities

People of the tribes of Israel
are being sealed / saved from
the calamities happening

But people from the whole
world are saved by washing
their clothes white in the blood
of Jesus

Not only the people of Israel
are being sealed, but it is
available for everyone

Who washes themselves in the
blood of Jesus

Not only a dab on a lintel to
save from one event

Like in Exodus

But eternal life by completely
washing in the blood of Jesus

washing in the blood of Jesus

Generously, abundantly

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is more than enough to make everyone clean!

Baptism?

God tabernacles with his people

△ Rev 7:15-17

What then does it mean to be sealed?

The poem in vs 15-17 give an indication of that

They are before the throne of God

Worship him in the Temple

But God also spreads his tent over them

Greek: God tabernacles with them

Again a reference to Exodus,

Where God was with the people in the desert

In the tabernacle the tent of

meeting

among the tents of the people

Now his tent is spread over them

As a result they will be protected from hunger, thirst, sun and heat

They will be shepherded, guided, by the Lamb, Jesus

To the springs of the water of life - the Holy Spirit

and God will wipe away their tears

What does this mean for us?

The 6 seals promise a lot of turmoil, calamity, unrest, upheaval, death, destruction

Later on Revelation will show more of that

Things that have happened, are happening and will happen

And if we only read that, then we will be taken over by

despair

So in the midst of this God halts everything, so that he can seal/save the people who follow Jesus

Even though the turmoil goes around us, and will affect us as well

We all need to die

But in the midst of that

We have been sealed by the blood of Jesus

Jesus will be our shepherd

He will never leave us not forsake us

In a way its is a repeat of Jesus in Matthew saying "do not worry"

△ Mt 6:35-33

Whatever seems to happen

but first strive for the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you too

Do not worry - do not be anxious

but let yourself be guided by me

Take a seat in the tabernacle or
the tent that I have put up to
shelter you in

Come and wash yourselves in my
blood and I will keep you save

Revelation signs may be hard

but we see the echoes of that in
our daily living

In the grand scale: Ukraine, Iran,
Turkey

In the small scale: cost of living,
secularisation of society

But by keeping our eyes on the
lamb, and by worshipping him

We are safe

He is keeping is safe!

Amen