

**“Forever Safe, Forever Blest”**  
**Revelation 7:1-17**  
*A vision of the Redeemed through the Ages*

Revelation #16

**Preliminary:**

**1. The first six seals/visions (6:1-17):**

- Seals 1-4:** The Lamb’s “providential instruments of ‘pre-wrath wrath’”
- Seal 5:** The vision of the persecuted church across the centuries
- Seal 6:** The vision of the commencement of final judgment

**2. The connection of this vision with the previous visions**

- Shows how believers can and will persevere through the first four “tribulations” revealed in Ch 6, and shows the heavenly reward for those who do persevere.
- Here also is the ultimate answer to the question of 6:17: “Who is able to stand?”

**1. The Elect of God: Forever Safe! [The Church Militant] vv. 1-8**

- (1) The Need for the Sealing of the Elect (1-3a)** *“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.”*
- **God sovereign over the destructive judgments revealed in the first four visions**

cf. v. 2

**(2) The Nature of the Sealing**

*“Then I saw another angel... having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice...saying, ‘Do not harm the earth....till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.’”*

- **Marked out as God’s possession**
- cf. Ezek. 9

- **Protected from losing their spiritual life in God**

Made secure in saving grace – enabled to persevere!  
Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus Rom. 8:35-39

- **Protected from the final judgment**

- (3) The Identity of those Sealed (4-8)** *“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...”*

**144,000** A symbolic number

- 12 = symbolizes the complete people of God
- 12 x 12 = such completeness given particular emphasis
- 10 x 10 x 10 signifying vastness of quantity

-1- **Representative of the true Israel of God** (Note the uniqueness of this list of tribes)

-2- **Reflective also of God’s firm purpose to redeem a vast host from the covenant nation**  
- cf. Rom. 11:15-16, 23-26, 28 ff.

-3- **Representative of the church militant** (Numbering like that of OT Israel’s military force)

**2. The Elect of God: Forever Blest! [The Church Triumphant] vv. 9-17**

**(1) As Revealed in the Vision (9-12)**

- A **Numberless Multitude!** *“a great multitude which no one could number”*

- A **Multi-ethnic Multitude!** *“of all tribes, nations, peoples, and tongues”*

- A **Victorious Multitude!** *“standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands...”*  
- Their privileged position  
- Their clothing  
- Their hymn of praise

**(2) As Described by the Elder (13-17)**

- A **Persevering Multitude!** *“These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation”*

- A **Blood-bought, Purified Multitude!** *“and washed their robes...in the blood of the Lamb”*

- A **Multitude Tasting Heavenly Glories!**