

## EP60 Revelation 7 verses 1-3

*Overview: The Sealing of the People of God; The Gathering of Those Who Have Chosen to Come Out of the Great Tribulation.*

### *Preparation of the People of God*

#### **Revelation 7:1-3**

After this I saw four angels who had been standing at the four corners of the earth, now holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. And I saw another angel now ascending from the rising light of the sun, having the seal {or signet} of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed {stamped with a signet} the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

Six seals have been open, and before we get to the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal, God has some things He first wants to take care of on behalf of His own people. I have addressed this before, but I want to once again make note that all things which transpire here on the earth have been loosened or directed in the heavens by **Yahweh** and are carried out via agency, through the angelic beings (both good and bad) who are servants of the living God.<sup>1</sup> And during this intermission of sorts, we see the angels preparing the people of God.

## The Fours

#### **Revelation 7:1**

After this I saw four angels who had been standing at the four corners of the earth, now holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

In this passage there are four sets of fours: four angels, four corners, four winds with the identification of four elements: wind, earth, sea, and tree. Accordingly, the **Code** would make it clear that this scene is all about God's creative works and a protection He is even now providing from the potential effects that occur when the four winds blow.

#### *Four Angels*

These **four angels** have been positioned in this place sometime in the past, for this specific purpose:

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<sup>1</sup> *Hebrews 1:7, 14*

to be standing in the proverbial four corners of the earth and to be found **NOW** restraining the four winds.<sup>2</sup> By the way, this is the only time we see these four angels, as their story seems to end in this image. We are not given any further details in terms of their releasing the four winds. But we will find out that it has been granted to them to harm the earth (the institutions of mankind) and the sea (the nations of the world).

### *Four Corners*

Clearly the earth itself is not a square but a sphere,<sup>3</sup> thus, the reference to the **four corners** is a way of addressing the four points of the compass and is a *euphemism* for the entirety of the earth: the north, south, east, and west. It is used in the **Codex** to speak of both a gathering of Judah from the four corners of the earth, a judgment upon the four corners of the land, and upon the nations which are in the four corners of the earth.<sup>4</sup>

### *The Four Winds*

The **four winds** first appear in the **Codex** as chariots being drawn by various colored horses. And the whole concept is fascinating.

### ***Zechariah 6:1-7***

Then I looked up again and saw four chariots coming from between two bronze mountains. The first chariot was pulled by red horses, the second by black horses, the third by white horses, and the fourth by powerful dappled-gray horses. "And what are these, my lord?" I asked the angel who was talking with me. The angel replied, "These are the four spirits [*in Hebrew, the **four winds***] of heaven who stand before the Lord (the **Adonai**) of all the earth. They are going out to do his work. The chariot with black horses is going north, the chariot with white horses is going west, and the chariot with dappled-gray horses is going south." The powerful horses were eager to set out to patrol the earth. And **Yahweh** said, "Go and patrol the earth!" So, they left at once on their patrol. Then he cried out to me and spoke to me saying, "See, those who are going to the north have appeased my wrath in the land of the north."

These angels (chariots pulled by angelic horses) come forth from between two bronze mountains. We have learned that bronze is **Code** for judgment and the number 2 is **Code** for both division and witness or testimony. Clearly, their movement through judgment will create division amongst the inhabitants of the earth and be a testimony or a witness to **Yahweh's** majesty.

The image of the four winds is **Code** for the widespread movement or the stirring of things, usually for some sort of destruction due to the judgment from **Yahweh**. In **Daniel**, the **stirring** of the four winds over the great sea of humanity results in the rising of four beasts, or four great demonic kingdoms that will rule over kingdoms of the earth.<sup>5</sup> One of those kingdoms is the kingdom of the Beast, thus, the stirring of the

<sup>2</sup> "standing" is rendered in the *perfect active participle*," "holding" is in the *present active participle*, and "blow" is in the *present active subjunctive*

<sup>3</sup> See **Isaiah 40:22**. See also **Job 26:10**; **Proverbs 8:27**

<sup>4</sup> **Isaiah 11:12**; **Ezekiel 7:2**; **Revelation 20:8**

<sup>5</sup> **Daniel 7:2-11**

winds will be necessary. It is as if the stirring of the winds, along with the **shaking** associated with the **6<sup>th</sup> Seal**, will produce the right level of disruption on the earth enabling the kingdom of the Beast to arise to power. Hence, this restraint of the 4 winds is temporary and seems to be tied to the marking of the bondservants of God.

In **Zechariah**, God tells the Jews to flee from the land of the north (Babylon), and He says that He has dispersed them as the four winds of heaven.<sup>6</sup> In other words, wherever they go, they will cause a **stirring** amongst the nations of the earth. How true that has been, as the impact of the Jew around the world (whether in science, economics, literature, medicine, or the arts) is incontrovertible.

In addition, the prophet Jeremiah speaks of the destruction that **Yahweh** would bring from the four corners of heaven on the nation of Elam (also known as ancient Persia or modern-day Iran), as He would use the four winds to **scatter** the people so they would no longer have a nation. This is all a part of His judgment where He will break the bow of Elam, shatter Elam before its enemies, bring calamity upon them, even His fierce anger, and He will send out the sword after them until He has consumed them.<sup>7</sup>

Thus, these winds are angelic forces which usher in judgment and disruption and seem to pave the way for the rising of the Beast and the kingdom of the Beast; and these four angels at the four corners of the earth are holding them back are ensuring that they are restrained until the bondservants of God can be marked as with a signet ring, indicating **Yahweh's** ownership and possession.

#### *Four Elements*

Now as to the **four elements**: wind, earth, sea, and tree, the **wind** creates a stirring or a scattering. And according to the **Code**, the **earth** is a metaphor for the structures of man: governments, politics, religious systems, commerce, financial systems, and so on. The **sea** is a picture of the restless sea of humanity—the unrest and chaos amongst nations and people groups. And the **trees** are idioms for the leaders of man. By the way, the scripture references for these images are all found in Toolbox 2, which we covered during the introduction to **Revelation**.

Thus, this image we have of the four angels holding back the four winds so that no wind would now blow on the earth, or the sea, or any tree, speaks of a very temporary time of rest where God is not stirring up the earth or scattering the people or any prominent leader.<sup>8</sup> But this restraint is the calm before the storm, for their restraint is short-lived and lasts only as long as it takes to mark or seal the people of God.

## ***The Rising Light of the Sun***

### ***Revelation 7:2-3***

And I saw another angel now ascending from the rising light of the sun, having the seal {or signet} of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed {stamped with a signet} the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

<sup>6</sup> **Zechariah 2:6**

<sup>7</sup> **Jeremiah 49:34-39**

<sup>8</sup> See **Toolbox 2: The Code: Objects**

## Rising Light

Let's dig into this phrase "*now ascending from the rising light of the sun.*" The question arises (pun intended) as to what we are to focus on: the rising, from where the angel is rising, or what the angel is arising from?

Depending on the translation you use, this first phrase may say "angel coming up or ascending from the east" or "ascending from the rising sun" or simply "from the rising light of the sun". The Greek uses 2-words, "*anatole*" (rising light) and, "*helios*" (sun). The imagery is of the dawn when the sun first breaches the horizon, and the light begins to rise from the east. Hence, sometimes "*anatole*" is translated directionally as "east," due to the imagery of the dawn.<sup>9</sup>

Looking into the **Codex**, not surprisingly, the same Greek word is used as **Code** for Jesus—the source of the light. There was an old man, a prophet, named Zacharias, the Father of John the Baptist, who prophesied about the coming Messiah. He said that the "*Sunrise from on high will visit us to shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death to guide our way to peace.*" In so doing, he used the same Greek word "*anatole*".<sup>10</sup>

Hence, John saw this angel **now ascending** (rendered in the *present active participle*) from the rising light of the sun. The fact that it is now happening is an important point we will address in a moment when we discuss this angel.

The "rising light of the Sun" however is a play on words that seems to make a double point about the light and the source of the light and not so much the direction. The world has been in darkness under the shadow of death, and it is only going to get worse, much worse. But the people of God can have hope, for although it is only dawn and just the smallest amount of light is now showing or piercing the darkness, the **Sun** is coming. The one who is the **Sunrise** will guide our way to peace, and He is even now arising.

Again, "*anatole*" (rising light) is coupled with the Greek word, "*helios*" (sun) to make a double point about the light and the source of the light and not the direction.

As such, we can be confident that this is a "good" angel and not a demon; after all, he is even now having the seal (or the signet) of the living God.<sup>11</sup> Moreover, this angel instructs the other four angels, to whom it had been given to harm the earth and the sea, and they obey him. He does not utter a command (it is not an *imperative*), but in a loud voice he is now saying to them to not cause harm. And this request is honored.<sup>12</sup>

## Angel of the Lord

Accordingly, there is a good chance that this ascending one is the "**Angel of the Lord**," one of the ways in which Jesus manifested Himself throughout the Old Testament.<sup>13</sup> In **Revelation 10**, we will see another

<sup>9</sup> **Revelation 21:13**

<sup>10</sup> **Luke 1:78-79**

<sup>11</sup> "having" is rendered in the *present active participle*

<sup>12</sup> "saying" is rendered in the *present active participle*; "do not harm" is rendered in the *aorist active subjunctive*

<sup>13</sup> **Genesis 16:7-14, 22:11-15; Exodus 3:2-4; Numbers 22:22-38; Judges 2:1-3, 6:11-23, 13:3-22; Zechariah 1:12, 3:4**

example of an angel that just might be the **Angel of the Lord**. He is the rising light of the Sun—the very **Sunrise** itself whose emanating light leads us to the pathway of peace.

### *Four Angels*

We are also given another little tad-bit about these four angels who are holding back the four winds. Apparently, they have been given the power and authority to harm the earth and the sea. Let me rephrase that, as how I expressed that sounds a bit passive. In the Greek, they have been intentionally purposed to harm the earth and the sea. It is not just that they have the power and authority, it is also their job, their assignment, their obedience to **Yahweh**.

Once again, according to the **Code**, the **earth** is a metaphor for the structures of man: governments, politics, religious systems, commerce, financial systems, and so on. The **sea** is a picture of the restless sea of humanity—the unrest and chaos amongst nations and people groups. Thus, in this image, those who have the power and authority and who are purposed to harm the earth and the sea are found to be holding back the four winds from blowing their destructive forces on the earth and the sea or on any tree. There is most definitely some irony intended in this image.

Now, it is not clear if these are good angelic beings or bad angelic beings, but either way, they obey the instructions of this ascending angel. This is another reason why this ascending angel might be the **Angel of the Lord**, also known as **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of Heaven's Armies), the one who is chief commander of all the hosts of heaven. For all the angelic (good or bad) are servants of **Yahweh Sabaoth** and do His bidding, for they are all ministering servants.<sup>14</sup>

### **Angelic Agency**

It seems the Holy Spirit wants us to understand that despite our naturalistic perspective of life, all things that happen on this earth involving governments, politics, religious systems, commerce, financial systems, and so on, as well as the constant churning amongst nations and people groups, as well as all that transpires with the leaders of the earth, are driven from the angelic who are authorized Agents doing their work on behalf of their Principal, **Yahweh**. The Spirit wants us to accept that all things derive or originate in the heavenlies, but they are executed in our reality via the spiritual forces which God has established to govern our world.

This will be a very important concept that runs throughout the **Revelation** narrative. Thus, we are to understand our world and our experiences not through the lens of our naturalistic perspective, but through the lens of the supernatural. It is the same reasoning that the Spirit tells us in the **Codex** that our fight or our daily struggle is not against flesh and blood, it is not against humanity or the natural things of this world, but it is against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.<sup>15</sup>

### **The Seal**

The key instruction to the four angels who have the power and authority and who are purposed to harm the earth and the sea is “*do not harm.*” These four angels are given great destructive powers to

<sup>14</sup> **Hebrews 1:7, 14**

<sup>15</sup> **Ephesians 6:12**

harm the worldly infrastructure, the nations, and powerful leaders, but they are told to wait until “**we have sealed**” or marked the bondservants of our God on their foreheads. The word translated “*sealed*” comes from the idea of a signet ring, or a stamp, that is used to mark documents or possessions, indicating the authority and ownership of the one bearing the signet. In fact, the signet is the mark of the King’s command and proof that what the King decrees will happen and come to pass just as He intends.

This angel uses possessive language, “**we**” and “**our**” and he speaks to these angels as if they are part of a larger household that moves in unity, all of which signifies that he is the one who speaks for the household. This is the type of language that we would expect the **Angel of the Lord** (Jesus) to invoke when He addresses members of His own household. With that said, the “**we**” could also be another inclusive reference to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and the unified act of the Son which manifests the desire, intention, and enabling of the Father and the Spirit.

As far as the sealing of the bondservants, this mark of ownership and belonging is placed on their foreheads. We must not forget what a bondservant is and errantly use the word to include all who have said the sinner’s prayer. Bondservants are those who have been born again (**Step 1**), but then have volitionally chosen to bet their lives on who **Yahweh** says He is—everything that His name describes (**Step 2**). They have been converted by God and have dug down deep in their soul and chosen to live like little children, dependent upon **Yahweh** for all things, all the time.<sup>16</sup>

They have found a home in His love; and there they have chosen to stay forever desiring to do only what the Father wants them to do, to say only what the Father wants them to say, and to go only where the Father wants them to go, and then only **when** the Father directs.

Make no mistake, the pathway to becoming a bondservant is through the valley of the shadow of death; it is not an instantaneous reality. To develop the level of trust in a relationship, one must progress through this valley where God is allowed access and permission to kill everything that stands in opposition to His mastery over our lives. Some parts of the journey go quicker than others, but it is a journey and not an instantaneous experience. Nevertheless, we must now and continually choose to walk through this valley—that narrow pathway of trouble or pressure that leads to life. It is a pathway that so few find; and even then, some who do are still not able to enter.<sup>17</sup>

The mark or this seal is placed on the forehead because in a cultural context, marking on foreheads identifies the person as an ardent believer—a religious follower.

Reaching back into the **Codex**, we see an example of this sort of marking in **Ezekiel**, where God sealed the heads of His servants before He sent 6-angels to unleash judgment on Jerusalem.

### ***Ezekiel 9:3-6***

Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed in linen, who had the writing case at his waist. And **Yahweh** said to him, “Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it.” And to the others he said in

<sup>16</sup> **Matthew 18:3**

<sup>17</sup> See **Matthew 7:13-14; Luke 13:24**.

my hearing, "Pass through the city after him, and strike. Your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity. Kill old men outright, young men and maidens, little children and women, but touch no one on whom is the mark. And begin at my sanctuary (or the Holy Place)."

I love the fact that God is consistent and protects those who truly belong to Him. However, going back to my comment about being a **bondservant**, did you notice that their being Jews, belonging to Israel and resident in Jerusalem, or worshipping in the temple, meant nothing to God, for only those who had a true heart for God were protected. And He started this judgment in the Holy Place, where only the priests were allowed to enter. This indicates that even those who are in the service of God, as ministers, as priests, as pastors, elders, and so on, will be judged for their unbelief. This is the same thing He communicates in the New Testament.

### **1 Peter 4:17-18**

For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?

God knows who belongs to Him—who is now believing and now overcoming. Therefore, this mark is not for God's sake, but it is for the angels who unleash destruction on the earth. These people are marked or identified with a symbol of **Yahweh's** ownership, so they will not be hammered by the 4-winds that break the peace and stir up destruction on the earth (the structures of humanity), the sea (the restless masses of humanity), and on the trees (the leaders of men). These 4-winds will be so intense that they will strip up and cause to bring about the fourth and final world kingdom on the earth—the kingdom of the Beast.

By the way, the prophet Daniel once saw an image of the kingdom of the Beast, and, well let's just say that he was terrified.<sup>18</sup>

**144,000**

### **Revelation 7:4-8**

And I heard the number of them having been sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand having been sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand having been sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand having been sealed.

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<sup>18</sup> **Daniel 7:7-8, 15-27**

There are so many fascinating things to mention about this list, not just in the **Code** revealed by numbers but also in the **Code** communicated through the various tribes of Israel. This is a mind-blowing passage and reveals deep truths that have been distorted by far too many.

## Fiction Alert

**FICTION ALERT**

The typical fiction goes that this is a list which describes a Jewish remnant that becomes evangelists, or the witnesses of God, and testify of Him throughout the tribulation. They are deemed to be part of the **fictional** “tribulation saints.”

Later in **Revelation 11**, we will get to a group of witnesses whom they connect with this tribal list.<sup>19</sup> According to the **fiction**, these witnesses are all Jewish, and they are not deemed to be part of the church, since the church, in their **End Times** narrative, would have already been raptured. They purport them to be a collection of Jews that return to **Yahweh** and are His evangelists through the 7-year tribulation.

We will find however that this fiction is turned over on its head once we look at the **Code** revealed by numbers, but also in the meaning of the **Code** communicated through the various tribes of Israel. Again, this is mind-blowing and nothing short of beautiful.

But let’s stop here for this week and we will pick up next week with exposing this fiction and understanding the depth and magnificence of this number 144,000 and the very strange tribal listing.

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<sup>19</sup> See **Revelation 11:1-13, 14:1-5, 19**