



# IN THE END TIMES

BIBLE STUDY ON REVELATION 6-7

## 1. To get thinking

Is there value in thinking about the future of our world?

## 2. Judgment in Creation

**Read Revelation 6:1-8.** With a voice like thunder, one of the four creatures (representing creation) calls for the judgment of God to fall within creation, within the parameters of human society and history. The judgment is represented by four horse-riders, each with power to bring trouble and destruction. What details are revealed about each?

**White Horse**  
**CONQUEST**  
Rev 6:1-2

**Red Horse**  
**STRIFE**  
Rev 6:3-4

**Black Horse**  
**SCARCITY**  
Rev 6:5-6

**Pale Horse**  
**DEATH**  
Rev 6:7-8

## 4. Judgment in History

God's judgment of human sin is not just a future and final event. It is happening, in an ongoing way, in human history (see for example, Genesis 3:14-18, Deut 28:15-68, Romans 1:18-32). Rather than representing future events, the four horsemen are best understood as the ever-present trouble and strife that has come upon creation (number "four"), as God is *already* revealing his wrath. These are warnings of the final judgment yet to come. **Take note of Luke 13:1-5.** How did Jesus interpret the calamity of the falling tower in his time?

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## 3. Martyrs Crying Out

**Read Revelation 6:9-11.** The opening of the fifth seal profiles the suffering of the martyrs – those who are persecuted or killed because of their faithfulness to the Lord. Faithful believers have been persecuted like this through the ages (Bible refs, Psalm, Hebrews, Jesus, 1 Tim etc). What points do these verses make about God's perspective on these martyrs and their suffering?

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## 5. A Day of WRATH

**Read Revelation 6:12-17.** The culmination is a final “day” of world-ending “wrath”. It describes the final end of human history in terms of:

- (i) a devastating upheaval of the physical universe, and
- (ii) an inescapable personal judgment.

How do each of these scriptures develop the picture?

Isaiah 2:10-21

Isaiah 13:9-13

Isaiah 34:1-4

## 6. A Day of SALVATION

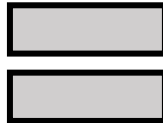
Just like the ark of salvation once floated on flood waters of judgment, here Revelation 7 describes a wonderful act of salvation amidst the terror of the final judgment. It is the redemption of the Lord’s people, described in a sequence to two scenes...

**First, HEAR ABOUT a full number of Israel preserved. See Revelation 7:1-8.**

At the time of this revelation, in the first century, most of the literal tribes of Israel had been obliterated hundreds of years earlier.

Meanwhile, the New Testament teaches that the concept of a “chosen people” is now fulfilled in Jesus - all who trust in him are true “Israel”.

So, when we see 12x1000 of each “tribe” sealed, and a total of 12x12x1000 preserved through the judgment, these numbers are *not literal* but symbolic, representing a full and complete realisation of the concept of a “chosen people”.



**Then, SEE an uncountable multitude from every tribal background. Read Revelation 7:9-17.**

The scene is of a vast multitude from *all* nations. Their cry is loud and united, and joined by “all the angels”, the twenty four Elders and the four Living Creatures around the throne, falling down in praise.

The conversation with the Elder reveals that this vision is a fulfilment of Isaiah 25:8, and Isaiah 49:10, which were prophecies made about a restoration of *Israel* - and yet they are applied here, not to literal Israelite descendants, but to the great international church.

So, just as the apostle heard about the Lion, but turned to see the Lion is in fact the Lamb (Rev 5:5-6), so here, the Apostle hears (v4) of the 144,000 chosen ones, and yet what he sees (v9) is the great multitude, redeemed from *every* nation. The two descriptions are one and the same. The international church IS the fulfilment of God’s commitment to preserve a true Israel. This is why we must not interpret the mention of the tribes as a reference to a modern restoration of Israel (teachings of Christian Zionism). And neither can we interpret the 144,000 as a literal number of a specially-chosen inner circle (teachings of Jehovah’s Witnesses).

**What do you find personally encouraging** about the descriptions of the Redeemed in v9-10, 13-17?

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## 7. The End Times Now

Think back over the ideas in this study. What aspects of Revelation 6-7 are *already* taking place, and what aspects are *yet* to be seen? What is your prayer to the Lord for these End Times we are in?

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