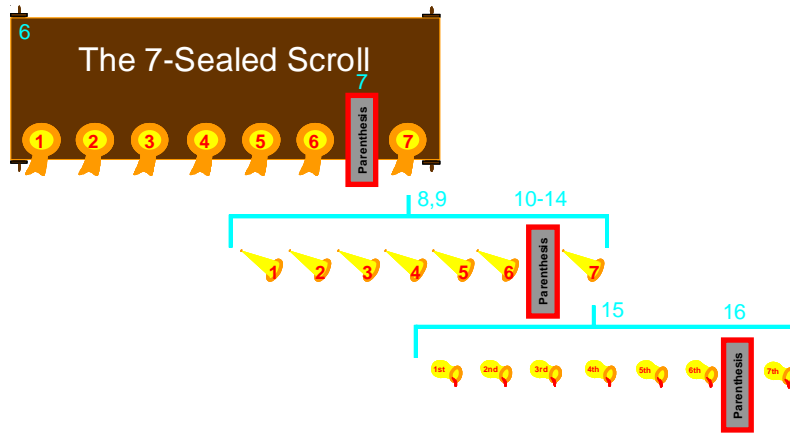


## The Heptadic Structure



In each of the major series of “sevens”—the seals, trumpets, and bowls—we notice that there always appears to be an inserted *parenthetical passage* between the 6th and 7th of each series. Having completed 6 of the 7 seals, Chapter 7 pauses for some amplification before we continue with the 7th seal in Chapter 8.

**Israel** is the center piece in the OT; and it now reemerges as the centerpiece of God’s climax in Revelation. (It is also the centerpiece in the New Testament, but there is a lot of misunderstanding just how.)

## Next Session

- Read Revelation 7 and 14.
- Which Tribes are missing and why? Summarize the mysterious prophecies of the Tribe of Dan.
- What is the role of the 144,000?

## The Book of Revelation Session 14: The Sealing of the 144,000 Revelation Chapter 7

Chapter 6 concludes with the statement, “For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” This next chapter seems to respond to that question...

## Revelation 7: “Who shall be able to stand?”

- Sealed Servants Ch. 7:1-8  
– 144,000 from 12 Tribes
- Saved Servants Ch. 7:9-17  
– From out of the Tribulation

- 1] And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.
- 2] And 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 given to hurt the earth and the sea,

These four angels are apparently the four who will blow the first four trumpets in Chapter 8...

- 3] Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.
- 4] And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were* sealed an hundred *and forty and* four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

This 144,000 preserved *through* (sealed) the Tribulation, not “*kept out*” of it, as in Rev 3:10. Note: Gifts and calling of God are without repentance (Rom 11:29).

- 5] Of the tribe of Judah *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad *were* sealed twelve thousand.
- 6] Of the tribe of Aser *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasseh *were* sealed twelve thousand.
- 7] Of the tribe of Simeon *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar *were* sealed twelve thousand.
- 8] Of the tribe of Zabulon *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin *were* sealed twelve thousand.

Judah is listed first: 1 Chr 5:1,2. There are 14 names to choose from: Joseph provides a “baker’s dozen” with Manasseh and Ephraim.

Levi: Deut 18:1,2; Josh 13:14.

Note: *Jewishness* since Chapter 4 and following: “Lion,” “Lamb,” “Root of David,” etc.

*Two Tribes Missing:* Dan and Ephraim.

## The Twelve Tribes

### The Myth of “Ten Lost Tribes”

- No real Biblical basis (epistles of James, 1 Peter: “to 12 tribes”).
- Prophecies of 12 Tribes (Jacob: Gen 49; Moses: Deut 33).
- The myth is based on a misconception derived from the misreading of passages as 2 Kgs 17:7-23, 2 Chr 6:6-11.

### The Kingdom Divided

930 B.C.: Jeroboam ruled the Northern Kingdom from his capital in Samaria (1 Kgs 11:43-12:33). When Jeroboam turned the Northern Kingdom to idolatry, the Levites (and others who desired to remain faithful) migrated south to Rehoboam (2 Chr 11:14-17).

Even before the Assyrian captivity, substantial numbers from the northern tribes had identified themselves with the house of David (1 Kgs 12:16-20; 2 Chr 11:16-17). Many repudiated the Northern Kingdom and united with the southern kingdom in a common alliance to the house of David and to worship the Lord (2 Chr 19:4; 30:1, 10, 11, 25, 26; 34:5-7, 22; 35:17, 18).

Horried that Jeroboam set up a rival religion with golden calf worship at Bethel and Dan, many Northerners moved south, knowing that the only place acceptable to God was the Temple on Mt. Moriah (Deut 12:5-7; 16:2-6; Isa 18:7). Those who favored idolatry migrated north to Jeroboam. Later, when Asa reigned as king in the south, another great company came from the north (2 Chr 15:9).

Years after the deportation by Assyria, King Hezekiah of Judah issued a call to all Israel to come and worship in Jerusalem and celebrate Passover (2 Chr 30:5-21). Eighty years later, King Josiah of Judah also issued a call, and an offering for the temple was received from “Manasseh and Ephraim and all the remnant of Israel...” (2 Chr 34:9).

Eventually, *all 12 tribes* were represented in the south: God addresses the 12 tribes in the south: “Speak unto Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin...” (2 Chr 11:3).

The “Tribe of Judah” is sometimes used idiomatically for the Southern Kingdom (2 Kgs 17:18, et al. Cf. 1 Kgs 11:13, 32, etc.). When encountering tribal designations, it is important to distinguish between the *territories* allocated to the tribes and the *people* themselves.

## The Northern Kingdom Falls

724 B.C.: Shalmaneser V besieged Samaria for three years. King Hoshea of Israel attempted to revolt against paying Assyrians annual tribute money (a treaty with Pharaoh of Egypt did not help) and Samaria, Jeroboam’s capital, fell in 722 B.C. (2 Kgs 18:2).

721 B.C.: Sargon II seized power. Assyrians pulled down towers, took 27,290 captive, placed an Assyrian ruler over the city, and looted it. The Assyrians implemented their infamous policy of mixing conquered peoples to keep them from organizing a revolt. The Israelite captives were mixed with Persians and others; strangers from far-off lands were resettled in Samaria. The resulting mixed, quasi-Jewish populations resulted in the “Samaritans” (John 4:20f).

Not all from the northern kingdom was deported. Archaeologists have uncovered annals of the Assyrian Sargon, in which he tells that he carried away only 27,290 people and 50 chariots (*Biblical Archaeologist*, VI, 1943, p.58). Estimates of the population of the northern kingdom at that time range from 400,000 to 500,000; less than 1/20<sup>th</sup> were deported—mostly the leadership from around the capital, Samaria.

### The Babylonians Take Over

722 B.C.: When the Northern Kingdom went into captivity all 12 tribes were also represented in the south. (The Northern Kingdom was taken by Assyria as slaves, which were a valuable commodity. (It is difficult to view them as careless enough to let them wander off to Europe.)

In 586 B.C., when the Babylonians took the Southern Kingdom into captivity, members of all 12 tribes of Israel were involved. When the Babylonians took over Assyria, the descendants of the captives from the North were probably again commingled with the captives of Judah. Isaiah, prophesying to Judah, refers to them as the “House of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel...” (Isa 48:1; cf. vv 12-14).

### Commingled Terminology

Even before the death of Rehoboam, God looked upon all the as a unity, seeing “all Israel in Judah and Benjamin” (2 Chr 11:3). After the Babylonian captivity, the terms Jew and Israelite are used interchangeably: Ezra calls the returning remnant “Jews” 8 times, “Israel” 40 times. Ezra speaks of “all Israel” (Ezra 2:70; 3:11; 8:35; 10:25, et al.). Nehemiah calls them Jews 11 times, Israel 22 times. Nehemiah speaks of “all Israel being back in the

land (Neh 12:47). The remnant who returned from Babylon is represented as “the nation” (Mal 1:1).

## New Testament Nomenclature

Our Lord is said to have offered Himself to the nation, “the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Mt 10:5-6; 15:24). The New Testament speaks of “Israel” 75 times and “Jew” 174 times (Acts 21:39; 22:3; Rom 11:1; 2 Cor 11:22; Phil 3:5, etc.); “The twelve tribes” (Acts 26:7; Jas 1:1).

Anna knew her tribal identity (the tribe of Asher; Lk 2:30); Paul knew he was of the tribe of Benjamin: a “Jew” and an “Israelite,” Rom 11:1; Peter cries: “Ye men of Judea” (Acts 2:14) and “ye men of Israel...” (Acts 2:22) and “All the house of Israel” (Acts 2:36).

## Regathered as One

The Dry Bones Vision declares Judah (“Jews?”) and Israel (“10 tribes?”) shall be joined as one in the regathering (Ezek 37:16-17, 21-22). This is true today. [The total physical descendants were not the people to whom the promises were made (Rom 9:4-7).]

Accompanying some of the legends of the so-called “10 Lost Tribes” are aspersions on the present State of Israel and the people being regathered in the Land. These various theories such as “British Israelism” are by their nature anti-Semitic (and blasphemous) because they deny the Jewish people their proper place in the plan of God.

## The Sealing of the 144,000: Why Wasn’t Dan Listed?

- Prophecies:
  - Jacob: “A serpent...” (Gen 49:17)
  - Moses: “Leap from Bashan” (Deut 33:22)
- Left allocated territories (Judg 18)
  - Deborah: “Didn’t leave his ships” (Judg 5:17)
- Omitted from genealogies (1 Chr 1-8)
- Not sealed in the Tribulation (Rev 7)
- Tribe through which idolatry entered the land (Lev 24:10-16; Judg 18:1, 2, 30-31)
- A leader in apostasy under Jeroboam (1 Kgs 12:28-30)
  - and 100 years later (2 Kgs 10:29)
  - the “Voice of Calamity” (Jer 4:14; Heb); Amos 8:14; Heb)
  - Curse: Jer 8:16
- Idolaters name to be blotted out (Deut 29:18-21)

*Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood; And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst: The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven. And the LORD shall separate him unto evil out of all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this book of the law:*

Deuteronomy 29:18-21

And yet, Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel (Gen 49:16) and Dan inherits in the Millennium (Ezek 48:1).

## Ephraim: Also Omitted

Ephraim is also referred to only elliptically: Joseph = Manasseh + Ephraim. Thus: Joseph - Manasseh = Ephraim. Ephraim was also associated with Jeroboam’s idolatry (Hos 4:17).

- 9] After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;
- 10] And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

This throng preserved *through* (sealed) the Tribulation, not “*kept out*” of it, as in Rev 3:10. Note: Gifts and calling of God are without repentance (Rom 11:29). Here, the greatest harvest of souls the world has ever seen will take place! (Written in Isa 49:10-12; 60:1-3.)

Joel 2:28-32 (quoted in Acts 2:16-21) links with these prophecies of the Great Tribulation.

“Palm branches”: as on “Palm Sunday,” cf. John 12:13. Also, possible link with Feast of Tabernacles (Lev 23:39, 43; 2 Chr 20:19; Ezra 3:11-12; Jn 12:12-13; Neh 8:15-17).

- 11] And all the angels stood round about the throne, and *about* the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,
- 12] Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, *be* unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.
- 13] And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

- 14] And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

[John apparently doesn't recognize who they are. Why are they distinguished from those *prior* to the tribulation? Their predecessors are already in heaven!]

- 15] Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.  
16] They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

Millennial Temple: In heaven there is no night nor temple (Rev 21:25; 22:5).

- 17] For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

*And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.*

Revelation 14:1-5

The 144,000 are destined to be the elite (Rev 14:4).

## Contrasts

### Tribulation Saints

- Not Crowned
- Palms in their hands
- Saved "out of" the Tribulation
- These stand *before* thrones
- These serve Him day and night
- Not recognized by John

### 24 Elders

- Crowned
- Harps, No Palms
- "Kept out" of the Tribulation (Rev 3:10)
- Sit on thrones (1 Cor 6:2,3; 1 Pet 2:9; Rev 1:6)
- Reign as kings & priests (1 Cor 6:2,3; 1 Pet 2:9; Rev 1:6)

## For Next Session

- Read Revelation 8.
- Read Joshua 5:13 – 6:27.

## Joshua as a "Type" of Revelation?

- (*Yehoshua* is a variant of *Yeshua*).
- A military commander dispossessing the usurpers.
- 7 year campaign against 7 (of an original 10) nations.
- Torah ignored at Jericho: (Sabbath ignored; Levites involved)
  - First sent in "Two Witnesses"
  - **Seven Trumpet Events.**
  - (preceded by "Silence in heaven for ½ hour").
- Enemies confederated under a leader in Jerusalem.
  - *Adoni-Zedek*, "Lord of Righteousness."
- Ultimately defeated with:
  - Hailstones and fire from heaven.
  - Signs in the Sun, Moon, etc.
- Kings hide in caves. ("Rocks fall on us...")

## The Book of Revelation Session 15: The Seven Trumpets Revelation Chapters 8-9

- 1] And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.  
2] And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

"...seven trumpets..." The Trumpet of God sounded when the law was given (Ex 19:16-19); there were seven trumpets at Jericho (Josh 6:13-16). [These angels have names in the Apocrypha: Uriel, Raphael, Raguel, Michael, Sarakiel, Grabriel, and Phanuel.] ***Don't confuse the 7th trumpet judgment with the "last trump" of 1 Cor 15:52. There will be trumpets in the Millennium.***

## Joshua vs. Revelation

*And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.*

Joshua 6:10