

**Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series**  
**Study #40: Who Shall Be Able to Stand?**  
**Revelation 7:1 - 4**  
**Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor**

During the scenes of the sixth seal in Revelation chapter 6, John sees in vision a great earthquake, the darkening of the sun, a red moon, a shower of falling stars. He sees the heavens depart like a scroll. He sees the mountains and islands thrown out of their places. He also sees the wicked running and trying to hide from the coming of Jesus and His wrath, crying “rocks fall on me!” **And at the end of the scene of the sixth seal in Revelation 6:17 John heard, “For the great day of His wrath is come and who shall be able to stand?”** This is a serious question that is directed towards you and me. In other words, who will be able to stand on that final day when Jesus returns a second time? Will you be one of those running and trying to hide crying “rocks fall on me!” when Jesus returns? Or will you be standing tall with your outstretched arms welcoming and praising the coming Saviour Jesus Christ that precious Lamb in that final day?

Before Jesus opens the seventh and final seal, there is a pause in the action, in Revelation 7:1 – 17 Jesus gives the answer to the question “Who shall be able to stand?” Do you want to stand through the persecution, tribulation, and the coming of Jesus Christ?

**What does John see next after the scenes of sixth seal?**

**Revelation 7:1**

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**.

The “four corners” on a round earth is referring to the four directions of the earth: north, south, east, and west. So here in John’s vision, we can visualize four angels, one standing in north, one in the south, one in the east, and one in the west of the earth holding back winds blowing from all directions.

Notice the “four winds” come together to create “the wind”.

**What does “the wind” represent?** Remember from our study in the book of Daniel that winds in prophecy usually symbolize war, destruction, conflict, chaos, or calamity. So in verse 1, we see that God has commissioned angels in the north, south, east, and west of the earth to hold back the wind from each direction preventing them from coming together creating a vortex wind of destruction devastating this world like a fierce **Cat 5 hurricane or F-5 tornado**. This destruction and calamity is produced by Satan and his demons that will blow on **all** of the earth and everything in it.

Praise God that He has His angels right now protecting us from world-wide destruction and calamity as we speak. It is only by God’s grace and mercy that we are all not destroyed. God’s protection from these winds of massive world-wide destruction will not last forever. It will some day end.

Remember, the main question for today, “Who shall be able to stand?” **Who will be able to stand when world wide calamity blows on this earth and who will be able stand when Jesus returns?**

**When will “the wind” of destruction come upon this planet before the coming of Jesus?**

**Daniel 12:1**

1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a **time of trouble**, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

The “**time of trouble**” “**since there was a nation**” is referring to the seven last plagues referred to in Revelation chapters 8 and 16. This will happen after Jesus completes Judgment in the Most Holy place. He will take off His priestly garments and put on his garments of victory as King of king. He will return to this earth to deliver His faithful. We will study the seven last plagues in detail at a later study.

“The nations are now getting angry, but when our High Priest has finished His work in the sanctuary, He will stand up, put on the garments of vengeance, and then the seven last plagues will be poured out. I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus' work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues.” {Early Writings, Ellen White p. 36.}

**After the scene of the angels holding back the vortex worldwide wind of destruction (seven last plagues) from ALL the earth, what does John see next in his prophetic vision?**

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

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,

3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have **sealed the servants** of our God **in their foreheads**.

### **What is a “seal”?**

“Seal” according to Strong’s Greek Dictionary is “sphragis” which means “a signet (as fencing in or protecting from misappropriation); by implication the stamp impressed (as a **mark** of privacy, or genuineness), literally or figuratively: - seal.”

Governments use a seal as a mark of authenticity of an official document or law. According to Wikipedia.com, “A seal is a device for making an impression in wax, clay, paper, or some other medium, including an embossment on paper, and is also the impression thus made. The original purpose was to authenticate a document.” For example, a notary uses a stamp that makes an official impression on a document to authenticate and certify that you personally signed for the title of your car that proves that you own it. When you want to complete a deal such as buying a house you cannot “seal the deal” without your unique signature that is seen as a mark or seal that you agree with this contract or deal. You are said to have “sealed the deal” with your signature.

The Greek definition of “seal” also implies that it protects as a fence from “misappropriation” or being unlawful. The seal protects it from corruption or spoilage.

**What is the seal of the living God that officially marks the faithful people of God as a sign of their loyalty and obedience?**

### **Ezekiel 20:12, 20**

12 - “Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.”

It is repeated again in verse 20, but notice a slight difference.

20 - “And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.”

In verse 12, the keeping of the sabbath is a sign between Him and “them”, His faithful followers as a whole. But notice in verse 20 God makes it very personal; the sabbath is a sign between Him and YOU!

### **Exodus 31:13-17**

13 “Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.

14 Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

15 Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.

16 Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a **perpetual covenant**.

17 **It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever:** for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.”

“Sign” in the Hebrew, “ôth”, means “a signal (literally or figuratively), as a flag, beacon, monument, evidence, etc.: - **mark**, miracle, (en-) sign, token.” - Strong’s Hebrew Dictionary

So based on our study, sign, seal, and mark are the same. They are synonymous in their meaning. Remember, keeping the seventh-day Sabbath is a sign or mark that proves your loyalty to God in which you keep ALL of His Commandments as an expression of your love for Him. This sign is the evidence that you rather keep the commandments of God rather than the commandments men.

### **What is the seal or mark of the living God within the Ten Commandments that authenticates the document?**

4th Commandment:

Exodus 20:8-11

8 “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

There are three elements of a legal seal: 1. Name; 2. Title; 3. Territory. For example, on the official seal of the president of the United States, it has the name of the president; title, President; and territory, the United States of America.

The fourth commandment reveals the seal of the living God. It reveals His name, the Lord which means Jehovah or self-existent one; His title, Creator; and His territory, the heaven, earth and sea.

The seal of the living God or official mark of God that authenticates His Ten Commandments is the seventh-day Sabbath. In other words, the seventh-day Sabbath commandment is the signature of God. It not only authenticates the Ten Commandments, but clearly identifies the Author of the commandments. The seventh-day Sabbath is a holy and distinct mark that comes from the Creator and no one else. It cannot be duplicated or copied to another day. The seventh-day Sabbath is established forever.

All those who are sealed with the mark of God before the “winds” of chaos and strife are let loose, keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy. Satan knows this. This is why he has an all out assault on God’s holy day.

**Seal of the Living God** = Seventh-day Sabbath Commandment that authenticates the Ten Commandments.

Those sealed with the seal of the living God will be able to stand through the seven last plagues and the coming of Jesus. They are sealed because they have proven their loyalty by their obedience to all of the commandments of God including the seventh day Sabbath through the power of Jesus Christ.

**Is there an example in the Bible of what it means to be sealed with the seal of the living God?** Yes.

In Ezekiel chapter 8, God revealed to the prophet Ezekiel in vision the many abominations, sins of idolatry, and sun worship that the leadership of Israel were doing against God at the time.

*What does Ezekiel see in chapter 9?*

**Ezekiel 9:1-7**

- 1 He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand.
- 2 And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar.
- 3 And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side;
- 4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a **mark upon the foreheads** of the men that **sigh and that cry for all the abominations** that be done in the midst thereof.
- 5 And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:
- 6 Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.
- 7 And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city.

In Ezekiel chapter 9, the prophet then hears in vision, an order cried out to smite those people of Israel. In verse 2 he sees six men with weapons ready to smite the people of Israel, but he also see in the middle of verse 2 a man who was clothed in linen, with a writer’s inkhorn by his side. An inkhorn is basically a little bowl of writer’s ink that people used in ancient times. They had to dip their writing pen in the inkhorn in order to write. In Ezekiel 9:3 in Ezekiel’s vision, God called the man with the writer’s inkhorn by his side. In verse 4, what did God tell this man with the writer’s inkhorn to do? ***Ezekiel 9:4*** <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and **set a mark upon the foreheads** of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. In verses 5 – 7 all those that did not have the mark upon their foreheads were destroyed. Now according to Ezekiel’s vision in verse 4, who were the ones who received the mark on their foreheads? Those who sighed and cried against the abominations and sins in Israel. That’s right. In other words, those people who received the mark not only spoke up against the abominations of Israel, but they were obedient to the commandments and word of God. Those who received the mark were not destroyed. They were sealed or preserved from destruction. They were marked with the mark of approval to be saved from destruction.

Going back to Revelation 7:2, 3

Remember, those sealed with the seal of the living God will be able to stand during the seven last plagues (time of trouble) and the coming of Jesus.

**Who are specifically sealed with the seal of the living God?**

**Revelation 7:3... “sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.**

*Who are sealed? Servants of our God! (Emphasize)*

The servants of our God are voluntary and active workers for Jesus! They are DOERS of God’s Word and unspotted from the world. They are true soldiers of Jesus Christ that go to battle with the Enemy by living and sharing God’s everlasting Gospel! They give no excuses.

**James 1:22-27**

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Servants of our God are like sheep and follow and do whatever the Master, Jesus, tells them to do.

Why are the “servants of our God” sealed with the seal of the living God in their foreheads?

Behind the forehead is the frontal lobe of the brain. This is where decisions are made. This is where character is formed. The servants of our God are sealed with the seal of the living God because they possess the character of Jesus Christ. Their religion is pure undefiled by the world. The blood of Jesus has transformed their characters from worldliness.

The servants of our God have the character of Jesus and His law stamped and etched in their hearts.

**Psalm 40:8**, “I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.”

**Jeremiah 31:33**, “But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

**How are the “servants of our God” described? What does John hear next in vision?**

**Revelation 7:4**

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.

Why are the servants of our God described as 144,000 from all the tribes of the children of Israel?

God gave the name Israel to Jacob after his character was totally transformed from a dishonest thief into an obedient child of God.

**Why was Jacob's name changed to Israel? What message was God giving to all who believe in the everlasting covenant?**

Israel (Hebrew) = "God prevails"

Jacob, an example of one who was a true servant of God, allowed God to prevail and rule in his life. As a result, Jacob was able to humble himself and was able to prevail over sin. His character was transformed from a thief and a liar to a servant of God.

The name Israel reveals the transformational power of the everlasting covenant!

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

**Those who are transformed are true spiritual Israelites in which God prevails in their life and they prevail over ALL sin! These are they who are partakers of the blessing of the everlasting covenant.**

**Galatians 3:28-29**

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The servants of our God who are sealed with the seal of the live God are spiritual Israelites who are heirs to the promise of the everlasting covenant. They are a part of the 144,000 who will be able to stand through the seven last plagues and the coming of Jesus.

**Revelation 14:1 confirms the type of character that the 144,000 possess.**

Revelation 14:1, 4, 5, 12

1 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.

4 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.

5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

The servants of our God who are sealed with the seal of the living God and are a part of the 144,000 who have built their foundation on the Rock Christ Jesus, the WORD of Truth. Only they will stand when great “wind” blows upon this earth!

**Right now God is holding back the winds of strife, sealing His people? Are you going to be a part of that number?**

**Are you transformed and built to withstand when the wind blows?**

“Among the Ruins of Mexico Beach Stands One House, Built ‘for the Big One’”, by Patricia Mazzei, October, 14, 2018, *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/14/us/hurricane-michael-florida-mexico-beach-house.html>

Is your character like Jesus or more like the world? You must have your character built and prepared for the time of trouble? What you are doing now will determine if you are going to be able to stand? If what you are doing NOW is NOT a reflection of Christ, change must happen NOW? Transformation of character MUST take place!

Next sermon we will continue with the 144,000 and see what happens when Jesus opens the seventh seal!

**Profession is NOT enough... Must be obedience servants of our Lord! Doers of God Word. The BIG ONE is coming. Who will be able to stand? How does Jesus explain it in Matthew 7:21 - 27?**

**Matthew 7:21-27**

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

APPEAL