

Preparations for Judgment: 144,000

Revelation 7:1-8

I. WRATH PREPARED: "I saw four angels" (v.1)

A. Position: "standing at the four corners" (v.1a)

B. Practice: "holding back four winds" (v.1b)

II. WRATH DELAYED: "Do not harm...until..." (vv.2-3)

A. Preparation: "I saw another angel" (v.2a)

1. Place: "ascending from the rising of the sun"

2. Possession: "having a seal of the living God"

B. Proclamation: "cried out...saying" (vv.2b-3)

1. Restraint: "do not harm"

2. Responsibility: "until we have sealed"

3. Recognition: "the bond-servants of our God"

III. WRATH AVOIDED: "144,000 sealed" (vv.4-8)

A. Literal: "the number of those who were sealed" (v.4)

B. Limited: "sealed from every tribe" (vv.5-8)

C. Living: "*purchased from the earth*" (14:1-5)

1. *Virgin Males:* "*These...not defiled with women...kept themselves chaste*"

2. *Dedicated Believers:* "*These...who follow the Lamb wherever He goes*"

3. *Redeemed Offering:* "*These...purchased...as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb*"

4. *Honestly Faultless:* "*no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless*"

Next Week: Read Revelation 7 (especially vv.9-17)