

[3000] “144,000 & GREAT MULTITUDE”

#3 – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2005

I. THE SEALING

One of the most talked about chapters in **Revelation** is **chapter seven**.

- It is the pause before the storm.
- It is the prelude of the final showdown.
- It is the 2 minute warning; all heaven is on its feet.
- It is the last push before the great controversy closes.

- Up to this point the world had been sailing along.
- Up to this point there was no visible difference between the wheat and tares.
- Up to this point it appeared that sin had won.

This is where God takes the reigns into His own hand.

This is where everything in earth intensifies.

This is where the commissioning angel gives the command to release the winds.

This is where the shaking enters its final phase.

Eight times in the book of Revelation we read the phrase “*After these things.*”

Both of these phrases are introductions to the *division* of **Revelation chapter 7**.

[3001] (Rev 7:1 NKJV) “**After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.**”

In **Revelation 7:1** angels are seen “*holding the four winds.*” The NIV translation says that they are “*Holding back the four winds.*”

As the scene unfolds it can be said that these angels have been *preventing* the winds from blowing “**UNTIL**” something of great importance occurs.

By examining **Rev. 7:1** again we can also see that to **prevent** or **hold back the winds** means to create a *delay*.

EMP: The delay produces *positive* and *negative* results.

First let us look at *the delay* from Satan's vantage point. **What benefit could he possibly get from there being a delay?**

Satan's is on the prowl to devour:

[3002] (1 Pet 5:8 NKJV) **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”**

Satan's is in the business of preventing spiritual growth:

[3003] (Mat 13:19 NKJV) **“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.”**

Satan takes advantage of the heart that is not softened when the truth is taught:

[3004] (Acts 26:27-28 NKJV) **“King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.” (28) Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.”**”

[3005] Early Writings, p 207.1 – **“Satan took advantage of the delay, and, as they neglected the opportunity when their hearts were softened, it was forever lost. Their hearts became hardened.”**

EMP: While the angels of God are holding the winds back, *Satan is taking advantage of the delay*. There are *many that think that there will be some future opportunity to accept the truth* and they ignore it when it is first presented.

[3006] Testimonies, vol. 2, p. 194 – **“The long night of gloom is trying, but the morning is deferred in mercy, because if the Master should come, so many would be found unready.**

[3006B] God's unwillingness to have His people perish, has been the reason of so long delay.”

MOD: Don't say that we have more time; there is no time like the present.

[3007] (John 4:35 NKJV) **“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”**

Second, let's look at the delay from God's perspective.

[3008] Our High Calling, p. 134.2 – “*The delay is for our special benefit. Our faith has a chance to be tested to see whether it is true, sincere, or changeable like the waves of the sea.*”

Let us look at another place in the Bible where a delay is talked about:

[3009] (Mat 25:1-2 NKJV) “*Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. (2) ‘Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.’*”

EMP: This parable is closely associated with **Rev. 7:1** for the following reason.

[3010] (Mat 25:5 NKJV) “*But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.*”

At this point there is a very important point to make:

The reason why the **wise and foolish** are sleeping is the same reason why **criminals and good people alike** sleep. That’s what you do when you are in a **PEACEFUL** atmosphere.

POINT: Notice this; *all ten virgins were waiting for the coming of the bridegroom. They thought that He would have come already.* It appears that *they arrived in the early evening* but *as it got later and later they concluded that He was not coming when they expected* and *they relaxed* “**They all slept.**”

EMP: The wise are living **at the same time** and **in the same environment** as the foolish, a **world of relative peace.** *For the most part, people still sleep at night.*

Up to this point there appeared to be *no real reason to worry, no great urgency, just the normal disaster* here and there. **The angels were still holding the winds.**

[3011] (Mat 25:6-7 NKJV) “*And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ (7) ‘Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.’*”

MOD: This is where you will *better understand the relationship* between the 144,000 and the parable of the 10 virgins. I want you to also notice that this parable is about the church. **It therefore suggests that everyone in the church is either wise or foolish. In this parable the church is not the bride.**

[3012] (Mat 25:8-9 NKJV) “”And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ **[3013]** (9) “But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’”

The Midnight Cry was heard by all, but only the wise were ready. They had something that the foolish did not have. They had enough oil, **The Holy Spirit**.

[3014] COL 412.1 – “Both parties were taken unawares; but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation. **[3015]** So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will show whether there is any real faith in the promises of God.”

EMP: I suggest to you that the angels of **Rev. 7**, are *holding back the winds* in mercy that the people of God would plead for the infilling of the Holy Spirit.”

[3016] (Rev 7:2-3 NKJV) “Then 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 granted to harm the earth and the sea, **[3017]** (3) saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.””

EMP: I suggest to you that **THE SEAL** that God uses **TO SEAL** His servant is the Holy Spirit. The **Character of God** would have been **fully reproduced in His servants** and the Holy Spirit is going seal that Character in place.

[3018] (Eph 4:30 NKJV) “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

[3019] Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 24. – “A crisis is right upon us. We must now by the Holy Spirit’s power proclaim the great truths for these last days. It will not be long before everyone will have heard the warning and made his decision.”

[2020] Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 97. – “The time of God’s destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who *have had no opportunity to learn what is truth*. **[3021]** Tenderly will the Lord look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched; His hand is still stretched out to save, while the door is closed to those who would not enter.”

[3022] (Rev 7:4 NKJV) “And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:”

[3023] (Eph 1:13 NKJV) “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,”

QUEST: What is the heart-beat of God?

ANS: To Carry the message to the entire world?

QUEST: How is God going to do it?

ANS: He will proclaim the final message to the world through the 144,000.

Revelation 14 verse 1-5 show us the 144,000 again. What do you read after the 144,000 are shown? The 3 Angels Messages.

QUEST: To whom is the Message Preached?

ANS: To the every nation, tribe, tongue, and people.

QUEST: Who is this great multitude?

ANS: They are the ones that respond the final message of the three angels.

[3024] (Rev 7:9 NKJV) “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, **[3025]** standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,”

