

Standing as the Sealed

Revelation 7:1–17 · Pastor Raul Granillo · August 9, 2026

Today's Text

“I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds... I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God... **‘Do not damage the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have marked the servants of our God with a seal on their foreheads.’** And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred forty-four thousand... After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.”

— Revelation 7:1–4, 9

Big Idea

The pause between the sixth and seventh seals is not a delay — it is the point. Before God releases the full weight of humanity's consequences, He interrupts everything to **claim His people first**. Grace precedes judgment. Belonging precedes tribulation. The seal is ownership, not exemption.

Key Truth

John **hears** a number — 144,000 from twelve tribes. But when he **looks**, he sees **a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language**. What he was taught to believe (a closed ethnic list) is very different than what is actually real (an open family of the Lamb). True Israel is anyone washed in the blood of the Lamb.

The Interlude — What John Wants Us to See

SCENE	WHAT JOHN SEES	WHAT IT MEANS FOR US
FOUR WINDS HELD	Four angels at the four corners of the earth, straining to hold back the winds of judgment on every side.	The full consequences of human sin are being restrained. That, for the record, is grace — grace we take for granted. God is not being slow; He is being merciful.
ANGEL FROM THE EAST	Another angel rises from the east — the direction of God's glory returning to the temple (Ezek 43) — carrying the seal of the living God.	Just before dawn is the darkest moment. Then the sun peaks over the horizon and a new day of hope arrives. God's mercy always rises before His judgment falls.
THE SEAL	The servants of God are marked on their foreheads before any wind is released — echoing Passover blood and Ezekiel 9's mark on the faithful.	The sealed are those who sigh over the world's idolatry and stay faithful to Yahweh. God does not extract them from the storm — He marks them as His inside it.
144,000 HEARD	12 tribes × 12,000 each — the number is symbolic (twelve squared, then multiplied a thousand-fold) for the full and true people of God.	The order is scrambled: Judah first (because the Lamb is from Judah), Dan removed, Levi included. This is a warning to stop assuming who's in. God chooses whom God chooses.
GREAT MULTITUDE SEEN	A crowd no one can count — from every nation, tribe, people, and language — standing before the throne in white robes with palm branches.	Salvation is for anyone. No qualifications. What John was taught to expect is not what God actually does. True Israel is the people of the Lamb, drawn from everywhere.

Define This

The Great Ordeal (Great Tribulation) — The multitude has **come out of** it, not been rescued from it. God has never brought His people **out of** the storms — Noah went through the flood, Israel went through the sea. This is God commissioning the Church **into** the conflict, not out of it. The seal means we do not walk through it alone.

Quote To Remember

“Even though evil must be allowed to come to its full height, in order eventually to be fully and finally overthrown, God will not allow this process to put in jeopardy the ultimate rescue of his true people... The events around them will no doubt be terrifying, but they may rest assured that God has them in his care.” — N.T. Wright

Take It Home — Reflection

- The seal is ownership, not exemption. God's people are not extracted from what is coming — they are marked as His within it. Where in my life have I been asking God to lift me out of a storm He is asking me to walk through with Him?
- The mark of God is a visible life — joyful, obedient, holy in observable practice. Too many Christians are more concerned with the mark of the beast than with receiving the mark of God. Which mark am I actively living into this week?
- John heard a closed list of 144,000 and then saw an uncountable multitude from every nation. Where am I still expecting God to save the people I was taught to expect, instead of the people He is actually gathering?

My Notes