

Chapter 7

[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 end of [Chapter 6] saw that the heavens were opened as a scroll, and the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountain; And said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb!" The end of the time of the sixth seal was upon them and they did not want to face Jesus. John saw, as if it had already happened, that a dreadful fear filled their hearts because they knew they had not prepared for this great day; they had ignored the words of Jesus and the prophets, and now, to their everlasting shame, they have to face Jesus and account for what they had done with their time and their talents while on earth. They will desperately want not to do this.

These are the events John was referring to in [Verse 1] where he said, "And after these things." Then he saw the "four angels standing on the four corners of the earth." The expression, "four corners of the earth," is a colloquial expression which implies "in the four quarters," viz, "The whole earth." Because of this scripture, many have believed, and still do, that the earth is actually flat and has four corners. This is unsound reasoning, for in both Greek and Hebrew, "corners," in this setting, means 'quarters' of the earth. The Lord used this same expression with Isaiah, as found in;

[Isaiah 11:12] And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners (*quarters*) of the earth." This same scripture is also in [2 Nephi 9:127]

Another colloquialism used to express the "four corners, or quarters," of the earth is "the four winds" of the earth; as given in [D&C 108:2c] ... The time has come when the voice of the Lord is unto you, Go ye out of Babylon; gather out from among the nations, from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

It should be noted that "from one end of heaven to the other," is also a metaphorical expression which means "from the four quarters," "from the four corners," "from the four winds," or in other words, "gather out from among the nations, from the whole earth."

Thus, the proclamation in [Verse 1] simply means that each of these four angels will have power over the 'wind' in his designated quarter of the earth; and together, their power extends over the entire earth.

The "four winds" held by the four angels will not be pleasant when they are released, for at the determined time they will hurt all those who are not servants of God! *see [Verse 2] This agrees with the statement Jesus made about the differences between the wise man and the foolish, viz;

"Whosoever hear these sayings of mine and do them, I will liken him unto a wise man, who built his house upon a rock, and the rains 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. And every one that hears these sayings of men, and do them not, shall be likened unto a foolish men, who built his house upon the

sand; and rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, **and it fell; and great was the fall of It.**" [Matthew 7:34-35]

[D&C 87:2b] All they who receive the oracles of God, let them beware how they hold them, lest they are accounted as a light thing, and are brought under condemnation thereby; and stumble and fall, when the storms descend, and the winds blow, and the rains descend, and beat upon their house.

Now lets unravel the mystery of the winds which blows upon people's houses, i.e., their lives, and a good place to start is;

[Ephesians 4:11-14] *Jesus* gave some, **apostles**; and some, **prophets**; and some, **evangelists**; and some, **pastors** and **teachers**;

[12] For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ;

[13] **Till we, in the unity of the faith, all come to the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;**

[14] That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about **with every wind of doctrine**, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

Jesus set up various positions to perform ordinances and to expound the doctrine of his church so that "whosoever hear his words and do them" would not be undermined by these intruders.

[2] **And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God; and I heard him cry 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.**

The word "seal" has numerous definitions just as words in any language may have various meanings that correlate to the contexts in which they are used. Remember the book sealed with seven seals in [Chapter 5]? Those seals profile something entirely different from the seal referred to in [Verse 2] of this chapter, for it is going to be used 'to seal the servants of God.'

Seal: as used here; [figuratively] to mark, to keep from tampering. [World Book Dictionary]

The idea of figuratively putting a mark upon people's foreheads so that they would not be tampered with was plausibly not new to John, for the following vision of Ezekiel, concerning this same time and event, was written in the late 500's B.C.

[Ezekiel 9:3-6] And the glory of 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 is done in the midst thereof. [5] And to the others he said in my hearing, Go after him through the city, and smite; let not your eye spare, neither have 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.

The following, ‘latter day’ event, relates to [Verses 2 & 3], when angels are again sent forth; [Matthew 13:42-45] For in that day, before the Son of Man shall come, he shall send forth his angels and messengers of heaven. [43] And they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity, and shall cast them out among the wicked; and there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. [44] For the world shall be burned with fire. [45] Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun, in the kingdom of their Father. [Isaiah 24:5-6]

The Lord truly does tell us of things before they happen! And now, look at the following;

[D&C 105:9a-10b] Verily, verily I say unto you, Darkness covers the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people, and all flesh has become corrupt before my face. [9b] Behold, vengeance is coming speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth--a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation--and as a whirlwind it shall come upon all the face of the earth, saith the Lord. [10a] And upon my house shall it begin, and from my house shall it go forth, saith the Lord. [10b] First among those among you, saith the Lord, who have professed to know my name and have not known me, and have blasphemed against me in the midst of my house, saith the Lord.

The following scripture should be familiar to us all, for it relates to the time of this great event; “Behold, I, the Lord, have made my church in these last days, like unto a judge sitting on a hill, or in a high place, to judge the nations; for it shall come to pass, that the inhabitants of Zion shall judge all things pertaining to Zion; and liars, and hypocrites shall be proved by them, and they who are not apostles and prophets shall be known.” [D&C 64:7c-d]

The recurring theme of the last four scriptures is that, when Jesus sends his angels to purge the earth, there will be a means of identifying the righteous from the wicked. And, though neither the wicked nor the righteous will know that angels are placing identifying marks upon their foreheads, there is a type and shadow of this occurrence which happened in the early 1400's B.C. Notice;

“And the Lord spoke unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, ... Speak unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, ... And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper doorpost of the houses, ... For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment; I am the Lord. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.” [Exodus 12:1, 3, 7, 12-13]

The four angels has the power to bring destruction upon the earth, upon the wicked, that is, but were told ‘not to hurt the earth, the sea, or the trees,’ until the servants of God had been sealed in their foreheads, i.e., “the Father’s name shall be written in their foreheads!”

[Revelation 14:1] And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him a hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

[Revelation 22:3-4] And there shall be no more curse; but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be *there*; and his servants shall serve him; [4] And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. [D&C 108:5c]

The waters of [Verse 3] are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. *see [Revelation 17:15]. We know also that people are referred to as trees, e.g., John the Baptist said;

“And now, the axe is laid unto the root of the trees; therefore every tree which brings not forth good fruit, shall be hewn down, and cast into the fire.” [Matthew 3:37] [Luke 3:14]

And Jesus said;

[Matthew 7:26-28] Even so every good tree brings forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit; neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that brings not forth good fruit, is hewn down, and cast into the fire. [Luke 6:43]

And in [Romans 11:24], [Revelation 11:3-4] and [1 Nephi 3:16], people are referred to as “olive trees.” “Yes, even my father spoke much concerning the Gentiles, and also concerning the house of Israel, that they should be compared like unto an olive tree, whose branches should be broken off, and should be scattered upon all the face of the earth.” * see also [Jacob 3:31-153]

So, before the day comes in which the “earth shall be cleansed with fire [Hebrews 6:7], and the millennium begins, those who have the name of the Father written in their foreheads (*intellect, minds*) will be marked and protected so that the destruction which follows will not harm them. Those who have received Jesus’ words, and have taken upon themselves his name and lived by his commandments, will be identified and sealed by these angels. Then is the time when they will learn their new name.

*ref: ‘new name.’

[Revelation 2:17] To him that overcomes I will give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knows saving he that receives it. * for additional scriptures about a new name see [Isaiah 62:2] [Revelation 3:12 & 19:12]

[Revelation 20:4] And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them; and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands: and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

* the “mark in their foreheads and hands” will again be scrutinized in [Chapters 13 & 14].

[4] And the number of them who were sealed, were an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

[5] Of the tribe of Juda 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 Manasses 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.

Those who are going to be sealed before the millennium begins will be alive and kicking - on earth! They are not those who have already passed to the other side! For the angels were not to “hurt the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till they have sealed the servants of God (*the 144,000*) in their foreheads.” [Verses 2 & 3]

The fact that only those who have the Father’s name written in their foreheads will be sealed suggests that there will be those who will not have the Father’s name in their foreheads.

Yes! Diametric to those who are resolute in their love for God and worship him, having his words written indelibly in their minds, are those who love the beast, and the dragon, a.k.a. the devil. They have given, and are still giving themselves over to worship the beast and his image! And since they have no love for the truth, they are easily deceived and devote their heart, might, mind, and strength to serving the devil, without even knowing it! Lets see;

[**Revelation 13:16**] And he (*the beast*) causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads. (*Hand = power; forehead = mind*)

As “those who are to be sealed” refers to 144,000 of the Israelites who will be living on earth at the time just prior to the millennium; [Verses 9 through 17] refer to those who will have already lived on earth, who prevailed over the allurements of sin, and are now before the throne of God.

[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 sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

[11] And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, (*The four heavenly creatures*) and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshiped God,

[12] Saying, Amen; Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen.

[13] And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and from where did they come? [*white robes = righteousness of saints. Rev 19:8*]

[14] And I said unto him, Sir, you know. 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. [*great tribulation = temptations & persecutions which had beset mortal man on earth*]

[15] Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he that sits on the throne shall dwell among them.

[16] They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

[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.

The last three verses of this chapter indeed summarize the apex of one’s reward who makes it through great tribulations, unscathed by sin. He shall never hunger or thirst again! He shall never have to endure the sweltering heat of the sun! The Lamb will feed him and lead him unto “living

fountains of waters! And God shall dwell with him and shall wipe away all tears from his eyes!
These will not have rhapsodized of nor pretended saintly qualities, they will have lived them!

“Coming out of great tribulation” [Verse 14] is not limited to enduring being thrown into an arena full of ravenous beasts for being a Christian, though this certainly would qualify as being such. It also means not embracing the ways of the world, or false doctrines! For Jesus said;

“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. And now for a man to take up his cross, is to deny himself all ungodliness, and every worldly lust, and keep my commandments. [Matthew 16:25]

And from Jacob’s speech to his people;

“O the vainness, and the frailties, and the foolishness of men! When they are learned, they think they are wise, and they hearken not unto the counsel of God, for they set it aside, supposing they know of themselves; Wherefore, their wisdom is foolishness, and it profits them not. And they shall perish. But to be learned is good, if they hearken unto the counsels of God. But wo unto the rich, who are rich as to the things of the world. For because they are rich, they despise the poor, and they persecute the meek, and their hearts are upon their treasures: wherefore, their treasure is their God. And their treasure shall perish with them also. [2 Nephi 6:58-64] *Read [Verses 81 through 83]

Now concerning “living fountains of waters,” lets see what Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well after he had asked her to give him a drink;

[John 4:12, 15-16] Jesus said unto her, If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that said to you, Give me to drink, you would have asked of him, and he would have given you living water. [15] ... Whosoever shall drink of this well, shall thirst again; [16] But whosoever drinks of the water which I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

[1 Nephi 3:68-69] And I *Nephi*, beheld that the rod of iron, which my father had seen, was the word of God, which led to the fountain of living waters, or to the tree of life; which waters are a representation of the love of God; [69] And I also beheld that the tree of life was a representation of the love of God.

[Revelation 18:1-4, 20] I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. [2] And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

[3] For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication (*idolatry*) with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

[4] And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people**, that you will not be partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues.

[20] Rejoice over her, you heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets; for God has avenged you on her.

[D&C 45:14] The righteous shall be gathered out from among all nations, and shall come to Zion singing, with songs of everlasting joy.