

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 28

# WHO CAN STAND?

(REVELATION 7:1-17)



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***“The great day of His wrath has come,  
and who is able to stand?”***

*(Rev. 6:17)*


The final verse of Revelation 6 describes the cry of the kings and the inhabitants of the earth at the release of the sixth seal (Rev. 6:17). Having seen the intensity of what happened during the first six seals, the apostle John himself must have been deeply troubled by this question. The Lord, out of His kindness, paused the chronological unveiling of the End-Time storyline so as to take time to answer the burning questions on John’s heart.



Revelation 7 is a **parenthetical section** in the Book of Revelation. The parenthetical sections are **interpretative sections** of the book that **seek to answer the questions that surface** through the chronological sections of the seal, trumpet and bowl judgments. In general, they serve to answer two key questions:

**“Why are the judgments so severe?”**

**“What will happen to the Church?”**

A vertical photograph on the left side of the page shows a seagull in flight against a bright blue sky with soft, white clouds. The bird is captured in mid-flap, with its wings spread wide, showing a mix of white and light brown feathers. It is positioned in the lower half of the image, flying towards the right.

In the case of Revelation 7, it is primarily addressing the second question. **God is telling John that the Church will be protected if believers acquire the seal of God on their forehead (Rev. 7:3).** They will be protected from the **End-Time judgments of God** as well as the **spiritual darkness and the demonic forces at the End of the Age.**

Revelation 7 can be divided into 2 parts:

Verse 1 to 8 tells us that **the key to becoming ready for the End-Time storms is through acquiring the seal of God.**

Verse 9 to 17 shows us **a picture of the victorious saints and the rewards of the overcoming Church.**



Revelation 7 is about the preparation of the End-Time Church. God, in His kindness, is **giving the Church ample time to prepare ourselves to be ready** before He releases the End-Time judgments. That is why the angels were told not to release the four winds **until the full number of the servants of God were sealed**.

The key to becoming ready is to **acquire the seal of God**. The Bible does not say that all believers will have the seal of God. Hence, it will not come automatically to us; neither does it come instantaneously. **We have to intentionally acquire it and there is a process of preparation required.**



## **The seal of God speaks of the mercy, grace and goodness of God.**

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It's both **protection from the judgments of God**, and **protection of our hearts from the intense spiritual darkness and the demonic forces** that will be present in the final 3 ½ years of human history. There is also grace from God to **guard our hearts from offence towards God** and to **protect our hearts from the emotional storms of fear, despair and being troubled.**

Revelation 12 tells us that the devil will be cast down to the earth in the final 3½ years of human history (Rev. 12:9-12,14). Spiritual darkness will be at its max and the whole earth will be subjected to demonic influence. That is why many people did not repent of their sins of murder, immorality, sorcery and theft, even at the end of the sixth trumpet, because their hearts had become so hardened and darkened (Rev. 9:21)!



**That is why we will need the seal of God to protect our hearts!**

**Having the seal of God will be so critical. It is the grace and empowerment from God for us to stand in the darkest hour of human history and to burn and shine for Him.**

However, the seal of God does not protect us from persecution by the Antichrist or even martyrdom. We have to be very clear about this (Dan. 7:21,25; Rev. 6:9-11)!

There are three places in the Scriptures that give us more understanding of the seal of God:



THERE ARE THREE PLACES IN THE SCRIPTURES THAT  
GIVE US MORE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SEAL OF GOD:

## **1 | Song of Songs 8:6**

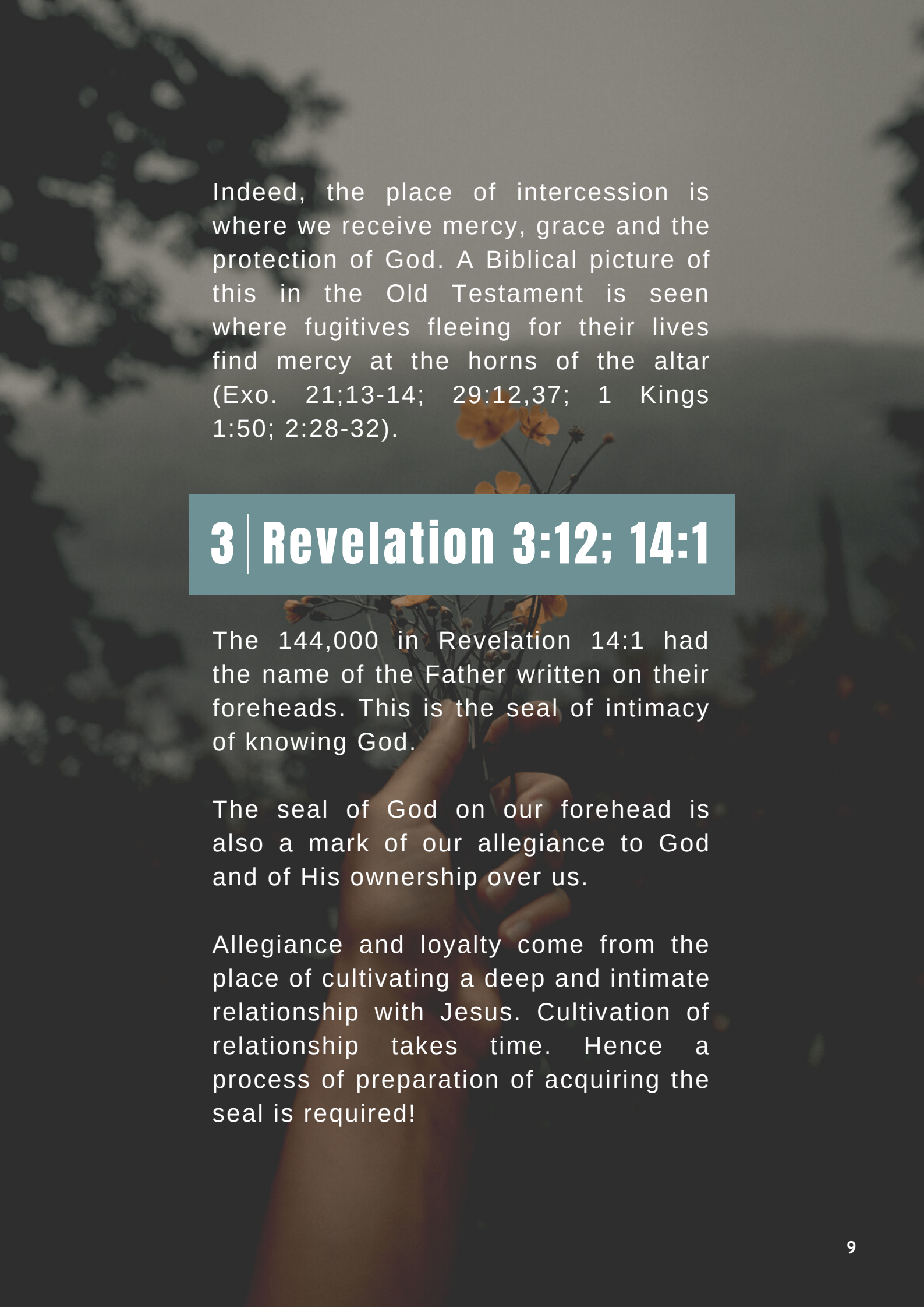
The seal of God is the supernatural, fiery seal of the love of Jesus that is stronger than death, that will overcome the floods of persecution that are coming upon believers. Daily, we can ask Jesus to set His seal upon our hearts.

## **2 | Ezekiel 9:4-7**

This passage speaks about people who carry the spirit of prayer and will cry out for things that are on God's heart.

In Ezekiel 9:4-7, the people who carried the spirit of prayer actually received a protective mark on their foreheads before God releases His judgment.





Indeed, the place of intercession is where we receive mercy, grace and the protection of God. A Biblical picture of this in the Old Testament is seen where fugitives fleeing for their lives find mercy at the horns of the altar (Exo. 21:13-14; 29:12,37; 1 Kings 1:50; 2:28-32).

### **3 | Revelation 3:12; 14:1**

The 144,000 in Revelation 14:1 had the name of the Father written on their foreheads. This is the seal of intimacy of knowing God.

The seal of God on our forehead is also a mark of our allegiance to God and of His ownership over us.

Allegiance and loyalty come from the place of cultivating a deep and intimate relationship with Jesus. Cultivation of relationship takes time. Hence a process of preparation of acquiring the seal is required!

Why does the Bible use the number 144,000 when referring to the ones who are sealed (Rev. 7:4), who are also the victorious saints in Revelation 14:1?

144,000 is equivalent to  $12 \times 12 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10$ . The first 12 represent Israel and the other 12 represent the Gentile Church. The number 10 speaks of completeness and the number 3 (3 sets of 10) represents the number of God. Put together, 144,000 simply means **God's sovereign preordained and complete number of Jewish and Gentile believers who will be prepared and sealed by God.**





Revelation 7:9-17 gives us a picture of the **victorious End-Time saints and the rewards given to the overcoming Church.**

The purpose of this section is to give us hope and certainty of our victory. It is not talking about the rapture of the saints before the great tribulation, because firstly, this is not a chronological section, and secondly, the great multitude of people standing before the throne are the ones who have gone through the great tribulation and have overcome (Rev. 7:14).



The saints were declaring the mighty deliverance and victory of God the Father (Rev. 7:10), and were giving thanks, praise, glory and honour to the One who alone has all wisdom and power (Rev. 7:12). They were given eternal rewards of glorified bodies and white robes but most importantly, they were finding deep fulfilment and eternal satisfaction in the presence of the Father and the Lamb (Rev. 7:15-17)!

*Truly at the end of the day,  
salvation belongs to our God.*

***If we diligently prepare ourselves now by acquiring the seal of intimacy and fiery love, and cultivating the spirit of prayer, Jesus will protect us, keep us and present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy at the day of His return!***



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