

# Revelation 7:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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The sealing of 144,000 from Israel's tribes represents God's preservation of His elect during judgment. The number 144,000 (12 tribes × 12,000) symbolizes completeness, not a literal count. Reformed interpretation sees this as the church universal—both Jewish and Gentile believers, the true Israel of God (Galatians 6:16). The seal marks divine ownership and protection (cf. Ephesians 1:13), assuring that while judgments fall on the earth, God's elect are preserved for final salvation. This echoes Ezekiel 9, where the faithful received a mark before Jerusalem's judgment.

## Historical Context

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First-century Jewish Christians maintained connection to their tribal heritage while recognizing fulfillment in Christ. The 12-tribe structure would resonate with their understanding of covenant continuity. The sealing before judgment parallels Passover's blood mark protecting Israel from Egypt's plague, a familiar redemptive pattern.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does the completeness of the sealed number assure you that not one of God's elect will be lost despite earthly tribulations?
2. What does the preservation of 'Judah' first (v. 5) signify about Christ the Lion of Judah's role in securing His people?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐκ	φυλῆς	Ἰούδα	ιβ'	χιλιάδες	ἐσφραγισμένοι·	ἐκ	
Of	the tribe	G2448	twelve	thousand	were sealed	Of	
G1537	G5443		G1427	G5505	G4972	G1537	
φυλῆς	Ῥουβὴν	ιβ'	χιλιάδες	ἐσφραγισμένοι·	ἐκ	φυλῆς	
the tribe	of Reuben	twelve	thousand	were sealed	Of	the tribe	
G5443	G4502	G1427	G5505	G4972	G1537	G5443	
Γὰδ	ιβ'	χιλιάδες	ἐσφραγισμένοι·				
of Gad	twelve	thousand	were sealed				
G1045	G1427	G5505	G4972				

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