

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

The sealing of 144,000 from Israel's tribes represents God's preservation of His elect during judgment. The number 144,000 (12 tribes \times 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

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

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

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

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org