

Revelation 7:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nepthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.

Analysis

The continued enumeration emphasizes the methodical, complete sealing of all God's covenant people. Each tribe's inclusion demonstrates that God's promises to Israel find fulfillment in the church, with no faithful remnant forgotten. The specific number (12,000 per tribe) symbolizes ordered perfection—God knows each of His own by name. Reformed theology sees this as election's certainty; the Father gave a definite number to the Son (John 6:37-39), and all will be preserved. The systematic counting reassures believers of their security in God's eternal purpose.

Historical Context

By AD 95, the 12 tribes were scattered and largely unidentifiable ethnically, yet God's covenant faithfulness transcends historical discontinuity. This vision asserts that the true Israel is defined spiritually, not genetically. The order and precision counter any notion that God lost track of His promises or people through historical dispersion.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the precision of God's sealing combat fear that you might somehow slip from His covenant protection?
2. What does the inclusion of all tribes teach about God's faithfulness to His promises despite human failure and dispersion?

Interlinear Text

ἐκ	φυλῆς	Ἀσὴρ	ιβ'	χιλιάδες	ἐσφραγισμένοι·	ἐκ
Of	the tribe	of Aser	twelve	thousand	were sealed	Of
G1537	G5443	G768	G1427	G5505	G4972	G1537

φυλῆς	Νεφθαλείμ	ιβ'	χιλιάδες	ἐσφραγισμένοι·	ἐκ
the tribe	of Nephtalim	twelve	thousand	were sealed	Of
G5443	G3508	G1427	G5505	G4972	G1537

φυλῆς	Μανασσῆ	ιβ'	χιλιάδες	ἐσφραγισμένοι·
the tribe	of Manasses	twelve	thousand	were sealed
G5443	G3128	G1427	G5505	G4972

Additional Cross-References

Luke 2:36 (Parallel theme): And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;