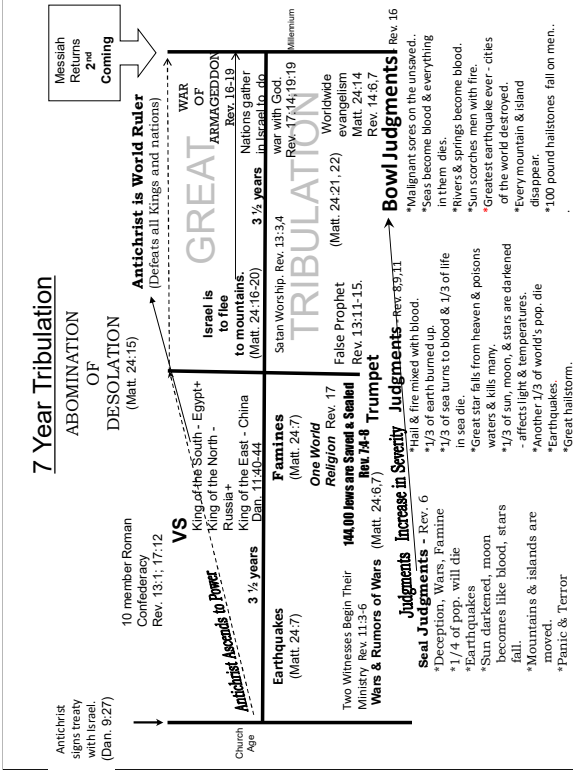
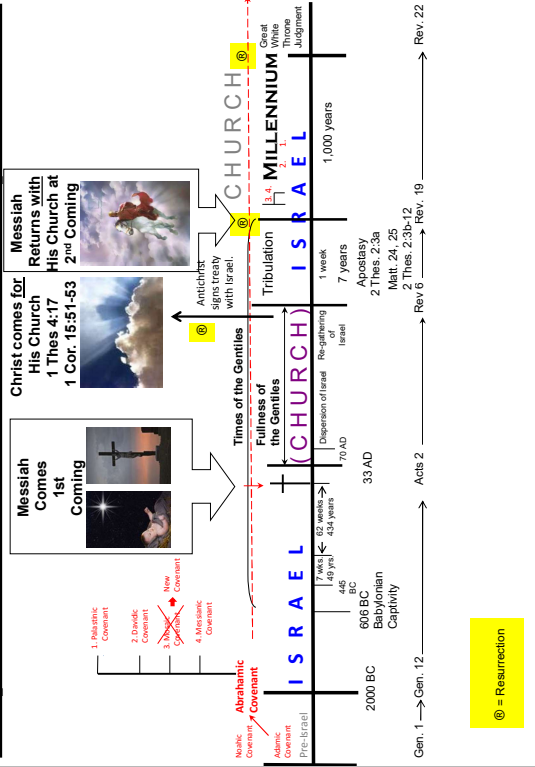


“The 144,000”

Rev. 7:1-8

Sept. 24, 2017

Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events



Rev 7:1-8

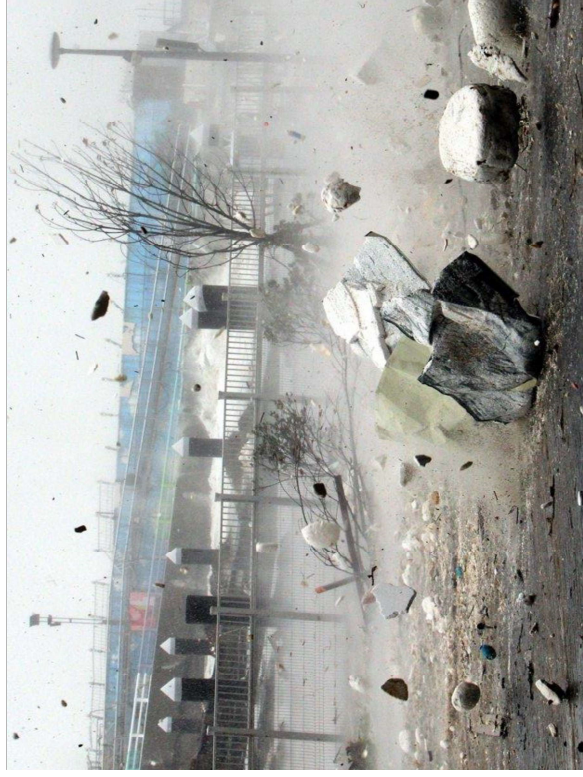
- 1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.
- 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,
- 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."
- 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:
- 5 from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand,
- 6 from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand,
- 7 from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand,
- 8 from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.

Who is able to stand?"

The four corners of the earth do not refer to the earth as being flat, but is idiomatic of the four quadrants of the compass and thus means **north, south, east, and west**.

Rev 7:1-8

- 1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.
- 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,
- 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."
- 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:
- 5 from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand,
- 6 from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand,
- 7 from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand,
- 8 from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.



Rev 7:1-8

- 1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.
- 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,
- 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."
- 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:
Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand,
6 from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand,
7 from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand,
8 from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand ,from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.

Think about it –

No wind, no breeze, no rustling of leaves, no waves breaking on the shore, all lakes like glass, every storm involving wind ceases, wind turbines stop, sail boats come to a stop, kites fall, no clouds are moving, everything is deathly still. No wind for very long would be a disaster.

Rev 7:1-8

- 1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.
- 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,
- 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."
- 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:
Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand,
6 from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand,
7 from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand,
8 from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand ,from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.

Rev 7:1-8

- 1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.
- 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,
- 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."
- 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:
Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand,
6 from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand,
7 from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand,
8 from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand ,from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.

2 Groups of people in the Tribulation:

“those who are perishing” (2 Thess. 2:10-12)

2 Thess 2:1-12

- 1 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,
- 2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.
- 3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,
- 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.
- 5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?
- 6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.
- 8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;
- 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,
- 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.
- 11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,
- 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

2 Groups of people in the Tribulation:

“those who are perishing” (2 Thess. 2:10-12)

1. They have rejected the truth.
 2. They are being given a deluding influence.
 3. They all will be judged.
 - God will dispatch on those unbelievers living during the 7 year Tribulation period, who have rejected the truth, a pervading and overwhelming belief in the lie that the antichrist is God.
- **Result:** sealed unto eternal damnation.

Other examples of man rejects God/God rejects man.

• The Flood

Gen 6:1-3

- 1 Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.
 - 3 Then the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."
- **There comes a point when God stops striving and God starts judging. Evangelists through the centuries have said, "If you continue to reject the truth past the period of grace, you will wake up in the period of judgment and you will have no capacity to believe anything but a lie."

• Pharaoh

Ex 8:15

15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, **he hardened his heart** and did not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

Ex 8:32

32 But **Pharaoh hardened his heart** this time also, and he did not let the people go.

Ex 9:12

12 **And the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart**, and he did not listen to them, just as the Lord had spoken to Moses.

• Unbelieving Jews in Isaiah's day

Isa 6:9-11

- 9 "Go, and tell this people:
'Keep on listening, but do not perceive;
Keep on looking, but do not understand.'
10 "Render the hearts of this people insensitive,
Their ears dull,
And their eyes dim,
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
Hear with their ears,
Understand with their hearts,
And return and be healed."
11 Then I said, "Lord, how long?" And He answered,
"Until cities are devastated and without inhabitant,
Houses are without people
And the land is utterly desolate,

• Unbelieving Jew's in Jesus' day

Matt 13:13-15

13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

14 "In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says,

'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND;

YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;

15 FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL,

WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR,

AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES,

OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES,

HEAR WITH THEIR EARS,

AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN,

AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.'

• Unbelievers in Rom. 1

Rom 1

- 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who **suppress the truth** in unrighteousness,
24 Therefore **God gave them over** in the lusts of their hearts to impurity,
26 For this reason **God gave them over** to degrading passions;
28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, **God gave them over** to a depraved mind,

2 Groups of people in the Tribulation:

“those who are perishing” (2 Thess. 2:10-12)

“those who are the elect” (Matt. 24:22,24,31)

Matt 24:22,24,31

22 "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of **the elect** those days will be cut short.

24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even **the elect**.

31 "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER **His elect** from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

2 Groups of people in the Tribulation:

“those who are perishing” (2 Thess. 2:10-12)

“those who are the elect” (Matt. 24:22,24,31)

1. They receive and believe the truth.
- God will use the Holy Spirit to convict of sin (Jn 16:8), the Word of God to impart truth (Heb 4:12), and will give faith to believe the truth (Rom. 10:17).
2. They are sealed unto eternal life.

Rev 7:1-8

1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,

3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

4 **And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:**

5 from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand,

6 from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand,

7 from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand,

8 from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.

Views of who the “144,000” are -

1. It is simply a round number and to be taken symbolically.
2. It refers to the Church.
3. It refers to the Jehovah Witnesses. (3 bands)
4. It refers to the Mormon Elders.
5. It refers to the followers of Herbert W. Armstrong.
6. It literally means what it says – “144,000” Jews, 12,000 that have descended from each of the 12 tribes. They are the first stage of a final harvest of Jewish people -

Rev 14:4

- 4 These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb.

What do we know about Israel?

1. Israel was born out of the sovereignty of God.

Deut 7:7

7 The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples,

8 but because the Lord loved you

2. God entered into covenants with Israel.

3. Israel because of disobedience, sin and idolatry failed in her mission for God.

4. Israel rejected her Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. God brought death, judgment, and destruction upon Israel/Jerusalem in 70 AD and scattered the Jews around the world.

6. Israel still has a future because of God's unconditional promises (Covenants) to Israel. (Rom. 9-11. Rom. 11:26 “all Israel will be saved.”)

7. Israel's position in the world today:

- They are still partially and temporarily set aside.
- Many have returned back to the land of Israel.
- They are returning in unbelief.

- **On Independence Day 2017 Israel's population stood at 8,680,000. This is a 10-fold increase compared to when Israel was founded in 1948.**

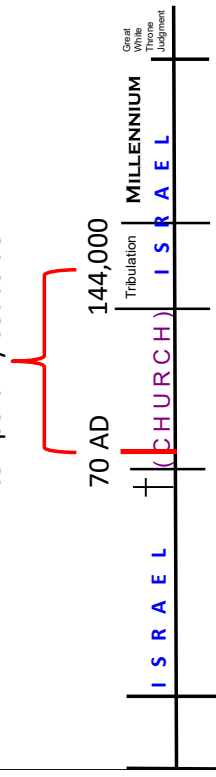
- The Jewish population makes up 6,484,000 (74.7%); 1,808,000 (20.8%) are Arabs; and, those identified as "others" (non-Arab Christians, Baha'i, etc) make up 4.5% of the population (388,000 people). When the state was established, there were only 806,000 residents and the total population reached its first and second millions in 1949 and 1958 respectively. Judging by current population trend data, experts predict that the population of Israel will reach 10 million by 2025 or sooner.
- Out of the 14.3 million Jewish people in the world, 43% reside in Israel.
- Of Israeli Jews, 44% self-identify as Secular, 11% simply as religious, and 9% as Ultra-Orthodox, 36% as other.

7. Israel's position in the world today:

- They are still partially and temporarily set aside.
- Many have returned back to the land of Israel.
- They are returning in unbelief.
- Israel, as a nation, in the Church age will remain in their current position until the 144,000 complete their evangelism campaign.
- Jews can be reconciled to God through their Messiah, Jesus Christ and be joined to the Church, the body of Christ. There is no dual-covenant.
- 2/3 of Israel will be wiped out by God in the Tribulation. (Zech 13:8,9)
- The next great event for spiritual Israel is the saving & sealing of the 144,000 which will lead to the salvation of the whole nation that are left at the end of the Tribulation.

*Pharaoh tried to drown the children of Israel and they would not drown. Nebuchadnezzar tried to burn them and they would not burn. Haman tried to hang them and they would not hang. Israel is here to stay!

Israel partially and temporarily set aside.



Gen 12:1-3

- 1 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

Rom 9:6

- 6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;

Gal 3:7,28,29

- 7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

Rev 7:1-8

- 1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads." 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: 5 from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, 6 from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, 7 from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, 8 from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.

The seal meant –

1. Ownership by God.
“The mark which denotes ownership also carries with it the protection of the owner,”
2. Protection from harm – wars, disease, asteroids, starvation, chaos, etc.
3. Protection from physical death.
4. Protection from deception.
5. Protection from the Antichrist.
- In the destruction of man in the Flood, God knew how to protect the eight people that He wanted to protect.
- In the destruction that came in the city of Jericho, He knew how to protect the one woman He wanted to protect, Rahab.
- In the destruction that came to Sodom and Gomorrah, He knew how to protect the family of Lot.

During the time of the Tribulation, there will be

three categories of people with or without marks:

1. Those who are sealed and protected by God for special ministry.
2. Those who accept the mark of the beast and are doomed.
3. Those who refuse the mark of the beast, many of whom are martyred.

What is the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the

144,000?

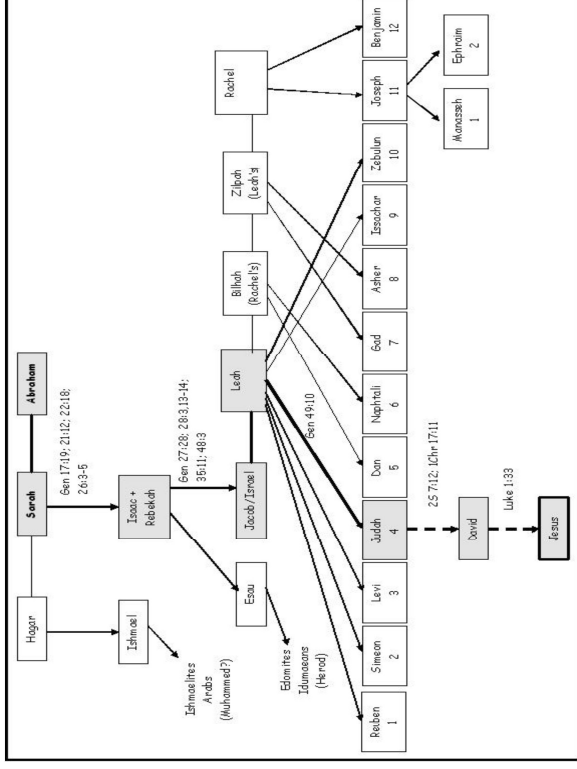
1. Conviction?
2. Regenerating?
3. Baptizing?
4. Indwelling?
5. Sealing?
6. Controlling?
7. Teaching?

Rev 7:1-8

- 1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.
- 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,
- 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."
- 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:
- 5 from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand,
- 6 from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand,
- 7 from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.

In the Old Testament lists (20), sometimes:

- the order of birth is followed (Gen. 29:32-35:18).
- the order of Jacob's blessing them (Gen. 49:3-27),
- the order of encampment (Num. 2:31)
- the order of the census before the invasion of Canaan (Num. 26:4-51),
- the order of blessing and cursing (Deut. 27:12-13),
- the order of Moses' blessing (Deut. 33:6-25),
- the order of 'the princes' (Num. 1:5-15),
- the order of inheritance (Josh. 13:7-22:34),
- the order by the wives and concubines (1 Chron. 2:1-8:40),
- the order of the gates of the city (Ezek. 48:31-34).





**Thomas O. Chisholm
(1866-1960)**

A native of the small Kentucky town of Franklin, Thomas Chisholm (1866-1960) was born in a log cabin. He lacked formal education. Nevertheless, he became a teacher at age sixteen and the associate editor of his hometown weekly newspaper, the *Franklin Advocate*, at age twenty-one. In 1893 Chisholm became a Christian through the ministry of Henry Clay Morrison, the founder of Asbury College and Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. Though he was ordained a Methodist minister in 1903, he served only a single, brief appointment at Scottsville, Kentucky, due to ill health. Chisholm relocated his family to Winona Lake, Indiana, to recover, and then to Vineland, New Jersey, in 1916 where he sold insurance. He retired in 1953 and spent his remaining years in a Methodist retirement community in Ocean Grove, New Jersey.



**Thomas O. Chisholm
(1866-1960)**

By the time of his retirement, he had written more than 1200 poems, 800 of which were published. They often appeared in religious periodicals such as the *Sunday School Times*, *Moody Monthly*, and *Alliance Weekly*. Many of these were set to music. Chisholm had sent a number of his poems to the Rev. William H. Runyan (1870-1957), a musician with the Moody Bible Institute and one of the editors of Hope Publishing Company in Chicago. Runyan wrote of this hymn: "This particular poem held such an appeal that I prayed most earnestly that my tune might carry over its message in a worthy way, and the subsequent history of its use indicates that God answered my prayer. It was written in Baldwin, Kansas, in 1923, and was first published in my private song pamphlets."



**Thomas O. Chisholm
(1866-1960)**

George Beverly Shea (1909-2013), the famous Canadian-born singer of the Billy Graham Crusades, introduced this hymn to those attending the evangelistic meetings in Great Britain in 1954. It immediately became a favorite. Dr. Will Houghton of Moody Bible Institute discovered this hymn and in chapel would many times say, "Well, I think we need to sing this hymn." It became an unofficial theme song for the Institute and when Houghton died he had this hymn sung at his funeral. The hymn is . . .

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be. | 2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. |
| Refrain
<i>Great is Thy faithfulness!</i>
<i>Great is Thy faithfulness!</i>
<i>Morning by morning new mercies I see.</i>
<i>All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;</i>
<i>Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!</i> | Refrain
3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Refrain |