



THE FOUR WINDS LOOSED & God's People Sealed

Spring will be
early this year...
according to a
groundhog.



Revelation 7:1

After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

Revelation 7:2

Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,

Revelation 7:3

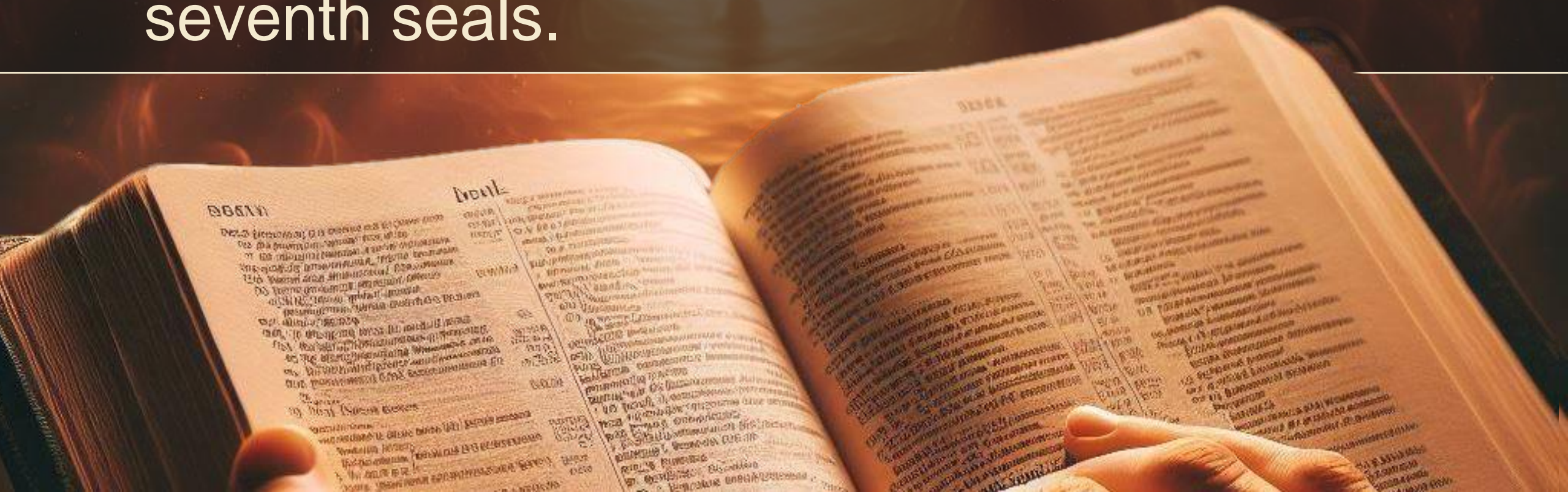
saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”

Revelation 7:4

And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred *and* forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel *were* sealed:

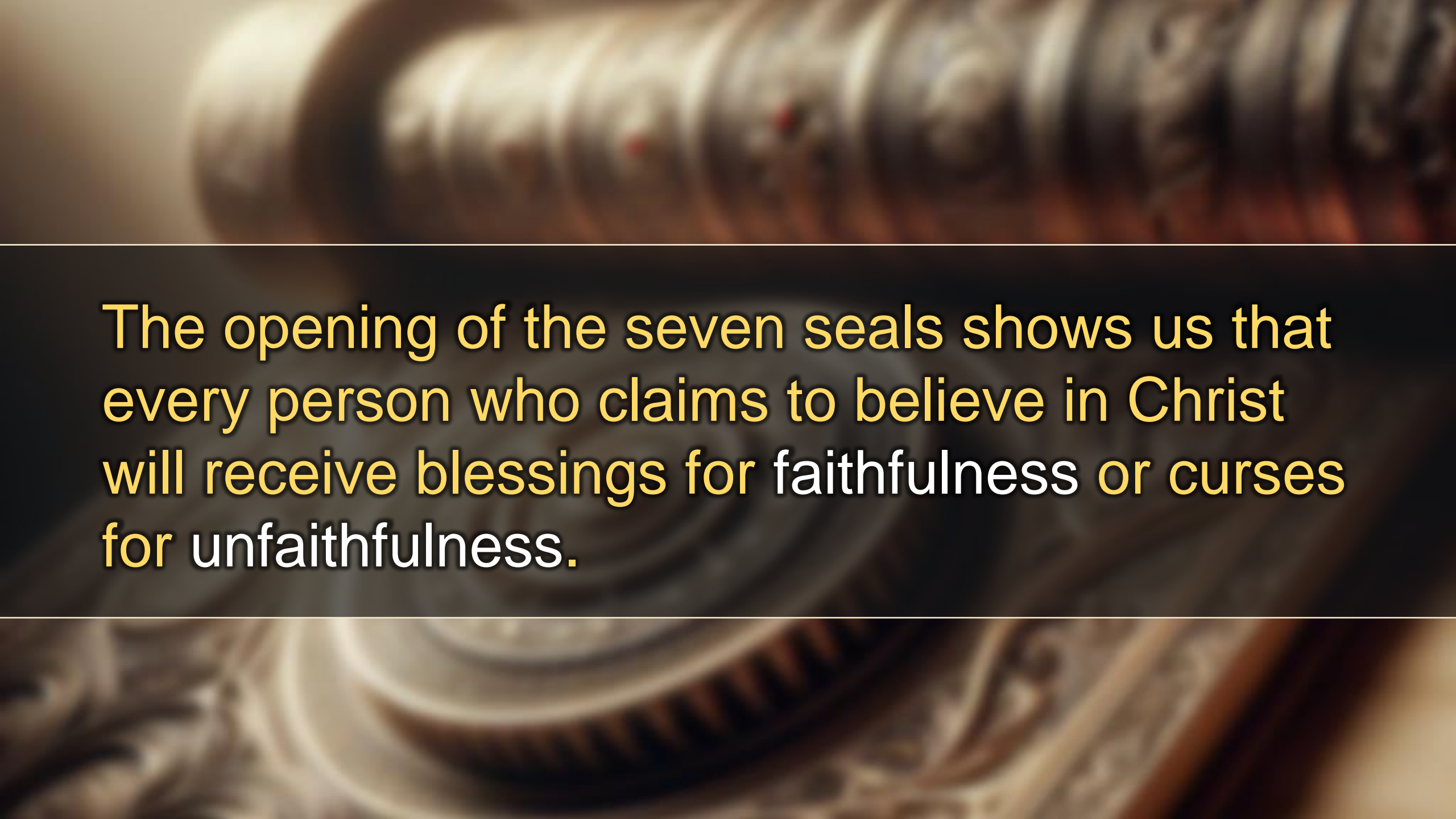
THE CONTEXT OF REV. 7

Chapter 7 is an interlude inserted parenthetically between the sixth and seventh seals.





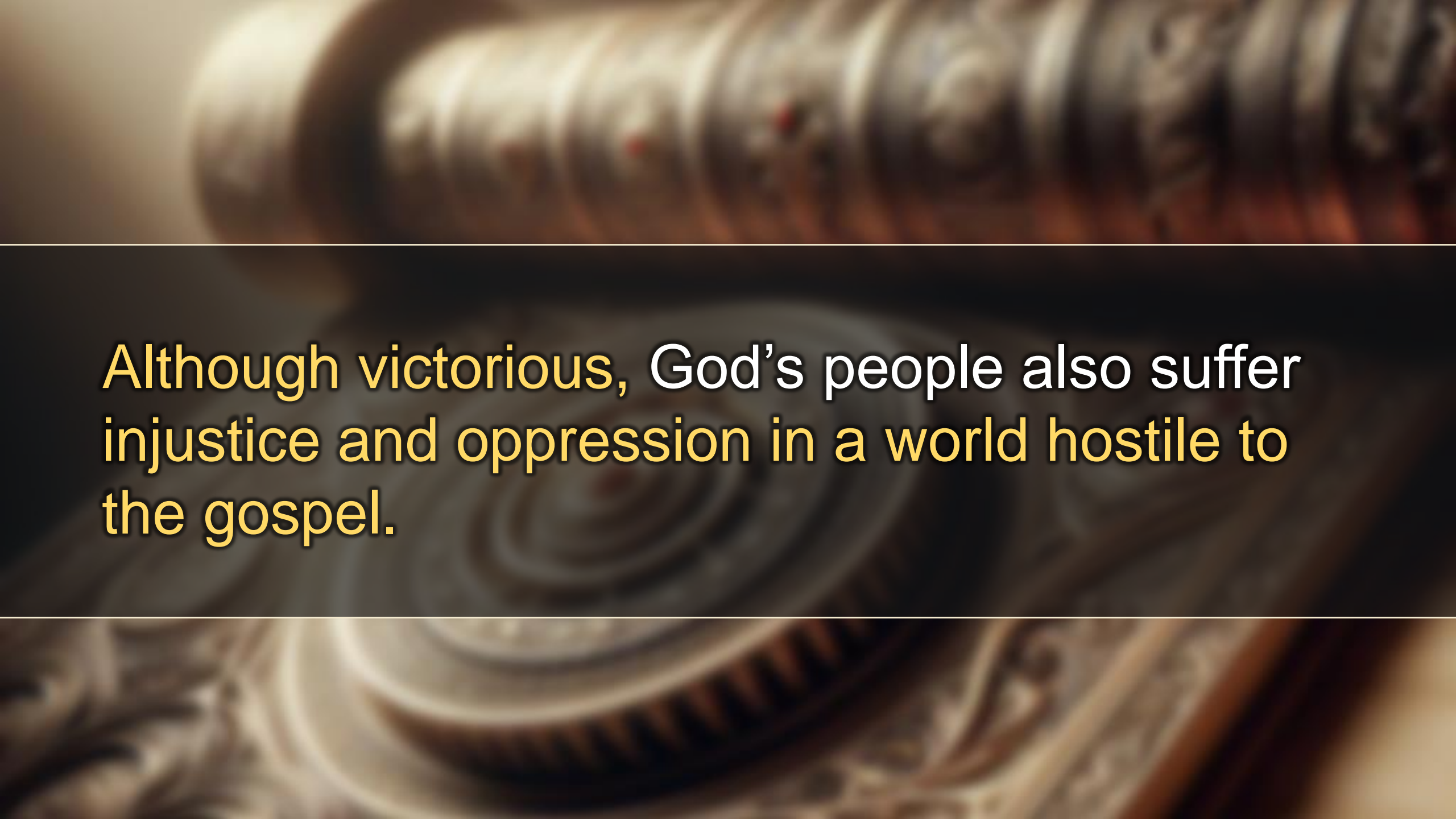
THE SEVEN SEALS OF REVELATION



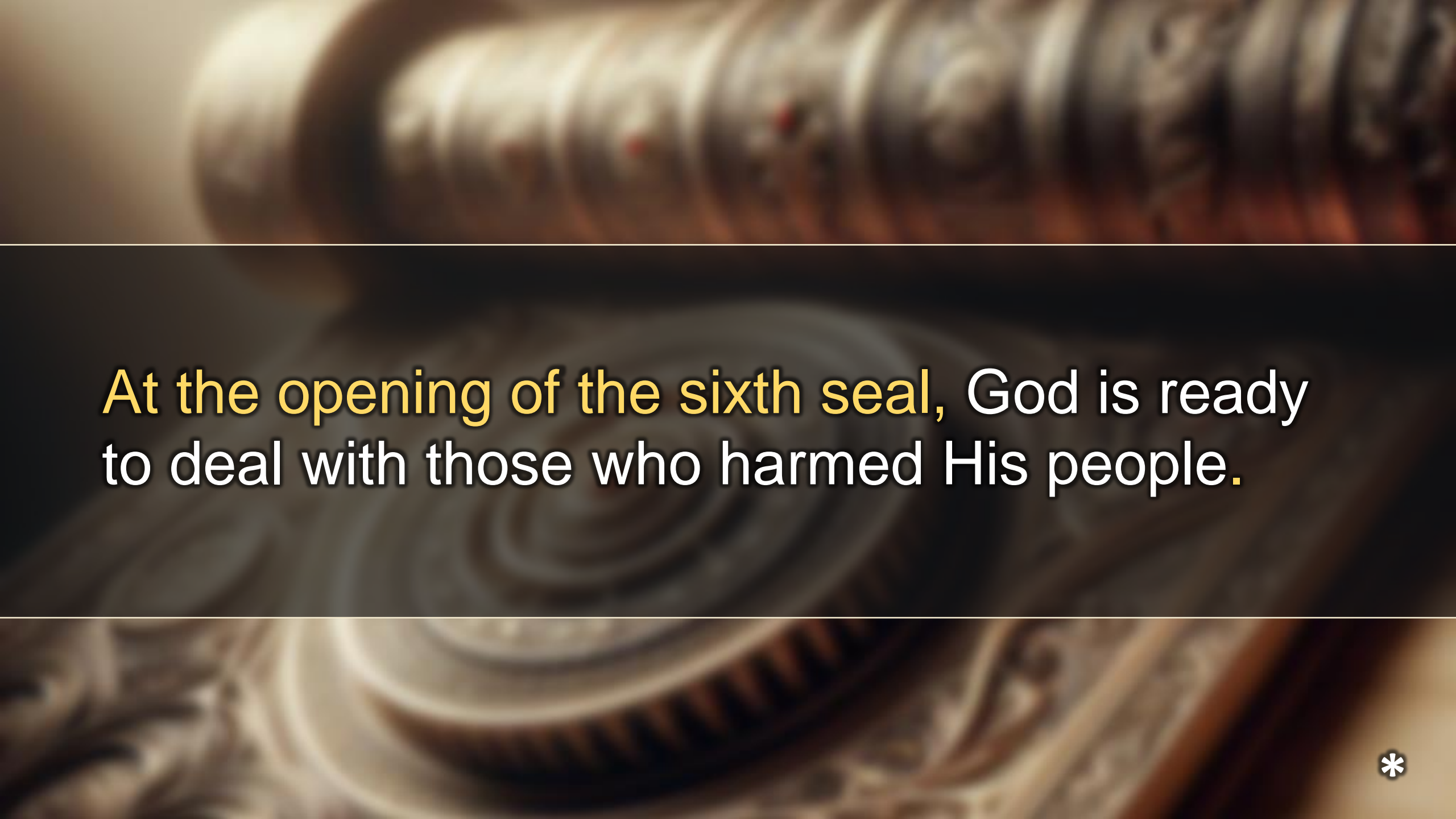
The opening of the seven seals shows us that every person who claims to believe in Christ will receive blessings for faithfulness or curses for unfaithfulness.

The first four seals (*church history*) describe God's disciplinary means to rouse His people from their spiritual lethargy and make them victorious.

**The history of God's church (the 4 horses) from the apostles until the Reformation.■*



Although victorious, God's people also suffer injustice and oppression in a world hostile to the gospel.



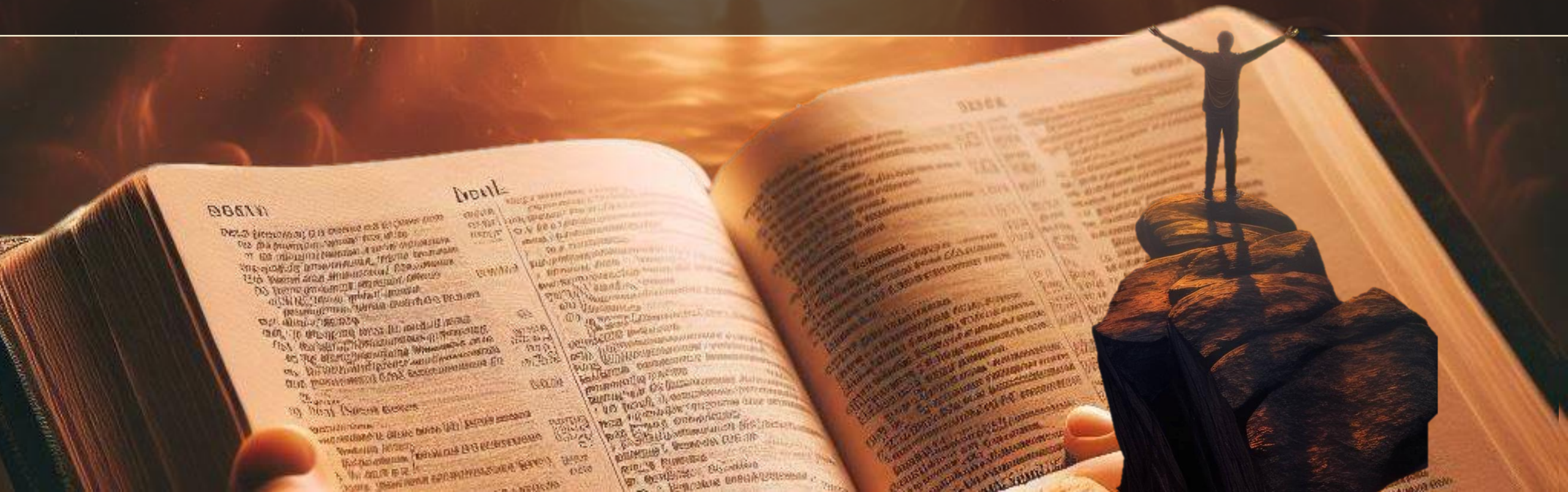
At the opening of the sixth seal, God is ready to deal with those who harmed His people.



- Rev. 7 is an interlude inserted parenthetically between the sixth and seventh seals.
- The sixth seal brings us to the second coming of Christ.



As the wicked face judgment, Revelation
7 answers their question about who will stand on
the day of Christ's coming:
Those who have been sealed, the 144,000.



The other
characteristics of the
144,000 are given
in Revelation 14:1-5.



Revelation 14:1

Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him **one hundred *and* forty-four thousand**, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.

Revelation 14:2

And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

Revelation 14:3

They sang as it were a **new song** before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

Revelation 14:4

These are the ones who were **not defiled with women**, for they are virgins. These are the ones who **follow the Lamb** wherever He goes.

These were redeemed from among men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

Revelation 14:5

And in their **mouth was found no deceit**, for they are without fault before the throne of God.





THE SEVEN TRUMPETS OF REVELATION

There is also an interlude
inserted between the sixth
and seventh trumpets
(*Rev. 10:1-11:14*).



THIS INTERLUDE:

- Commences with the Second Great Awakening (*Protestant Revival 1795 to 1835*) and the birth of the Advent Movement



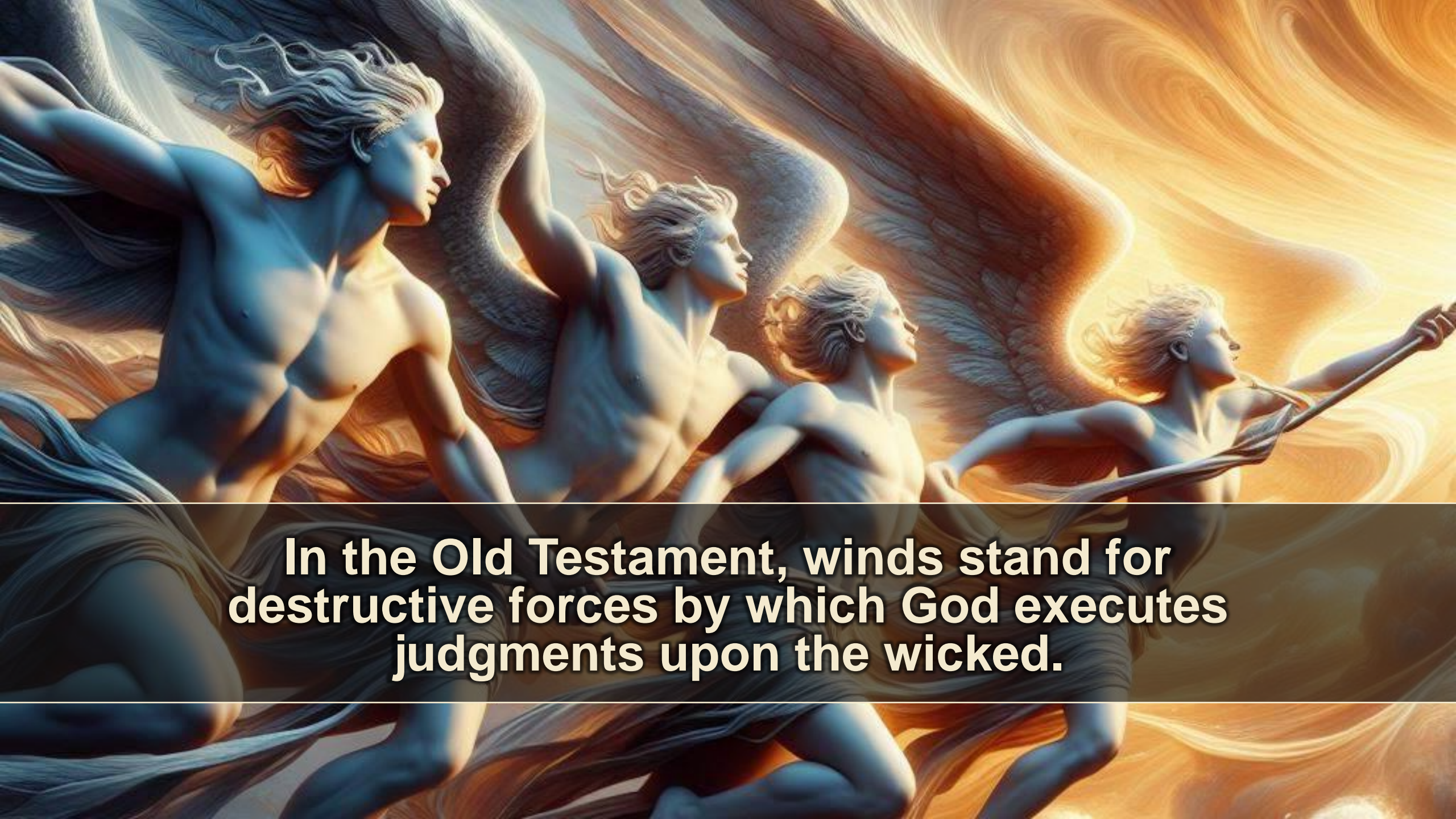
THIS INTERLUDE:

- Coincides with the same time-period as the opening scenes of chapter 7 and focuses on the experience and task of God's end-time people.



Revelation 7:1

After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding **the four winds of the earth**, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

The image depicts four winged angels in a dynamic, golden-hued scene. They are shown from the waist up, facing right, with their bodies rendered in a light, almost ethereal blue-grey tone. Their wings are large and feathered, with a golden glow emanating from behind them. The background is a swirling, golden light, suggesting a divine or celestial environment. The overall composition is energetic and dramatic.

In the Old Testament, winds stand for destructive forces by which God executes judgments upon the wicked.


Jeremiah 23:19

Behold, a **whirlwind** of
the LORD has gone forth in fury—
A violent whirlwind!
It will **fall violently on the head of
the wicked.**

Jeremiah 23:20

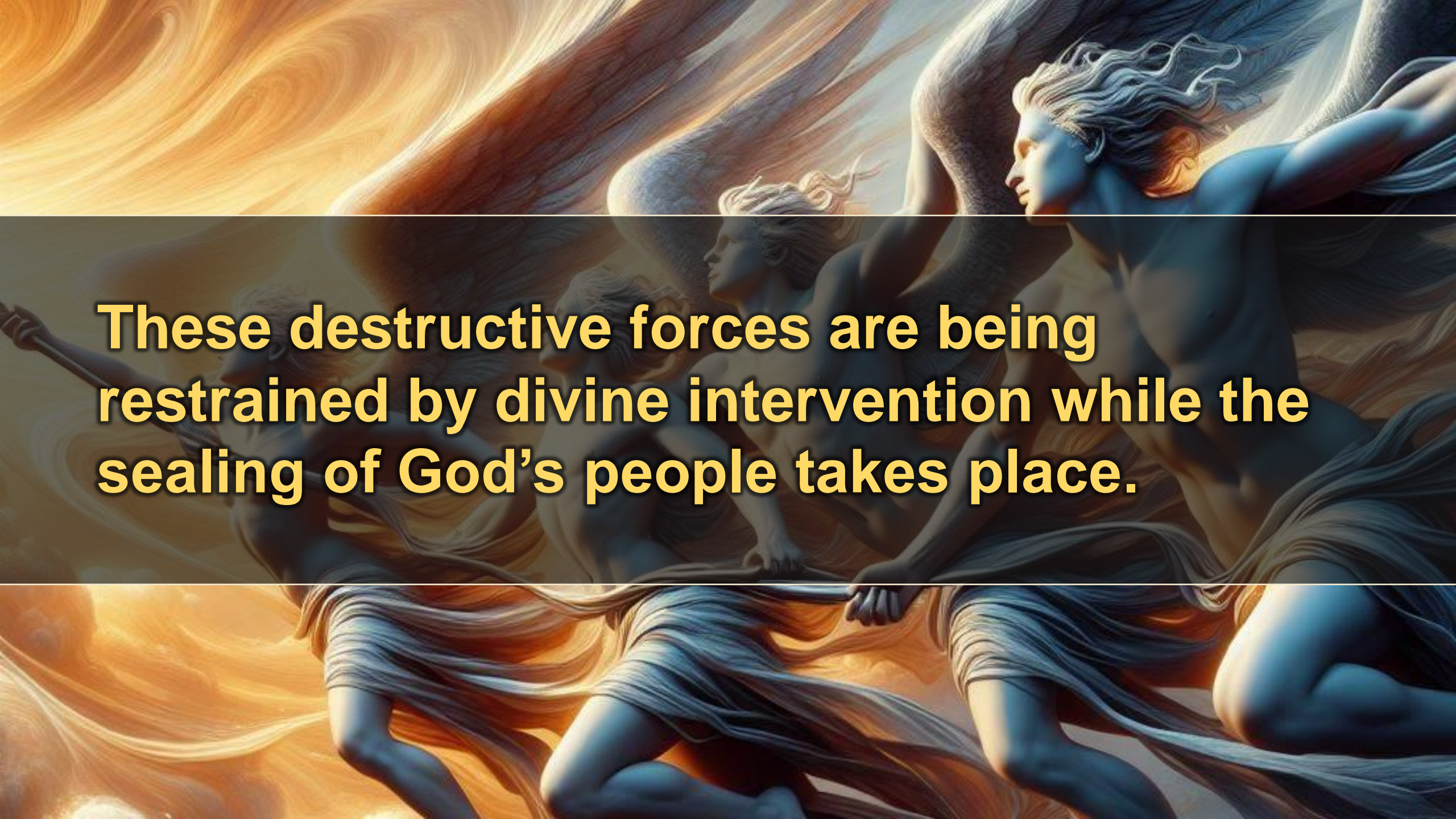
The anger of the LORD will not turn back Until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. **In the latter days you will understand it perfectly.**



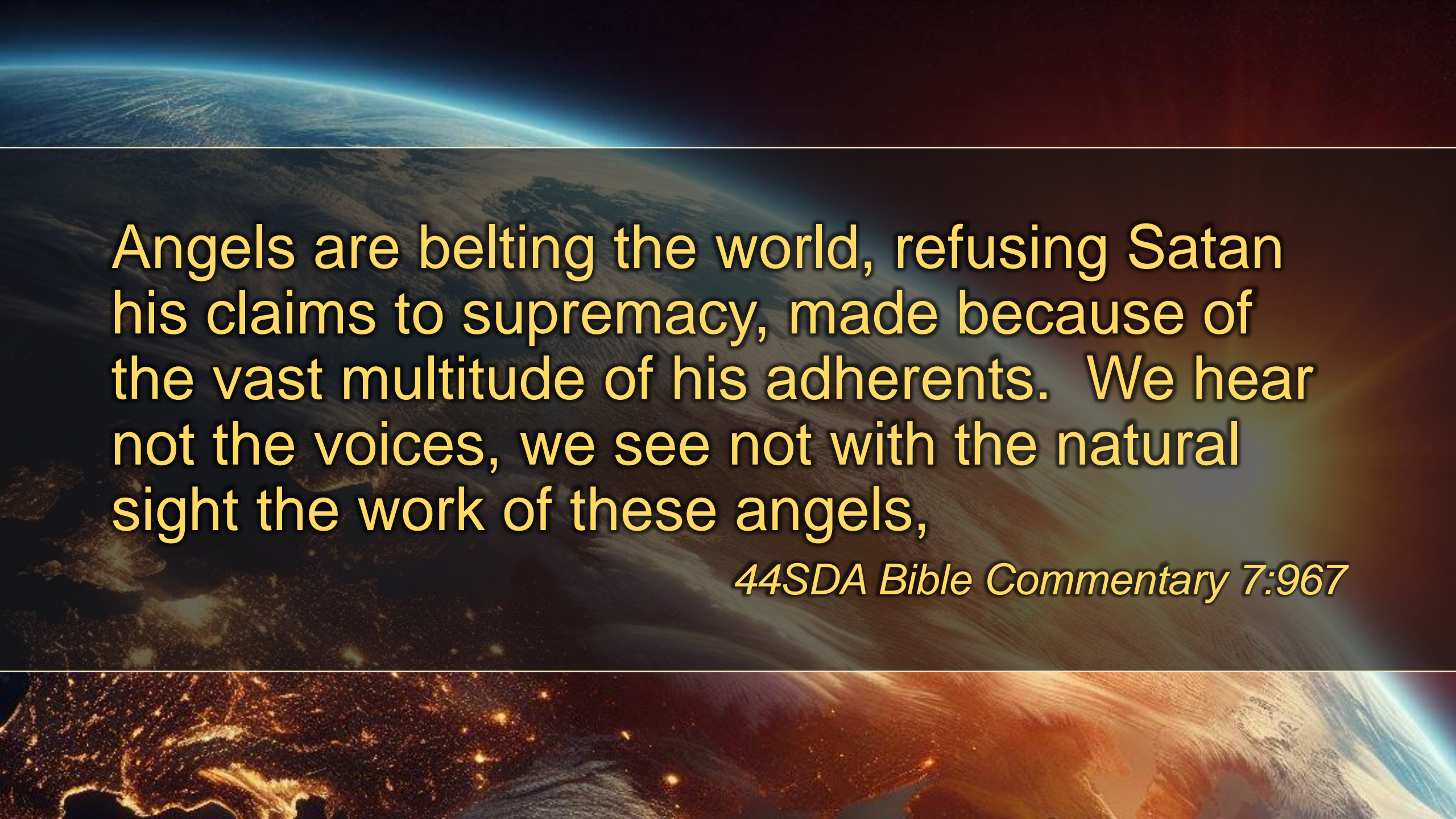


**“As the angels of God
cease to hold in check the
fierce winds of human
passions, all the elements
of strife will be let loose”.**

The Great Controversy, p. 614

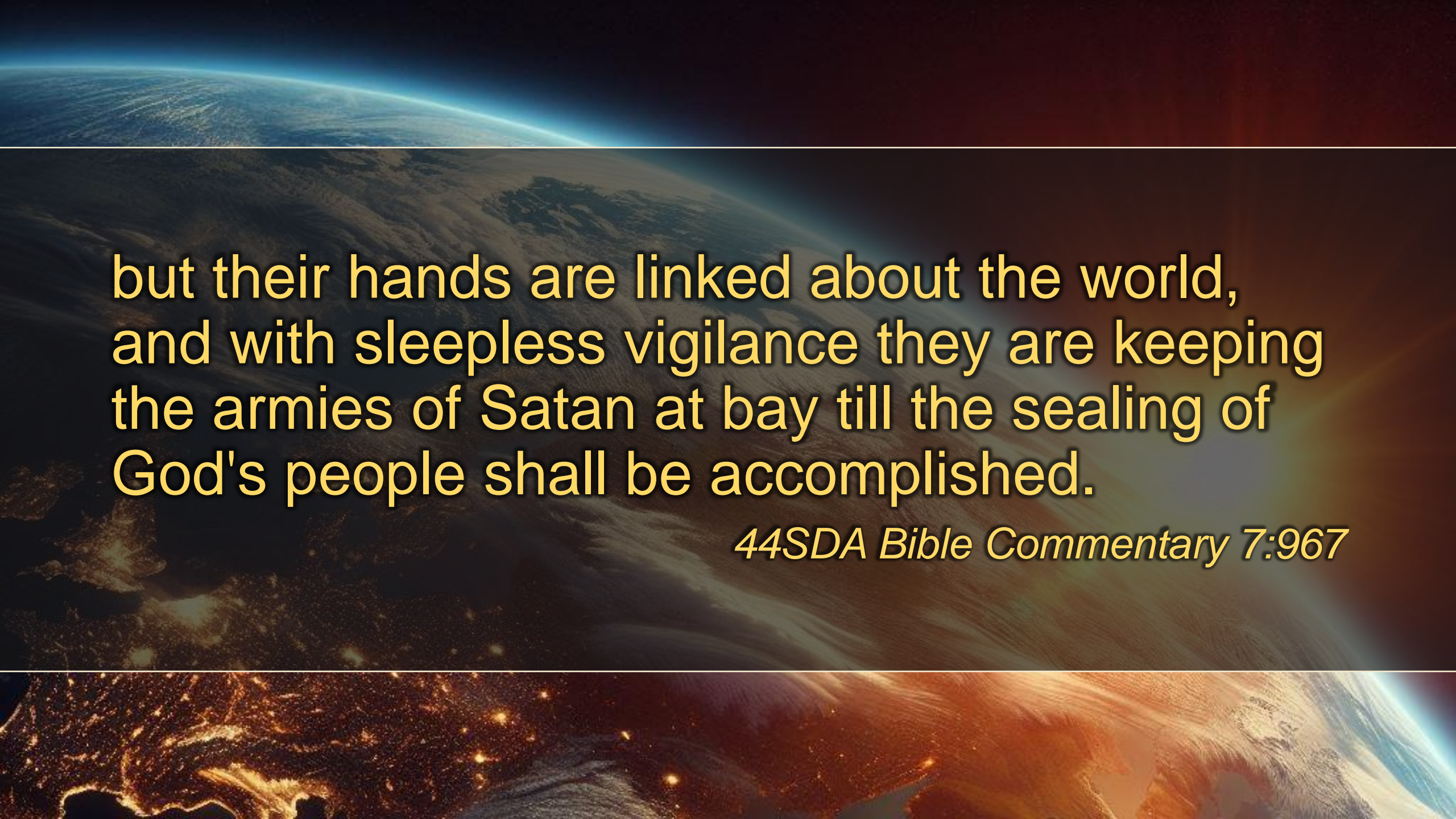


These destructive forces are being restrained by divine intervention while the sealing of God's people takes place.



Angels are belting the world, refusing Satan his claims to supremacy, made because of the vast multitude of his adherents. We hear not the voices, we see not with the natural sight the work of these angels,

44SDA Bible Commentary 7:967

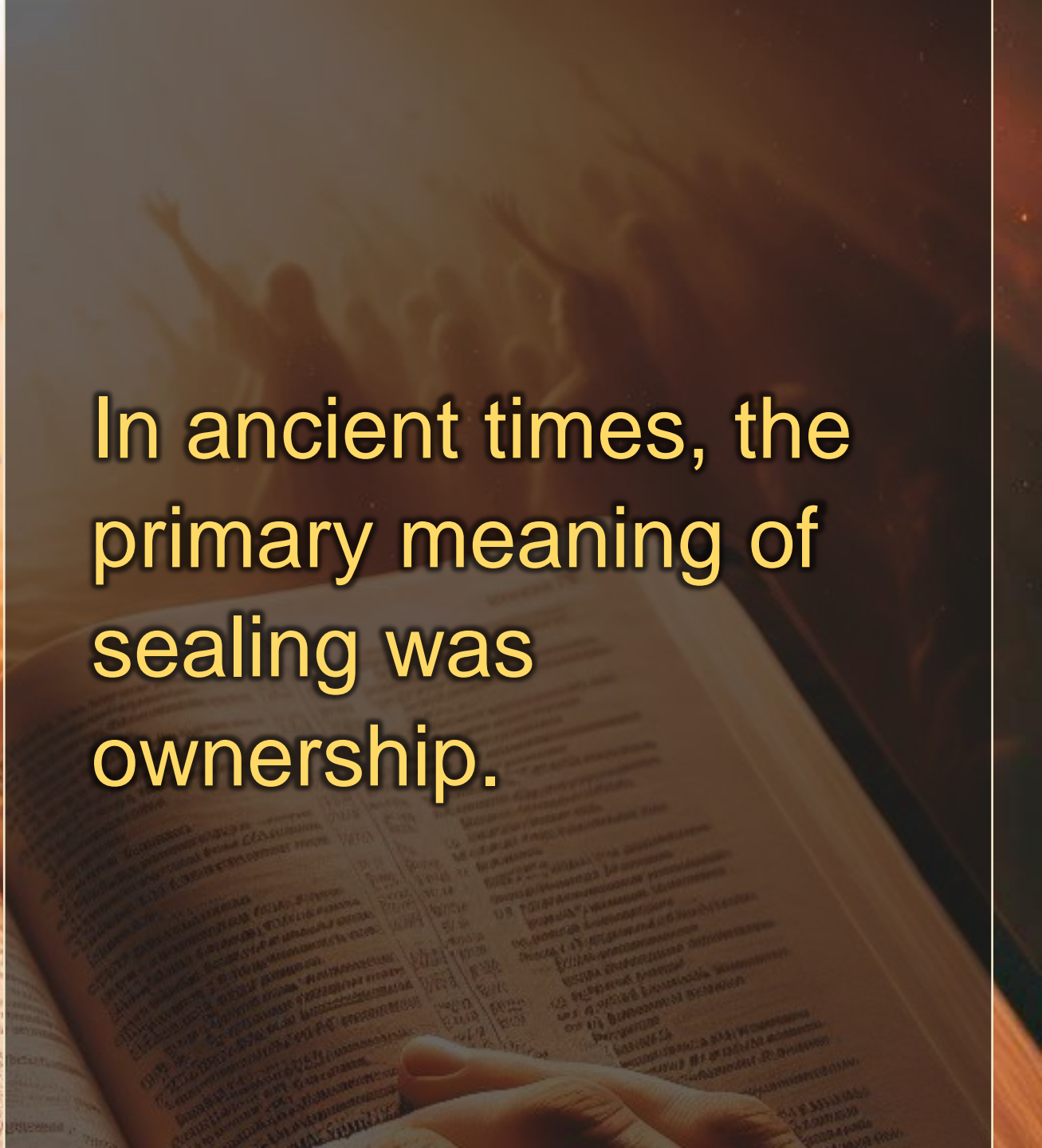


but their hands are linked about the world,
and with sleepless vigilance they are keeping
the armies of Satan at bay till the sealing of
God's people shall be accomplished.

44SDA Bible Commentary 7:967

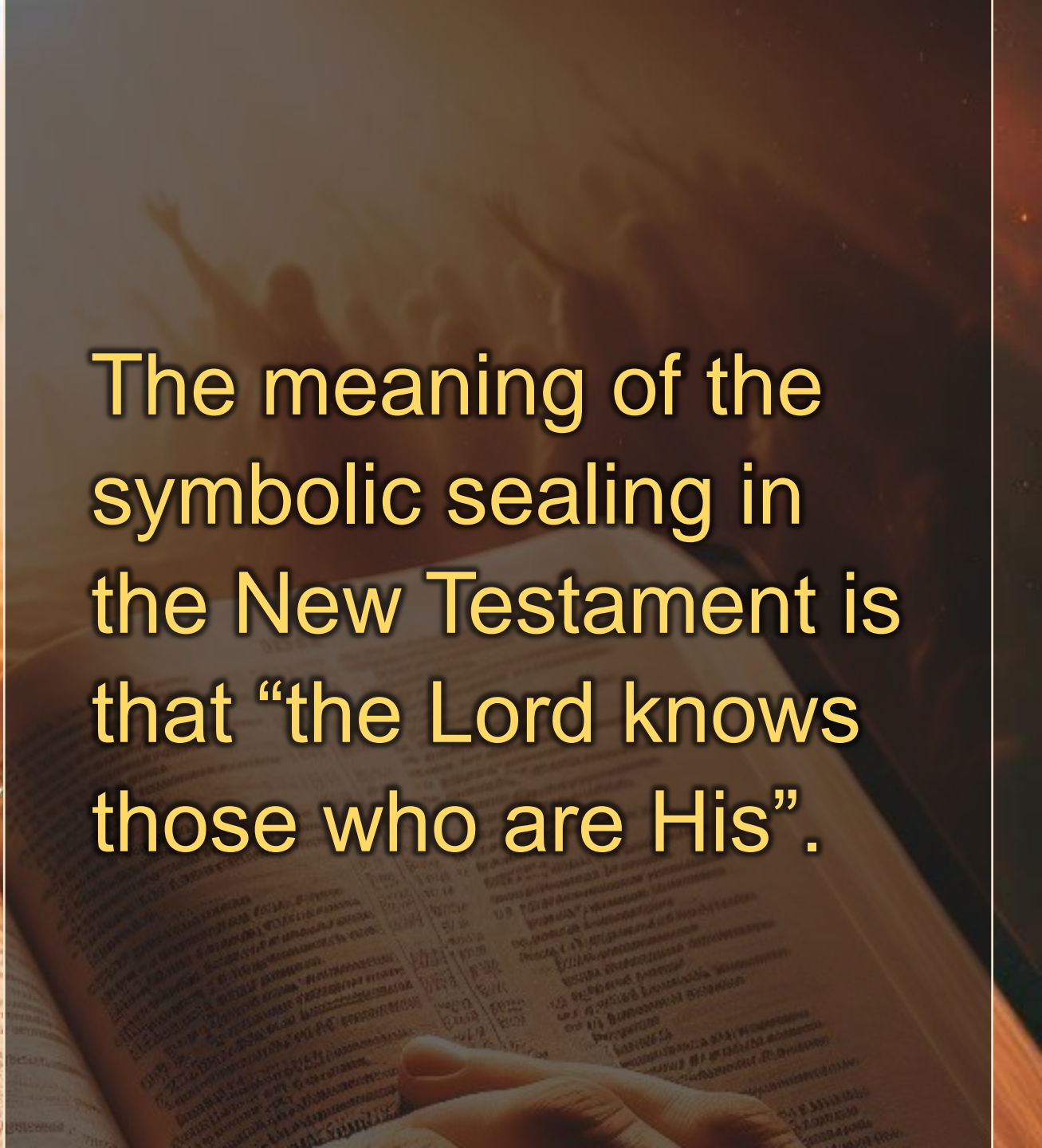


In ancient times, the primary meaning of sealing was ownership.





The meaning of the symbolic sealing in the New Testament is that “the Lord knows those who are His”.



2 Timothy 2:19

Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “**The Lord knows those who are His,**” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”





God recognizes His own people and seals them with the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the **Holy Spirit** of God, **by whom you were sealed** for the day of redemption.



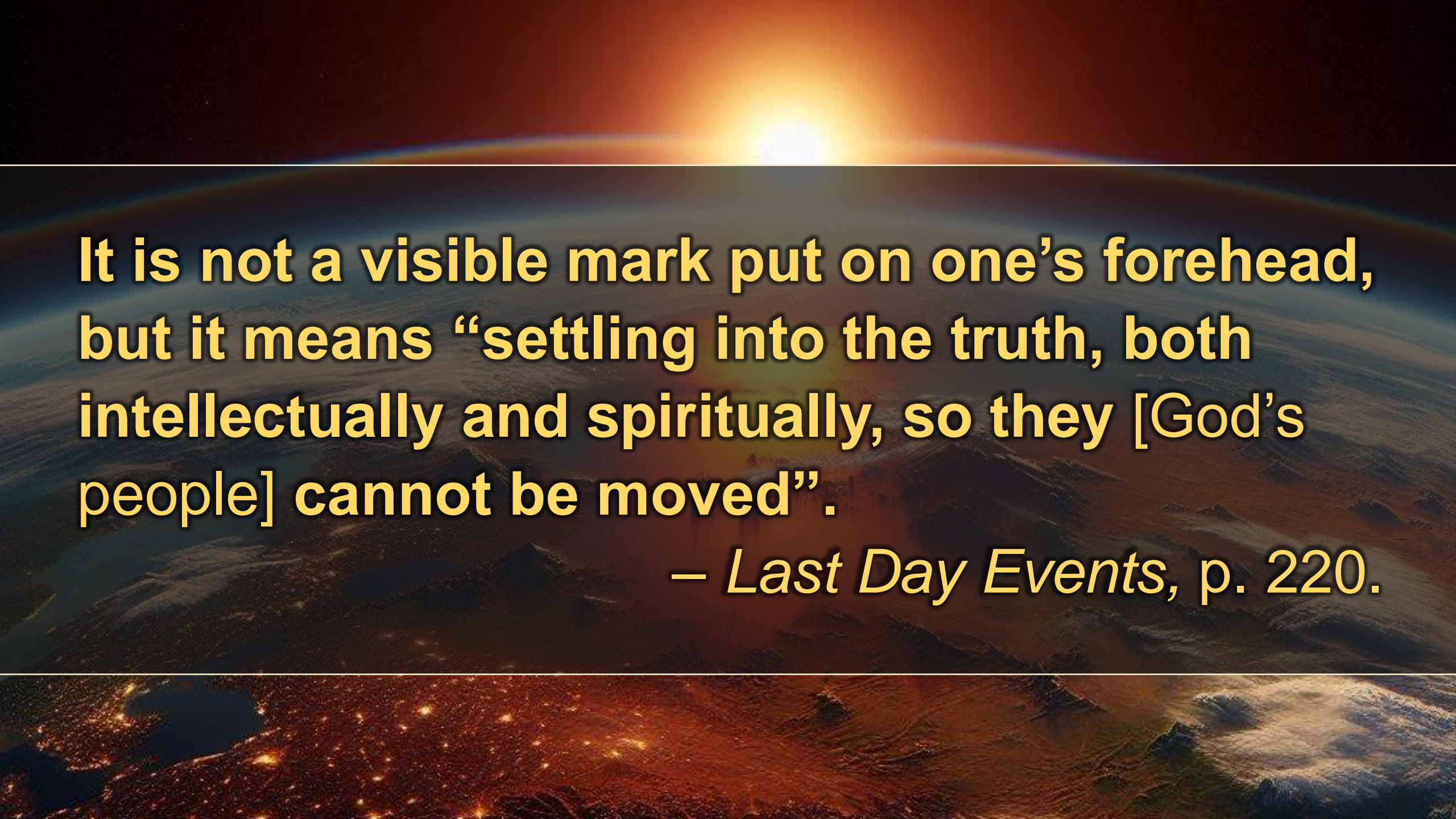


At the end-time, the seal on the forehead is given to God's faithful people, who keep His commandments

Revelation 14:12

Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* **those who keep the commandments of God** and the faith of Jesus.





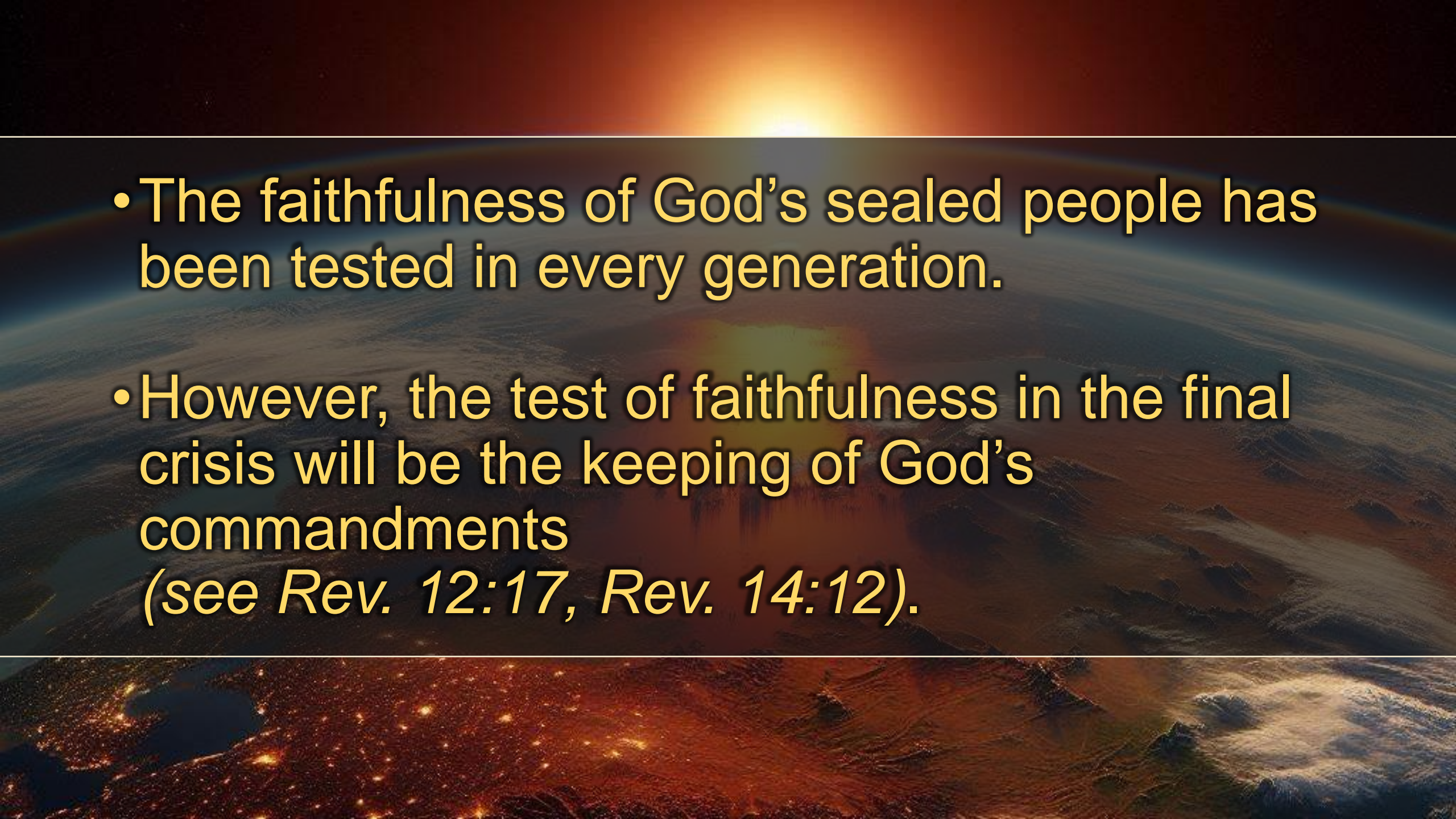
It is not a visible mark put on one's forehead, but it means “settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they [God's people] cannot be moved”.

– Last Day Events, p. 220.

**In contrast, those
who ultimately side
with the beast
receive the mark of
the beast.**

(see Rev. 13:16-17)



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- The faithfulness of God's sealed people has been tested in every generation.
 - However, the test of faithfulness in the final crisis will be the keeping of God's commandments
(see *Rev. 12:17, Rev. 14:12*).

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- In particular, the fourth commandment will become the test of obedience to God (*Rev. 14:7*).

Revelation 12:17

And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who **keep the commandments of God** and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 14:12

Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* those who keep the **commandments of God** and the faith of Jesus.

Revelation 14:7

saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and **worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.**”



The background of the image is a composite of two space photographs of Earth. The top half shows the bright, glowing horizon of the planet against the blackness of space. The bottom half shows a view of the Earth's surface from space, with a city's lights glowing in the lower-left corner and the dark, textured landscape of the rest of the planet.

The faithfulness of God's sealed people has been tested in every generation.

As the Sabbath has been the sign of God's people in biblical times so it will be the sign of loyalty to God in the final crisis.



At the time of the end, the seal also functions as a sign of protection from the destructive forces of the seven last plagues.

(see Ezek. 9:1-11 for the backdrop imagery of Rev. 7:1-3).

Ezekiel 9:4

and the LORD said to him, “Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.”

The great question
of Revelation 6:17.



Revelation 6:17

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





**Paul warns us
not to grieve the
Holy Spirit by
whom we have
been sealed.**

Ephesians 4:30

And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**





Would you like to be sealed by god?



THE FOUR WINDS LOOSED & God's People Sealed