

## Revelation Chapter 7

### 1) Brief Summary of Chapter 7

- a) Calamity is coming to the earth but is being held back.
- b) Servants of God on the earth are to be sealed for protection from the calamity that is coming.
- c) A great multitude is before the throne, victorious and praising God and the Lamb for salvation.

### 2) The 144,000 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, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. [2](#) Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, [3](#) saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” [4](#) I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: [5](#) 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad, [6](#) 12,000 from the tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh, [7](#) 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar, [8](#) 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

- i) Since all the destruction of chapter 6, a legitimate question is “What becomes of the saints?”
- ii) The question of the martyrs, “How long, O Lord?”, may not have been completely answered.
- iii) The first six seals were opened in rapid succession, and one might expect that the seventh seal would be opened next, but there is an “interlude” shown to John.
  - (1) Many commentators think that the scenes of chapter 7 do not follow chapter 6 chronologically.
  - (2) Some other commentators suggest that the scenes of chapter 7 might have appeared during the “a little longer” of Rev. 6:11.
  - (3) Still others think the “four winds” being held back are simply another symbol for the four horsemen of chapter 6.

- (4) My opinion is that John has chapter 7 in the correct place, because he opens the chapter with “After this”.
- iv) After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. (7:1)
- (1) Four is used three times in this verse.
- (a) Four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth ...
  - (b) Four corners of a square include everything in the square (not that the earth is a flat square, but it is a symbol of universality – everywhere, all-inclusive).
    - (i) Four directions (north, east, south, west) cover the entire earth. There is no need to have NE, SE, SW, NW or any other compass points to signify the entire earth.
  - (c) Four winds also signify all directions.
    - (i) Winds are used to signify the actions of God, which are being held back temporarily in this case.
      1. Isaiah 57:13 - [13](#) When you cry out, let your collection of idols deliver you! The wind will carry them all off, a breath will take them away. But he who takes refuge in me shall possess the land and shall inherit my holy mountain.
      2. Jeremiah 18:17 - [17](#) Like the east wind I will scatter them before the enemy. I will show them my back, not my face, in the day of their calamity.”
      3. Jeremiah 49:35-36 - [35](#) Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, the mainstay of their might. [36](#) And I will bring upon Elam the four winds from the four quarters of heaven. And I will scatter them to all those winds, and there shall be no nation to which those driven out of Elam shall not come.
      4. Daniel 7:2-3 - [2](#) Daniel declared, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. [3](#) And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

(ii) Isaiah 11:12 - He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

1. Isaiah is saying the dispersed of Judah will be gathered from *everywhere*.

(d) Judgment is about to fall, but four angels are holding back four winds of judgment, until something else is accomplished.

v) Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, (7:2)

(1) The rising of the sun might signify from the east, or it might signify from the God who dwells in unapproachable light.

(2) The seal of the living God is not one of the seven seals in this case, rather it is a seal of approval which is about to be given.

(a) Kings and rulers had a seal with which they stamped their approval on documents pertaining to their kingdoms.

(b) This approval would be given by the living God.

(3) The four angels holding back four winds had been given power to harm the earth and sea – everything.

vi) saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” (7:3)

(1) Now we see who will be given the seal of the living God – the servants of our God.

**(2) These saints are portrayed as living on the earth!**

(a) A literal interpretation of physical, national Israel is ruled out.

(i) Nowhere else in Revelation is a distinction drawn between Jewish and Gentile Christians.

(ii) The seal of protection would not have been placed on Jewish Christians who were still living but not on Gentile Christians who were still living.

1. It is not Jewish Christians only who are servants of God.

2. Jewish objects are used throughout Revelation without being specific to a race or nation.

(b) These servants of God are spiritual Israel, the church, consisting of Jews and Gentiles in the first century.

1. Galatians 3:23-29 --- [23](#) Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. [24](#) So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. [25](#) But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, [26](#) for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. [27](#) For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. [28](#) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. [29](#) And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.
- (ii) Romans 9:6-8 --- [6](#) But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, [7](#) and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." [8](#) This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.
- (iii) Philippians 3:3 --- [3](#) For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—
- (c) The great multitude described beginning in 7:9 are before the throne, which is in heaven!
- (3) A seal signifies ownership and protection.
  - (a) Rev. 3:10 - Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.
  - (b) Rev. 3:12 - ... I will write on him the name of my God, ...
  - (c) Rev. 14:1 - Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.
  - (d) Rev. 22:3-4 - [3](#) No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will

worship him. **4** They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

(e) Ezekiel 9:3-6 - **3** Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed in linen, who had the writing case at his waist. **4** And the Lord said to him, “Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and **put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it.**” **5** And to the others he said in my hearing, “Pass through the city after him, and strike. Your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity. **6** Kill old men outright, young men and maidens, little children and women, but touch no one on whom is the mark. And begin at my sanctuary.” So they began with the elders who were before the house.

vii) I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: (7:4)

(1) The number 12 is a symbol for divine completeness – especially of God’s people.

(a) 12 tribes; 12 apostles

(b) Rev. 21 – 12 gates, 12 angels, 12 tribes, 12 foundations, 12 angels

(c)  $12^2$  ( $12 \times 12$ ) is 144 – added emphasis of completeness

(2) The number 10 is a symbol for human completeness.

(a) 10 fingers (counting thumbs); 10 toes

(b) Rev. 2:10 - for ten days you will have tribulation. (Smyrna)

(c)  $10^2$  ( $10 \times 10$ ) is 100 --- added emphasis of completeness

(d)  $10^3$  ( $10 \times 10 \times 10$ ) is 1,000 --- ultimate human completeness

(3)  $12^2 \times 10^3 = 144,000$  --- all-inclusive completeness, completeness to the  $n^{\text{th}}$  degree.

(a) Rev. 14:1-5 --- 144,000 sealed, redeemed, virgins who had not defiled themselves with women

(4) A few religious organizations have taken this to be a literal number of those who will be saved.

(a) 7<sup>th</sup>-day Adventists taught this early in their history, but stopped teaching it when the number of their adherents exceeded 144,000.

- (b) Jehovah's Witnesses have taught the following: A Watchtower publication states that "the final number of the heavenly church will be 144,000, according to God's decree" (*Let God Be True*, p. 113). The balance of saved humanity, they contend, will live on God's glorified earth.
- (c) To take this literally, one would also have to interpret the meaning as including only limited numbers of physical descendants from the 12 tribes named.
- (i) This would also exclude Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — who were never of the tribes of Israel. And yet, that conflicts with Jesus' affirmation that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will be in the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 8:11).
- (5) The 144,000 of Revelation 14 likely signifies the entire body of the redeemed.
- (6) 12,000 from every tribe of the sons of Israel
- (a)  $12^1 \times 10^3 = 12,000$

<b>Genesis 29-30</b>	<b>Numbers 1</b>	<b>Revelation 7</b>
Reuben	Reuben	Reuben
Simeon	Simeon	Simeon
Levi	Judah	Levi
Judah	Dan	Judah
Dan	Naphtali	Manasseh
Naphtali	Gad	Naphtali
Gad	Asher	Gad
Asher	Issachar	Asher
Issachar	Zebulun	Issachar
Zebulun	Ephraim	Zebulun
Joseph	Manasseh	Joseph
Benjamin	Benjamin	Benjamin

- (b)
- (c) Numbers 18:20-24 – Levi had no land inheritance in Israel.
- (d) Neither Dan nor Ephraim are included in Rev. 7.
- (i) Judges 18:30-31

- (ii) 1 Kings 12:28-30
- (e) Joseph's portion was divided between Ephraim and Manasseh.
- (f) All except Judah and Benjamin lost their inheritance and identity in 722 BC --- what remained was called Samaria in Jesus' time on earth.
- (g) A message in the names?
  - (i) **Judah** — Gen 29:35 And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, NOW WILL I PRAISE THE LORD, therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing.
  - (ii) **Reuben** — Gen 29:32 And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said Surely THE LORD HATH LOOKED UPON MY AFFLICTION; now therefore my husband will love me.
  - (iii) **Gad** — Gen 30:11 Then Leah said, "HOW FORTUNATE!" So she named him Gad.
  - (iv) **Asher** — Gen 30:13 And Leah said, HAPPY AM I for the daughters will call me blessed: and she called his name Asher.
  - (v) **Nephtalim** — Gen 30:8 And Rachel said, WITH GREAT WRESTLINGS HAVE I WRESTLED with my sister, and I have prevailed and she called his name Naphtali.
  - (vi) **Manasses** — Gen 41:51 Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: "FOR GOD HATH MADE ME FORGET ALL MY TOIL and all my father's house."
  - (vii) **Simeon** — Gen 29:33 And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, BECAUSE THE LORD HATH HEARD THAT I WAS HATED, HE HATH THEREFORE GIVEN ME THIS SON also: and she called his name Simeon
  - (viii) **Levi** — Gen 29:34 "And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, NOW THIS TIME WILL MY HUSBAND BE JOINED UNTO ME, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi.
  - (ix) **Issachar** — Gen 30:18 Then Leah said, "GOD HAS GIVEN ME MY WAGES because I gave my maid to my husband." So she named him Issachar.
  - (x) **Zebulon** — Gen 30:20 Then Leah said, "GOD HAS ENDOWED ME WITH A GOOD GIFT; NOW MY HUSBAND WILL DWELL WITH ME, because I have borne him six sons." So she named him Zebulun.
  - (xi) **Joseph** — Gen 30:24 And she called his name Joseph; and said, THE LORD SHALL ADD TO ME another son.
  - (xii) **Benjamin** — Gen 35:17-18 And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; THOU SHALT HAVE THIS SON also. And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.
  - (xiii) Now, when we take them all and put them in the order that the tribes appear, we get the following:

1. “Now will I praise the LORD, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction, How fortunate!, Happy am I, With great wrestlings have I wrestled and I have prevailed, For God hath made me forget all my toil, Because the LORD hath heard that I was hated he hath therefore given me this son, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, God has given me my wages, God has endowed me with a good gift; my husband will dwell with me, The LORD shall add to me, thou shalt have this son.”
2. The name Benjamin literally means “Son of My right hand” so another reading of the last portion could be “The LORD shall add to me the Son of [His] right hand.”

b) **A Great Multitude from Every Nation** – Rev. 7:9-17 - **9** After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, **10** and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” **11** And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **12** saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” **13** Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” **14** I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. **15** “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. **16** They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. **17** For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

- i) This multitude was described as “standing before the throne” (7:9), which is in heaven (1:4; 4:2-10). Furthermore, these saints “before the throne” were serving God in “his temple” (7:15). Elsewhere John comments that “the temple of God ... is in heaven” (11:19).



- ii) There is no indication that this multitude was sealed --- they had passed beyond the need for protection, out of the world and into the presence of God.
- iii) The first group is numbered – 144,000. The second group is “a great multitude that no one could number”.
- iv) The first group is described as being “from every tribe of the sons of Israel”. The second group is “from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages”.
- v) The first group is on the earth. **The second group is in heaven, “standing before the throne and before the Lamb”.**
- vi) The first group is on the earth and all are sealed for protection from the destruction that is coming on the earth. The second group is “clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands”.
  - (1) Rev. 5:9 - by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.
  - (2) Clothed in white robes – they had overcome, were victorious.
    - (a) Rev. 3:4 - they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.
  - (3) With palm branches in their hands
    - (a) Rejoicing!
    - (b) The Feast of Booths/Tabernacles
      - (i) Palm branches used to construct booths (tents).
      - (ii) Connected to Israel’s deliverance from Egypt.
      - (iii) Lev. 23:40 - [40](#) And you shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days.
      - (iv) Deut. 16:13-15
      - (v) Jesus at the great day of the feast
        - 1. John 7:37-39 - Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.
    - (c) The Triumphal Entry of the King
      - (i) John 12:12-13 - they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him
  - (4) Crying out with a loud voice

- (a) “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”
  - (i) Praise is offered by the multitude – their salvation is attributed to God and to the Lamb.
  - (ii) Rev. 3:21 - The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.
    - 1. May be intended that the Lamb is also sitting on the throne.
- (5) **11** And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **12** saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”
  - (a) Same group around the throne as in Rev. 4 and 5.
  - (b) They join in the praise, saying Amen to the praise of the multitude.
  - (c) Sevenfold praise
    - (i) Rev. 5:12 - “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive *power* and *wealth* and *wisdom* and *might* and *honor* and *glory* and *blessing*!”
      - 1. See notes on 5:12 in Chapter 5 handout.
    - (ii) Six of the seven are the same – thanksgiving is used instead of wealth in 7:12.
      - 1. Since salvation is attributed to God and the Lamb, the difference is appropriate.
- (6) **13** Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?”
  - (a) A question is directed to John.
  - (b) Perhaps John’s interest was evident – to prompt the question.
  - (c) John apparently did not know the answer, so he asks the elder, who did know.
  - (d) **14** I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

- (i) Perhaps the tribulation begun in chapter 6 with the first four seals – the four horsemen – was the tribulation from which they had come.
1. Rev. 6:9-11 - [9](#) When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. [10](#) They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” [11](#) Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.
- (ii) Christians were not (and never have been) immune to the effects of war, famine, and death on the earth.
- (iii) Rev. 3:4-5 - [4](#) Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. [5](#) The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.
1. Rev. 22:14-15 - [14](#) Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. [15](#) Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.
  2. 1 Pet. 1:17-19 - [17](#) And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, [18](#) knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, [19](#) but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.
- (7) [15](#) “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. [16](#) They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;

the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. [17](#) For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

(a) The throne of God is in heaven – the same throne pictured in Rev 4.

(b) Temple (ναὸς, naō) - that part of the temple where God himself resides – the most holy place

(i) Matt. 23:16-21 - [16](#) “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ [17](#) You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? [18](#) And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’ [19](#) You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? [20](#) So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. [21](#) And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. [22](#) And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

(ii) 1 Cor. 3:17 – [16](#) Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? [17](#) If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.

(iii) Rev. 21:22 - And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

(iv) 2 Cor. 6:16-18, Rev. 11:19

(c) A different word is used for temple in the following verses:

(i) Temple (ἱερόν, hierou) - either the whole building, or specifically the outer courts, open to worshippers.

(ii) Matt. 21:12, Matt. 24:1, Mark 11:15, Acts 3:2

(d) Serve him day and night in his temple

(i) Priesthood implied – he has made us a kingdom

1. Rev. 1:6 – and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen

2. Rev. 5:10 – and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

(ii) Complete devotion – Anna did not depart from the temple

1. Luke 2:36-38 - [36](#) And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, [37](#) and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. [38](#) And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.
2. Matt. 13:44 - “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

(iii) Antithesis

1. Luke 9:57-62 – [61](#) Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.”

(e) Will shelter them with his presence

(i) As shelters were constructed for the Feast of Tabernacles

(f) They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

(i) All Israel and sojourners took part in the Feast of Tabernacles – no physical hunger.

(ii) Matt. 5:6 - [6](#) “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

(iii) John 7:37-39 - [37](#) On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. [38](#) Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” [39](#) Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

(g); the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

(i) In the shelter of God’s presence, there is refuge from sun and heat, as there was shelter at the Feast of Tabernacles

- (h) For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
  - (i) The shepherd provides abundant food and water for the flock.
  - (ii) John 10:11 - I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays  
down his life for the sheep.
- (i) and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.
  - (i) Rev. 21:3-4 - [3](#) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell  
with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be  
with them as their God. [4](#)He will wipe away every tear from  
their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be  
mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things  
have passed away.”
- (j) The multitude before the throne:
  - (i) Have passed beyond the need for God’s seal, protection from  
tribulation on earth.
  - (ii) Are praising God for salvation.
  - (iii) Have kept the prophecy of the book of Revelation.
  - (iv) Are completely devoted to serving God, day and night.
  - (v) Are sheltered in the presence of God.
  - (vi) No longer have sorrow.
  - (vii) Follow the Shepherd.