1—5. REVELATION, 999   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION. AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED,   
 angels, to whom it was}angels, to whom it was given to   
 given to hurt the earth and   
 the sea, ¥ saying, Hurt hurt the earth and the sea, § say-   
 not the earth, neither the ing, © Hurt ye not the earth, nor es-y.0e   
 sea, nor the trees, till we the sea, nor the trees, till we have   
 have sealed the sereants of ‘sealed the servants of our God 4Reetis,   
 our God in their   
 4 And I heard the number ©upon their foreheads, a Poo yeas   
 Of them which were sealed: heard the number of them which   
 and there were sealed an were sealed: €an hundred and forty- & &-xWv.1   
 hundred and forty aud four four thousand were sealed of all the   
 thousand of all the tribes tribes of the sons of Israel.   
 of the children of Israel. sor   
 5 Of the tribe of Juda   
   
   
 great voice to the four angels to whom it are included in, the great multitude which   
 was given to injure (viz. by letting loose no man ean number of ver. 9 ff. But they   
 the winds, which they as yet held in) the are also symbolical of the first-fruits of   
 earth and the sea, saying, Do not ye church ; see notes on ch. xiv. 1 ff.   
 injure the earth nor the sea nor the 4.) And I heard the number of the sealed,   
 trees, until we (not, Z; see Matt. xxiv. an hundred and forty-four thousand sealed   
 31, cited below) shall have sealed the (the number is symbolieal of fixedness and   
 servants of our God (the God alike of full completion, 12 x 12 taken a thon-   
 the speaker and of those addressed) upon sand fold. No one that I am aware of has   
 their foreheads (the noblest, as well as taken it literally, and supposed that just   
 the most conspicuous part, of the human this particular number and no more is   
 frame). imported. The import for us is, that the   
 This vision in the closest analogy Lord knoweth and sealeth His own: that   
 with Matt. xxiv. 31, where immediately the fulness of their number shall be accom-   
 after the appearing of the sign of the Son plished and not one shall fail: and, from   
 of man and the mourning of the tribes of what follows, that the least as well as the   
 the earth, we read, And He shall send greatest of the portions of his Church shall   
 His angels with a great sound of a furnish its quota to this blessed compan:   
 trumpet, aud they shail gather His elect see more below) from every tribe (j.c.   
 from the four winds, from one end of from the sum of the tribes; from every   
 heaven to the other. ‘The judgment of the tribe, all being taken together. ‘This is   
 great day is in fact going on in the back- evident from what follows) of the sons   
 ground ; but in this first general sum- of Israel (this has been variously under-   
 mary of the divine judgments and dealings, stood. By many, and even by the most   
 in which the sighs of Creation and of the recent Commentator, Diisterdieek, these   
 Chureh for Christ’s coming are sct before sealed ones are taken to represent Jewish   
 us, only that portion of its proceedings is believers: the chosen ont of the actual   
 described which has reference to these two. children of Israel. I need hardly say that   
 When the strain is again taken up, the such an interpretation seems to me to be   
 ease and reference are different. quite inconsistent with the usage of this   
 ‘The questions wow arise, 1) who are book. Our rule in such cases mst be, to   
 these that are sealed? and 2) what is the interpret a tern, where it. may possibl   
 intent of their being sealed ?\_ 1) Those ambiguous, by the use of the same tern   
 who have followed the preceding course we can discover any, in a phice or places   
 of interpretation have no difficulty in where it is clear and unimistakeable. Now   
 anti ing the reply. ‘They are, prima- in the description of the heavenly Jeru-   
 rily, those elect God who shall be living salem, ch. xxi. 9 f., we have the names   
 upon earth at the time here indicated, viz. of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel   
 that of the coming of the Lord: those inscribed on its twelve gu Can there   
 indicated in Matt. xxiv. 31, above cited. be any donbt as to the import of those   
 (On the import and reason of the use of names in that place? Is it not, that the   
 Israel and its tribes, I shall below.) city thus inscribed is the dwelliug-place of   
 As such, they are not identical with, but the Israel of God? Or are the upholders   
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