1000 REVELATION. ASHE,   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED, AUTHORIZED VERSION.   
 the tribe of Judah were sealed twelve were sealed twelve thou-   
 tmeeaate, thousand, Of the tribe of Reuben, t| sand. Of the tribe of   
 Reuben were sealed twelve   
 pla 2d by al od MSS.   
 ‘mi   
 iv. ff. where all Isracl are reckoned by   
 of the literal sense here prepared to carry genealogies, that this tribe is alto-   
 it ont there, and to regard these inscribed gether. ‘This latter seems the more pro-   
 names as importing that none hut the Hable account here, seeing that in order to   
 literal descendants of Israel dwelt within ? the number 12 being kept, some one of   
 [For observe that such an inference could the smaller tribes must be omitted. In   
 e fact of the names of Dent. xxxiii., Simeon is omitted. 38) That   
 the others collective.] It seems certain, instead of Ephraim, Joseph is mentioned.   
 by this expression heig again used there We have a somewhat similar instance in   
 in the same words, that the Apostle mst ‘Numb. 11, with this difference, that   
 here, as there, have intended Israel to be there it is “ of the tribe of namel:   
 taken not as the Jewish nation, but as the of the tribe of Manasseh.” The substi-   
 Israel of God. , we have a striking tntion here has been accounted for by the   
 indication furnishes 12, who “untheocratie” \_ recolleetions connected   
 these children of Isracl are :—‘“ He that with the name Ephraim. But this may   
 overcometh, ....-1 will write upon well be questioned. In the prophecy of   
 him the name of my God, and the name Hosea, where the name so frequently   
 of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, oceurs, it designates Israel repentant, as   
 which cometh down out of hearen from my well as Isracl backsliding ; compare espe-   
 God,—and my new name.” These words cially ch. xiv. 4—8, the recollection of   
 serve to bind together the sealing here, which would admirably fit the spirit of   
 and the vision ot the new Jerusalem in this present passage. Ishould rather   
 Nor is it any valid objection to pose that some praetice had arisen whieh   
 this view that the persons calling them- the Apostle adopts, of calling the tribe of   
 selves Jews in ch. ii. 9, iii. have been Ephraim by this name. 4) That the tribe   
 taken to be actual Jews, There is a wide of Levi is included among the rest, hardly   
 difference in the circumstances there, as appears to depend on the reason assigned   
 there is also in the appellation itself): by Bengel and others, that the Levitical   
 out of the tribe of Judah, twelve thou- ceremonies being now at an end, all are   
 sand sealed, &c. &¢.—The points to be alike priests and have access to God: for   
 noticed in this ennmeration are, 1) That in some Old Test. catalognes. even where   
 with the exception of Judah being placed territorial division is in question, Levi is   
 first, order of the tribes does not secm not omitted : the cities the priests being   
 to follow any assignable principle. Tt may mentioned under the head of this tribe.   
 indeed be not without reason, that Reuben, See 1 Chron, vi.   
 the eldest, next follows Judah, and Benja- It yet remains to enquire, hefore passing   
 min the youngest is placed last, Joseph on to the second vision in this episode,   
 his own brother: but beyond this, all is what is the import and intent of the seal-   
 uncertainty: as any one will find, who ing here mentioned. It has been the   
 attempts to apply to the order any general view, that it was to exempt those   
 imaginable rule of arrangement, So far sealed from the judgments which were to   
 has been generally confessed.“ No order come on the unbelieving. And it can   
 is kept, becanse all are eqnal in Christ,” hardly be denied, that this view receives   
 says Grotius. 2) That the tribe of Dan strong support from Scripture analo;   
 is omitted. This is accounted for by the e.g. that of Exod. xii. and Ezek. ix.,   
 fathers and ancient interpreters, from thé especially the latter, where the exempted   
 idea [founded on Gen, xlix. 17] that anti- ones are marked, as here, on their fore-   
 christ was to arise from this tribe: by heads. It is borne out by our eh.   
 most Commentators, from the fact, that ix. 4, where these sealed ones are by   
 this tribe was the first fall into idolatry, implication exempted from the plague of   
 see Judg. xvili.: by others, from the fact the locusts from the pit. It is again   
 that this tribe had been long ago as good hardly possible to weigh fairly the lan-   
 as extinct. Grotius quotes for this a Jewish gnage used in this place itself,   
 tradition, Accordingly we fiud in 1 Chron. coming to the same conclnsion. The four   
 angels ‘are commanded not to begin their