

Revelation 7:3 -- Interpretation of Earth, Sea and Trees

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual (1 Cor. 2:13).

Once again, the discerning reader will dispel any thoughts of a literal interpretation of earth, sea and trees because the object of the command “Do not hurt” is that of men yet to be sealed. Men are exemplified in Scripture by these analogies.

Men as trees: [Matthew 3:10](#), 7:17-19, 12:33; Jude 12; Psalm 1:3; Rev. 9:4.

A nation of men as a tree: [Luke 23:31](#).

Professing Christians as a tree: [Matthew 13:32](#).

Men as the sea: Jude 13; [James 1:6](#).

Men as earthly: [John 3:31](#), 8:23, [Philippians 3:19](#).

To be earthly minded is to be carnally minded, of the flesh, devoid of the Spirit: [Romans 8:5](#); 1 Cor. 2:14.

Scripture always speaks of earth dwellers/inhabitants in a negative connotation: Rev. 11:10, 12:12, 17:2 and 8.

Foundational to rightly understanding this analogy is the doctrine of original sin. All men are born in a state of sin, separated from Holy God, condemned to eternal death.....unless God mercifully intervenes with saving grace. The seal of the living God symbolizes this saving grace which preserves the Elect from eternal death. It is this 'hurt' (also called the 'second death') which will not harm those who have been sealed.

*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be **hurt** of the second death (Rev. 2:11).*

*And it was commanded them that they should not **hurt** the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads (Rev. 9:4).*

By withholding the Gospel - the Word of Life - from mankind, all would remain in a state of unbelief, which is spiritual death. The end result leads to the second death of both body and soul.

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell ([Matthew 10:28](#)).

But try as the enemy may to prohibit its preaching and dissemination, God's Elect will hear and believe the Gospel, though the faithful may experience great tribulation through imprisonment and even death (Rev. 2:10).

NEXT: The seal of the living God.