

(East) 1 Corinthians 14:32–33; (Four Winds) Revelation 7:1–3; (O breath, breathe) Ezekiel 37:9.

STRIFE

“In Revelation 17 an angel explained that waters represent ‘peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.’ Revelation 17:15. **Winds are a symbol of strife.** The four winds of heaven striving upon the great sea represent the terrible scenes of **conquest and revolution by which kingdoms have attained to power.**” *The Great Controversy*, 439.

THE MIGHTIEST ANGEL

“If such scenes as this are to come, such tremendous judgments on a guilty world, where will be the refuge for God’s people? How will they be sheltered until the indignation be overpast? John sees **the elements of nature**--earthquake, tempest, and political strife—represented as being held by four angels. These winds are under control until God gives the word to let them go. There is the safety of God’s church. The angels of God do His bidding, holding back the winds of the earth, that the winds should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree, **until** the servants of God should be sealed in their foreheads. **The mighty angel is seen ascending from the east** (or sunrising). **This mightiest of angels** has in his hand **the seal of the living God**, or of Him who alone can give life, who can inscribe upon the foreheads the mark or inscription, to whom shall be granted immortality, eternal life. It is **the voice of this highest angel** that had authority to command the four angels to keep in check the four winds until this work was performed, and until he should give the summons to let them loose.

“Those that overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, will be the favored ones who shall receive the seal of the living God. Those whose hands are not clean, whose hearts are not pure, will not have the seal of the living God. Those who are planning sin and acting it will be passed by. Only those who, in their attitude before God, are filling the position of those who are repenting and confessing their sins in the great anti-typical Day of Atonement, will be recognized and marked as worthy of God’s protection. The names of those who are steadfastly looking and waiting and watching for the appearing of their Saviour—more earnestly and wishfully than they who wait for the morning—will be **numbered with those who are sealed.** Those who, while having all the light of truth flashing upon their souls, should have works corresponding to their avowed faith, but are allured by sin, setting up idols in their hearts, corrupting their souls before God, and polluting those who unite with them in sin, will have their names **blotted out** of the book of life, and **be left in midnight darkness, having no oil in their vessels** with their lamps. ‘Unto you that fear My name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings.’

“**This sealing of the servants of God is the same that was shown to Ezekiel in vision. John also had been a witness of this most startling revelation.** He saw **the sea and the waves roaring, and men’s hearts failing them for fear.** He beheld the **earth** moved, and the **mountains** carried into the midst of the **sea** (which is literally taking place), the **water** thereof roaring and troubled, and the **mountains** shaking with the swelling thereof. He was shown **plagues, pestilence, famine, and death** performing their terrible mission.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 445.

(the sea and the waves roaring; Men’s hearts failing them for fear) Luke 21:25–26; Ezekiel 37:9 (The Valley of Dry Bones)