

Revelation 7:1-17 Signed, Sealed and Delivered Fintry, 16/5/2010, am

- Amanda around; exploring our confidence that we will be numbered among those in glory.

Chat with the Children

- Being marked - a band at an attraction or stamp on the hand at a nightclub, so you can get back in
 - the sign grants privileges you wouldn't otherwise have
 - acted out by getting someone on door to "mark" some of the kids, then only giving sweets to those who already have the mark on their hands...
- Mark makes a difference!

Introduction

- Take as section headings the three words, signed, sealed and delivered. Put the whole thing in context of coming trouble (Rev 6), distinguished from God's judgement on those who have killed his saints, more like the general consequences of a sinful world...

Signed

- signed - marked out as God's by the blood of Christ
- signed by the presence of the Holy Spirit within us
- *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit... (Eph 1:13)*

Sealed

- sealed - that sign sealing us, holding us to Christ, unable to be shaken loose from him...
- perfection of the numbers - 12 for tribes, each tribe 12, each tribe "lots" (1000)
- and balanced...
- *(Romans 8:38) For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, (39) neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Delivered

- delivered - **through** the tribulation, saved, delivered
- before the throne, a great multitude, white, waving palm branches

Conclusion

- What then for us - what difference does it make?
 - confidence and trust in the face of trouble - yes its tough, and hard questions will be felt and asked, but there is hope