

## Revelation 8:13 | Two Important Issues

### **Revelation 8:13 – Eagle or Angel?**

ἀετοῦ (Gk. “eagle”)

And I looked, and I heard one **eagle** flying directly overhead, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to those who live on the earth, from the remaining sounds of the trumpets of the three angels who are about to blow the trumpet!” (ESV)

And I looked, and I heard an **angel** flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!” (NKJV)

Most early and reliable manuscripts have “eagle,” but some later witnesses instead have “angel.” Some . . . discount the use of “angel” as possible assimilation with Rev 14:6, which also has an angel flying overhead, making a proclamation. Further support of “eagle” is found internally, in that if “angel” is used here, an additional angel is added to the narrative to total eight angels. This is problematic for the numerical significance of seven within the larger narrative of Revelation.<sup>1</sup>

The significance of this point is that John’s use of the number 7 remains consistent (7 seals, 7 angels/trumpets, 7 bowls) which is why “eagle” should be the preferred translation. This is not a problem, however, because **Revelation 4:7-8** depicts an angelic creature as an eagle: “the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight.” So then, this eagle is representative of some type of angelic/heavenly creature.

### **Who are: “Inhabitants of the earth/Those who dwell on the earth”?**

Does John mean *every single person on the earth, wicked and righteous alike*?

- Mounce, *The Book of Revelation* (NICNT) – “‘The inhabitants of the earth’ is a . . . designation for the human race in its hostility to God.”
- MacArthur, *Revelation 1-11* (MNTC) – “[A] descriptive phrase . . . used in Revelation as a technical term for those who reject the gospel.”
- Hamilton, *Revelation: The Spirit Speaks To The Churches* (PTWC) – “These are people who live for this world. These are people who are not concerned with God and his purposed. God will judge them for their refusal to honor him as God and give thanks to him.”
- See 6:10; 11:10; 13:8, 12; 17:2, 8. In every instance of “Inhabitants of the earth/Those who dwell on the earth” in Revelation, it always refers to the *wicked*.
- *The implication is then that any believers alive during this time will not experience the judgment of these three trumpets.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Rick Brannan and Israel Loken, *The Lexham Textual Notes on the Bible*, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014), Re 8:13.

## κατοικέω (dwell) AND γῆς (earth) in Revelation, ESV

---

- Revelation 3:10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try **those who dwell on the earth**.
- Revelation 6:10 They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on **those who dwell on the earth?**”
- Revelation 8:13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, “Woe, woe, woe to **those who dwell on the earth**, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!”
- Revelation 11:10 and **those who dwell on the earth** will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth.
- Revelation 13:8 and **all who dwell on earth** will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.
- Revelation 13:14 and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives **those who dwell on earth**, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.
- Revelation 17:2 with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality **the dwellers on earth** have become drunk.”
- Revelation 17:8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And **the dwellers on earth** whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.