

Revelation

Seals

4-29-18

Revelation 6:1 (ESV)

Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!"



C.4 we saw all is well in heaven, but we saw in C.5 that the earth is still in bondage and that evil reigns. **We also saw that after completing the redemption of man, Jesus now has authority to restore the earth and eradicate evil.** Jesus therefore takes the scroll sealed with 7 seals from God's right hand. Now in C.6 we now see Jesus breaking the seals, which is necessary to restore the land and eradicate evil. Revelation is a contemporary book and these judgments have been experienced through out history, but **they will intensify** and come to fulfillment at the end of time when Jesus returns.

Jesus brings judgment on the unbelieving!

Jesus breaks the first four seals, and each time a living creature cries out, “Come!”

Revelation 6:2-8 (ESV)

² When Jesus opened the **first seal**, a white horse! And its rider came out conquering, and to conquer.

³ When Jesus opened the **second seal**, a bright red horse came out! Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another.

⁵ When Jesus opened the **third seal**, a black horse came out! Its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. He was bringing famine.

⁷ When he opened the **fourth seal**, a pale horse came out! Its rider’s name was Death, and Hades followed him.

The coming fifth seal is different. When Jesus opens the fifth seal, the living creatures don’t say anything and there are not any horses and riders. When Jesus opens the fifth seal we “see” something.

Revelation 6:9-11 (ESV)

⁹ When he opened the **fifth seal**, I saw under the altar the souls of those **who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne.** 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?**” ¹¹ Then they were each given a white robe and **told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers **should be complete**, who were to be **killed** as they themselves had been.**

Key Points about these people: O/H

- **These people are not just believers. They are all martyrs!**
- **They have been slain for the word of God.**
- **They cry out for God to avenge their death.**
- **They are told to rest a little longer until the complete number of believers has been killed.**

Note these are not terms normally attributed to the NT church and believers. This setting is different and **all the people are martyrs.**

Now when Jesus opens the sixth seal, we now look at something.

Revelation 6:12-17 (ESV)

¹² When he opened the **sixth seal**, I **looked**, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, ¹³ and **the stars of the sky fell to the earth** as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. ¹⁴ The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, **“Fall on us and hide us from the **FACE OF HIM** who is seated on the throne, and from the **WRATH OF THE LAMB**, ¹⁷ for **THE GREAT DAY OF THEIR WRATH** has come, and who can stand?”**

We are looking on **catastrophic events** taking place in the heavens and on earth. This is a view of the day when Jesus returns to restore the earth and eradicate evil. **This is described as a Day of THE WRATH OF THE LAMB!**

The church, believers, cannot be suffering under the WRATH OF THE LAMB. Where is the NT church? In Rev.4:4, we see believers all around the throne **represented by the 24 Elders.** **God doesn't intend for the church to go through The Great Tribulation of the Wrath of the Lamb. Note these verses!**

Revelation 3:10 (ESV) O/H

I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

How will we miss the coming Tribulation?

1 Thessalonians 4:17 (ESV) O/H

We who are alive, who are left, will be "caught up" together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

How will we be caught up into heaven?

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (ESV) O/H

⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the "twinkling" of an eye, at the last trumpet.

There is strong evidence that the church will not be present for the Great Tribulation.

The church will be caught up into heaven in the twinkling of an eye before the Great Tribulation comes.

Yet we see in Rev.6:9-11, martyrs dying for their faith during the time of the opening of the seals. Granted this has happened throughout history, but the intensity has increase to be fulfilled in the end times. **With the NT church before the throne in heaven, who are these witnesses for Jesus during this Great Tribulation?** In C.7 God give us the answer. **We see that before Jesus opens the seals, God holds back “the harm” to be done to the earth while HE identifies HIS special selected witnesses for Jesus that will be present during the Great Tribulation.**

Revelation 7:1-3 (ESV)

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. ² Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, ³ saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”

This special group of witnesses for Jesus is sealed and will be Jesus’ agents to evangelize the world during the Great Tribulation.

Revelation 7:4 (ESV) O/H

And I heard the number of the sealed, **144,000**, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

Who are these 144,000? There is a good argument that the 144,000 represent all believers just as the 24 elders around the Throne represented all believers. If it were left with only the number 144,000, this would be an excellent interpretation. However, details are added about this number. This group of people is broken down by assigning 12,000 to the 12 Tribes of Israel by name. Seemingly this additional information does not serve any purpose whatsoever, unless through the added information God was intending us to take the number literally.

Revelation 7:5-8 (ESV)

12,000 from the tribe of Judah, of Reuben, of Gad, of Asher, of Naphtali, of Manasseh, of Simeon, of Levi, of Issachar, of Zebulun, of Joseph, of Benjamin were sealed.

For me this forces a literal interpretation. Therefore, literally, this uniquely sealed group with a unique assignment in the Great Tribulation must be ethnic Jews. During this time of unprecedented events and persecution, this specific divinely sealed unique group of people has magnificent success. Their evangelism is evidenced by a Great Multitude of people that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages coming to know Jesus as their Savior.

Revelation 7:9-12 (ESV)

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, **a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹ And **all the angels** were standing around the throne and around **the elders** and **the four living creatures**, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Now one of the Elders representing the church that was “caught up” to the throne asks John if he knows who these multitudes are?

Revelation 7:13-14a (ESV)

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴ I said to him, “Sir, you know.”

It is of utmost importance we listen to the answer the Elder gives John!

Revelation 7:14b (ESV) **O/H**

And he said to me, **“These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.”**

Let the Bible interpret itself! These are the ones who came to know Christ specifically during the Great Tribulation.

Revelation 7:14c-17 (ESV)

^{14c} They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Hear is a clear fact of the Bible. Jesus returns and gathers HIS church to HIMSELF in heaven then Jesus will eradicate evil and restore the earth/dirt.

Revelation 22:17 (ESV) **O/H**

The Spirit and the Bride say, “**Come.**” And let the one who hears say, “**Come.**”

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future