

REVELATION'S SEVEN SEALS

FORECASTING HOPE



1. Revelation's Seven Seals

Someone once did a breakdown of what the average person worries about. It was a rather interesting study. Here's what they discovered.

- 40% of the things we worry about are things that will never happen.
- 30% are things about the past that can't be changed anyway.
- 12% are things that involve criticism by others.



2. 40% of the things we worry about are things that will never happen. 30% are things about the past that can't be changed anyway. 12% are things that involve criticism by others. So according to this breakdown, 82% of the things we worry about are things out of our control. We can't control what never happens. We can't control what happened in the past. We can't control what other people say about us. We tend to worry about what we can't control.



SEVEN SEALS

BEGINNING IN REVELATION CHAPTER 5

3. But the book of Revelation has good news because it tells us that God is in control. Tonight, the prophecy of the seven seals will show us that God knows what the future holds. He knows what is going to happen to His people and He never leaves them or forsakes them. So, we don't have to worry. We can have assurance and confidence no matter what goes on in this world or in our lives.



SEVEN SEALS

BEGINNING IN REVELATION CHAPTER 5

4. So, let's begin by taking our Bibles and going to the prophecy of the seven seals in Revelation chapter five. We're going to begin by reading the first five verses of this chapter. Now, the seven seals are not actually described until chapter six, but in order to understand chapter six, you've got to understand chapter five. Chapter five contains the background information which provides the context for the seven seals. Here John describes what he sees in vision. Try to picture it in your mind.

REVELATION 5:1-5

"And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel



5. In Revelation chapter 5, the Bible says, *"And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel*

REVELATION 5:1-5

proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?' And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open



6. *proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?' And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open*

REVELATION 5:1-5

the scroll or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or look at it. But one of the elders said to me,



7. *the scroll or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or look at it. But one of the elders said to me,*

REVELATION 5:1-5

'Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.'



8. *'Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.'*



9. Let's stop there. The vision opens up by focusing on a picture of God the Father who is sitting on His throne. In His right hand is what? A scroll, sealed with seven seals.



10. The focus of the vision seems to be a scroll that is sealed and cannot be opened. The Bible then says one of the angels calls out loudly, *"Who is worthy to open this scroll, to unloose the seals and reveal the contents?"* And it says, no one is found in heaven or on earth or under the earth that can open the seals. It causes great consternation in heaven—to the point where John actually begins to weep. In fact it says that he *"wept much."* It disturbed him greatly. This tells us that whatever is written in those scrolls must be something very important for the church of Jesus to know.

LION

Tribe of Judah



11. Finally, one of the elders says, *"There is Someone who is found worthy to open the scroll. It is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, who has prevailed."* Now, who do you think that would be?



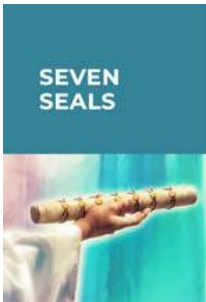
12. That's Jesus Christ. Those are Old Testament terms that refer to the Messiah. So Revelation is telling us that Jesus is the One who is worthy to open the scroll. Why? Because He is the One who prevailed over sin on the cross of Calvary and He is the Head of the church. Can you say, amen?



13. The next thing John sees is a slain lamb in the middle of the throne room, which is an obvious reference to Jesus' death on the cross. The rest of that chapter describes why Jesus is worthy to open the scrolls. It's because He is the one who shed His blood. He is the Lamb of God that came to this earth to save fallen humankind. He is the perfect sacrifice that is worthy to open the scrolls. He alone is worthy.



14. Revelation chapter one tells us that the visions were given to John so that God's people throughout the ages would be aware of what would come to pass as the church moved from one era to another. Here's what we're going to discover as we read about these seven seals. Jesus opens the seals and these seven seals will describe the history of the church through the centuries. The seals will reveal the past, the present, and the future.



1ST - 4TH SEALS

First century to the Middle Ages.

5TH SEAL

Reveals the persecution of the church especially in the Middle Ages.

6TH & 7TH SEALS

The signs of the end and coming of Jesus.

15. We're going to discover that the first four seals cover church history from the first century to the middle ages. The fifth seal gives us imagery of the persecution that came during the dark ages. And the sixth and the seventh seals talk about the signs of the end and the coming of Jesus Christ.



1ST - 4TH SEALS

First century to the Middle Ages.

5TH SEAL

Reveals the persecution of the church especially in the Middle Ages.

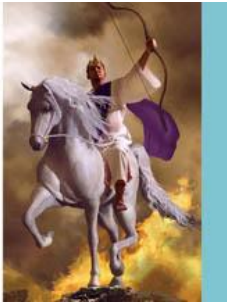
6TH & 7TH SEALS

The signs of the end and coming of Jesus.

16. Now that we know the background, let's start taking a look at each of these seven seals. Let's go to the first one. Revelation chapter six, and we'll start in verse one.

REVELATION 6:1-2

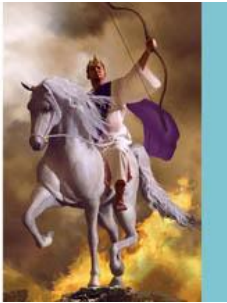
"Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, 'Come and see!'"



17. The Bible says, “*Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.”*”

REVELATION 6:1-2

And I looked, and behold, a **white horse**. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.”



18. *And I looked, and behold, a white horse.”* What color was the horse? “*He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.”*”

FIRST SEAL
REVELATION 6:1-2

- White Horse
- Rider has bow & arrow
- Stephanos crown



19. So here’s the picture we are given thus far. We see a rider on what color of a horse? A white horse. He has a bow and arrow in his hand. He is wearing a crown. In the Greek it’s called a “*stephanos*” crown, which is a victory crown. The horse and rider are described as conquering everything in their path. That’s impressive, don’t you think?

FIRST SEAL
REVELATION 6:1-2

- White Horse
- Rider has bow & arrow
- Stephanos crown



20. Now our first question is this: is this meant to be literal or symbolic? Does this mean that one day we’re actually going to see a rider with a white horse galloping in the sky? Obviously, Revelation is trying to represent something. So, our first question would be, who’s the rider on the horse?

FIRST SEAL
REVELATION 6:1-2

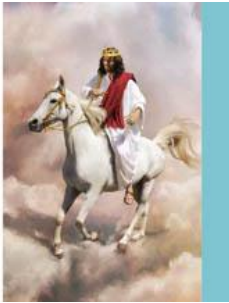
- White Horse
- Rider has bow & arrow
- Stephanos crown



21. We could go around the room and try to guess why we think it's this or why we think it's that. But let's allow the Bible to speak for itself. Some say that this is the antichrist. However this is not a picture of anti-christ because nowhere in the Bible is antichrist ever represented by white. The Bible regularly uses white to represent truth, purity, and righteousness. The rider on the white horse actually represents Jesus Christ. You say, how do we know that? Revelation 19 gives us the answer.

REVELATION 19:11

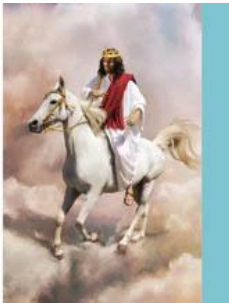
"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True,



22. The Bible says, "*Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a . . .*" what color horse? "*. . . white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True,*

REVELATION 19:11

and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns."

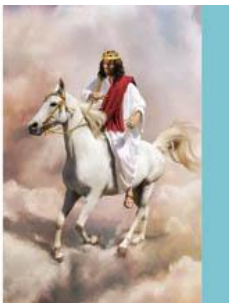


23. *and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns."*

Does that sound like a description of antichrist? Who is the One who is faithful and true? Who is the One who is the righteous judge? Who is the king who wears many crowns? Later in that chapter, it describes the rider as being King of kings and Lord of lords—that pretty much settles it! The rider is Jesus Christ.

REVELATION 19:11

and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns."



24. What we have here is a picture of Jesus and His early New Testament church conquering the world with the gospel The early New Testament church followed the pure Word of God. They accepted the righteousness of Jesus. Even history tells us that the early New Testament church literally turned the world upside down with the gospel by taking it to all the then-known world. They conquered everything in their path just like this horse and its rider, because they held on to Jesus Christ as the Head of the church.

FIRST SEAL
31-100 A.D.

A Victorious Church
& A Pure Faith



25. So that first seal represents the victorious early New Testament church in the first century from about 31 – 100 A.D.

However, I have bad news. Seal number one is about as good as it gets. After seal number one, things go downhill. You're going to see depicted a steady decline as the church through the centuries falls away from the pure Word of God and His truth.

FIRST SEAL
31-100 A.D.

A Victorious Church
& A Pure Faith



26. I'm glad for the first seal, but let's now go to the second seal. The second seal is depicted in Revelation six, verses three to four.

REVELATION 6:3-4

"When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, 'Come and see.' Another horse **fiery red** went out. And it was



27. The Bible says, "*When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, 'Come and see.' Another horse. . .*" what color? "*. . .fiery red went out. And it was*

REVELATION 6:3-4

granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword."



28. *granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword."*

Now let me ask you a question. Just from reading the literal description without interpreting it yet, does that sound like a positive description or a negative one? Negative. That doesn't sound so good, does it?

SECOND SEAL
REVELATION 6:3-4

- Red Horse
- Sword in hand
- Takes peace from earth
- People slay one another



29. Here's a rider coming out on a red horse. The rider has a sword in his hand. They take peace from the earth, and people slay one another. The Greek word behind "slay" or "kill" that you find in this passage actually refers to martyrdom. It refers to sacrificial killing.

SECOND SEAL
REVELATION 6:3-4

- Red Horse
- Sword in hand
- Takes peace from earth
- People slay one another



30. What we're going to discover is this is referring to a time when there would be great violence against the church on earth. The horse is red, and in the Bible, red represents blood. In other words, the church of Jesus is going to enter an era of bloody persecution, a time when the sword will be used and peace will be taken from the earth. People will slay one another. There will be many martyrs who give their lives for Jesus.

SECOND SEAL
100-313 A.D.

A Time of bloody persecution against the church.



31. This description perfectly correlates with the second phase of Christian history, which is the second and third centuries. That was an era of great persecution. During the second and third centuries, do you remember who ruled the world? Rome. At that time, it was illegal to be a Christian. To be a Christian meant you were an enemy of the state. You were considered to be a criminal. You could lose everything, even your life.

SECOND SEAL
100-313 A.D.

A Time of bloody persecution against the church.



32. During that time, the Roman empire had determined that they were going to stamp out Christianity forever, no matter what the cost. It ushered in a time of bloody persecution.



- 33.** You'll probably recognize this picture. It is very representative of things that happened in the second and third centuries. It can also be viewed as a symbol of persecution. Do you know what it is? That's the Roman Colosseum. How many people here have ever been to Rome? Could I see your hands? Has anyone ever seen the Roman Colosseum?
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- 34.** It is an impressive structure. It was said that it could seat 60,000 to 70,000 people. It would rival any modern stadium today. This is where Rome would put their criminals. They would be thrown into the middle of this Colosseum where they were forced to defend themselves against armed gladiators and wild, ravenous beasts.
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- 35.** Since Christians were considered enemies of the state, they were thrown into this Colosseum with 60,000 screaming fans wanting to see the blood of a Christian shed, applauding when their life was taken from them. Yet these Christians stood their ground. They remained faithful to Jesus Christ.
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- 36.** Church historian, Eusebius, says this about this time period, and I quote, "*We saw the most marvelous inspiration, a force which was truly divine and the readiness of those who had faith in the Christ of God. Immediately when sentence had been*



pronounced on one group,
another party came before the
tribunal acknowledging
themselves to be Christians
and remaining unmoved before
dangers and

EUSEBIUS
CHURCH HISTORIAN

- 37.** *pronounced on one group, another party came before the tribunal acknowledging themselves to be Christians and remaining unmoved before dangers and*



torments of all kinds. Indeed,
they reasoned with joy the
final sentence of death, and
they sang hymns and offered
thanksgiving to God of all until
their last breath."

EUSEBIUS
CHURCH HISTORIAN

- 38.** *torments of all kinds. Indeed, they reasoned with joy the final sentence of death, and they sang hymns and offered thanksgiving to God of all until their last breath."*

Church history describes for us these second and third century Christians who looked gladiators in the eyes, looked wild beasts in the face, and stayed faithful to their Savior. They chose not to deny Jesus Christ their Lord, nor his teachings. Can you say, amen?



torments of all kinds. Indeed,
they reasoned with joy the
final sentence of death, and
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thanksgiving to God of all until
their last breath."

EUSEBIUS
CHURCH HISTORIAN

- 39.** Oh, that the 21st century church could be like the early church. If we were, we would change this modern world! So often when we face some persecution, some trials or difficulties, we complain, *"Lord, why did you let this happen to me?"*

Sometimes if following Jesus means being made fun of, we think twice about following Jesus. We come up with all sorts of excuses or reasons to straddle the fence and to compromise. But these early century Christians are an example to us. No matter what the cost, they stayed faithful to Jesus.



torments of all kinds. Indeed,
they reasoned with joy the
final sentence of death, and
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thanksgiving to God of all until
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EUSEBIUS
CHURCH HISTORIAN

- 40.** My prayer is that you and I and the church in the modern age would be faithful like them. That we would not say, *"Lord, I'll follow You when it's easy. Lord, I'll obey Your truths when it's convenient. But Lord, don't ask me to follow You when it costs me something. Don't ask me to follow You when it's going to be inconvenient. Don't ask me to follow You when I'm in the minority. Don't ask me to follow You when I have to stand alone."* It's one thing to follow Jesus in good times. It's another thing to stay faithful to Jesus in bad times.



torments of all kinds. Indeed, they reasoned with joy the final sentence of death, and they sang hymns and offered thanksgiving to God of all until their last breath."

EUSEBIUS
CHURCH HISTORIAN

41. (Here, you could share a short testimony of a time in your life when following Jesus cost you something. Or a time when you compromised your faith).

The second seal causes me to ask myself a very tough question.



AM I A FAIR-WEATHER
CHRISTIAN?

42. Am I a fair-weather Christian who will only follow Jesus when it's easy and convenient? Or do I follow Jesus even when it costs me something? Do I truly love him with all my heart, all my soul and all my mind? Consider that question. Ask yourself—is Jesus first in my life? There are many practical lessons, even among the seven seals!

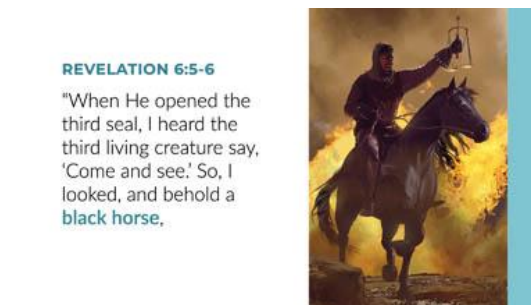


SECOND SEAL
100-313 A.D.

A Time of Bloody
Persecution Against
the Church

43. So the second seal represents this time of bloody persecution against the church in the second and third centuries.

Let's move on in Christian history and get to the third seal. Seal number three begins in verses five and six.



REVELATION 6:5-6

"When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, 'Come and see.' So, I looked, and behold a black horse,

44. The Bible says, "When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, 'Come and see.' So, I looked, and behold ..." what color horse do we have now? "... a black horse,

REVELATION 6:5-6

and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying,



45. and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying,

REVELATION 6:5-6

'A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.'



46. 'A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.'

There is some interesting imagery in this passage that we may want to unpack.

THIRD SEAL
REVELATION 6:5-6

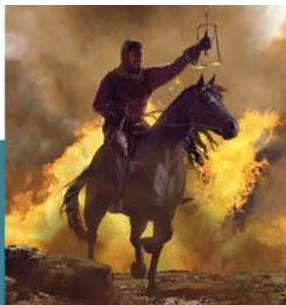
Black Horse



47. From the third seal comes a black horse. The rider is carrying scales, which means he's going to measure something in some way. If we think this through, the first seal had a white horse. If white here represents truth and righteousness, what might black here represent? Error and darkness.

THIRD SEAL
REVELATION 6:5-6

Black Horse



48. In the third seal time period, we're going to see that the church enters an age of darkness and error when it begins to compromise God's Word. It begins to follow the traditions of men instead of the truths of scripture.

Now, before we see if that actually happened in history, there are a couple of other imageries here that we have to look at. There is some imagery of famine in this passage.

REVELATION 6:6

"A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius..."



- 49.** In verse 6 it says, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius."

In this 21st century, we would look at that and say, "What in the world does that mean?" Good question. A denarius was the currency of that day. That is how much you would earn for one day's worth of work. It's one day's wages. A quart of wheat was a day's worth of bread. That's what you need just to make enough food for yourself.

REVELATION 6:6

"A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius..."



- 50.** These were famine rations. It meant you made barely enough money in one day to be able to feed yourself, not to mention the rest of your family and all your other expenses. It's describing famine conditions. But it's not describing a literal famine, it's being symbolic. You may ask, where does that imagery come from?

REVELATION 6:6

"A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius..."



- 51.** Revelation is drawing from another part of the Old Testament, a book in the Bible written by a farmer whose name was Amos. All the way back in the book of Amos, Amos used some of the same phrases that give us a big clue into what God is talking about here. Let's go back to Amos chapter eight. Now in Amos chapter eight, Old Testament Israel is being unfaithful to God, and so Amos utters a rebuke.



AMOS 8:11

"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God, "That I will send a famine on the land. Not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water,

- 52.** In Amos chapter eight, verse 11, the Bible says, "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God, "That I will send a famine on the land. Not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water,



AMOS 8:11

but of hearing the words of the Lord... They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, but shall not find it.”

53. *but of hearing the words of the Lord... They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, but shall not find it.”*

Notice, Old Testament Israel is not listening to what God says. Israel is not listening to the prophets, so God says to them, *“You’ve turned away from the Word of the Lord. I’m not going to speak to you through the prophets anymore. There is going to be a famine from the Word of the Lord.”*



AMOS 8:11

but of hearing the words of the Lord... They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, but shall not find it.”

54. Realizing that Amos is talking about a famine of God’s Word, when you take that imagery into Revelation, it makes much more sense. The imagery of the third horse is pointing us to this passage in Amos. Revelation is telling us is that the church is going to enter a period where it is not going to follow the Word of God anymore. There’s going to be a famine for the truth of Scripture because the church has started following the errors and the traditions of men. It’s going to be an age of spiritual darkness.

THIRD SEAL
313-538 A.D.

Erroneous Faith & A Compromised Church



55. That perfectly correlates with the third part of Christian history, from about A.D. 313 to 538. It’s describing an erroneous faith and a compromised church that fell from the Word of God.

Now I want to share with you a few episodes that happened during that time period that will help us to illustrate why God uses this imagery in the third seal.

CONSTANTINE BECOMES A CHRISTIAN
313 A.D.



56. Around 313, the catalyst that caused great compromise was this: the Roman emperor, Constantine, became a Christian. Now at first you might think, well, that’s a good thing, right? Not necessarily. Constantine was a pagan. He participated in pagan ceremonies, pagan religious rituals, and followed pagan teachings.

CONSTANTINE
BECOMES A
CHRISTIAN
313 A.D.



57. When he became a Christian, Christianity went from being an illegal religion to being an accepted religion. In fact, it eventually became the official state religion of Rome. However, Constantine took many of the pagan teachings and ceremonies he was familiar with and brought them into Christianity, mixing them with the truth of God's Word. It began this slippery slope of error and compromise. To illustrate, let me share with you some things that happened during that time.

CONSTANTINE
BECOMES A
CHRISTIAN
313 A.D.



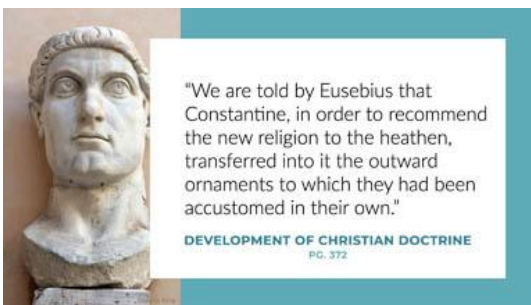
58. In the book, *Development of Christian Doctrine*, page 372, we are told by Eusebius what Constantine did and how it compromised the Christian church.



"We are told by Eusebius that Constantine, in order to recommend the new religion to the heathen, transferred into it the outward ornaments to which they had been accustomed in their own."

DEVELOPMENT OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE
PG. 372

59. "We are told by Eusebius that Constantine, in order to recommend the new religion to the heathen, transferred into it the outward ornaments to which they had been accustomed in their own." Did you catch that? In order to recommend his new Christian religion to the heathen, he transferred into Christianity many of the concepts of his old pagan religion.



"We are told by Eusebius that Constantine, in order to recommend the new religion to the heathen, transferred into it the outward ornaments to which they had been accustomed in their own."

DEVELOPMENT OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE
PG. 372

60. He brought into Christianity many of the ideas that the pagans were familiar with because he wanted to unite his empire and bring pagans into the Christian Church. Slowly but surely, the teachings and traditions of men became mixed with the Word of God and the blackness of compromise and error set in.

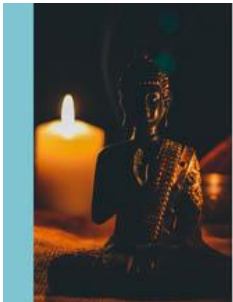


DANIEL 8:12

"... and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered."

- 61.** That's why the prophet Daniel warned of a false system of religion which would rise when He said, "*... and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered.*" He was speaking of an age of error and compromise.

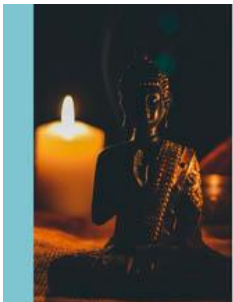
That's why God symbolizes the third seal as a black horse. Here's another example of something that happened during that time. We've already studied the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. Remember?



EXODUS 20:4-5

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath,

- 62.** The second commandment says this, "*You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath,*

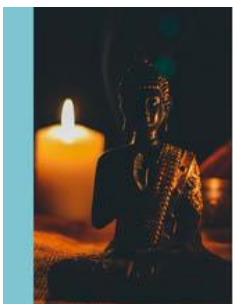


EXODUS 20:4-5

or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them."

- 63.** *or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them."*

Here in God's holy law, God clearly forbids the use of images and statues and the like. God is saying to us, why do you want something made with human hands when you can have a real relationship with a real God who loves you and wants to be involved in your life? Can you say, amen?



EXODUS 20:4-5

or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them."

- 64.** But it was during this black horse period that statues and images came into the church. Let me show you some examples. Now, this may be a sensitive subject. I'm not doing this to be negative towards any particular group, but only to show how the prophecies of the Bible have been fulfilled and how this error and compromise came in.



65. If you've been to Rome, perhaps you've seen Saint Peter's Basilica. There is a very popular image there that is said to be of Saint Peter. I've been there and I've seen this for myself. In fact, Saint Peter's right toe is almost rubbed off because so many that go there want to kiss the right toe because they believe they receive special grace by doing so. But when you do the research, that's not Saint Peter at all, that's the pagan god, Jupiter.



66. An image of the pagan god Jupiter has literally broken into Saint Peter's Basilica and has been renamed Saint Peter. That's an illustration of paganism creeping into Christianity. Now, the question may be, If the 10 commandments clearly forbid the use of images, how did the church explain that to people? You would think it would be hard to explain that when the 10 commandments explicitly say you should not use any graven images. This is a little sensitive, but it's something that happened in history.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Rome's Version



67. Do you know that Rome's version of the Ten Commandments is different from the Biblical version of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20? You say, what do you mean?

BIBLICAL VERSION OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make for yourself a graven image.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's.

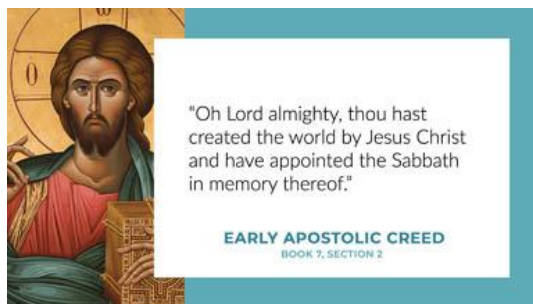
ROME'S VERSION OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet... anything that is your neighbor's.

68. If you were to look at Rome's version in a catechism, the second commandment about graven images is totally blotted out. That's right, it doesn't exist! What happened is that they took the ninth commandment, that talks about coveting, and split it in to two so that there could still be ten commandments. The way you explain why you are bringing images into the church is you simply use your power to blot out one of those commandments. That's exactly what was done.

BIBLICAL VERSION OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS	ROME'S VERSION OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS
1. You shall have no other gods before Me.	1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself a graven image.	2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.	3. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.	4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. Honor your father and your mother.	5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not kill.	6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not commit adultery.	7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not steal.	8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.	9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's.	10. You shall not covet... anything that is your neighbor's.

69. God was trying to warn his people what was coming down the pike through these seven seals— error, compromise, and pagan institutions coming into the church! There are other examples.



70. An early apostolic creed, that was discovered, said this: *"Oh Lord almighty, thou hast created the world by Jesus Christ and have appointed the Sabbath in memory thereof."* Now that's Biblically correct. This is an early apostolic creed where early Christians realized the seventh-day Sabbath was an eternal institution and it pointed back as a memorial to creation. It's referring to Genesis chapter two. We studied that a couple nights ago. Remember?

GENESIS 2:3

Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."



71. In Genesis 2:3, the Bible says, *"Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."*



DURING THIS TIME OF COMPROMISE THE BIBLICAL SABBATH WAS FORGOTTEN

72. Now that's what the Bible says, but it was during this black horse period when the Sabbath was forgotten and lost sight of and the pagan institution of Sunday came in. The pagan day of the sun was uplifted in this age of compromise and replaced the Biblical seventh day Sabbath. The church turned away from the Scriptures.

“The retention of the old pagan name, Dies Solis, for Sunday, is in a great measure owing to the union of pagan and Christian sentiment with was recommended by Constantine

HISTORY OF THE EASTERN CHURCH
PG. 184



73. You can read about it in history. I want to quote from a historical source called, *The History of the Eastern Church*. It says, “*The retention of the old pagan name, Dies Solis, for Sunday, is in a great measure owing to the union of pagan and Christian sentiment with which the first day of the week was recommended by Constantine*

to his subjects, which the first day of the week was recommended by Constantine to his subjects, pagan and Christian alike, as the venerable day of the sun.”

HISTORY OF THE EASTERN CHURCH
PG. 184



74. *to his subjects, pagan and Christian alike, as the venerable day of the sun.”*
- This is another example of pagan teachings coming into Christianity and blatantly replacing one of God’s commandments. Error and compromise set in. You see, this isn’t simply a matter of one day or two days. The Sabbath is important because it’s about following the truth of the word of God as opposed to the tradition of men. It’s about being faithful to Scripture.

DANIEL 7:25
“... shall intend to change times and law.”



75. This prophet Daniel spoke of this time when he wrote of a power that “. . . shall intend think to change times and law.”

THIRD SEAL
313-538 A.D.

A Period of Compromise In Christian History



76. So the third seal covers the period of compromise in Christian history from about 313 – 538 A.D.



77. Before we go on to seal number four, let's recap. So far, we have seal number one, a conquering church and a pure faith. We have seal number two, a persecuted church and a bloodstained faith. We have seal number three, a compromising church and an erroneous faith.

But let's notice seal number four. It begins in verse seven.

REVELATION 6:7-8

"When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, 'Come and see.' So I looked,



78. The Bible says, "*When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, 'Come and see.'* So I looked,

REVELATION 6:7-8

and behold a **pale horse** and the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to



79. *and behold a pale horse. . .*" What color was the horse? ". . . and the name of him who sat on it was *Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to*

REVELATION 6:7-8

them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth."



80. *them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth."*

REVELATION 6:7-8

them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth."



81. Now, before we figure out what this means, just looking at the description, let me ask you something. Does this sound like something good or something bad? What do you think? It certainly doesn't sound too positive, does it?

PALE HORSE



- Rider is Death
- "Chloros" is the color of death
- Power Over the Earth
- Great Violence

82. You have a pale horse. Pale is the color of death. In fact, the Greek word behind pale here in Revelation is "*chloros*". That's the word that would be used to describe someone who's near death. The rider is death, and Hades or hell was behind him. He is given power over the earth and as a result it brings an intensification of violence. You say, what does it all that mean? Here's what you're going to discover. The theme for this seal is death. It's describing a time in church history when physical death would be coupled with spiritual death.



PHYSICAL DEATH FOR THE BELIEVER
SPIRITUAL DEATH FOR THE CHURCH

83. This fourth seal describes an age of Christian history when there was physical death for the believer and spiritual death for the church. It's really describing the apostasy of the Middle Ages. During this time, the Bible was a forbidden book. If you chose to follow the Bible, and if you believed that the Bible was above the church, if you believed the Bible should be followed above tradition, you were considered a heretic.



PHYSICAL DEATH FOR THE BELIEVER
SPIRITUAL DEATH FOR THE CHURCH

84. You could be burned at the stake. You could be tortured at the rack. You could lose everything. But during this black horse period, the church not only suffered from an intensification of violence, the church also suffered from an intensification of spiritual death.

When you leave the truth of the Word of God, when you leave the gospel of Jesus Christ behind, when you forget about the cross, and you start focusing on human leaders and human doctrines, you are going to spiritually die.

FOURTH SEAL 538-1798 A.D.

Persecution In the
Middle Ages



85. And that's what happened to the church in the pale horse period. That's the period from about 538 to 1798, known as the persecution of the Middle Ages (or Dark Ages). This was a time when church and state united for 1260 years. The traditions of Rome were uplifted and those who wanted to follow the Bible were persecuted.
- To illustrate why God depicted this period as the pale horse of death, let me share with you some things that happened during that time which lead to spiritual death. The traditions of men became even more prominent.
-

PENANCES

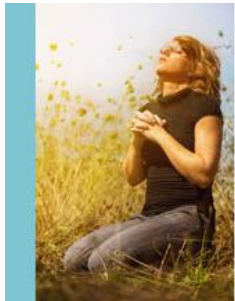


86. (If you need to shorten the message you can skip these examples and go to the fifth seal)

Penances were introduced. Penances are acts you had to perform in order to receive forgiveness for whatever sins you committed, instead of going to Jesus Christ who is our only Mediator.

1 JOHN 1:9

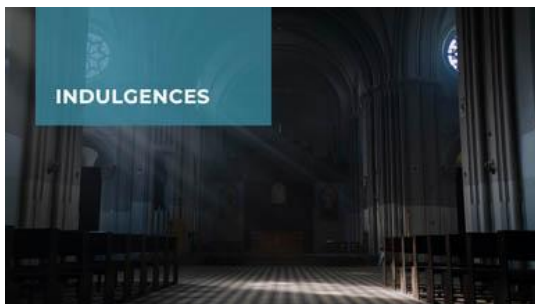
"If we confess our sins,
He is faithful and just
to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from
all unrighteousness."



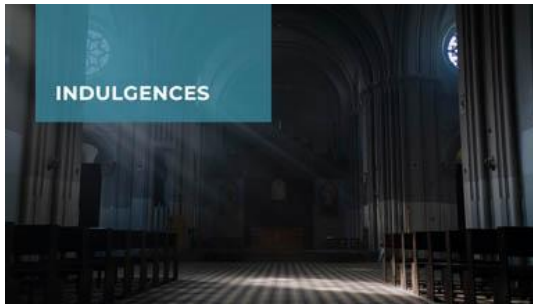
87. What does the Bible say? *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Who's the one that does the cleansing, Jesus or me? Jesus. Who's the one that does the cleansing, Jesus or the earthly religious leaders? Jesus is. But people were taught that by their acts, they receive forgiveness.

INDULGENCES



88. Then indulgences came in. If you've ever read about the Reformation during the time of Martin Luther, you know he was highly against indulgences. Indulgences taught that you could pay money to rescue a loved one out of purgatory, or even buy your way to heaven. Now you might be thinking, how could anybody believe that? But you have to understand this was a time period when the Bible was hidden from people.



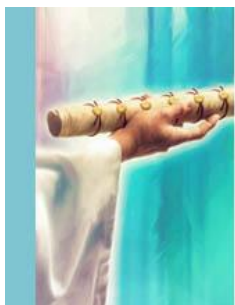
89. They didn't have the privilege you and I have of just getting our Bible off the shelf and reading it for themselves. They had to trust in religious leaders. They had to trust in human teachings. The Word of God was lost sight of and, with that, Jesus was lost sight of.



90. So, this is what the first four seals tell us. Seal number one is a white horse, a pure and conquering church from the first century. Seal number two is a red horse, a persecuted and blood-stained church from the second and third centuries. Seal number three is a black horse, an erroneous and compromising church from about 313 to 538. Seal number four is a pale horse, a doctrinally bankrupt and spiritually dying church during the darkness of the Middle Ages. And what's amazing is church history has followed exactly that pattern. God knew it and Revelation prophesied beforehand.



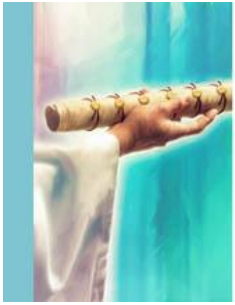
91. But it goes on. Now comes the fifth seal. As the fifth seal opens, you will stop seeing horses and horsemen. The fifth seal seems to pause and focus on the persecution of the Middle Ages. You'll see that imagery here. Let's go to Revelation six and we'll read verses nine through 11.



REVELATION 6:9-11

"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 testimony which

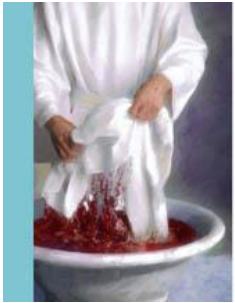
92. The Bible says, "When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which



REVELATION 6:9-11

they held And they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell

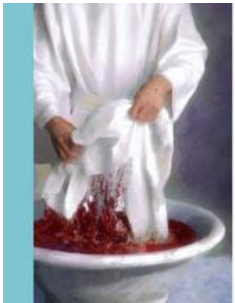
- 93.** *they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell*



REVELATION 6:9-11

on the earth?' Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer,

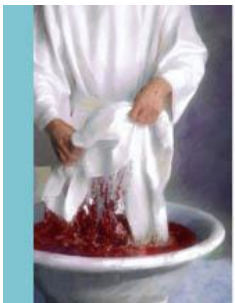
- 94.** *on the earth?' Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer,*



REVELATION 6:9-11

until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed."

- 95.** *until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed."*



REVELATION 6:9-11

until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed."

- 96.** That's a fascinating scenario, isn't it? It's describing souls who are under the altar crying out for God to do justice and avenge their blood. They're given white robes and they're told to hold on for a little longer because more martyrs are coming. Let's pause there.
- This is not to be taken literally. There are not people literally underneath some altar in Heaven crying out for God to do the right thing. This is symbolic. It's using imagery that comes from the Old Testament sanctuary. This is key to understanding this fifth seal.

FIFTH SEAL
REVELATION 6:9-11

Bronze Altar



97. In the Old Testament sanctuary, there was something called the bronze altar. It was in the courtyard of the sanctuary. You see a picture of it on the screen. When the lamb would be slain on the bronze altar, the blood would flow down to the bottom of the altar where it would be caught in a pan. The blood of that lamb represented the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.

FIFTH SEAL
REVELATION 6:9-11

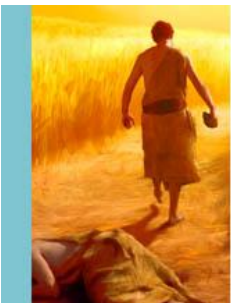
Bronze Altar



98. So when the Bible talks about souls being under the altar here in Revelation, it is referring to their sacrificial killing. It's referring to martyrs whose blood would be shed during the Middle Ages. That's where seal number four left off. These souls are crying out, "Lord, when are you going to avenge our blood?" In fact, the imagery here goes all the way back to the book of Genesis. Did you know that?



99. Now I'm going to put a picture on the screen of a particular Bible story. See if you recognize it. What is it? It's Cain and Abel. Remember what happened? Cain shed his brother's blood, and God said something specific to him. Notice the phrase God uses in Genesis 4:10.



GENESIS 4:10

"What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground."

100. The Bible says, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground."

Did God mean that Abel's blood had actually formed a mouth and was literally crying out to him? Of course not. This is symbolic. What God was saying is, "I know what has happened. I know the injustice that was done to Abel and I am going to make that wrong right. I'm going to avenge innocent blood." Cain was punished.



101. So, what God is revealing in the fifth seal is that He knows about those who've given their lives for the gospel. He knows about those who have sacrificed for Jesus Christ. He remembers those who have been faithful at all cost. He knows about the martyrs in the Middle Ages when millions of people died and were burned at the stake.



102. But this is not just limited to the persecution of the Middle Ages. God is speaking of all those who would give their life for Christ all throughout the ages. He's talking about all those who would have to sacrifice family or friends or job or money or something else because they wanted to remain true to Jesus and faithful to His Word. He's talking about all those believers who have had injustices done to them because they chose to follow Him.



103. God is telling them, *"I haven't forgotten. I remember, and one day when I come, one day in the judgment, all wrongs will be made right. In the end, justice will be done."* Can you imagine how comforting that vision would be to the families of the martyrs, not just in the Middle Ages, but all throughout time? Brothers and sisters, if you're suffering because you follow Jesus, I want you to know that God knows. If you've lost something important because you want to be faithful to God's word, He knows, and He has made record of it.



104. Though there may be injustice in this world, and though I may never be able to fight against my persecutors here, God says the day is coming when all wrongs will be made right. God knows what's happened to His people. He knows what has been done to His church. He will avenge their blood.



105. And He knows what has happened to you. He knows what's been done to you. One day He's going to make it right again. Until then, don't let it make you bitter. Don't let it make you angry. Don't let the devil use it to poison your heart and suck the joy out of your life. Just let the light of Jesus shine through you. He knows. He knows.



106. Did you notice what is given to these martyrs in the fifth seal? What are they wearing? White robes. It's signifying that they are going to be saved. Jesus assures them of salvation. Because in the Bible, only those who are saved wear white robes. It represents the righteousness of Jesus Christ. When you have Jesus, you have the assurance of eternal life.



107. But there's one more part to this seal. These martyrs are told to rest a little while. Why? Because the number of their fellow servants who would be killed has not yet been completed. In other words, God is saying that martyrs will not be limited to the Middle Ages. There will be others who are called to give their lives for Jesus Christ.



108. As you and I sit here tonight, there are people who live in countries who have no religious liberty. There are Christians today who are giving their lives and still being martyrs for Jesus. Even today there are many Christians who are killed every year for their faith. Even though I live in a place where there is freedom, it should cause me to ask myself a few questions.



109. Am I willing to die for Christ? Am I willing to give my life for the truths of God's Word? How serious am I about being a Christian? Those are tough questions to ponder, aren't they? But it tells you where your heart is.



110. Now we make our way to the sixth seal. This seal contains the longest description of them all. The sixth seal ushers in the end of time and the coming of Jesus.



REVELATION 6:12-17

"I looked when he opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became

111. Let's take a look at Revelation 6:12-17. The Bible says, *"I looked when he opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became*



REVELATION 6:12-17

like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll

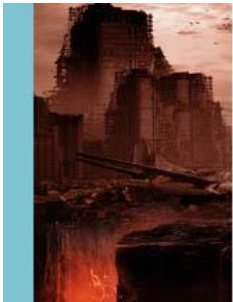
112. *like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll*



REVELATION 6:12-17

when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders,

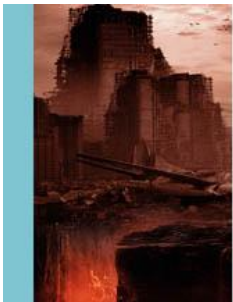
113. *when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders,*



REVELATION 6:12-17

the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks,

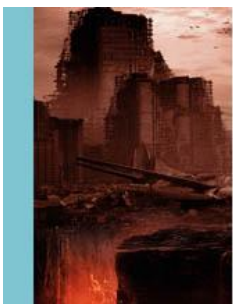
114. *the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks,*



REVELATION 6:12-17

'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

115. *'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!*



REVELATION 6:12-17

For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

116. *For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*

Clearly, this sixth seal time period ushers in the second coming of Jesus because that's what's being described here. However, before the coming of Christ, the sixth seal opens up with four interesting signs. Did you catch them in verses 12 and 13?

FOUR SIGNS



117. A great earthquake, the sun becoming black, the moon becoming like blood, and the stars falling.

Are we supposed to take these as literal signs, or are they symbolic? Almost all of Revelation is symbolic, so how can we know for sure? Do you know who gives us the answer to this question? Jesus does. In Matthew 24, Jesus described the signs of the end, and He used those exact same four signs. But Jesus described them in a literal way. I want to read this to you because I want Jesus to be our interpreter.

MATTHEW 24:29

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;



118. In Matthew 24:29, the Bible says, "*Immediately after the tribulation of those days* [speaking of the persecution of the Middle Ages] *the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;*

MATTHEW 24:29

the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken."



119. *the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken."*

Jesus is saying that these events will occur after the tribulation, after the persecution of the fourth and fifth seals of the Middle Ages.

1260 YEARS

If these signs occur after the great tribulation of the Middle Ages, then these signs should have already been fulfilled.



120. Remember the persecutions that are symbolized in the fourth and fifth seals mostly happened between 538 and 1798 A.D. It was during this time that Rome persecuted believers. If these signs occur after the great tribulation of the Middle Ages, that means these signs should have already been fulfilled because the church-state union of the Middle Ages that caused so much persecution ended around 1798. The year 1798 is when papal Rome lost its power and its government for a period of time. Church and state were separated, so persecution stopped. Religious freedom was more prevalent.

1260 YEARS

If these signs occur after the great tribulation of the Middle Ages, then these signs should have already been fulfilled.



121. If these signs come after the great tribulation, that means somewhere around 1798, a little before or a little after, we should have seen these signs occur. You say, did they? The answer is, yes! You won't hear it talked much about in the secular world, but when you look up the historical references, it's amazing.

LISBON EARTHQUAKE NOVEMBER 1, 1755



- 8.5 – 9.0 Magnitude on the Richter Scale
- 18,000 Buildings Were Destroyed, 85% of the City
- Death Toll Was Estimated at 90,000
- Shockwaves Were Felt for 1.3 Million Square Miles
- A Tsunami Followed

122. In 1755, history tells us about the Lisbon earthquake. How many people ever heard of the Lisbon earthquake? It was the worst earthquake in modern times up to that point. It was an 8.5 – 9.0 magnitude on the Richter scale. 18,000 buildings were destroyed in Lisbon, Portugal. That's 85% of the city. The death toll was estimated at 90,000. The shockwaves were felt for 1.3 million square miles. The records say that after the earthquake, a tsunami followed, which did as much damage as the earthquake.

LISBON EARTHQUAKE NOVEMBER 1, 1755



- 8.5 – 9.0 Magnitude on the Richter Scale
- 18,000 Buildings Were Destroyed, 85% of the City
- Death Toll Was Estimated at 90,000
- Shockwaves Were Felt for 1.3 Million Square Miles
- A Tsunami Followed

123. Isn't it interesting that the sixth seal opens up with a great earthquake and right around that time the Lisbon earthquake occurred?

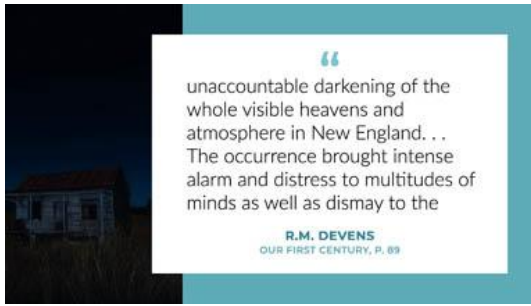
The sixth seal also said the sun would be darkened. Ever hear of the dark day of New England? It was a day when things went completely dark in the middle of the day, and it wasn't an eclipse.

“DARK DAY OF NEW ENGLAND

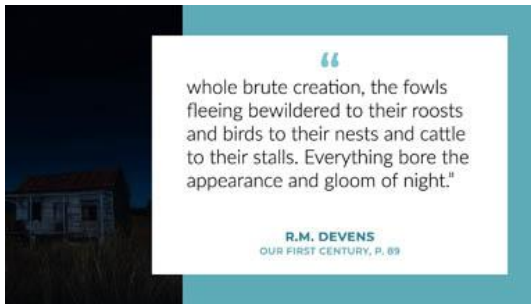
“Almost if not all together alone as the most mysterious and as yet unexplained phenomena of its kind . . . stands the dark day of May 19, 1780- a most

R.M. DEVENS
OUR FIRST CENTURY, P. 89

124. This is how it was described by R.M. Devens. He writes, *“Almost if not all together alone as the most mysterious and as yet unexplained phenomena of its kind . . . stands the dark day of May 19, 1780- a most*



125. *unaccountable darkening of the whole visible heavens and atmosphere in New England. . . The occurrence brought intense alarm and distress to multitudes of minds as well as dismay to the*



126. *whole brute creation, the fowls fleeing bewildered to their roosts and birds to their nests and cattle to their stalls. Everything bore the appearance and gloom of night.” (R.M. Devens, Our First Century, p. 89)*



- Darkness Settled in From About 8:00 AM To Noon
- Lasted 14-15 Hours
- Connecticut State Legislature Adjourned
- Darkness Went From New Jersey Up to Portland, Maine, & Parts of Canada

127. During that time, darkness settled in from about 8:00 AM to noon. It lasted 14 to 15 hours. Darkness—in the middle of the day—can you imagine that? It was so bad that the Connecticut state legislature had to adjourn. It was recorded that the darkness went from New Jersey up to Portland, Maine, and parts of Canada and, shockingly enough, in the evening the moon had the appearance of blood. Just like it’s described in the sixth seal.



128. But there’s another sign. The sixth seal said the stars from heaven would fall. Notice what happened in 1833 as described in the American Journal of Science and Arts, *“Probably no celestial phenomenon has ever occurred in this country, since its first settlement, which was viewed with so much admiration and*



129. *delight by one class of spectators, or with so much astonishment and fear by another class. The reader may imagine a constant succession of fireballs,*



130. *resembling skyrockets, radiating in all directions from a point in the heavens. . . The balls, as they traveled down the vault, usually left after them a vivid streak*

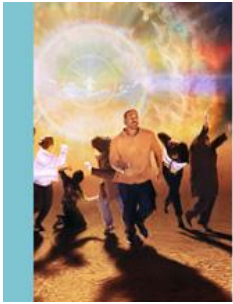


131. *of light, and just before they disappeared, exploded, or suddenly resolved themselves into smoke.” (Denison Olmstead, “Observations on the Meteors of November 13th, 1833”, The American Journal of Science and Arts, 1834)*

Literally millions of stars fell from the heavens. You couldn't miss it. People thought this must be the end of the world. But not yet. It was simply one of those signs that ushered in the beginning of the sixth seal time period.



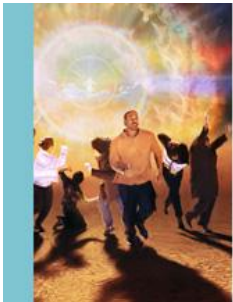
132. Here you see them summarized. A great earthquake, Lisbon, 1755. Darkening of the sun, New England, 1780. Moon has the appearance of blood, New England, 1780. Stars falling from the heavens, 1833. And what is the next event that would come in the sixth seal? It's the coming of Jesus Christ. Revelation is telling us that we're living in the sixth seal. Jesus is soon to come. But the part that ought to really make us think is *how* His coming is described here in Revelation 6.



REVELATION 6:15

"...hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains..."

133. They describe people running to the mountains and the hills saying, "*Fall on us. Hide us from the wrath of the Lamb.*" People will be running away from Jesus because they're not ready. I can only imagine what that would be like. To me, the worst thing in the world would be to look up into the sky, see Jesus coming, and know in my heart that I'm not ready. Instead of embracing Him, I'm running away.



REVELATION 6:15

"...hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains..."

134. The sixth seal calls me to ask myself the question: am I living for Christ today? If I'm not living for Him today, chances are strong, I may not be living for Him tomorrow. The sixth seal ends with the coming of Jesus.



SEVENTH SEAL
REVELATION 8:1

135. Then comes the seventh and final seal. This seal won't take very long because it's only one sentence long. But before I read it, you will notice the seventh seal doesn't come until chapter eight. There is a whole chapter in between the sixth seal and the seventh seal. You may ask, why is that?



SEVENTH SEAL
REVELATION 8:1

136. Chapter seven is like an interlude. At the end of chapter six, there's a question that is asked in the sixth seal. The question is, *For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?* This question being asked is, who can stand before Jesus? Who can be saved?

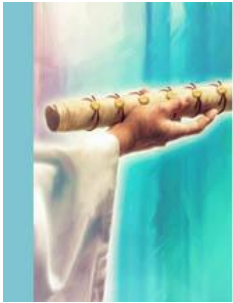
Chapter seven is answering that question because it's describing the 144,000. We don't have time to get into that tonight, but it's very clearly a symbolic number. The 144,000 are describing those who would be saved at the end of time.

SEVENTH SEAL
REVELATION 8:1



- 137.** After highlighting the 144,000, the second part of chapter seven says there is a multitude standing around the sea of glass, a multitude that's as numberless as the sand on the sea. It then describes the character of the 144,000. They have the character of Jesus because Christ lives in them.

After that interlude, comes the seventh seal in chapter eight.

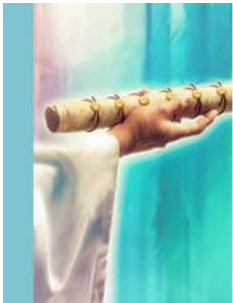


REVELATION 8:1

"When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven, for about half an hour."

- 138.** In Revelation 8:1, the Bible says: *"When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven, for about half an hour."*

The Bible doesn't give us very many clues about this, does it? It just says there's silence in heaven for the space of half an hour. What is that supposed to mean? Apparently, the seventh seal happens during the coming of Jesus Christ.



REVELATION 8:1

"When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven, for about half an hour."

- 139.** Now I've heard different ideas as to what this silence in heaven means. But there is one that makes the most Biblical sense to me.



IT IS SILENT IN HEAVEN BECAUSE JESUS AND THE HEAVENLY HOSTS HAVE LEFT HEAVEN TO COME TO EARTH AND RESCUE HIS PEOPLE.

- 140.** There's silence in heaven because Jesus and the heavenly hosts have left heaven to come to earth and rescue His people. When the Bible describes the return of Jesus, it says the Lord Himself is coming. He's coming with all the angels. He's coming with the angelic host and the armies of heaven. All the resources of heaven are being emptied to come save His people. Heaven is empty for a short time. That's why there's silence there. Jesus is coming in order to take us home. Can we say, amen?



IT IS SILENT IN HEAVEN BECAUSE JESUS AND THE HEAVENLY HOST HAVE LEFT HEAVEN TO COME TO EARTH AND RESCUE HIS PEOPLE.

141. These are the seven seals of Revelation, describing what the church would go through from the time of the cross until the time when Jesus would come. But what are the lessons of the seven seals? It's not enough to say, "*I know the information, I know what the seals represent.*" The seven seals teach us at least four simple lessons. I want to briefly go over these four lessons because this is what makes it real.

FOUR LESSONS
FROM THE
SEVEN SEALS



1. God has the future under control.

142. Lesson number one, God has the future under control. He knew what would happen to His church and He knows what's going to happen to you and me. We can trust Him to be in control of our lives.

FOUR LESSONS
FROM THE
SEVEN SEALS



2. God loves and cares for His people.

143. Lesson number two, God loves and cares for His people. Even as His church went through persecution and compromise, Jesus was still side by side with His faithful people. He never leaves us. He never forsakes us.

FOUR LESSONS
FROM THE
SEVEN SEALS



3. One day all wrongs will be made right.

144. Lesson number three, one day all wrongs will be made right. Life is not fair on this earth. Life is not fair to you and me sometimes. But one day justice will be done. One day everything will be made right.

FOUR LESSONS
FROM THE
SEVEN SEALS



4. I need to make my decision for Jesus today.

145. Lesson number four, I need to make my decision for Jesus today. When Jesus comes there is no second chance. There is no second opportunity after the seventh seal. Time is no more. The choice I've made up to that point is my choice for eternity. This teaches me that I need to make my decisions today.

FOUR LESSONS
FROM THE
SEVEN SEALS



4. I need to make my decision for Jesus today.

146. My friends, I don't know where you are in your life right now. But if there's anything that stands between you and Jesus, if you know deep down inside you have a choice that you need to make, if you know there's some area in your life where you're compromising, Jesus pleads with you saying,

HEBREWS 3:7

"Today, if you hear My voice, do not harden your heart."



147. *"Today, if you hear My voice, do not harden your heart."*

It's time to stop wavering. It's time to stop straddling the fence. It's time to stop making excuses. It's time for you and me to say, *"Lord, I will follow you with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all of my mind."* Today, will you choose to surrender your heart to Jesus and experience the joy that only He can give?

HEBREWS 3:7

"Today, if you hear My voice, do not harden your heart."



148. If you would like to say, *"Lord, I want You to live in my heart. I want You to work in my life"*, I invite you to raise your hand as we pray. By raising your hand, you are inviting Him to come close to your heart and work in your life.

HEBREWS 3:7

"Today, if you hear My voice, do not harden your heart."



149. Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us the confidence that just as you watched over Your church throughout the centuries, You will watch over us. We are grateful for Your promise that You never leave us alone or forsake us. Just now, we ask you to come close to us. Draw near to those who have raised their hands tonight. Strengthen them. Give them courage and guidance with any decisions they are making. May they sense Your presence in a personal way. We ask in Jesus' name, amen.



150.