

THE SEVEN SEALS of Revelation. 6:1-7

Introduction: The seven seals are introduced by the Lamb (Christ). The seven seals are an outline of the entirety of the rest of Revelation, except for chapters 20, 21, and 22. The seven seals are given so that God's church (called out ones) may know the history past and future for this particular age. This age is between the time of Jesus and the early church, and the beginning of the thousand year reign when Satan will be imprisoned, Christ returns, and the first resurrection. Each seal describes events that escalate into the next seal showing seven consecutive eras of time in this age. All scriptures are in the book of Revelation unless indicated.

Seal # ----- Location ----- Description & Comments

1. 6:1-2 White Horse = Pictures Satan's false religions. It is identified by the fact that he intends to "conquer". He is given a crown which denotes authority. Satan is the god of this age. This condition continues to the end of this age.
 2. 6:3-4 Red Horse= Pictures war power. Wars become rampant between great and small nations which continue well into the end of our age, continuing throughout the Beast power who takes control of the worldly governments.
 3. 6:5-6 Black Horse= Pictures an organized food management. Scarcity of food as a result of wars and natural disasters will influence a need to distribute food supplies to starving nations. While this plan starts with good intentions it will grow into a powerful tool to control the world. This opens the beginning ground work for the Beast of Rev. 13:1-8 ending in a one world government.
 4. 6:7-8 Pale Horse= Pictures death to one fourth of the world. Many will die from wars, starvation, diseases, and natural disasters. Packs of wild animals starving for food will attack and eat humans. Pressure to conform to the growing Beast power becomes the law of the land. (Time of Jacob's trouble begins ?).
 5. 6:9-11 Altar of souls= Pictures great persecution and martyrdom of the faithful by the Beast. Followers of Christ refuse to take the imposed mark of the Beast or worship his image resulting in their martyrdom. This continues until all is fulfilled. Slain saints of the past are comforted and told they must be patient, that many more are yet to be martyred. Satan's religious system is empowered.
- 6:12-17, World wide catastrophe= The earth is plummeted with (7:1-17) earthquakes, stars fall, heaven rolls away, sun becomes black, moon turns red, people of the earth admit the wrath of the Lamb is upon them. Time is given for 144 thousand of the twelve tribes of Israel to repent and be given the seal of God (Holy spirit). A great many Gentiles will also turn to God.
- The next seal fills in many details alluded to, or left out in the first six. The Beast, (Satan's government) the false prophet, the Harlot (Satan's religious power) are in full power.

Seal # 7 8:1-13, 9:1-21 Seal # 7

The seventh seal extends to the very end of events during this age including trumpets, woes, ending in the seven last plagues of God's wrath. Setting: The Beast is increasing in power. The lamb-like beast and the great city of Babylon work in harmony, becoming extremely wealthy, controlling the entire world's trade. They have murdered God's people, and have no opposition from trading nations who reap major profits from this union. Behind the scenes ten countries (of Rev. 17:12-13,16-18) plot to destroy the harlot, the great city of Babylon. In the meantime God is sending His messengers with a call to repentance to any who will listen (Rev.14:6-11) and a warning to any who are tempted to take the mark . Rev.14:14-20 shows the two groups on the earth that is to be harvested, one into God's kingdom and the other to destruction. Within the seventh seal is seven trumpets and three woes. Within the woes are seven plagues of God's wrath He inflicts on a wicked and rebellious world at the very end of this age. The seventh seal begins (8:1-13) with the first four trumpets. The first woe begins (9:1-11) in the fifth trumpet and ends with the battle of the destroyer, lead by the king of the bottomless pit.

The second woe starts in the sixth trumpet.

Rev.9:13-21 tells of all the horrible things God allows to happens to the population of the world (giving them opportunity to repent) but they do not repent.

Chapter ten is an insert communing to John that he will prophesy again before many nations in a future time. He saw things in his vision that he was not permitted to relay (write) to this age.

Chapter eleven is another insert describing the two witnesses that preach from Jerusalem, for three and one half years. The beast kills them and leaves their corpses laying in the street but after three and one half days God resurrects them.

A great earthquake kills seven thousand people and splits one tenths of the city.

Heaven rejoices and looks toward Christ's kingdom. Another earthquake, hail, lightening and thundering occur.

Chapter 12 is another insert giving the history of God's church and of Israel.

Chapter 13 is an insert giving information concerning the two beasts that rule the world at the end of this age. They are given power to make war with the saints (Israel and/or believers) and to overcome (kill) them. The little beast enforces the "mark" that one must have in order to trade. Chapter 14:1-5 describes the first fruits, 144,000 "who were redeemed from among man" and will follow the Lamb everywhere he goes.

The three preaching angels (messengers?): 14:6-13 warn the whole world against taking the mark of the beast, explaining whoever does will experience the seven bowls of God's wrath that is soon to come. They also predict the fall of that great and wealthy city Babylon. 14:12 is meant to encourage the church (Logician?) to be patient and have faith and to keep the commandments of God.

In 14:14-20 are the two groups that will be harvested, at the end of the age. One group makes it into the kingdom, the other is destroyed by fire.

Chapter 15 is an introduction of the seven bowls of God's wrath. All of the above happens in the seventh seal, seventh trumpet, and second woe.

The Third Woe is described in Rev.16:1-21 Still in the seventh seal, seventh trumpet: comes the third and last woe which contain the seven last plagues of God's wrath and is inflicted upon any who have taken the mark or worshipped the beast. 1) severe boils, 2) every living soul dies in the sea, 3) all drinking water is turned to blood, 4) heat scorches the world, 5) darkness in the beast's domain, 6) Satan, the beast and the false prophets with spirits of devils (demons) encourage and convince the nations to fight against Christ at his return. The great river Euphrates is dried up so that the kings of the east can meet with the rest of the kings and their armies in a place called Megiddo, or Armageddon, 7) God is really angry now. A great electrical storm leads to the greatest earthquake in the history of man. The great city of Babylon is divided into three parts, islands and mountains disappear, and 65 pound hail balls fall upon the earth. People blaspheme God because of the plagues. Chapter 19:11-21 gives the result of the battle between the world's armies and Christ.

Chapter 17 and 18 are informative inserts describing the beast, the second lamb-like beast, the 10 nations that hate the harlot, the great and powerfully wicked city of Babylon (a spiritual harlot) that controls the commerce of the world. When the ten nations burn her, heaven rejoices at Babylon's destruction. The world at large mourns her demise.

This age, as we know it, ends with the destruction of Satan's political and religious system (Rev.19:19-21) and their armies and followers, leaving a torn and destitute earth with few people left to start a totally new civilization and a new age, called the millennium.

Thus we have the message of the seven seals, the events that take place leading up to the end of this age. Christ suggested we watch the signs of the times and he left us a road map in the form of a letter, so we would know what to expect and be prepared for. The seven seals end with the end of this age, (the third of seven ages) at Rev. 18:24, 19:11-21 Chapters 20, 21, & 22 are for the future ages past the thousand year reign.

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