



The Seals Unveiled: Part 1

Revelation 6:1-8

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 6:1-8 NKJV] 1 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." 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. 3 When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." 4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was 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. 5 When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine." 7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." 8 So I looked, 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 them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

INTRO

As we move from the scene of all heaven resounding in worship and praise to the worthy Lamb, this same lamb who was found worthy will now begin to break the seals, unveiling

the scroll and the details of what must take place "after this." The events of the next 13 or so chapters unveil the final seven-year period of time in human history. Before we look at the seals themselves, let's unpack this idea prophetically.

Remember that the Bible is a continuous work, authored by the Holy Spirit, and prophetic in nature; the prophecies of Daniel, Joel, Ezekiel, and so on all draw conclusions that are found in this final revelation. As we look at seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls, which outline the various judgments and events that take place, we are drawn back to Daniel, who also tells us about seven years.

We draw this from a prophetic vision Daniel received that was sealed up until the last days. Daniel chapter 9 records a very specific time frame in which God outlines His dealing with His people, the nation of Israel.

DISSECTING

Throughout history, there have been four major dispensations or "time periods" in which God has dealt with His people. These four periods are divided into 490-year time periods. Daniel refers to these periods as weeks, but they are not weeks of days, but rather weeks of years (**ie 1 week = 7 years / 70 weeks = 490 years**). God specifically used these periods of time for the purification and discipline of His people Israel (important).

From the Abrahamic covenant – the Exodus from Egypt was the first 490 years

From the Exodus – The dedication of Solomon's temple was the second 490 years.

From the dedication of Solomon's temple - the edict from King Artaxerxes in 444 BC to rebuild the city was the 3rd period.

The Edict to rebuild the temple - the second coming of Jesus Christ is the 4th and last 490-year period.

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Dan 9:24-27 NKJV] 24 "Seventy weeks (490 years) are determined For your people and for your holy city,

Here, Daniel is given a vision for the final 490-year period in which God has determined "for your people."

- Who are Daniel's people? What is Daniel's Holy City? This is the nation of Israel and Jerusalem.

So, these 490 years, what do they consist of regarding God's plan and His people?

[Dan 9:24-27 KJV] 24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

By the time this period is over, there will be:

- A complete end to all transgression. Humanity will no longer be plagued by sin.
- Reconciliation for inquiry. That's done. Jesus has finished the work of salvation.
- Bring in everlasting righteousness. In one sense, that's done spiritually, but it's not yet a physical reality,
- To seal up the vision and prophecy. God's prophetic words will be complete and no longer necessary.
- To anoint the most Holy. Again, Jesus has anointed the most Holy place in heaven, but that is not a reality on earth.
- So we see that regarding this prophecy, spiritually, many things are a reality. So they are, but at the same time, they aren't yet, for these things have not become a reality for the nation of Israel and Jerusalem on this earth.

(chart) - 25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem (*Artaxerxes, Nisan 1 444 BC, Nehemiah 2*) unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks (*69 weeks/483 years - Palm Sunday*): the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks (*69 weeks*) shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself (*the crucifixion and sacrifice of Jesus for the sins of the world*):

and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week (*7 years*): and in the midst of the week (*3 1/2 years*) he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate (*Delation of the temple of God in Jerusalem*).

APPLICATION

So in this 490-year period, ALL of this prophecy has to be fulfilled regarding Israel.

- It can be said that some of these things have taken place, but it cannot be said that they all have taken place.
- And we should suspect that some of these things have been present in history because the antichrist negotiates the events described in Daniel 9, and the spirit of the antichrist is in the world.
- In 70 AD the temple of God was destroyed and burned by General Titus and the Roman army. No stone was left upon another, just as Jesus prophesied. This was the spirit of the antichrist, but it was not the fulfillment of Daniel 9. There was no 7-year treaty. There was no end of sacrifices halfway into the seven years. It didn't end with a flood.
- Most importantly, in Matthew 24, when Jesus speaks of these events, he declares that they end with His glorious return. "[Mat 24:27 NKJV] 27 **"For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."**
- That certainly did not happen!

Here is a logical conclusion:

- The first 483 years were completed with the coming of Jesus and His crucifixion. The resurrection placed a pause button on this period of time in which God's plan will be fulfilled for Israel. Enter the "Church age" or the "Fullness of the Gentiles." That is the time we currently live in now.

[Rom 11:25 NKJV] 25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- That at some determined point in time (I believe it's the rapture of the church), God will press the "play" button again, and the final week or seven years, will resume. **WE CALL THIS THE 70TH WEEK OF DANIEL.** And it just so happens that Jesus revealed all of the fine details of what those final seven years look like to John in the book of Revelation!

THE SEALS

Regarding the unfolding events, there are differing views on the exact timeline or sequence of how these events unfold.

- Some believe that the seals represent the first portion of the tribulation period, and the trumpets represent the second portion, concluding with the seven bowls of god's wrath prior to the return of Christ. that all of these are sequential events that slowly build, devastating the earth and its population more and more until the return of Christ.
- Others view these as overlapping judgments that all take place within the seven years but not necessarily in the order John sees them. They have different purposes and reveal a different sets of purposes.
 - This is the view I tend to agree with the most. I think the seals represent the character of the tribulation period, somewhat of an overview of what the entire seven years will look like, and with each set of judgments, the scroll is rolled out further, giving us a more detailed view.

[Rev 6:1-8 NKJV] 1 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."

APPLICATION

One of the angelic living creatures thunders for John to come and see the cascade of calamities the seals were about to unleash upon the earth. John is about to enter into a nightmarish horror as he observes four horsemen chomping at the bit to be released from the gate and race toward the earth. These four horsemen are represented by four words you need to write down, for these are the words that will describe the characteristics of the final period of human history.

- 1. Deception**
- 2. War**
- 3. Famine**
- 4. Death**

You might say, "Josh, those aren't anything new!" Wait until you see the scale and rapidity of how these thing compound in the final days of humanity.

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 6:2-8 NKJV] 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.

FIRST RIDER - DECEPTION

There are some who say this is Jesus Christ and the gospel going forth into the entire world. But the only thing this rider and Jesus have in common is the white horse; there is no other common ground.

- Remember, Jesus is the one opening the seal. Chapter 19 – Records Jesus’ return to the earth:
 - This rider's weapon is a bow (with no arrows) - The weapon of Jesus is a sword of His mouth
 - This rider wears a victor's crown (Stephanos); it's the wreath of an athlete. Jesus wears a royal crown (diadem)
 - This rider is followed by death and destruction. A kingdom of righteousness follows Jesus
- We could say, however, that it attempts to mimic Christ in a deceptive way to gain power and authority over the earth and ultimately usher in destruction to humanity through that authority.
- Satan has always and will always be flooding the market with counterfeits. He even does it today. Do anything but read your Bible. Do this or that, but don't pray. Sit in a dark room and contemplate the universe as you meditate on your navel. Anything but what is genuinely Jesus!
- ANTI-CHRIST is just that. It's a satanically influenced system that exalts itself above the knowledge of God and denies Christ. The Spirit of Anti-Christ is already in the world, at work.
- Satan doesn't always come looking like a bad guy. 2 Cor. 11 Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light. Satan doesn't jump out at you and say, "I'm Satan, follow me to

hell!” Satan at this point is sending into the earth a “counterfeit Christ”. Enough to look like He’s from God. Enough to look like a Messiah to the Jews and the Muslims (mahdi), but He is full of manipulation and deception.

THE DECEPTIONS

1.) First deception: Rides a white horse - Good guys ride white horses; bad guys come on black horses.

- White horses represent status and power, he will come as a powerful man with the reputation of a hero and a victor.

2.) Second deception: Notice he brings a bow but no arrows.

- He does not bring war, but his diplomatic ability is the weapon he uses to bring all the nations under his authority.
- As I look at the world today, I often think that the wars we are engaged in are less about killing people and more about controlling them. The tactics are more subtle and are dressed behind good intentions.

HISTORICAL: A Jewish believer once told me that in the 1st century, it was common to present a bow with no arrows as a symbol of diplomacy and diplomatic talks between two or more parties.

- Daniel 9 tells us the antichrist will guarantee peace in the Middle East for seven years. Have you looked at the Middle east? You know he is going to have to be a smooth talker and a diplomatic genius to pull that one off. On top of that, He will have the power of Satan working behind him.
- The world will probably hail him as the greatest leader to ever live.\
- And the world is prepped for such an event. A recent article out of Iran reads, *“The spokesman of Iran's Supreme Leader called on neighboring countries to mobilize their forces in preparation for the coming of the savior of Islam and to unite with the Islamic Republic in paving the way for his arrival...”*

EXAMPLE: *The Abrahamic Family house* is a multifaith venture. The complex in Abu Dhabi houses a mosque, catholic church, and Jewish synagogue in one complex. The effort was birthed from a document called "The Document on Human Fraternity, written and signed by Pope Francis and Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb. The goal is basically to enter a new era of humanity that accepts a god of human making... all religions, same God.

"The pluralism and the diversity of religions, colour, sex, race and language are willed by God in His wisdom, through which He created human beings." -Pope Francis

Do you think it's an accident that Klaus Schwab, the founder and executive of the World Economic forum, **wrote and article on the importance of faith in the fourth industrial revolution?**

- **The stated goal of the world economic forum is to implement a great reset that will bring a global community together to further the greater causes of humanity. Their vision is of an earthy utopia created by a combined global community.**
- **Regarding the role of faith in this grand scheme he writes,**
 - **By integrating faith communities into global, regional and industry agendas, the Forum aspires to foster elements of inclusiveness and tolerance, and harness the power of values and principles. This is to keep the human being—and what I call “inspired intelligence”—at the center of efforts to improve the state of the world... Perhaps the most important today, however, is the need for inspired intelligence—nourishing our spiritual and creative faculties to ensure that we retain and build a collective moral consciousness that allows us to work together to overcome both common and individual challenges... We must therefore take every opportunity to draw on the power of faith to catalyze a new cultural renaissance that will enable us to be part of something much larger than ourselves—a global, connected civilization.**
 - **Tell me if you think the things you've just heard are in alignment with the following statement, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the father but by me."***

Globalism is intrinsically “Antichrist” because it envisions a man-made utopia rather than a Christ-governed kingdom. Satan is the ultimate imitator. From the conquests of Nimrod and the Tower of Babel to the globalist movements of today, man sees a problem, but their solution is not to submit to the Savior but become the savior.

When man attempts to be God and attempts to accomplish what only Jesus can accomplish, it always ends in tyranny, oppression, corruption, enslavement, and death because it's marred by sin.

Not only the Jews (messiah) and Muslims (Mahdi), but also the entire world will be mesmerized by the ability of this man not only to bring world peace but to perform the miraculous.

2 Thess. 2:9-10 - The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among

those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

Because men did not love the truth... The Christian voice will not be around, and the world will have what they want. They will govern themselves and all hell will break loose. The anti-Christ will probably show up in some crisis on the earth, possibly a nuclear exchange of some sort.

Ezekiel 38-39 - At the end of Ezekiel's prophecy in chapter 39, we see the aftermath of what could possibly be a nuclear war. 39:10 – Indicates that Israel could use the nuclear remains for fuel for seven years. This is why it is highly possible that this nuclear holocaust could take place even before the antichrist is revealed. This could be the imminent event that calls for such a world leader who could bring peace to a chaotic world.

The world is already being set up for complete globalization.

- We are all global citizens. Global tax, Global economy, once we become a global community, we will need an overall global leader.
- The first seal represents the end of the restraint of all deception. The Anti-Christ will deceive all those who do not love the truth, and they will believe the lie.
- It has already begun today with the lie that humanity can be its own savior and do a better job than God. This is the goal of organisations such as the world economic forum, the UN,

3. Third deception - THE CROWN:

The crown is given to him, he comes on the scene with a bow, and the world eventually, probably through crisis, recognizes this man as their leader and awards him this "stephanos" or victor's crown.

MORE LATER: When we get to chapter 13, we will look at closer detail the coming of the antichrist, what methods he uses to deceive the nations, where he comes from, and his end.

THE SECOND RIDER - WAR

3 When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." 4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was 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.

APPLICATION

Understand that whatever true peace exists between nations and peoples is a result of God's grace and restraining force on the earth.

BIBLE PASSAGE

2 Thessalonians 2:7 – For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed...

APPLICATION

War only exists because of man's inability to govern himself righteously.

[Jas 4:1-2 NKJV] 1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war...

What happens when the conviction of the Spirit and the witness of the church exits the earth and the worst of humanity becomes the ONLY governing force in the world? Demonic deception that leads to wars increases, and senseless violence and mass war become the rule rather than the exception.

[Mat 24:6 NKJV] 6 "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."

The atrocities of war that we have experienced have been spaced out, where the worst of the wars that are yet to come will be compacted. There will be no nation, no city, and no environment that feels safe.

- What happens when predators run out of prey? They prey on each other. In the tribulation period, apart from the sealed of God, all humanity becomes rabid predators that destroy one another to try and survive.

APPLICATION

And these are only the first two realities unleashed on unbelieving humanity.

- I find it interesting that the moment everyone gets what they wanted so badly, life without God, everything turns to hell on earth.
- Friends, I am no prophecy expert. I am no expert in world events, the state of world economics (which we'll see in the end of this chapter), or a political commentator. But it doesn't even take a genius to see that what the Bible lays out that is coming has already started here and now in its beginning, preparatory phases.

This is why church, we need to keep our eyes on JESUS now more than ever!

- If you get consumed with the world, and all that is in the world, you will be confused, and the enemy will attempt to mislead you. Keep your heart and mind in God's Word. Focus on the mission of Jesus in this world. Engage yourself in spiritual activities. Bring Christ everywhere you go.