



*REVELATION*  
MADE SIMPLE  
WITH DAVE WELLS

Lesson 2.1

## Revelations Lesson 3

### **Introduction:**

Seven is the number that signifies that which is complete, finished or perfect.

There are the seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls. Some bible commentators see these sevens running parallel to each other. Personally I lean towards the position that these events happen successively one following the other with the judgments continually getting more severe. For example John refers to the bowls as ***“the seven last plagues”*** in Rev.15:1. The content of the seals appears less intensive and extensive than that of the trumpets and bowls. The seals affect only a quarter of the earth [Rev. 6:8]; the trumpet judgments affect a third of the earth [8: 7-12] and the bowl judgments are completely global.

Of the seven seals described most of the book of revelation involves describing the sixth seal [Rev. 8-19] giving us more intricate detail of this seal.

The synoptic gospels [Matthew, Mark, and Luke] provide a key to unlocking the meaning of the seals. Everything under the first seven seals parallels a message Jesus gave to His disciples. This message is commonly called the *Olivet Discourse* because it was given to His disciples on the mount of Olives.

## The Seven Seals

Breaking the seven seals is critical to the opening of the book which contains the names of the saints and their inheritance. It is the “title deed” to the whole earth and God’s creation.

I mentioned last week that the events in Revelations Chapter 6-Chapter 11 are for the most part in chronological order which parallels and matches the sequence of events described in Matt. 24 and Mark 13. Revelations 12 to Revelations 22 give us snapshots or blow-ups of events that have already taken place.

### The first seal: Revelation 6:1-2

The white horse; the crown and the bow:

Mark 13: 7-13

Acts 2: 14-21:

### The second seal: Rev 6: 3-4

### The third seal: Rev. 6:5-6

### The fourth seal: Rev 6:7-8

### The fifth seal: Rev. 6: 9-11

## **The sixth seal: Rev 6: 12-17**

There is a great earthquake and if the sun becomes black and the moon like blood it probably refers to volcanic activity blowing much ash and dust into the air.

## **Joel 2: 28-32**

See **Isa 2: 12-22** and **Isa 13: 9-13** – this is talking about the same event. It sounds like the earth will be “shaken from its place”.

The stars falling from the sky, the sky splitting apart like a scroll and every mountain and island moving out of its place describes the beginning of the end of the world. People are hiding themselves in caves and among the rocks of the mountains seeking to hide from the face of Him who is seated on the throne and from the wrath of the lamb.

The sixth seal brings us to the threshold of the end and then John tells the story of the end in greater detail. The first six seals representing events preliminary to the end or the “beginning of woes” [**Matt. 24:8**], have now been broken and the time has come for the breaking of the final seal.

## **Interlude: Chapter Seven**

Chapter 7 is an interlude between the breaking of the sixth and seventh seals.

At the end of chapter six the church stands on the threshold of her time of great tribulation. She is now reassured that God will safely see her through her terrible ordeal. When the breaking of the six seal was followed by signs of the end, men cried out in terror:

**Rev. 6:15-17**

This chapter ends with a question which is answered at the beginning of chapter seven. **Who is able to stand?**

### **The Two Multitudes**

The answer to this question which ended chapter six is now answered in Chapter seven. **Who is able to stand?**

I believe that Christians will be sealed on their foreheads by God's protective seal. The mark of the beast does not occur until Revelation 13. Thus Christians, who are bond servants, do not have to worry about taking on the mark of the beast. Our foreheads will already be occupied with God's seal.

We see the purpose of God's seal in Revelation 9:4

**4 They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men *who do not have* the seal of God on their foreheads.**

Later in Revelation we see similar protection, in connection with the first bowl of wrath.

**Rev 16: 2 “So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth ; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.”**

The Christians would not be affected by this because they would have God's mark on the forehead. So we see that the purpose of the seal is for God's protection of the believers.

This sealing is a spiritual sealing and not a visible mark on our physical body. It is a sealing to give us assurance of spiritual safety on the grounds of divine ownership. It is an inner spiritual fact that cannot be seen with the outward eye.

This same thing happened in the time of Ezekiel and the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. [See Ezekiel 9:1-11](#)

### **The 144,000:**

**This multitude represents all of the Christians from all over the world.** The number, 144,000 is a multiple of 12. It is a symbolic number. Twelve is the number of perfection. The full number of the people of God will be brought safely through the time of tribulation; not one will be lost. All believers whether Jewish or not, are really Israelites.

[Gal 3:29](#) “And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.”

If we belong to Christ then we are heirs of all the promises made to Abraham.

[Rom 2: 28](#) For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. [29](#) But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter ; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

A true Jew is one who has had his heart circumcised by the Holy Spirit.

Phil. 3: 3 for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,

There is really only one Israel. Before the cross, there were "two men" [Jews and Gentiles]. After the cross, there was only one man, made from the two men, and this new man comprise all those who believe in Jesus Christ.

**Eph 2: 11-16**

**Rom 11: 16 - 24**

I believe that all true believers of whatever lineage, will be sealed.

**The Vast Multitude: Rev 7: 9-17**

This multitude is the same group of people seen in two stages of her history in the end times: first standing on the threshold of the great tribulation who are sealed and then we see them at the end of the tribulation victorious.

The white robes and the palm branches are symbols of victory. What John is seeing here is not the saints around the throne in heaven because the description here in **verses 15-17** sounds like the consummated Kingdom when the throne of God comes down from heaven to dwell with men. **See Rev. 22:1-5**