



# THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Vision 2 , Part 3 (6:9-7:17) - Seals 6 and 7

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# SEALS 1-4 REVIEW



- Revelation in 96 toward the end of the reign of Domitian
- Seal #1 - The Age of the Antonines (96-180 AD)
- Seal #2 - Civil War (183-284 AD)
- Seal #3 - Economic depression and famine (mid 200's)
- Seal #4 - Plague and War (250-265 AD)

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# SEAL #5 — THE MARTYRS' PRAYER

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# SEAL #5 - WHAT JOHN SEES

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- “altar” - a symbol of sacrifice
  - “soul” - not a physical state; apparent consciousness following death
  - “white robe” - innocence and purity; given to the faithful
    - 4:4 - 24 elders are clothed in white robes
    - Revelation 7:13-14, “Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, ‘Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?’ [14] And I said to him, ‘Sir, you know.’ So he said to me, ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’”
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# PERSECUTION OF THE CHURCH - 303-311

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- 10 prominent persecutions under the Roman Caesars
  - 284 - Diocletian becomes emperor
  - 303 - pushed by Galerius to stamp out the faith
  - 303-311 was the most intense persecution
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# SUMMARY OF SEAL #5

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- Christian persecution reached its height under Diocletian
  - Those who died for Christ want to know how long God will tolerate this treatment
  - The prayers of the saints in Seal #5 is answered by the seven trumpets
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SEAL #6 — CONSTANTINE AND THE  
REMAKING OF ROME

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6, 6, 6

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- Sixth seal, sixth trumpet , and sixth bowl are longer than their five predecessors
  - Each set up the purpose for the vision that follows
    - Sixth seal establishes a need for seven trumpets in chapters 8-11
    - Sixth trumpet foreshadows the 1,260 time period described in 12-14
    - Sixth bowl prepares the faithful for Armageddon in chapters 19-20
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# SEAL #6 - WHAT JOHN SEES

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- “earthquake” - great political and/or religious upheaval and commotion
  - “mountain” - nations, governments
  - “island” - kingdoms
  - “sun...moon...and stars” - tremendous political shakeup
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# “SUN...MOON...AND STARS”

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- “sun” - important person politically
  - “moon” - of lesser importance (reflects light of the sun)
  - “stars” - people in general
  - See Gen. 1:16-18 and 37:9-10; 1 Cor. 15:41
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# COMMON FIGURE IN PROPHECY

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- Babylon – Is. 13:10
  - Egypt – Ez. 32:7
  - Tyre, Sidon, Philistia – Joel 3:15
  - Jerusalem – Mt. 24:29
  - A great upheaval within the halls of power; it ends with the collapse of a nation
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# 7 AND 7 - VERSES 12-14

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Earth (earthquake)

Sun

Moon

Stars

Sky

Mountain

Island

Kings of the earth

Great men

The rich men

The commanders

The mighty men

Slave

Freeman

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# VERSES 16-17

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- “and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!'”
  - Hosea 10:8, “Also the high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, Shall be destroyed. The thorn and thistle shall grow on their altars; They shall say to the mountains, ‘Cover us!’ And to the hills, ‘Fall on us!’”
  - Luke 23:28-30 But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. [29] For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!' [30] Then they will begin 'TO SAY TO THE MOUNTAINS, "FALL ON US!" AND TO THE HILLS, "COVER US!" ' "
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# WHAT IT MEANS

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- Efforts to stamp out Christianity failed
  - 305-323: struggle for throne won by Constantine
  - 325 - The Council of Nicaea
  - 330 - moved the capitol to Constantinople
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“The Council (of Nicaea)...marked the replacement of paganism with Christianity as the religious expression and support of the Roman Empire, and committed Constantine to a more definite alliance with Christianity than ever before. A new civilization, based on a new religion, would now rise over the ruins of an exhausted culture and a dying creed. The Middle Ages had begun.”

–Durant, *Caesar and Christ*

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“The ruin of the Pagan religion is described by the sophists as a dreadful and amazing prodigy, which covered the earth with darkness, and restored the ancient dominion of chaos and of night.”

–Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*

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SEAL #6, PART 2

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# SEAL #6, PART 2 - WHAT JOHN SEES

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- “after these things” - at the conclusion of the preceding events
  - “four” - the number of the earth
  - “four corners” - universality, the complete planet (i.e. four directions)
  - “four winds” - destructive forces
  - Fifth angel with “the seal of the living God”
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# WHO WAS SEALED?

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- 12 tribes of 12,000 or 144,000
  - “of the children of Israel” - spiritual Israel (verse 3, “the servants of our God”)
  - “who were sealed” - sealed with their Father's name (see 14:1) on their forehead (v. 3)
  - Dan and Ephraim excluded
  - 144,000: those who keep themselves free from apostasy during the time of the trumpets
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# EZEKIEL 9

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- “six men”: parallel to the four angels in Rev. 7:1
  - Northern gate: Babylonian army would come from the north against Jerusalem
  - “one man [with] a writer’s inkhorn”: parallel to the fifth angel in Rev. 7:2
  - Ezekiel 9:4, “Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.”
  - God sees and claims those who are grieved by apostasy
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# VERSES 9-12

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- “a great multitude which no one could number” - all the faithful throughout all ages
    - Identified in verse 14: those “who come out of the great tribulation”
    - 2 Timothy 3:12, “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”
  - “nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues” - from all over the world
  - “palm branches” - a symbol of victory
  - “Blessing...glory...wisdom...thanksgiving...honor...power...might”
    - A seven-fold praise of God (seven is the number of perfection or completeness)
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# “THE ONES WHO COME OUT OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION”

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1. They “washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”
  2. They “are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple”
  3. “He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.”
  4. They “shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore,”
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# “THE ONES WHO COME OUT OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION”

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5. The “sun shall not strike them, nor any heat”
  6. The Lamb “will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters”
  7. “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”
    - Verses 14-17: a seven-fold assurance to the faithful
    - Revelation is a book of comfort for anyone who puts their confidence of the Lord, no matter their place in history.
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“Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake...”

*—Philippians 1:27-29*

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