Session 6 The Seals of Judgment and God’s Protection (Rev 6 - 7)

Additional Study Materials

**ANSWERS TO THE FILL-IN THE BLANKS FOR THIS SESSION**

The seven seals are **LITERAL** (not symbolic), **FUTURE** (their fulfillment is still in the future), **progressive** (increasing in intensity), and **numbered** (released in a sequential order).

I believe Jesus has not opened the first seal—the bowls of prayer **MUST BE FULL**.

In the generation in which the Lord returns, God will **SHAKE ALL NATIONS** to judge the kingdom of darkness, purify the Church, and bring in the great harvest including the salvation of Israel.

The seven seals are released by **JESUS**, the Lamb of God (5:5; 6:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12; 8:1).

God’s end-time judgments will **REMOVE ALL THAT HINDERS LOVE**. He will use the least severe means to reach the greatest number at the deepest level of love without violating anyone’s free will.

The first four seals are brought about by the actions of **SINFUL MEN**.

The fifth, sixth and seventh seals involve **SUPERNATURAL ACTIONS** from heaven.

The Antichrist’s rule will initially be gained by an **“ARROWLESS BOW.”**

The Antichrist wears a crown as a symbol of his political **AUTHORITY** (13:1-2, 7).

The opening of the second seal speaks of the release of the **FINAL WORLD WAR** (6:3-4).

The context for the breaking of the seals is counterfeit **WORLD PEACE** (1 Thes. 5:3), which will end with the opening of the second seal and the abomination of desolation.

The Antichrist will make a peace treaty with **MANY NATIONS** for seven years and then break it.

**Pair of scales:** This speaks of an **ECONOMIC CRISIS**.

A denarius was equivalent to wages for **ONE DAY’S WORK**.

This represents about **10 TIMES LESS** buying power than in the world today.

Death is what happens to the **PHYSICAL BODY**, which goes to the grave. Hades is the prison where the **DEPARTED SPIRIT** of an unbeliever goes before going to the lake of fire after the Millennium.

Hungry beasts will come out of the wild to the city **LOOKING FOR FOOD**.

The fifth, sixth and seventh seals involve **HEAVENLY ACTIVITY**.

The prayer, “How long…” is the **MOST** recorded prayer in Scripture.

---

International House of Prayer of Kansas City  ihopkc.org

Free Teaching Library  mikebickle.org
This is NOT a cry for personal revenge, but that God would remove reprobates who oppress His people and hate His kingdom.

The opening of the sixth seal will release a **GREAT EARTHQUAKE** with signs in the heavens (6:12-17).

This will be a **SUPERNATURAL SIGN** sent by God as well as possibly including the natural effects of ash and debris from volcanic eruptions or smoke.

God’s people sealed for **PROTECTION**—physical and spiritual (7:1-17).

The 144,000 servants of God give us a **PICTURE OF VICTORY**.

Gentile believers (7:9-17) will also stand strong **SPIRITUALLY** without wavering in persecution.

---

**Additional Notes**

I. **INTRODUCTION TO THE SEVEN SEALS (REV. 5)**

   A. The seals will occur over years (2 years?), the trumpets over months, and the bowls over days.

   B. One’s view of the timing in which Jesus will open the seals is one interpretive key to Revelation. I believe Jesus has not yet opened the first seal—that it was not opened it at the ascension (AD 30).

      1. It would be opened only after book of Revelation was written, long after the ascension (Rev. 4:1), and only after the bowls of prayer in heaven are full (Rev. 5:8).

         1...I will show you things which must take place after this. (Rev. 4:1)

      2. The bowls of prayer must be full. Jesus will only release His judgments against the harlot Babylon and the Antichrist’s empire through a mature end-time prayer movement.

         8When He [Jesus] had taken the scroll...the twenty-four elders fell down...each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. (Rev. 5:8)

   C. God’s people must “come and see” to receive understanding to agree with Him in that day. The first command that Jesus gave His apostles in preparing them to partner with Him in His 3½ year earthly ministry was to “come and see.” This is the first command the four living creatures give us in preparation for the 3½ years to prepare the earth to agree with Jesus’ second coming.

         37Two disciples heard him [John the Baptist]...and followed Jesus. 38Jesus...said, “What do you seek?” They said, “Rabbi...where are You staying?” 39He said to them, “Come and see” (Jn. 1:37-39)
II. FIRST SEAL: ANTICHRIST’S POLITICAL AGGRESSION (6:1-2)

A. Some see the first seal as symbolic of Jesus conquering sin on the cross, or of the victory of the gospel through history. Others see it as fulfilled by the military activity of the Roman Empire over others nations or of the Parthian invasions of the Roman Empire. These views require excessive spiritualizing while ignoring the details of the text (arrowless bow, single crown, lack of victory of the gospel throughout history)

1. There is a recognizable relationship between the first four seals with points of identity and similarity between them. Each has similar characteristics, such as a horse with a distinct color with a rider released by a prophetic decree of one of the living creatures.

2. It would be out of place to see one horse as Jesus with the other three as negative events. Jesus cannot be reduced to the same level as the other three horsemen that follow.

3. Jesus is pictured in splendor in three places in Revelation (1:12-18; 14:14-16; 19:11-16). He is not simply a rider on a white horse with a crown and bow. There are significant differences between the white horse riders in Revelation 6:2 and in 19:11-16.

III. SECOND SEAL: WORLD WAR (6:3-4)

IV. THIRD SEAL: Famine and Economic Crisis (6:5-6)

V. FOURTH SEAL: Death to One-Fourth of the Earth’s People (6:7-8)

VI. FIFTH SEAL: PRAYER RELEASING JUDGMENT (6:9-11)

A. Dwell on earth: The saints will ask God to avenge their blood on those who dwell on the earth. To generalize this passage as referring to all the martyrs throughout history is to ignore the detail that their persecutors are still alive on earth at the time that this prayer is being offered in heaven.

VII. THE SIXTH SEAL: COSMIC DISTURBANCES (6:12-17)

A. The breaking of the sixth seal causes cosmic disturbances to judge the Antichrist’s empire. It will signal the beginning of supernatural judgments released by the trumpet and bowl series.

B. Hide us: the martyrs will cry, “Avenge us,” and unbelievers will cry, “Hide us.”

C. Sun: What causes the sun to become darkened? This will be a supernatural sign sent by God as well as possibly including the natural effects of ash and debris from volcanic eruptions or from smoke (as did smoke from the World Trade Center which blocked the sunlight for days).
There will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. (Lk. 21:11)

There will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars...with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. (Lk. 21:25-26)

D. Stars: The stars can speak of asteroids and meteor showers hitting the earth. The Greek word for stars used here is “aster” from which we get the word asteroid. An aster refers to any shining mass in the sky, including stars, meteors, asteroids, any flaming debris, etc. Stars are still in the sky in the fourth trumpet (Rev. 8:12). The diameter of the earth is nearly 8,000 miles. Our sun is a small star that is over 800,000 miles in diameter or 100 times larger than the earth. If one star hit the earth, it would be completely destroyed; thus the kings could not flee to the mountains. This is probably speaking of meteorites or other objects hitting the earth.

E. The sky will recede or draw back as a scroll opening a “window” into heaven so that world leaders may witness God’s wrath. World leaders are pictured as running for their lives in panic without regard for their dignity as they run to the mountains to hide from God. This is not the second coming. After the seventh bowl they are still alive and fighting against Jesus (19:17-21). We are not told how they conclude this is God’s wrath, but forerunners will be proclaiming it from the opening of the first seal. The great question of the hour is, who is able to stand?

For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand? (Rev. 6:17)

F. Jesus said that signs would occur in the sun, moon and stars (Mt. 2 4:31; Lk. 21:25-28).

G. Summary of God altering the operation of the sun: Egypt for 3 days (Ex. 10:21-23); the sun obeyed Joshua (Josh. 10); Hezekiah given a sign of the sun turning back ten degrees (Isa. 38); darkness for three hours when Jesus died; sun darkened in the sixth seal (Rev. 6:12-17); one-third of the sun diminished in the fourth trumpet (Rev. 8:12); sun scorching people with heat in the fourth bowl (Rev. 16:8-9); sun fully darkened in the fifth bowl (Rev. 16:10-11); darkening of the sun (Isa. 5:30; 13:9-10; Joel 2:10, 30; 3:13-15; Amos 5:20; 8:9; Zeph. 1:14-16; Matt. 24:31; Mk. 13:24). The sixth seal, fourth trumpet, fourth and fifth bowl impact the sun, moon, stars (Rev. 6:12-14; 8:12; 16:8-11).

VIII. FIRST ANGELIC EXPLANATION: WHO CAN STAND? (7:1-17)

A. The saints are not the objects of trumpet judgments, which are held back until God’s servants are sealed (Rev. 7:1-4; 9:4; Ezek. 9:4-6). The trumpet judgments parallel the coals of judgment poured on Jerusalem (Ezek. 10:1-7).

B. The angel explained to John that the saints would be sealed before God struck the earth, sea, and trees (7:1-4). These are the very areas that will be affected by the first four trumpets (8:7-11).

C. The opening of the seventh seal speaks of anointed prayer (8:3-4) that will release God’s fire to the earth (8:5) and the seven trumpet judgments (8:6) against the Antichrist’s empire.
1 He opened the seventh seal… 2 I saw the seven angels who stand before God… 3 Another angel… was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar… 4 the prayers of the saints, ascended before God… 5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. (Rev. 8:1-5)