

We've seen that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God is the only One worthy in Heaven and Earth to take the scroll from the Hand of God the Father and begin opening its 7 seals.

He has opened the first 4 seals and we saw the four living creatures call forth 4 different colored horses... white, red, black and pale. We've seen the Antichrist come to power as he went forth conquering and consolidating his kingdom beginning with the old Roman Empire. We saw resistance to his rule, perhaps from Red China, resulting in war which killed many millions, followed by disease and famine, killing a full quarter of the Earth's population... over 1 billion, with Death and Hell roaming the Earth swallowing up the lost.

When Jesus opened the 5th and 6th seals, we saw the souls of the Tribulation Saints under the Altar in Heaven and we also saw a great earthquake and a darkening of the Sun, Moon and Stars and the people of Earth... instead of turning to Christ in repentance, choosing to pray for the rocks and mountains to fall on them to hide them from the Wrath of God.

When Jesus opens the 7th seal, it's important to remember that the opening of the 7th seal includes all 7 Trumpet Judgments and that all 7 Bowl Judgments are contained within the sounding of the 7th Trumpet... so, the opening of the 7th seal actually includes all of the rest of the Tribulation until the return of Jesus Christ.

#### The Sealed of Israel

**Revelation 7:** After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. <sup>2</sup> Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the **four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea**, <sup>3</sup> saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees **till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.**" <sup>4</sup> And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed: <sup>5</sup> of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;

<sup>6</sup> of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed;

<sup>7</sup> of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed;

<sup>8</sup> of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.

The 12 tribes of Israel are the descendants of the 12 sons of Jacob whose name was changed to Israel. The 4 angels with power to harm the Earth are told to wait until 144,000 Israelites are sealed, to be supernaturally protected from the Antichrist and from God's judgments. 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel are to be sealed. They will be sealed on their foreheads. In Rev. 14:1 we are told that this seal is the Name of God the Father written on their foreheads. This is visible, out in the open... seen by all. None of these will be secret Believers; each one will consider himself honored to wear the name of God. How many of us would think that now; how many of us would prefer to wear a hat or grow our bangs down over our foreheads... if we could?

The same will be true, a little later, when the Antichrist demands that all people take his mark, his name or number **666** on their foreheads or right hands. They too will wear it proudly as a response of hatred and defiance against those with God's name on their foreheads and against God, Himself.

We see the same today... we've all seen the bumper stickers or emblems of a fish that contains the name of Jesus or the Greek letters **ΙΧΘΥΣ**. Usually, the motivation is something like, 'I'm a Christian and I'm not ashamed to say so.' We've also seen the stickers or emblems in response from unbelievers and atheists... a fish with the word, 'Darwin' or 'Atheist' or something like that. The motivation for that is something like, 'In your face, Christian... I hate you, I hate God and I'm not ashamed to say so.'

That's one reason why I don't believe that the Mark of the Beast has anything to do with a microchip in the hand. It will be a visible outward identification with the World System and the Antichrist... displayed proudly.

#### **Verse 9: A Multitude from the Great Tribulation**

<sup>9</sup>After these things I looked, and behold, **a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup>and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup>All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying:

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom,  
Thanksgiving and honor and power and might,  
*Be* to our God forever and ever. Amen."

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" <sup>14</sup>And I said to him, "Sir, you know."

So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup>Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. <sup>16</sup>They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; <sup>17</sup>for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Here we see a huge number of people who have been killed during the Tribulation. They are primarily Gentiles as they are '**a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues...**' Probably these are the many that are brought to faith in Jesus Christ through the witness and preaching of the 144,000 before they too are killed... we'll see the 144,000 later, in Chapter 14, in Heaven after they've all been killed for their faith.

In response to this huge blood washed group having been redeemed to God, the angels, elders and creatures all cry out,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom,  
Thanksgiving and honor and power and might,  
*Be* to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Notice their robes are now spotless and white, having been washed in the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy and Spotless Lamb of God. Only the Blood of Jesus Christ could do that... using any other blood would have left their robes dirty, stained, dark reddish black and goopy... and sentenced them to eternity in Hell.

But then, in sharp contrast to Heaven's praise and glory, the Lamb opens the 7th seal and there is complete silence in Heaven for 1/2 hour.

Suddenly everyone in Heaven is silent... no praise and worship, no harps, no songs, not a word or sound. They all know and understand... finally... the time has come, that they have been waiting for since the rebellion of Lucifer and since the sin of Adam and Eve... finally God is about to pour out His judgment on the Earth, on sinful man and finally on Satan himself and all the evil spirits... finally God is about to fully repay the crucifixion

of His Son, the murder of His prophets, the slaughtering of His people down through the ages... the complete rejection of His Love, Mercy and Grace... finally, the end is in sight.

This is a huge number of people killed because of their faith in Jesus Christ. All through the Tribulation, all through Revelation, all through history we see the same thing. God's people, Jews then Christians hated only because they belong to God through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ... those chosen, elected by God, hated by all others because they first hate the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today, around the world and especially here, those who have chosen to align themselves with the World System are being conditioned to hate Christians. Even more so during the last year, they have been indoctrinated with the idea that it is right and necessary to use violence against those who simply disagree with them politically.

In Matt 10, Jesus spoke of this time... "Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and **cause them to be put to death.**"<sup>22</sup> And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.' And in John 16: 'The time is coming that **whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.**"<sup>3</sup> And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me.' He is speaking especially to Tribulation Saints, but those who will hate and kill them are being prepared now for the time when the Holy Spirit, at the Rapture, will remove His restraining power against evil.

Last Sunday in Texas... that killer, a proud atheist, said, 'I hate Christians... they're stupid.' These things are becoming so common now that the next one happens so soon that we forget the last one.

The time is coming when God will finally end His grace and mercy, His longsuffering. The time is coming when He will be glorified through His Wrath, His Justice, His Righteous Anger.

In Deut 32 He said..

'Vengeance is Mine, and I will repay;  
Their foot shall slip in *due* time...  
For the day of their calamity *is* at hand,  
And the things to come hasten upon them...

I will render vengeance to My enemies,  
And repay those who hate Me...

I will make My arrows drunk with blood,  
And My sword shall devour flesh...

'Now see that I, *even I, am* He,  
And *there is* no God besides Me.'

### **Seventh Seal: Prelude to the Seven Trumpets**

**8** When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.<sup>2</sup> And I saw the seven angels who stand before God and to them were given seven trumpets.<sup>3</sup> Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.<sup>4</sup> And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.<sup>5</sup> Then the angel took the censer, **filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth.** And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

<sup>6</sup> **So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.**

The 7 angels before God's throne are given 7 trumpets which they will sound in order but first, another angel with a golden censer for holding incense is given much incense with which to mix the prayers of all the saints which go up to God... these are the prayers of all those killed or still alive, praying for protection and

deliverance for themselves and each other. Then, in judgment it is filled with fire and thrown down to the Earth causing lightning, thunder and an earthquake... in vengeance and retribution on the enemies of God and His people.

Now we'll begin to see something of a replay of the plagues God poured out on Egypt 3,500 years earlier. In fact, 5 of these judgments will be the same as endured by Egypt. God doesn't have to think up all brand new things... you go with what works.

What John sees here is a representation of what is literally happening.

An angel throws to Earth a container of burning fire from Heaven. The first 4 plagues are a direct result of this action... fire being thrown from Heaven to Earth. There is no reason to not take all of this literally.

First Trumpet: Vegetation Struck

<sup>7</sup>The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

This is a great storm of hail with fire... perhaps a meteor storm resulting in a third of plant life destroyed... and here God is sending blood just like He did with Egypt.

Second Trumpet: The Seas Struck

<sup>8</sup>Then the second angel sounded: And *something* like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. <sup>9</sup>And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Again... from the censer with fire being thrown down from Heaven... perhaps a flaming comet or asteroid hitting the ocean or the Mediterranean Sea resulting in the death of a third of sea life and sailing ships.

Third Trumpet: The Waters Struck

<sup>10</sup>Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. <sup>11</sup>The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

Again... a flaming comet or asteroid explodes high in the atmosphere, raining down poison onto the fresh water sources.

Fourth Trumpet: The Heavens Struck

<sup>12</sup>Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

As a result of the meteor, comet or asteroid storms... atmospheric pollution blots out a third of the light of the Sun, Moon and Stars.

Do you think God suddenly created new meteors, asteroids or comets? I don't. When God first created the Universe, He created each of these and He set them on their planned, exact courses... huge elliptical orbits which would eventually, at the exact time appointed hit the Earth at the exact places which God had ordained.

Think about Haley's Comet. When God created it, He placed it into an orbit around our star, the Sun and it takes about 75 years to complete just one of its orbits. It passes close to Earth and then shoots out far into the outer reaches of our solar system, past the orbits of the outer planets. Then, from the gravity of the Sun, it is pulled back in again to complete one more orbit.

***These first four trumpet judgments have begun God's severe end time judgment on the Earth.***

<sup>13</sup>And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice...

***"Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"***

***The next two trumpets will be even worse and more supernatural, causing terrifying events on Earth.***

We are well into the 7 year Tribulation period now... ***well into the 70th week of Daniel.***

Most of the Old Testament Prophets foresaw bits of this time to varying degrees. Jesus Christ spoke of it in detail, especially in Luke chapters 17 and 21 and Matthew 24.

When Jesus is speaking there, He is addressing three different groups about the tribulation, 2000 years in the future, but he's also talking about the Rapture, His Second Coming at the end of the Tribulation and He's foretelling the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by Rome Just 35 years later.

At one point He says His return will be seen by everyone, likening it to lightning flashing from one end of the sky to the other but then He says He will come like a thief in the night... unheard, unseen.

Is He contradicting Himself? Is He wrong? Or is He speaking of two separate, distinct events... first, the Rapture of the Church and then, 7 years later, His physical return to Earth to set up His Earthly Kingdom for 1000 years?

In Matthew 24 Jesus first talks about the destruction of Jerusalem, 35 years later, then he talks about the Tribulation and then he backs up and talks about the Rapture coming before the Tribulation when it's least expected. In verse 36 He says, 'But of that day and hour no one knows not even the angels of heaven but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until the day that Noah entered the Ark and did not know until the flood came and took them all away. So also will be the coming of the Son of Man be.' He goes on to say, 'Then two will be in the field, one will be taken the other left... two be grinding at the wheel one will be taken, the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.'

Then in Luke chapter 17 speaking of the same time He says in verse 26, 'And as it was in the days of Noah so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man. They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage until the day that Noah entered the Ark and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise, as it was also in the days of Lot; they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the son of man is revealed.'

***Jesus is relaying how it will be at the time of the Rapture... like it was in the days of Noah and in the days of Lot.*** He's not at all referring to the evil of Sodom and Gomorrah and he's not referring to the evil of the World in Noah's day when the flood came. The point He is making is that when the Rapture comes it will be like it was during the times of Noah and Lot. People were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, they bought and sold, planted and built... ***in other words, life was normal... everything was going along as usual, just like it had for a thousand years;*** no one had the least expectation that destruction was coming or that judgment was coming. No one in the time of Noah or Lot had the least expectation that Noah and his family or that Lot and his family would be taken out of the way, followed by their own destruction.

If the Rapture was determined for the middle or the end of the Tribulation no one would be eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, etc. with life going on as it had for a thousand years with no expectation of coming destruction. We've just seen some of what will be happening during that time...

Think about it.