

THE SEVEN SEALS

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Commentary on Revelation 6 and 7.

The four horsemen of the Apocalypse have intrigued many people over the years. In fact, they have been used to describe many, many different things. In fact, a film recently was made on the four horses of the Apocalypse. In that film the red horse was used to describe communism, the white horse was used to describe democracy, and the black horse was used to describe Nazism and Hitlerism. So that's what some people have thought about the horses of Revelation 6. But now I want to give the primary application of what these horses represent in Revelation 6. First of all, just first notice what is the purpose of the whole book of Revelation.

Revelation 1:1. "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass, and He went and signified it by his angel unto his servant John."

You see, the book of Revelation is dealing with things that are shortly to come to pass. So it's in the future. That word "signified" is made up of the word sign-i-fied. In other words, the book of Revelation is given in signs and symbols. It's sign-i-fied or it's signified.

This Revelation came from Jesus Christ. That's why you and I should love the book of Revelation because it comes to us from Jesus. If there's one book in the New Testament that we ought to love, it's the book of Revelation because it comes directly from Jesus.

Now the purpose of the book of Revelation, as it says there in verse 1, is to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass. In other words, the book of Revelation is like a road map. You know, you get the road map out and that tells you how far you have to go, how far at a particular time, and how much further you've got to go, and how far you've come. Well, that's like the book of Revelation. It's like a road map. It tells us what's come to pass, what is yet to come to pass, and where we are in relationship to the stream of time.

We're going to discuss the seven seals of the horsemen of Revelation. We're going to see what is taken place, and see just where we are in relationship to the coming of Jesus. You are going to see how close we are to the actual return of Jesus as outlined here in those seven seals. Now people often say to me, "Why didn't John the Revelator just give Revelation in plain simple language? Why did he give it all in these signs and symbols?" Have you ever wondered that? Especially if you've read Revelation 6 through, you'll say, What on all the earth does this white horse, red horse, black horse, and pale horse represent? Why doesn't God just say it in simple language?

Well, I will tell you the reason why God has given the book of Revelation in symbols and signs. You see, this book predicted the downfall of the Roman Empire. If the Romans had realized that this book predicted their fall as it did and as it does, what do you think they would have done even more than what they did do? Well, they would have destroyed it? So what God has done is He has covered it over from the careless reader.

Now this book also talks about the church of the Middle Ages. If this church had realized that the Bible condemns many of its teachings as it does and they had realized what it said about them, they too would have wiped the Bible out. But they didn't because God clothed it in symbols. That's why it says in the book of Daniel which is Revelation's companion, The wise will understand. While God has covered it over in symbols, nevertheless He has hung the key at the door.

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In other scriptures God has explained what these symbols represent, and we're going to notice them now. Revelation is not a difficult book if you allow the Bible to explain itself. If you try and guess like the film did and say that the red horse represents communism and the looks-like approach, you'll never arrive at truth. But if you allow the Bible to be its own interpreter, then there is no problem at all. But while God has clothed the whole book of Revelation in 'symbols, He has hung the key at the door, and He has told us what the key represents. So as we read in this lecture, we're going to have no problems in understanding what these seven seals are all about.

You'll notice the number seven. Last time we noticed that there were seven churches. This time we're going to notice that there are seven seals. If you read Revelation 9 and 10, you'll find that there are seven trumpets. Then there are seven plagues. There are seven blessings. There are seven thunders in Revelation. The number seven is stamped all over that book because the number seven in the Bible stands for completeness. Just as the number six is a symbol of Satan and the devil's number, so seven is God's number. That's why we have the expression, "We're all at six's end seven's." You add six and seven together, and what number does it give you? Thirteen. And thirteen is considered to be unlucky. That's where it comes from. And the seven is God's number. That's why there are seven notes in music. There are seven colors in the rainbow. There are seven seas. There are seven days in the week, and so on. Seven is stamped not only in the Bible, but it's stamped all over nature. And seven is the number of completeness, and it's God's truth.

You see, God is giving us a complete history of the Christian era from the first coming of Christ, right down until the second coming of Christ. It's complete. It's given in seven stages. Just like we noticed last time as we discussed the seven churches which give us the history of the church and what it went through in those seven stages. Well, now we're going to notice the same seven stages, but this time the Bible is going to give us the picture from the apostasy, from error that started to come into the Christian church.

In fact, it always reminds me of a Swiss mountaineer. He had had a perfect record in taking the mountaineers up onto the Swiss Alps. He never had had an accident. Someone asked him one day, how come that he has had such a perfect record? Well, he said, "Before I ever set out to explore a mountain, I always go ahead and I photograph it from every angle. At any time as we're going up the mountain, and one of the mountaineers say, Where are we, I can get the pictures out and I can pinpoint the very spot where we are."

And that's the whole purpose of the book of Revelation. It's to give us the stages, the truth that has come down to us and we can look back and see where God has led, where we're yet to go, and where we stand in relationship to history. Now I meet some people who say to me, "I can't understand why God would cover the same ground many times like in the book of Revelation. It goes the same ground many times like it does the seven churches and then it goes over the same period with the seven seals, and over the same time period with the seven trumpets. Why would God do that?"

Well, it always reminds me of a story that happened with a Chinaman some years ago over there in Sydney. He was a greengrocer and he was calling on the folk in bringing the groceries around. One lady wanted her Chinaman to become a Christian. She knew he wasn't a Christian and that he was a heathen. She wanted to interest him in the Bible. So when it came Christmas time she bought him a New Testament. When he came along to deliver the groceries at Christmas time, she said, "Look! I like you to accept a gift from me for Christmas. Would you read it if I gave to you this gift? You'll promise me you will read it?" "Yes," he said, "I certainly will," and it was the New Testament. After some months the lady said to the Chinaman, "How are you getting on with that book that I gave you to read?" "O," he said, "It's a very bad book." "No," she said, "It's not a bad book at all. It's a very good book. It's the Bible." "No," he said, "It's a very bad book. It's full of lies." She was horrified. "No," she said, "It's God's book. That's the Bible. It's not full of lies." "Yes," he said, "It's full of lies. It talks about a man that was born and He lived and He died. Then the next book talks about that man who was born and He lived and He died. Then the next book talks about the same man who was born and He lived and He died. Then the next book talks about the man who was born and He lived and He died. Now a man is born once, he lives once, and he dies once. He's not born

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four times, he does not live four times, and he doesn't die four times," Can you see the Chinaman's problem? He was reading the four Gospels. And he didn't realize that it was the same story four times.

So we shouldn't be surprised when we get to the book of Revelation which is Jesus' book, to find that the same history is covered many times. Just as the Gospels give you each a different facet of Christ's life, so the book of Revelation covers the same period, but covers it from different angles. Last time we noticed the seven churches which deals with the history of the Christian church. We're going to notice now, under the seven seals, that this deals with the error, apostasy, that came within the Christian church.

1. White Horse.

Covers Apostolic Period. Church of Purity. First Century AD.

Revelation 6:1, 2. "And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

2. "And I saw, and behold a white horse: and He that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto Him: and He went forth conquering, and to conquer."

So the first thing we find is that it's a white horse. Now in the Bible, is white a good color or is it a bad color? A good color. How do we know that? It stands for purity. "Though your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow." So white is a very, very good color. Now who is this horse that goes forth conquering and to conquer, and the color is white?

Revelation 19:11-13. "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth Judge and make war.

12. "His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself.

13. "And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called the Word of God."

So who does the white horse represent? Jesus as the Word of God. Remember in John 1:1 it says, "The Word was with God and the Word was God." Jesus is the express will of God. So here you have the church in the early centuries, a white horse, riding forth conquering and to conquer, and that white horse represents the Word of God, Jesus. White is indicating its purity, its simplicity, as it went forth conquering and to conquer. Now what did the rider have in his hands? A bow. What does the bow represent?

Habakkuk 3:9. "Thy bow was made quite naked, according to the oaths of the tribes. Even Thy Word."

What does the bow represent that the rider had in his hand? As this white horse went forth conquering and to conquer, the white horse represented the purity, the Word of God, and this bow that the rider had in his hand represents the Bible, that the arrows of conviction were fired by the rider into the hearts of the people. If you read the story of the early Christian church that parallels the Ephesus church that we spoke of last time that lost their first love, they were on fire. Just like when two people become married. The danger is like the Ephesus church that they lost their first love. Here you have the Bible indicating that the first church was the white horse representing the Word of God as it went forth as Christ led that church in all its purity and its simplicity.

There's a mysterious power about this Book. You know, you go forth preaching this Book and it has a mysterious effect upon people. I would suggest some time if you want to carry out an experiment, to see whether there is some power in this Book. You go on a tram or a train or a bus sometime, and pick out the Bible and begin to read it. And you'll notice how uneasy people get around you. You know, you can read up any other book you like about religion or otherwise, and no one gets worried. But as soon as you pick up the Bible, people begin to get uneasy. There's a mysterious power about this Book.

The Bible says in the first epistle of Peter that we are born a again by the Word of God. By reading His words we are changed, we're born again. That's how the early Christian church went forth conquering and

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to conquer. But there was going to come a change which would take place. A change took place because notice the white horse gave way to another color.

2. Red Horse.

Corrupt Church. 100 to 350 AD

Revelation 6:3, 4. “And when he had opened the second seal, I heard Revelation second beast say, Come and see. 4. “And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.”

Now if white is a very good color, the color red is not so good. “Though your sins be as scarlet.” Now in the Bible, the color scarlet, red, is always used to indicate sin. That’s why in the book of Revelation you read about a great red dragon. Red is always a symbol of sin. You read about a scarlet beast with a scarlet woman on it. So here you have a change that takes place. You have the white horse now giving place to the red horse. What God is saying is that there came a change in the church. The church that started off in all purity and all simplicity, now allows sin to come into the church. It now changes from white to red, and a change takes place.

You’ll find that this agrees with what we’ve found in Acts 20:28 when Paul said that there were men who would rise within the church and they would begin to speak perverse and crooked things. In the second chapter of the second epistle of Thessalonians Paul says that the day of Christ will not come except there come a falling away first and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition who exalts himself above all that is called God so that he as God sits in the temple of God claiming to be God. Paul indicated that the apostles would hardly be cold in their graves when men would arise and they would begin to speak perverse and crooked things. That’s why Revelation indicates that the pure church, the church that Jesus and the apostles established was going to have a change. And it was going to change its color from white to red. Error was now going to start to creep within the church.

This is the period when men began to adopt titles for themselves that you’ll never read about in the Bible. For example, the ministers began to call themselves Reverend which is actually a title of God. You know, the Bible says, Holy and Reverend is God’s name. And yet here now we find ministers taking that title, the title that belongs to God. They began to adopt titles like Father. And Jesus said in Matthew 23:2, “Call no man father upon earth.” And He’s talking in a spiritual sense. Yet it was during this period when they began to adopt those titles that the Bible expressly forbade people to be called. Why, the Bible says that a minister should be called Pastor. That’s what you read about in the New Testament. Nothing else. He’s the shepherd of the flock. As the church began to get away from the Word of God, they began to adopt the titles that God expressly forbade. In fact, they took the titles of God and applied them to men. Even the red horse wasn’t the last. You say, Surely nothing else was going to happen. But read on.

3. Black Horse.

The Dark Ages 350 to 538 AD

Verses 5, 6. “And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

6. “And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny, and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.”

So now we’re down to the black horse. Now black is just the very opposite to white. So now we’re down in the church period when you’re about as far away from truth as midnight is from midday. We’re now in the very opposite color. The church started away as white. Error started to come in and it went red. Now it’s black. Now the church is the very opposite to what God founded it.

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It was during this period when history tells us the Dark Ages began. This is when the medieval church dominated the world and the world was plunged into the Dark Ages. You see, historically the Dark Ages is very black and the Bible describes it as such. This is the black period or the dark period. Did you notice that this black period, this black horse in the rider's hands had balances? What do we use balances for? To weighing things. What do we weigh things for? What's that speaking of? Commercialization. You know, you use them in the shops to weigh out your things. You'll notice that they're actually weighing out a measure of wheat for a penny and three measures of barley for a penny, "and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." Now during this period we find that the church began to seek after political position.

This corresponds now with the period that we spoke about last time in the churches when the church began to dominate and it began to seek political affiliation with the state, and it used the power of the state in order to enforce its teachings. This is the time when they began to sell the things of God, and everything that you wanted the church to do for you, you had to pay for. When you got a child christened, you had to pay for it. When the child grew up and it went to confession, you had to pay for it. When the child got married, you had to pay for it. When the child died, you had to pay for it for extreme unction. When it was buried, the church had to be paid again. After the person had been dead for some period, then you had to pay for it to get it out of purgatory. So it didn't matter whether you were alive or dead, you still had to pay.

And this was the period when the church began to become commercial, and it ended into great money making. You had to be paying out all the time at the services of the church. You couldn't belong to the church, but that you were paying out money for anything you wanted. You couldn't get married, you couldn't be born, you couldn't die, you couldn't be dead, and you have got your relatives paying. So it didn't matter whether you were alive or dead you had to pay. That's why the Bible is indicating here, they're weighing out the things of God. And position became important.

They went over to Jerusalem during this period and they actually scraped out the dirt from the ground and they took it over into Europe. And they sold it and you bought little bits of dirt and wood from the cross and so forth at a price.

In fact, when I was over in Europe I went over to Venice. There was a beautiful cathedral, a magnificent cathedral that you won't see too much better in the world than in Venice. I noticed for a small sum I was shown these things. Listen to what I was shown. I jotted them down. I was shown eight pieces of the cross. You know, I saw enough pieces of the cross when I was going through Italy to make a forest, if you put them all together. I must say this. What I am saying now, I don't want anyone to misunderstand what I'm saying. But I know you're honest and you want me to explain the Bible the way the Bible is. It's the system that God is concerned about. It's not the people.

Let me read on what I jotted down. They showed me a piece of the vestment of Christ's garment. They showed me two thorns from the crown of thorns. They showed me the blood of Christ in a bottle that they had. They had a nail of the cross. They had a base of the column to which Christ was tied. They had a piece of the scepter placed in the hand by the soldiers. They had a lock of Mary's hair. They had the stones thrown at St. Stephen. They had a bone of Paul's leg, a bone of Matthew's leg, a bone of Philip's leg, and a bone of Peter's leg.

I saw all of those things with my own eyes. I paid a little price and the man in charge of the church showed me all those things. I went down to Milan and they showed me a finger of Mark and a ring of Mark. They had the head of the Apostle James. They had the head of Titus and the head of Luke. They had a piece of the head of John the Baptist. They had a piece of Stephen's backbone. And the traffic in relics became staggering during this period, and every church was vying against another church in order to build up their relics, and this was the church. It was during this period of the black horse when error like a Niagara swept into the church. It was about as far away from truth as midday is from midnight. This was the period when the Sabbath was changed from Sabbath into Sunday. This was the period when baptism was changed, and a lot of other things were all changed during this period.

You and I, of course, have grown up to believe that these changed things were right, simply because we would never question them. But if you trace back through history, it was during this black period that just

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about every truth that's in the Bible was changed In fact, you can hardly show me a single truth that's in the Bible that I can't show you that it was changed back in this period. Just about every single doctrine without an exception was either changed or perverted during this period. That's why God pictures it as a black period, the Dark Ages when the church dominated the world.

4. Pale Horse.

Period of Tribulation. 538 to 1517 AD

Revelation 6:7, 8. "And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

8. "And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth."

So after the black horse, what do you have next? The pale horse. Who is the rider of the pale horse? Death and Hell. This is the period when you find that after the church changed all these doctrines and got about as far away as black is from white, you find now that those who didn't want to follow these changed and to accept all these changes that were brought about in the Christian church, do you know what the established church that was tied in with the political powers with the state did? You find now that they started pitiless persecution. This is the period you'll find that over a hundred million martyrs died for the truth of God's Word. They wanted to stand by the truth of God.

Don't you misunderstand me. I'm not suggesting for a moment that everyone gave way to error. God has had always true people who stood firm to truth. But those people now who didn't want to change the doctrines, who didn't want to, for example, accept Sunday instead of the Sabbath, and didn't want to have the false form of baptism instead of the Bible form of baptism and on on, this is the period when now the established church that is linked in with the political power, with the arm of the state, now turns round and used the state to persecute those who will not accept these changed doctrines.

You pick up such books as Foxes Book of Martyrs which is very readily available today. I don't suggest that you read it just before you go to bed at night because it's a pretty gruesome book. But you can pick up books like that and it will reveal to you just what happened during this period when about a hundred million died. I often think of the writer, Isaac Watts, the great poet and hymn writer, whose written so many hymns. He said, "Must I be carried to the sky in flowery beds of ease, While others fought to win the price and sailed through gory seas." Can you see what he's saying?

You know, there are many today, they say to met "Look: It's like this. If you preach things that are easy, I'll come along and listen to you. But if you preach anything that's a bit difficult or a bit hard, then I'm not so interested and I'm going to lose interest in what you're saying." Many people today want a Christianity that is easy. They don't want Christianity which means that they would have to change their life. They want to sought of have a hope of heaven, but they want to live as they want to live. Millions are like that in the world today.

Well, the Bible says that there have been literally millions and millions of people who have literally given their life for what they believe to be true. They haven't merely lost a job. Some folk lose a job over the Sabbath. But these people not only lost a job. They lost life itself for it, and millions died.

As the Bible says that they were going to use the sword to kill them and hunger and so on. They starved many to death. Others used the sword. And Isaac Watts says, Must I be carried to the sky in flowery beds of ease. Is God going to let me go to heaven in flowery beds of ease? While others who fought to win the price, Sailed through gory ease. Is God going to allow me just to float into heaven on a foam rubber mattress when others have given their life.

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I tell you , every one of us who is going to heaven, is going to face trials, and we're going to face difficulties. You're not going to heaven without difficulties. I like to think that when I have to go through difficulties and the winds of trouble blow, I think God is preparing me to be able to stand along side those millions that I'm going to meet in heaven, and I'm going to say to them, What happened to your life? Well, they say, I was burnt at the stake. I walk down the golden streets and I meet someone else come along and I say, What's your story? He says, They starved me to death. I walk a little further down the street and I meet someone else who was thrown to the lions, that's how I ended my life, he says. And they say, Now tell me your story.

It's going to be good, isn't it, to say, Well, I lost a job or I did this. It's going to be good to tell them that you went through something. It would be a tragedy up there if you did not go through something because there are going to be millions who are going to tell stories just like that.

I think it would be a pleasure to die for Christ. He doesn't ask us as much today to die. God wants us to live for Him. He'll never see us starve to death. I've never known anyone who stepped out for the Sabbath, and they've lost a job that God has given them a better one. So it was during this period that millions died. I can tell you story after story of different places where millions were incarcerated.

I was over there in the southern part of France. I went down there and visited the Tower of Constance in a little place called Constance. It's a medieval place. It's still got the moat around it and the medieval walls built by the crusaders. And there's a tower I went up there because I wanted to see. I read about a woman there who had spent 38 years entombed in that tower. Do you know why she was there? All she had to do was to confess her sins to a man and she would have been released. She said, "My God tells me that I'm to confess to no man. I'm to confess to Jesus." And rather than surrender, she spent 38 years on that cold stone floor, no rugs or mats. She sat there, and the cold winds blew threw that tower. I was there in summer and it was still cold. The winds whistle because, you know, these old towers in the medieval days, they had little slits in the wall. They're open and there's no glass in them. They're open the whole year round. As I was up there, the wind was whistling. She spent 38 years there and they were allowed to knit white they were up there. She took one of those knitting needles and while there she wrote in French "Resiste." It means resist and she resisted the urge to give in. She resisted the urge to recant. I bowed my head as I stood beside that brick wall where the words were imprinted and I photographed it. I thought to myself, God give me the courage of that woman.

That's why Isaac Watts says, "Must I be carried to the sky in flowery beds of ease, While others fought to win the price, And sailed through gory seas." And that's what millions did. We're down here now in the days of pitiless persecution.

5. Souls under the Altar

1517 to 1844 AD

Verses 9, 10. "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

10. "And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, does Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"

Here we are now where the people are crying out. The blood of the martyrs, as it were, was crying out against those that have persecuted them. How long God, are You going to allow this to go on without doing something about it?

Now some folk have read this and think it's talking about the souls in heaven. It's not dealing with that at all. These people are on the earth. It's a figure of speech which is saying, Their blood is crying out for vengeance. How long, Lord, is this blood going to be spilt without You settling up an account? And they're slain, as it says in verse 9. What are they slain for? They are slain for two things. What does it say? They

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were slain for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held. They were the two reasons that they were killed because they wanted to follow the Word of God and because they talked and shared their faith.

You see, it was a crime back in those days to take a meeting like this. It would never be allowed. You couldn't even talk to someone about your testimony and tell them about the Word of God, but they would imprison you and kill you, the inquisition.

6. Signs in the Heavens

Verses 11-13. "And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

12. "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the Sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the Moon became as blood:

13. "And the stars of heaven fell unto the Earth, even as a fig tree castes her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind."

After the pale horse you have the souls under the altar. Then the next thing you have is signs. Now what are these signs? By the way, this brings us right from 538 to 1517. Then from 1517 to 1798. Now if we're correct, round about this year 1798 when the Dark Ages finished, we would expect to find a great earthquake. That was going to be followed by the Sun and the Moon turning blood, and then the stars falling. Actually, in the year 1755, there was the great Lisbon earthquake which, up until recent times, was the greatest earthquake the world has felt. Over 50,000 people were destroyed in the Lisbon earthquake. You can just check this up in your encyclopedia.

Then immediately after that, the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair. This happened in 1780 and the moon became as blood. Then in the year 1833 the great meteorite shower, the greatest the world has ever experienced had happened. Exactly in that order. The stars didn't fall before the earthquake. It was the earthquake, the sun and the moon, and then the stars fell. It was exactly in that order that God said it would happen.

Verse 14. "And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places."

Now listen! Verse 13 is fulfilled. Is verse 14 fulfilled yet when the heaven is going to depart as a scroll? No. What's that referring to? The Second Coming. So in actual fact we are living in point of time. If you draw a line between verse 13 and verse 14, the very next great event that's going to take place is the departing of the heavens as a scroll, and Jesus is going to return. It's a sobering thing to think that we're living between those two verses, verse 13 and verse 14. That's where we are. Then it describes the second coming of Jesus.

Verses 15-17. "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

16. "And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide up from the face of Him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

17. "For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

Isn't that the most important question? Jesus is going to come. Obviously the rich men, the mighty men, the chief captains, they're not going to be able to stand. But the question is asked, Who will be able to stand? Now chapter 7 of Revelation tells you whose going to be able to stand. If you go through Revelation 1, you'll find that there are two groups of people that are mentioned in Revelation 7. First of all, there's the 144,000 in verse 4. Then after that there is what is called in verse 9, the great multitude. Those two groups of people are the groups that are going to stand through the last great conflict.

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Revelation 7:9-13. "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, that no man could number, of all nations, and kingdoms, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10. "And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11. "And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshiped God,

12. "Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

13. "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they?"

He says, Who are these that are standing here in white robes?

Verse 14. "And I said unto him, Sir, Thou knows, and he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

You see, the days of persecution are not all over yet. When we talk about the mark of the beast and the issues that are going to be surrounded in the last days, you are going to see that some of us may be called to go through great tribulation. But the Bible says, those that are saved. The angel says, Who are these that are clothed in white robes? And they say, These are they which came out of great tribulation.

You know, there's only one message that's going to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people calling people from all around the world, and that's the message of the three angels in Revelation 14, calling people everywhere to come back to the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This is the great plan that God has for us today. He wants us to accept Him.

7. At Second Coming.

Revelation 8:1. "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour."

The sixth seal brings up down to the coming of Jesus. When Jesus comes the heavens depart as scroll. The next seal tells us that there's going to be silence in heaven. Now when will there be silence in heaven? Is there a time coming when the Bible says, the angels and Christ are going to leave heaven? When Jesus returns. He said that He's going to have all the angels with Him. There's going to be silence in heaven because heaven is going to be empty. Christ is going to return with all the angels with Him. They're going to come back in glory to get the righteous. The Bible says the silence is going to be for half an hour. Now that's an interesting question.

How long is half an hour? In Bible prophecy we have noticed that a day represents one year. Now there are 24 hours in a day and in a Bible year there are 360 days. So a 24th of 360 would be about 15. Well now, half an hour would be half of that which would make it round about 7.5 days. In other words, the Bible indicates that there's going to be about a week in which heaven is going to be silent. That's the time, the Bible says, that Jesus is going to return. Now He says that He's going to come back to this earth quickly. The Bible indicates that the journey home to heaven is going to take us about a week as we go back to heaven.

I can just imagine, you know, on our way back that we want to call in on these sinless worlds. We may spend a day on one world and visit these other sinless worlds. Jesus will take us round and show us the universe. Then we're going to be taken home to heaven. You know, it's going to be a wonderful day, don't you think?

I've often thought to myself that no amount of sacrifice that's ever involved, would be anything like just the trip home to heaven. Even if there was no heaven to gain. Just to have that one trip home to the glory

65. THE SEVEN SEALS

land will more than repay us for any problem that we might face on this earth. Don't you think? It's a good idea to remember what God has in store for us. There's going to be silence in heaven for about half an hour. He is going to come back quickly and lift us home to glory. But we'll only be there by the blood of the Lamb. All we have to do is to follow the Lamb, to follow the blood. Christ has already provided for us salvation. All we have to do is follow the Lamb and Christ will see us through.

May God help us to put our trust in Him. You know, it a wonderful thing as you look back and see the way how God has foretold all these things. We see all these things today in the world and we can now understand why there's such a division in Christianity because much of this Christianity is still following this black horse period. That's where these errors have come from. As we look back we see where we are. We see why God has raised up a message in these last days and why God is calling for you and for me to follow Him all the way.

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