

## “7 Seals!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Jim Davis** – a song he wrote called *Behold the Lamb*. (re: 4&5)
- 1.2. **Last Week:** Out of the heavenlies(ch.4&5) we now **spiral back down** now to rebel planet earth.
- 1.3. **This Week:** The 7 yr. Tribulation begins!
  - 1.3.1. Joel 2:11 “For the day of the LORD is **great and very terrible**; Who can endure it?”
  - 1.3.2. Nahum 1:6 “Who can stand before His **indignation**? And who can endure the **fierceness** of His **anger**? His **fury** is poured out like fire, And the rocks are thrown down by Him.”
  - 1.3.3. Mal.3:2 “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderer's soap.”
  - 1.3.4. **Read** Zeph. 1:14-18 “because they have sinned”
    - 1.3.4.1. God once sent a **Peace Treaty** to earth to be signed my man!
      - 1.3.4.1.1. Man tore it up, & sent it back.
      - 1.3.4.2. That **Peace Treaty** was *the Prince of Peace/Treaties!*

2. **7 SEALS! (1-17)**

- 2.1. **Show** – Overhead of the Interrelationships of the **Seals, Trumpets, Bowls**. [N.T. Survey]
- 2.2. **1<sup>ST</sup> SEAL – WHITE HORSE!** (1,2)
- 2.3. **Why horses?** – They represent **military power** in Biblical times.
  - 2.3.1. **Note:** the **4 horses** in Zech.6.
- 2.4. **Who is this white horse?** - Some say **Christ**, others say **Anti-Christ!**
  - 2.4.1. The only thing similar is **the color** of the horse!
  - 2.4.2. This riders **crowns** was - **στέφανος** /stephanos or a “victor's wreath”
  - 2.4.3. Jesus' in **19:12** has many **crowns** - **διάδημα** diadem or “kingly crown”.
  - 2.4.4. Jesus comes at the tail end of Judgment (Rev 19) {i.e. not the beg.}
  - 2.4.5. So, Antichrist arrives on the world stage with the markings of **counterfeit!**
- 2.5. I believe this is the **world ruler** coming on the scene, & he begins his conquest of the nations by “*peacefully taking control*”.
  - 2.5.1. Alexander The Great often conquered whole cities w/out a drop of bloodshed!
  - 2.5.2. He seems to have a **bow** with no ammo/arrows.
- 2.6. **How will he be received?** Jn.5:43 “I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if **another** comes in his own name, **him you will receive.**”

- 2.7. **Cold War** - In that there is still peace till the start of #2!
- 2.7.1. 1 Thes. 5:2,3 “**you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.**”
- 2.8. Satan seems to declare **peace** before he declares **war**...so **beware** of his offers!<sup>1</sup>
- 2.9. **2<sup>ND</sup> SEAL – RED HORSE!** (3,4)
- 2.10. Remember it’s wise when interpreting, to move from the clearer statements to the less clear!
- 2.10.1. We know that **peace is removed** from the earth, & people start warring against each other.
- 2.11. A Sword “**given**” to him, shows.....**God is in control!**
- 2.12. **Why Red Horse?** – maybe suggests bloodshed?
- 2.13. **Wars normally bring Famine!**
- 2.14. **3<sup>RD</sup> SEAL – BLACK HORSE!** (5,6)
- 2.15. “**Scales/balances**” – used for weighing out the cost of food.
- 2.15.1. Speaks of rationing of food.
- 2.16. Normally a days wage (**Denarius**) would buy **10** qrts of wheat, **30** of barley.
- 2.16.1. During this famine you’d only get 1 qt. of wheat, 3 qt. of barley.
- 2.16.2. **Or, 1/10** the normal supply of food!
- 2.16.3. **So, radical inflation!**
- 2.17. “**Do not hurt the Oil & Wine**” - is an ironic twist in this terrible situation.
- 2.17.1. The rich will continue to enjoy their luxurious lifestyle.
- 2.17.2. Luxury food items will not be in short demand...{Russia/Caviar}
- 2.17.3. **This will only taunt the people in there poverty stricken state.**
- 2.18. **Starvation Stats:**
- 2.18.1. **More than 1/2** of the world goes to **bed hungry**.
- 2.18.2. **Malnutrition** stalks the globe. It claims **10,000** lives **every day**.
- 2.18.3. In the U.S. **we throw into our garbage** cans every day enough food to feed a **family of 6 in India**.
- 2.18.4. The **average Amer. dog** has a **higher protein diet** than most peoples of the world.
- 2.18.5. **1.5 million** people are **forever hungry**...on what Ghandi called “*the eternal compulsory fast*”.
- 2.18.6. **While we sit down to dinner, 400 people** will starve to death.

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<sup>1</sup> Warren Wiersbe pg.851

- 2.18.7. As population increases, we'll **never be able to catch up** to the hunger in the world.
- 2.18.8. (i.e.) **Each yr. the world consumes about 1.2 billion metric tons of grain alone** (enough to build a highway...18 yards wide & 6' deep.....around the world at the equator!) (Phillips pg. 102)

### 2.19. Famines normally bring **Death!**

2.20. **4<sup>TH</sup> SEAL – PALE HORSE!** (7,8)

2.21. **“Pale” - Yellowish/green!**

2.21.1. LKGNT - **“It refers to the color of a corpse, or the blanched appearance of a person struck w/terror!”**

2.22. This is the only rider named...**“Death”**.

2.23. Some think each of the 4 horsemen, are not persons but personifications!

2.23.1. Here is death personified.

2.24. **Death** claims the **physical** part of the person!

2.25. **Hades** follows & claims the **immaterial** part of the person!

2.25.1. Here is more evidence death doesn't end all! {after death is...Hades}

2.25.2. After Hades is...the Lake-o-Fire!

2.25.2.1. That 3<sup>rd</sup> step will be in **Rev.20:14** where the Lake-o-Fire claims that **soul for eternity!**

2.26. **1/4th of earth** is wiped out! {in **9:18** an additional 1/3<sup>rd</sup> are killed}

### 2.27. There are 4 means of extermination:

2.27.1. [1] **Sword** (war)

2.27.2. [2] **Hunger** (Famine, that normally follows war)

2.27.3. [3] **Death** (perhaps by plagues /diseases that accompany wars also)

2.27.4. [4] **Wild Beasts** (apparently unrestrained)

2.27.4.1. In our area in the last 2 weeks I saw a possum, a raccoon, & a coyote. (what if they had rabies?)

2.27.4.2. The most destructive is not the *lion, tiger, or bear*, but the **Rat!**

2.27.4.3. The Rat is *“clever, adaptable & destructive!”*

### 2.28. Rat Stats!

2.28.1. If **95%** of a Rat population is exterminated in a given area...it will replace itself in **1 yr.!**

2.28.2. Rats have **killed more people** than all the wars of history....& it makes it home wherever man is found!

2.28.3. They carry as many as **35 diseases**. Their fleas carry **Bubonic plague** (which killed 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the population in Europe in the 14th cent.)

2.28.4. Their fleas also carry **Typhus** which in 4 centuries has killed 200 million people.

2.28.5. Rats are also linked w/**Famine**...They are a threat to **food supplies & contaminate it**.

2.29. **Today** – Who ever thought we'd be attacked by **“chickens”**? Yep, **Bird Flu**(Avian Influenza). [And by **Mosquitoes** w/the **West Nile**]

- 2.30. **5<sup>TH</sup> SEAL – CRY OF THE MARTYRS!** (9-11)
- 2.31. Now we **shift to heaven** for a glimpse of what is going on up there.
- 2.32. **Who** were these martyrs? Probably martyrs from during the 1st 4 plagues.
- 2.33. **Why** were they martyred? “for the word of God & their testimony”
- 2.33.1. Lit. “For the witness which they were having.”
- 2.34. **Why** under the altar? The blood was always poured out at the foot of the altar.
- 2.34.1. Lev.4:7 “And the priest...shall pour the remaining blood of the bull at **the base of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.**”
- 2.35. The martyrs are **aware** of what is transpiring on earth! (They are conscious, at rest, & aware)
- 2.36. **God’s answer...Wait!** - Still more to be martyred!
- 2.36.1. Here we glimpse at the long standing **problem w/evil & why it is allowed to reign.**
- 2.36.2. We know it is for **His perfect plan & purposes**, which are best from **His vantage point, of His total plan** - though different from **our** limited viewpoint!
- 2.36.3. This is difficult from the Martyrs standpoint, “**why would God let these murderers live?**” - **TRUST HIM!** {Let Him, do His will, in His time!}
- 2.36.4. **Death for Jesus sake is not a waste - but is sacrifice & worship!**
- 2.37. Re: Martyrdom, “**Love makes the whole difference between an execution & a martyrdom.**” (Evelyn Underhill)
- 2.38. **6<sup>TH</sup> SEAL – COSMIC DISTURBANCES!** (12-17)
- 2.39. **Great earthquake** - {3 more to come}
- 2.39.1. We saw how devastating the one was off the coast that killed so many in Asia. (Tsunami)
- 2.40. **Sun as Black sackcloth!** - {Note: “as” & “like”}
- 2.41. **Moon like blood!**
- 2.42. **Stars falling/meteorite shower** -
- 2.42.1. A meteor shower on the earth w/great devastation.
- 2.43. **Sky Rolled Up/Heavens opened!**
- 2.43.1. **Is this Heaven opening up for a brief moment?** & they see the throne? cuz 16
- 2.44. **Every Mountain & Island moved!** -
- 2.44.1. Note: **no** “Like or as”.
- 2.45. **What is more dreadful than death?** – The terror of the Lord.
- 2.45.1. It wasn’t the **physical** devastation, but a glimpse of **God**, that makes them cry, **hide me from Him on the throne & from the Lambs wrath!**
- 2.45.2. The wrath of the Lamb - **Ever see a Lamb in a rage?**
- 2.45.2.1. You’ve heard his other name? **Lambo!**

2.45.3. The result of all this mess....is to strike the terror upon the hearts of the people on earth!

2.45.3.1. Did it help? See 9:20,21

2.46. These 6 seals are **only the beginning**...“if a woman had **3 hours** of hard labor....this is only the 1st of the **3 hours!**”

2.47. **7<sup>TH</sup> SEAL – SILENCE!** (8:1)

#### 2.48. Silence!

2.48.1. **Masada** - anticipation of the Romans finally reaching the top and...silence!

2.48.2. Silence is something **Heaven** is normally...**NOT!**

2.48.3. Silence is **golden?** No...Silence is **eerie!**

2.48.4. Heaven is where **Praise, Joy, & Singing** are given up *day & night* forever & ever!...That's why this is so strange!

2.48.5. Imagine the 4 living creatures who rest not day & night saying, *Holy, Holy, Holy, etc.* all of a sudden find a **rest** in their sheet music?

2.48.6. The silence is the **lull** before **the storm!**

2.48.7. Hab.2:20 “**But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence** before Him.”

2.48.8. Zeph.2:20 “**Be silent** in the presence of the Lord GOD; For the day of the LORD is at hand, For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests.”

#### 2.49. **End:**

2.49.1. **Read** - Joel 2:11,12.

2.49.2. The Tribulation is to cleanse the **creation** for its **Creator** & to **draw to Him** as many as will come. [Purification precedes Worship!]