

Seven Seals, Seven Trumpets, Seven Bowls (Part 1)
(Revelation 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 17)

The seals open the series of judgments coming on the earth after the departure of the bride of Christ – the church. For some, these judgments have already taken place when Jerusalem was destroyed in A.D 70 or are happening throughout history. Because the book of Revelation was written in the mid-90s after the destruction of Jerusalem, this thought holds no ground to support it. John was instructed to write the things that he sees (present), what they are and what is to take place hereafter (future) (Rev. 1:19). Paul, in his first letter to the Thessalonians says that when **people** are saying, all is well, and secure, and there is peace and safety, then in a moment unforeseen destruction will come upon **them** as suddenly as labor pains come upon a woman with child; and they shall by no means escape, for there will be no escape (I Thess. 5:3). Who are they? They are the wicked and rebellious people. Those who refuse to obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and those who rejected YAHSHUA as their Messiah. The series of judgment will start when Israel signs a covenant with the devil for the sake of peace. Isaiah prophesized: Because you have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we have an agreement – when the overflowing scourge passes through, it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge and in falsehood we have taken shelter. (The Lord says) Your covenant with death shall be annulled and your agreement with Sheol shall not stand; when the overwhelming scourge (tribulation) passes through, then you will be trodden down by it (Isaiah 28: 15, 18). Jeremiah describes that day as Alas! For that day will be great, so that none will be like it; it will be the time of Jacob's trouble, but he will be saved out of it (Jeremiah 30:7).

After the departure of the church of Christ and His Holy Spirit from the earth, who are restraining and keeping the antichrist from being revealed, then the lawless one will be revealed. God's wrath will fall upon the earth after Israel's signing of the covenant with the antichrist, starting with the opening of the seals introduced in chapter five of Revelation. Only YAHSHUA – the Lion of the tribe of Judah, can open the scroll and break its seven seals; they (the four living creatures) sing a new song, saying, You are worthy to take the scroll and to break the seals that are on it, for You were slain and with Your blood You purchased men unto God from every tribe and language and people and nations (Rev. 5: 5,9). YAHSHUA, as a Lion He shows power, authority and sovereignty over all and as a Lamb, He is the Savior and Redeemer of the world by means of His sacrificial death. When YAHSHUA opens the seals a series of judgment are revealed:

The first seal is opened and the antichrist on a white horse and carrying a bow and a crown was given him and he rode forth conquering and to conquer (6:2). We see that he carries a bow, but arrows are not mentioned, possibly because he comes first as a man of peace. And by peace he shall destroy many (Dan 8: 25). However when he is revealed as the antichrist, he will “do according to his will; he shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished for that which is determined shall be done; he shall not regard the gods of his fathers or Him [to Whom] women desire [to give birth - the Messiah] or any other god, for he

shall magnify himself above all" (Daniel 11:36). He will conquer some kingdoms by force and some will submit their sovereignty to him.

The second seal is opened and a red horse appears with power to remove peace from the earth. And its rider was empowered to take the peace from the earth, so that men slaughtered one another; and he was given a huge sword (6: 4). The short time of false peace the antichrist brings, it will be taken away by the red horse. YAHSHUA warned in Matthews 24:7 that nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom and there will be famines and earthquakes in place after place. Men's hate for one another will increase world-wide. The huge sword given him shows the extension of harm they will cause to each other. We see much of it now in some areas and people are saying we have already gone through this period. We have heard of it, but the entire world has not yet experienced or seen it as it is described by YAHSHUA.

The third seal brings a black horse, and in his hand the rider had a pair of scales. Famine follows war. A measuring scale established the amount of food given to the people. John heard a voice saying: "A quart of wheat for a denarius [a whole day's wages], and three quarts of barley for a denarius" (6:6). It will be a trying time for those who are so used to have in abundance. At that time food will be scarce and there will be none to be thrown away.

After the **white horse** with the antichrist conquering the world with false peace, the **red horse** comes and destroys the antichrist's false peace causing man to slaughter each other. Then famine follows with the **black horse**.

The fourth seal is opened and a **pale horse** is seen bringing death to the earth. A quarter of the population will be killed at that time. YAHSHUA referred this time in Matthews 24; Luke 21 and Mark 13. He called it the great tribulation. He said, For there will be great tribulation such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now- no and never will be [again] (Matt. 24:210). The pale horse culminates the events of the first three horses with sword, famine pestilence and wild beasts (Rev. 6:7-8).

The fifth seal shows lives of those who had been sacrificed for the word of God and testimony they had borne (6: 9). These are the tribulation saints who accepted YAHSHUA as a result of the testimony of the 144 thousand from every tribe of the sons of Israel. These young men are chosen for that time to be God's witnesses on earth. They will be protected by the seal of God on their foreheads (Rev. 7:3) not to suffer under His wrath. John said, After I looked and vast host appeared which no one could count of every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. These stood before the throne and before the Lamb; they were attired in white robes, with palm branches in their hands; in loud voice they cried, saying, salvation is due to our God, Who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb (Rev. 7:9)! Our Lord is very patient and does not want men to perish. He gives them another opportunity in these trying times of the great tribulation. But they will be martyred for their faith in YAHSHUA. John saw the souls of those who had been slain with axes for their witnessing to YAHSHUA and for the Word of God, and who had refused to pay homage to the beast or his statue and had not accepted his mark or

permitted it to be stamped on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived again and ruled with Christ a thousand years (Rev. 20:4b). They will be guests at the wedding reception of the Lamb with His bride – His church.

The **sixth seal** is opened and there was a great earthquake; and the sun grew black as sack-cloth of hair; the moon became like blood and the stars of the sky dropped to the earth like a fig tree shedding its unripe fruit out of season when shaken by a strong wind; and the sky rolled up like a scroll and vanished and every mountain and island was dislodged from its place. Then the kings of the earth and their noblemen and their magnates and their military chiefs and the wealthy and the strong and slave or free hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, and they called to the mountains and the rocks, Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him Who sits on the throne and from the deep-seated indignation and wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand before It? (Rev. 6:12-17). The wrath of God is intensified in this sixth seal, which is the prelude to the second woe coming on earth.

The seventh seal is opened with silence in heaven for about half an hour (8:1). This is undoubtedly a sign of a tsunami of great magnitude coming. God's wrath is about to be released on earth. The seventh seal is an introduction to the next woe at the sounding of seven trumpets. Voices from all tribes and nations who had been redeemed, angels and the four living creatures, all stop the praises and worship to join in the silence of that moment. The intensified judgment was about to fall on the earth. There was in this silence a sense of anticipation of God's judgment by the entire host of heaven. "As it was in the days of Noah" before devastation came on earth to judge the wicked people, God called Noah to find shelter in the ark he had built. There was silence in that ark for seven days just before God's wrath was lashed by means of the universal flood.

These are the days for all of us to "stand in silence in the presence of the sovereign Lord, for the awesome day of His judgments is near" (Zephaniah 1:7). We, the bride of Christ, must stand in awe and anticipation and in "silence before our Lord, for He is springing into action from His holy dwelling" (Zechariah 2:13). Soon the voice of our Lord will be heard calling us to "Come to enter our chambers and to shut our doors behind us; to hide ourselves for a while until the Lord's wrath is past" (Isaiah 26:20). That will be the rapture of the bride of Christ.