

Revelation 6 & 7 – The Seal Judgments And The 144,000

The Seal Judgments Of Revelation 6

**** The judgments we are going to see in Revelation are sequential.** First, the seal judgments. Next, the trumpet judgments. And then, the bowl judgments. Here is why I favor this view:

Vss. 9-11: *“When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth? Then they were given a white robe and told to rest a little longer...”*

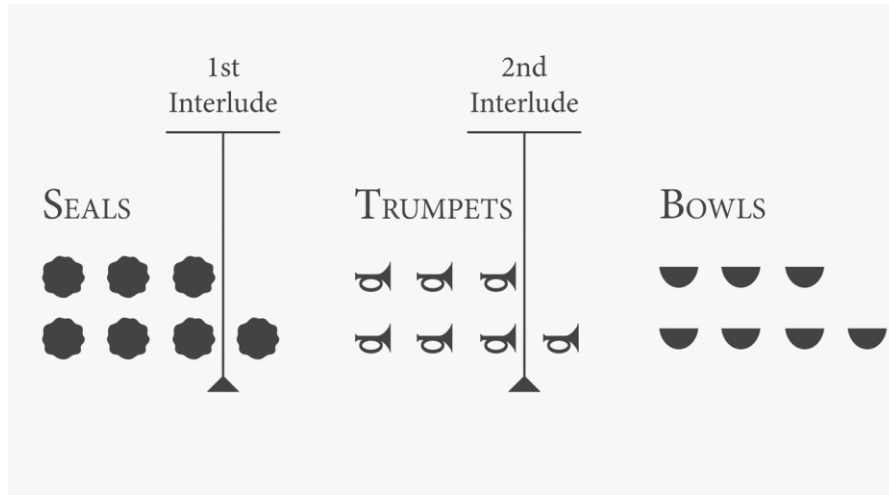
- They are killed for the “Word of God” and for their witness. They are martyrs.
- Like the elders in Rev. 4, these are receiving their white robes.
- Mt. 24:9-10 mentions those who are martyred because of their faith.
- There are tribulation saints that are martyred (Rev. 7:14). The beast makes war on the saints (Rev. 13:7-8). Note the slain in Rev. 18:24; Rev. 20:4.
- Many will be killed during the tribulation for not worshipping the beast (Rev. 13:15).
- The phrase “had been slain” is perfect tense, indicating that something is happening with a continuing result. Thus, some believe that these individuals are OT saints or tribulation saints killed during that time.
- Keep in mind that Christians have been killed for centuries because of their faith.
- In vs. 10 these martyrs are not seeking vengeance against those who took their lives. They are wondering when God’s justice will be handed out because they know that God is holy, righteous, and just in how He deals with the world.
- Note God’s response in vs. 11 to the question of vs. 10. We see God’s patience and Sovereignty in action.

Vss. 12-16: *“When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when...”*

- There is a global earthquake and other cosmic signs. See Mt. 24:7-8; Nah. 1:5.
- Volcanoes may be spewing ash and gases into the air, veiling the sun.
- This distorts the moon, giving it a different color.
- Some believe the stars falling are meteors that crash to earth.
- The heavens will look different as if they have vanished, rolled like a scroll.
- Islands and mountains are moved by this monstrous worldwide earthquake(s).
- We need to note the response of people when this happens. In vss. 15-17 they hide in caves and in the rocks of the mountains trying to escape. Note that no matter what someone’s social status is, they are affected. No one escapes.

- In vss. 16-17 these people recognize Who it is that is bringing this judgment upon the earth. Possibly by hiding they feel they can escape the wrath of God. They also ask who can stand before the wrath of God.
- Note two things about the people in vss. 15-17: (1) they show no sorrow for sin or their rejection of Christ; (2) there is no repentance, no turning to God.
- The question of vs. 17 is answered in Rev. 7 about who can stand in the great day of God's wrath.

Revelation 7 – The 144,000 Sealed Followers And A Great Multitude



“Chapter 7 is the first interlude in Revelation and doesn’t advance the chronology of the book. It falls between the sixth and seventh seal judgments and gives us details about what is happening while the seals are being opened in chapter 6.” – Mark Hitchcock

Vss. 1-8: *“After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth...Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads...”*

- Note the “four winds” mentioned in vs. 1. In the OT, this stirred up thoughts of judgment (Dan. 7:2; Dan. 8:8; Dan. 11:4; Zech. 2:6). The four winds are being held, indicating something is about to happen.
- In vs. 3 we read of the sealing of the servants of God. What is the purpose behind the sealing of these individuals?

A) “Sealing” shows a mark of ownership. The word means “to set a seal upon, to mark with a seal, or stamp.” The seal could be visible or like we read in Eph.

4:30 about our being sealed by the Holy Spirit, which is not visible, but by our life.

B) These are protected by this sealing (Rev. 9:4; Rev. 14:1-5).

C) The anti-Christ will expect people to take his mark, but this is not that. These are “God’s servants.” This seal is a contrast to the one given by the beast.

- Vss. 4-8 tell us that these sealed servants of God are taken from the tribes of Israel. These are literal Jews from the tribes.
 - A) Some think these individuals represent the church. This is a widely held view.
 - B) Some think they represent all of Israel that is to be saved – The believing remnant (Rom. 9:27).
 - C) These individuals are Jewish men from the twelve tribes. The use of the number 12,000 repeatedly emphasizes that it is an exact number.
 - D) Note that the tribe of Dan is omitted. This may or may not be significant. In the lists of tribes in the Old and New Testaments usually Levi is not mentioned.
 - E) The early church held that Dan was omitted because the anti-Christ was a Jew from the tribe of Dan. There is no proof of this.
 - F) Dan may have been omitted because they were one of the first tribes, or the first tribe, to lead the nation into idolatry (Judg. 18:20; 1 Kings 12:28-29). But Dan also is included in the tribes that receive an inheritance in the millennial kingdom (Eze. 48). We cannot say for sure the reason behind their absence.
 - G) The main point is that God is still watching over Israel during the tribulation.
- What do these 144,000 Jewish believers do during the tribulation? I believe (holly speculating) that they will proclaim the message of the Gospel (Mt. 24:14; Rev. 14:6).

Vss. 9-17: *“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and people and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands...”*

- Those mentioned in vss. 9-17 are those who have been saved and then martyred during the tribulation period (vs. 14). Some see them as the same group noted in Rev. 6:9-11.
- Palm trees are prevalent in the millennial city and temple (Eze. 40:16) and were associated with celebrations.
- I believe those noted in these verses are saved during the tribulation and had not consistently rejected the Gospel (2 Thess. 2:1-12).
- The Holy Spirit is still working in the tribulation period, bringing people to salvation. They are saved by the blood of Christ (Rev. 7:14; Rev. 12:11,17).
- They give praise to God in vss. 11-12 along with other believers and angels.
- Vss. 15-16 shows what they will not have to deal with in the tribulation period because they have come to faith in Christ and are now in heaven. God will shelter them as they are in His presence. Jesus will be their shepherd (vs. 17).

Practical Application:

- Knowing the believers are suffering for their faith, we need to pray for and support them.
- Knowing there will be people saved during the tribulation period does not lessen the importance of us sharing the Gospel now.

