

The Seal Judgements

Revelation 5-6

OPENING ILLUSTRATION: Friday night I watched, or might I say - I endured for 3 hours, of what was perhaps the worst movie I've ever seen, "The Batman" starring Robert Pattinson as Bruce Wayne.

There were many points at which I could fairly critique the movie, but the primary critique that I might offer was that it lacked the *tension* that every great movie possess.

Great movies, great stories, great songs, and even great sermons create a tension that is resolved. The resolution may be the one chord in a piece of music, or the hero in a great novel, or the gospel in a great sermon. The secret is to play with the tension until every individual feels it and yearns for resolution. ***It is then, and only then, that the hero rides in to save the day, or the plot takes an unexpected turn.***

CONTEXT: Last week we saw the **tension of silence** as no one was found worthy to open the scroll or break its seven seals. Heaven was silent, nothing could be heard but the weeping of the aged Apostle. The one of the elders places a hand on his shoulder and says, "Weep no more, behold the Lion of the Tribe of Judah". All of creation breathes a sigh of relief as Jesus takes the scroll from the hand of His father.

This week a **new tension** arises as the scroll is opened and we recognize that things much get far worse before they get better. The stench of sin rises into the nostrils of the Creator to such a degree that He declares war against His creation.

In Order to Understand Revelation 6, you really need to be familiar with Dan. 9

Daniel 9 Daniel has been taken captive into Babylon. Babylon has fallen to Persia and the nation of Israel is under Persian rule. Daniel picks up his bible, he is an old man at the end of his life and he reads the book of Jeremiah. **Daniel 9:2 (ESV)** [2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.](#)

Jeremiah the Prophet had written that the nation of Israel would be in captivity for 70 years. You see, God told them through Moses that they were to take a weekly sabbath (rest one day in 7) and a Sabbath of Years - let the land rest one year in seven.

Israel had disregarded the law of God for 500 years and God sent them into captivity for 70 years.

Daniel reads what Jeremiah had predicted and realizes that he's living at the very end of the 70 years. At this point he begins to pray fervently that God will fulfill His word and deliver the nation of Israel from captivity.

Daniel 9:21–27 (ESV)

²¹ while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. ²² He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, “O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding. ²³ At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.

²⁴ “Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city.

70 weeks in prophetic literature is 70 weeks of years - $70 \times 7 = 490$ years.

Gabriel is saying, Daniel, now that God’s 70 year plan of exile is coming to a completion, God begins a New thing a new dispensation if you will.

- to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin,
- and to atone for iniquity,
- to bring in everlasting righteousness,
- to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.

That is speaking of the coming of Messiah - Jesus. So Daniel, it’s not just 70 weeks and you are released from Persia, in 70 weeks of years, the Eternal Kingdom will be here!

NOW - All we need to know is when that period of time begins and verse 25 tells us.

²⁵ Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem

March 4, 444BC The Persian King issued a decree to **Zerubabel** (*Governor*) and to **Ezra** (*Priest*). These men returned under the decree of Persia to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. It took the 50 years to get the city in working order, then **Nehemiah** came to rebuild the wall.

25b. to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time

7 weeks
+ 62 weeks
69 total weeks.

There shall be 69 weeks of years... **483** years.

²⁶ And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing.

That's the crucifixion. So from the issuing of the decree in 444BC, 483 years later you should expect Messiah the Prince to come and die as the atonement for the people.

As a matter of fact, according to **Sir Robert Anderson** who precisely calculated to 69 weeks of years later came exactly to the Passover Friday that Jesus road into Jerusalem for the triumphant entry.

And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. ²⁷ And he shall make a strong covenant with many (Israel) for one week, and for half of the week (3.5 years into it) he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."

Now - that hasn't occurred yet.

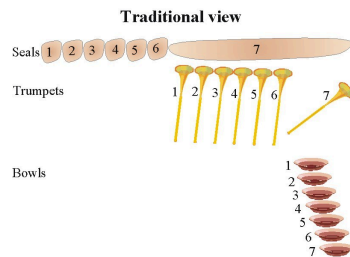
There is one week missing? One week - the 70th week.

The clock ticked perfectly for 69 of those weeks.... then there is a major **GAP**.

The gap is what we call the **Church age**. You will not find it here in Daniel. That is why in the New Testament it is called a Mystery. It's not here. That is also another reason we believe that the Church will not go through the Tribulation period.

We are waiting for that final 7 year period to occur.

There is a book of the bible dedicated to that final SEVEN years when all of this is going to happen. The book of Revelation if focused on Daniel's 70th year. The next major section of this book is going to focus on that 7 years of tribulation.



You are going to see:

•7 SEALS opened.

•7 TRUMPETS sounded

•7 BOWLS poured out

All happening in 7 years, ever increasing in intensity and severity.

Apparently the seventh seal contains the seven trumpet judgments (8:1–11:19) and the seventh trumpet (11:15) contains the seven bowl judgments (16:1–21). The seven seals thus contain all the judgments to the end when Jesus Christ returns. All of this expanding on Daniel's 70th week.

TEXT: Revelation 6:1–17 (ESV)

1. Seal #1 - A White Horse

¹ Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" ² And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

He's on a white horse like Christ, he's conquering like Christ, he has a kingdom and authority like Christ - but it's not Christ he comes in **Rev. 19**. Who is the guy who is a false Messiah? It's Anti Christ.

Anti - doesn't mean against, it means in place of.

Matthew 24:4-5 (ESV)

⁴ And Jesus answered them, "[See that no one leads you astray.](#) ⁵ [For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray.](#)

- In Dan. 9 what kicks off the tribulation? Anti-Christ.
- 2 Thessalonians 3, what kicks off the tribulation? Anti-Christ
- Revelation 5, what kicks off the tribulation? Anti-Christ

That the rider **had a bow** but no arrows, and that he was honored with **a crown** that **was freely given to him**, reveals that his **conquering** will involve bloodless victories

This will be world leader with remarkable charisma and supernatural ability.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-11 (ESV)

⁹ The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false,

We will learn more about him as we study the book, but for now recognize a world leader is coming like we have never seen.

2. Seal #2 - A Red Horse

³ When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" ⁴ And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.

Daniel 2, tells us that there is 10 nation power that arises in the East a **REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE**. Eastern Europe united. A leader rises up and defeats 3 of these nations and takes control of this Kingdom. So he comes to power without firing a bullet, but he soon becomes a warlord.

Now keep in mind that the forming of the European Union is very recent - 1993, it is in constant flux, Great Britain leaving, Ukraine now being fast tracked for membership.

Matthew 24:6–7 (ESV)

⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

Daniel 8:24 (ESV)

²⁴ His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints.

ILLUSTRATION: A good example of this was **Adolf Hitler**. He was proclaimed the furor without firing a shot. He brought a remarkable period of prosperity to Germany. But eventually he wielded the sword and took over Belgium and Czechoslovakia and Poland... then as you know he began to attack the Jews with the Holocaust. During WW2, there a lot of Christians who thought - this is it. Because Hitler was so much of a fulfillment of Anti-Christ.

Daniel 11:36–45 (ESV)

³⁶ “And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done. ³⁷ He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all.

3. Seal #3 - A Black Horse

⁵ When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius,

A denarius was a day’s wage. So a man could work all day and only make enough to buy bread to feed himself. War inevitably leads to severe economic stress and inflation.

and do not harm the oil and wine!”

That is a need to conserve and ration, due to a food shortage. At this point the EU government lead by anti-christ seizes control of commerce. This is what will ultimately lead to one needing the mark of the beast to conduct business.

4. Seal #4 - A Pale (green) Horse

⁷ When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" ⁸ And I looked, and behold, a pale horse (literally a green horse)! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades (Hades is the resting place before the lake of fire for the unsaved dead) followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

So you see here, the Bible says there would be tribulation such as the world has never seen.

In **Genesis 9**, God caused an innate fear of man to fall on the animal Kingdom, but at this time, the fear will be lifted.

Man will become a natural part of the food chain. Snakes, Coyotes, Bears, Wild Hogs will come out of the woods looking for fresh meat, looking for people.

In the **Millennial Reign** Christ will cause the Lion to Lay down with the Lamb, and the viper to play with the child. That promise is even more remarkable in light of this prophecy.

5. Seal #5 - Jewish Martyrs

⁹ 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.

Now remember that about this time is when **Romans 11** is fulfilled. In the midst of Tribulation Israel is beginning to see their Messiah. They are realizing the legitimate nature of the true Christ as the witness the work of Anti-Christ. As a result they are being killed for their faith.

I saw under the altar the souls The Church is Physically resurrected already. These tribulation saints are spirits in the present of God, they will not be raised till the end of the tribulation.

¹⁰ 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?" ¹¹ Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

Matthew 24:9 (ESV)

⁹ "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.

6. Seal #6 - The Earth is Shaken, Israel is Saved

¹² 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, ¹³ and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. ¹⁴ The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

NOW - Do you understand that if there were an earthquake right now we would dodge the falling debris. But in this day - the Bible says men will beg for the rocks to fall on them out of fear.

Can you imagine what it would be like for God to take the crust of the earth and move it like a rubic's cube? The Richter scale can't measure this.

Matthew 24:29 (ESV)

²⁹ "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

a. The Sealed Jews -

Chapter 7: ² Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, ³ saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." ⁴ And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

Have you ever met a genuine Jewish convert. Once their eyes are opened and they see Jesus, they will never be the same again, that preach!!!!

Have you heard of a guy named Paul of Tarsus? Imagine 144,000 Pauls.

Can you imagine 144,000 Jewish Evangelists that make Billy Graham look like a Novice?

You see even here in the midst of the most hellish day's this world has ever seen - the Gospel is still the center piece.

b. The Saved Gentiles -

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and

crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Group #1 (7:1–8)	Group #2 (7:9–17)
1. Jews	1. Gentiles
2. A group of 144,000	2. Multitude no man could number
3. Sealed and protected	3. Not sealed; many will die
4. Seen witnessing on earth	4. Seen worshiping in heaven
5. Enter into the kingdom	5. Share in the kingdom

CONCLUSION/INVITATION:

Hebrews 10:31 (ESV)

³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 2:3 (ESV)

³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,

Notice, it doesn't say, "if we reject so great a salvation" but, "if we neglect". The danger is never getting around to dealing with your sin and your Savior. The purpose of this series is to awaken us to the reality of what's coming. Each week people are seeing it. What about you?