

## "SEALS"

### Opening Announcements

### Opening Prayer

Q: Have you ever seen a wax "seal" on a letter?

**Seal:** "A small engraved object used to make an image in soft clay or wax indicating ownership, authority, or authenticity—much like a modern signature."



In this section of The Revelation, we're introduced to the visual of a "a scroll" that contains writing on the front and back and is sealed with "seven seals" (Rev. 5:1ff). In John's vision we see that no one but Jesus is able to open the scroll! This is HUGE! HE IS THE JUDGE! He has "all authority in heaven and earth" (Matthew 28:19).

So in the days leading up to today we see, Jesus open each seal one by one and as He does, there is a corresponding vision/result in the form of horsemen and visions. Today we'll pick up with the "5th" and the will lead us to our text for today! But before we do.....

**READ: 2 Corinthians 1:20-22** "For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. <sup>21</sup> And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, <sup>22</sup> and **who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.**"

Q: What is good about having the "seal" of the Holy Spirit?

Q: How is THIS mark different from the "mark of the beast"?

Q: How do we receive this mark? (Galatians 3:2ff)

**READ: Revelation 6:9-11** "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. <sup>10</sup> 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?" <sup>11</sup> 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.

Q: Why had these "souls" been slain?

Q: What does Jesus say to their "crying out"?

Q: What does the "robe" symbolize? (Hint: Isaiah 61:10)

Q: Why are the "resting"? (Hint: Genesis 2:2, Hebrews 4:9)

**READ: Leviticus 4:25** "Then the priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering and ***pour out the rest of its blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering.***"

Q: How is this similar or reminds us of the Revelation passage above?

Q: How does the sacrifice of these saints "reflect" the sacrifice of Jesus?

Q: AND, why is them being "under" (at the base of) the altar symbolically significant?

**KEEP THIS IN MIND:** When you read Revelation 16:6, 17:6 and 18:24. The judgments that come on the earth, are in response to the killing of the saints i.e. justice IS served!

**READ: Revelation 6:12-17** "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, <sup>13</sup> and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. <sup>14</sup> The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. <sup>15</sup> 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, <sup>16</sup> 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, <sup>17</sup> for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

With the opening of the sixth seal, John is given a vision of the terror of "the end of all things". All "*who did not heed the call to repentance and the invitation of the Gospel of the victorious Lamb will attempt to flee in terror.*" - Brighton, *The Revelation*, pg.173

Q: What does the "sixth seal" remind you of?

Q: What comes next?

A: Two visions of the 144,000 & The "Great Multitude" (The Church Militant & Church Triumphant).

**POINT:** These are given to bring us COMFORT in the face of the Great Tribulation and God's judgment on sin.

