

## The Horses and Horsemen of REVELATION Ch 6

Peace be unto you brethren!

I would like to speak to you today about what I have learned in preparation for our Blackburn Bible Students upcoming study in the 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Revelation. I have noticed that quite a few brethren in their various classes have taken up the study of Revelation. This seems to be a sign of the times we live in. God did not reveal much in past times about the symbols and pictures given in this precious book but as the end of the age rolls in, I can see that God is revealing more and more of His precious truths and anyone who has an ear to hear will be looking for these precious truths as God allows them to be understood. I am sure many of you will be able to teach me more about this topic than what I present here today – please feel free to come and share your thoughts with me! Hopefully this will stimulate discussion between the brethren also as we all seek the blessing which comes from “reading and listening to the words from this book” as it says in Rev 1:3.

**Rev 1:3** Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

In Rev Ch 5 we see the Lamb of God who was the only one to be found worthy to come up to God and to take the scroll from Him and to be allowed to open the 7 seals which held the scroll closed.












**Rev 5:5** Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

We notice in chapter 6 of Revelation that 6 of the 7 seals are in this chapter and the 7<sup>th</sup> seal is found 2 chapters further on in Ch 8 of Revelation.

As we read of the first 4 seals being opened we see that each time a seal is opened, it releases one of the horses with its horseman or men. The last 3 of the 7 seals have nothing to do with horses or horsemen. Due to a lack of time I will only go through verses 1- 8 of this chapter and look at the details of each of these horses and horsemen and how they relate to mankind and to us. I won't have the time to go into deep detail, but I hope this encourages you to study this topic yourself !!

In the study of the seals, we will see what are traditionally called the **4 horsemen of the apocalypses**. Most in the nominal churches, believe that this pictures events that are going to happen at the end of the world, or age. They think that the four horsemen are part of the final battle of Armageddon.

I will be referring to a number of commentaries of various brethren as I go along -11 in total:

-  KEYSREV-THE KEYS OF THE REVELATION OF JESUS - Frank Shallieu
-  LOOMISR Ludlow Loomis - notes on Rev
-  MEGGISON
-  NALBANY - Revelation Study --New Albany Ecclesia
-  REVELAT - REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST - Anton Frey
-  REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST - R E STREETER
-  Revelation of St John-Dunn
-  REVPATMS - Rev - A Short Exposition - T S Patmos
-  REVWISC - Notes on Revelation - Southern Wisconsin BS
-  RVGSPLAG - Revelation For the End of the Gospel Age
-  Some Thoughts on REVELATION - various brethren

I also used the reprints and volumes. I will be picking the thoughts that most appeal to me and sometimes I might put forward contrasting thoughts.

Let's read these 8 verses:

Rev 6:1 I watched as the Lamb opened the **first of the seven seals**. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!"

Rev 6:2 I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

Rev 6:3 When the Lamb opened the **second seal**, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!"

Rev 6:4 Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword.

Rev 6:5 When the Lamb opened the **third seal**, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.

Rev 6:6 Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!"

Rev 6:7 When the Lamb opened the **fourth seal**, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!"

Rev 6:8 I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

So let's look at the first verse of this chapter remembering the verse in Rev. 5:9 when God gave the scroll to Jesus and the elders and creatures sang a new song saying "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals".

**REV 6:1 (KJV)** And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

One of the four beasts said, "Come and see." This is like God himself giving permission to all of heaven as well as the class of people represented by the Apostle John, to draw near and see the things that would happen hereafter. God was showing them secret things that belonged to God and it is only with permission that anyone can look into them.

Let's look at some of the symbols in this verse:

"the lamb" – I think all of us would agree that this is Jesus

"noise of thunder" – could this be the sound of the Lord's displeasure – a proclamation of trouble?

"one of the four beasts or creatures" – the 4 attributes of God from Rev. 4:7

**Rev 4:7** The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.

We interpret these creatures to represent God's wisdom, might, justice and love. We could apply this same order to the beasts as they speak in Rev 6. If so, it would be the Lion "roaring" or "thundering". There is a mixture of opinions amongst the brethren as to whether the Lion represents God's justice or His power.

"seals" – as each seal is opened, more knowledge of God's plan becomes available, so we could call this "meat in due season" - seals generally correspond with the 7 stages of the church in chapters 2 and 3 - not necessarily entirely synchronous. The opening of the first seal would represent the first going forth of the truth at Pentecost.

*All the seals had to be opened, but not until the last seal was broken, did the scroll fly wide open, permitting the 'mystery of God' to be fully disclosed; as it is written; (Rev. 10:7)"*  
(R2209:1)

**Rev 10:7** *But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished,*

*In (R2156:4) CTR tells us. "Since his glorification the Lamb has been breaking the seven seals and thus opening the divine plans before men and angels, and we now living are privileged to share this knowledge more abundantly than others, because, the last seal having been broken, the scroll is open to all who follow the Lamb in love and obedience and meekness; and 'the mystery of God is [about] finished."*

*Another comment from the reprints tells us: "The opening of the seals has progressed during all the Gospel age. The whole plan of God is represented in this book—the scroll. It has required all of the present age and will require all of the next age to complete the plan. The plan of God includes the 'restitution of all things spoken.' We are now able to see these wonderful things and to tell about them, because each of the seals as it has been opened has made the plan a little clearer. (R5943:6)*

**the Southern Wisconsin BS** - suggest that the seven seals will be showing us "the religious history" of the falling away of the false church. We will see the step by step downfall of the church and the corrupting of the truth.

Br. Frank Shallieu says - The vision of this prophetic scroll clearly indicates (a) the Creator's *foreknowledge* of history *prior to fulfillment* and (b) His intention to assure the faithful that no

matter how surprising the developments about to arise, somehow behind all of them an ultimate benefit would accrue.

*let's look at* **THE WHITE HORSE**

Rev 6:1 I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!"

Rev 6:2 I looked, and there before me was **a white horse!** Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

In short we see the meaning of the symbols to be:

White horse = pure doctrine  
Rider = early church  
Crown = divine approval  
Bow = **a warrior sent forth to conquer**

As we mentioned earlier, Jesus opened the first seal as soon as He ascended on high. This picture we see here would be from Pentecost onwards. The truth was pure then, straight from the lips of Jesus and the Apostles.

**Horses** would symbolize **doctrine**; the fact that it was a "**white horse**" would mean **pure doctrine!** The "**rider**" seems to represent **the early church**; the "**bow**" indicates him to have been **a warrior sent forth to conquer**; the "**crown**," indicates him to be **divinely accredited – accredited by God to go forth** in the fullness of consecration against the forces of evil!

*“ . . . the warrior upon the white horse is a representation of the true and faithful servants of Christ in the early Church, as in obedience to His command they went forth on their mission of proclaiming the pure Truth—the word, causing eventually the overthrow of Pagan idolatry, and bringing many of its adherents to yield willing and glad submission to Christ, their King. It evidently has reference to the rapid spread of Gospel Truth in the first and second centuries during the `Ephesus` period and the beginning of the `Smyrna` period.*

Note the similarity between our verse in Rev 6:2 and Rev 19:11

**Rev. 6:2 — “And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat upon him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him:”**

**Rev. 19:11 — “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.”**

Our verse represents the early Church in its pristine purity, under the headship of Jesus! The latter, judging from the context, refers to Jesus and to His armies in God's service.(Rev. 19:12-16)

Rev 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a **white horse**, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.  
Rev 19:12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.  
Rev 19:13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.  
Rev 19:14 The armies of heaven were following him, **riding on white horses** and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

## THE RED HORSE

Rev 6:3 When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!"

Rev 6:4 Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword.

**Red horse** = corrupt truth and false doctrine, deterioration of spiritual state

**Rider** = nominal church & state – false teacher

**No Crown** = Not approved of God

**Sword** = a fighter at close range – takes peace from the earth – inquisition of true believers – forced conversion

We see now that the “**horse**” now is **red** in color, instead of white; the “**rider**” now has a “**sword**,” instead of a “**bow**”; and that he wears **no “crown.”** This all, is very significant. If the “white horse” represented pure doctrines, then the “red horse” must represent false doctrines! And the “rider” being equipped with a “sword” suggests that he is a fighter at very close range! His being without a “crown” seems to say that he is not approved by God.

It appears that this “**rider**” “**on the red horse**” was intended to represent **the nominally Christian church and its false doctrines**. Among these false doctrines is that concerning the Kingdom itself:

- it has taught that the Kingdom of God is already established in the earth.
- It taught that Jesus was part of a trinity
- The nominal Church created a clergy class (popes, bishops, etc.,) as separate and apart from the rest of the church

These persons who were given the name bishops after a little time used their offices as a means of carrying out their own selfish purposes, claiming, of course, that these were of God. In the early part of the sixth century this culminated in the usurpation of power by the Bishop of Rome as head of all the churches in the world .

The powers assumed and exercised by these so-called bishops, brought discord, strife, and divisions into the Church instead of peace, concord, and unity .

The “**sword**” here, does not represent the Truth, but rather a weapon for offensive warfare, with which **the “rider” would be able to “take peace from the earth,”** and to bring about the **killing of one another**. This he did by way of persecutions—the inquisition, the rack, and burning at the stake, etc.

## THE BLACK HORSE

Rev 6:5 When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.

Rev 6:6 Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a day's wages (for a penny - kjv), and three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!"

**Black horse** = no light in the doctrines, (Matt 13:33)- leaven mixed in, no purity, further deterioration of light from God

**Rider** = same rider as for red horse - nominal church & state – false teacher

**Balance in Riders hand instead of sword** = selling truth (wheat & barley) as if it was precious.

**Do not hurt oil and wine** – Hurt not those with the Holy Spirit (and with pure doctrine). God did not allow it!!! This horseman Not permitted to kill their faith or their purity of truth.

The “rider” of the black horse was the same as that of the **red horse**; but instead of having a “sword,” he now had “**a pair of balances**” with which to weigh or measure out his commodity—**wheat and barley**.

The difference in the color of the horse—black instead of red—signifies that a further deterioration of the doctrines of the nominal church system had taken place. Black being the opposite of white, suggests that its doctrines were now completely devoid of light and purity!

The Roman Catholic church had gained for herself the position of chief arbiter of all things, in both church and state. “I sit a queen.” (Rev. 18:7) As the antitypical “Jezebel” she had already mixed her “leaven” with the 3 measures of meal, as we read in:

Mat 13:33 He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour (3 measures of meal KJV) until it worked all through the dough."

**Do not damage “the oil and the wine.”** Oil pictures the holy Spirit of God and the wine pictures pure doctrines. These were not to be damaged for the true saints, not to be contaminated. Yet for the nominal church, their oil and wine was limited and corrupt.

**Wheat** was used as food by most of the people; whereas **barley** was used for the cattle and by the extremely poor. **Wheat and barley**, as foods, therefore, are symbols of our spiritual food, the Truth.

The “**penny**”—the Roman denarius—was a days wage for the common laborer.

Thus we have the thought that the Truth during the period covered, would be expensive to buy; and then would not necessarily be pure and wholesome as a food.

*McClintock & Strong's Encycl. says - The balances are a symbol of scarcity; bread by weight being a curse in Lev. 26:26, and in Ezek. 4:16, 17.*

*The “scales” show a curse upon the nominal church – a want and scarcity of spiritual food—the Word of God: and, of course, the innocent—the true saints, were called upon to suffer , but their “oil and wine” was wholesome and pure.*

*Isn't this still so today? – we need to put work into finding our spiritual food every day. The truth then was so hard to find and very impure – today we have so many commentaries, Bible versions, talks, etc – very rich – maybe our problem today is to know how to sort out the good from the bad and the pure from the impure in it's abundance? It still takes a lot of work to find uncorrupted spiritual food by the grace of God's Holy Spirit!*

**(R2635:4) says “All holy doctrines was contaminated with her false doctrines—nothing was left pure and clean, as handed to us originally by the apostles. The faith once delivered to the saints was distorted out of all semblance to its original simplicity; the hope set before us in the gospel was changed to another hope entirely, unlike the original; the spirit of the Lord, love, was perverted to a selfish love of creeds of men and human institutions. No wonder all Christendom is spiritually sick, because of this adulteration in its food supply.”**

**(Br. Streeter, Vol. 1, p. 312) says**

*“ . . . they did not preach Christ and the Word, they substituted forms and ceremonies instead. They introduced at this time into the Church, formal fastings, celibacy, and asceticism as a so-called means of sanctification.*

## **THE PALE HORSE**

Rev 6:7 When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!"

Rev 6:8 I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

This fourth “rider” sat on a pale horse. Translators seem to agree that “pale” can be interpreted “The ghastly green of terror and of death.” This “**horse**” as the previous two, the red and the black, represents the **grim and macabre doctrines** of the nominal Church of this period.

As for the “rider”—we are this time given his name, “Death”; and also that of his fellow-traveler, “Hell or Hades”. We are not specifically told if this 2<sup>nd</sup> traveler rode on another horse or if they were both on the same horse. The chief “rider” was the same as had sat upon the red and the black horses - it was the nominal Christian Church, the Papacy.

The fact that the “riders” had the names of Death and Hell, seems to indicate how **power** would be used “**over the fourth part of the earth** [probably a symbolism for the continent of Europe], **to kill with the sword, and with hunger, and with death.**”

*“It is estimated, .....that **Papacy**, during the past thirteen hundred years, has, directly or indirectly, **caused the death of fifty millions of people**. And it may safely be said that human and Satanic ingenuity were taxed to their utmost to invent new and horrible tortures, for both the political and religious opponents of Antichrist; the latter—heretics—being pursued with tenfold fury. Besides the common forms of persecution and death, such as racking, burning, drowning, stabbing, starving and shooting with arrows and guns, fiendish hearts meditated how to torture people – all in the name of religion. (B346)*

*We will have to finish this discourse at this point, even though we have barely touched onto the subject. I hope you found this of interest and that it encourages you to look into these words of God spoken to us from His Holy Book!*

*May the Lord add His blessing!  
Amen*



If we had time, we would talk about the following:

**The messages to the church, and the seven parables of Matthew**

From the Notes of Bro. David Dinwoodie\*\*\*\* Forward - Before examining these seals it would be well to mention the fact that the messages to the church, and the seven parables of Matthew, Chapter 13, all appear to coincide with them in point of time, and all refer to definite periods throughout the age. The first of each set of seven commences with the early church's experience this side the veil.

**True Church From Christ's Perspective as a Shepherd**

In the chapter 2-3 study, we found that the seven churches showed us the history of the True Church from Christ's perspective, especially as a shepherd of the flock. In the seven churches, Christ is the principle speaker to the messengers, and thereby to all the churches.

**Religious History Of the Falling Away of the Church**

In this study, we suggest that the seven seals will be showing us "the religious history" of the falling away of the false church. We will be show here, the step by step downfall of the church and the corrupting of the truth. The true church will be shown, but only in the result of the persecution that comes against them and which shows them slain under the altar, in the fifth seal. The sixth and especially the seventh seal, will show the judgment and vengeance that God brings against the false church. In the interlude in chapter 7, we will see the 144000 who have proven faithful in spite of the temptation of the great falling away. We will also see, that even those who were not faithful, will still be able to receive salvation, but it will be the lessor reward of the great company.

(NAlbany p-g 287)

A Chart Showing the Chronological Placement of Revelation's Various Sections

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	L
1	PERIODS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
2	A. D.	33 TO 100	100 TO 313	313 TO 1160	1160 TO 1371	1371 TO 1521	1521 TO 1874	1874-----?			
3	SAINTS--	PAUL	JOHN	ARIUS	WALDO	WYCLIFFE	LUTHER	RUSSELL	-----	PEACE-->	
4		1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
5	CHURCH-	EPHESUS	SMYRNA	PERGAMOS	THYATIRA	SARDIS	PHILADELPHIA	LAODICEA	<-CHURCH		
6		2:1 - 7	2:8 - 11	2:12 - 17	2:18 - 29	3:1 - 6	3:7 - 13	3:14 - 22			
7											
8	SEAL-->	6:1 - 2	6:3 - 4	6:5 - 6	6:7 - 8	6:9 - 11	6:12 - /; 3 10		<-SEAL		
9							7:4 - 17				
10							END OF				
11							LAODICEA ?				
12											
13	TRUMPE I -->	8:0/	8:8 - 9	8:10 - 11	8:12-13	9:1 - 12	9:13 - 11:14	11:15 - 19	<-TRUMPE		
14											
15		12:01	13:01								
16		13:1	14:5								
17								14:6 - 20			
18				THE REVELATION OF							
19				JESUS CHRIST					15:01		
20								16:21			
21											
22								17			
23											
24								18:01			
25								19:10			
26										END OF	
27								19:11-21		LITTLE	
28								20:1-15		SEASON	
29									21 and 22		
30									<-Harvest-->		

## GENERAL & OVERVIEW MATERIAL ON THE SEVEN CHURCHES, SEALS, AND TRUMPETS

(Item#8)

### LOCATION OF THE THREE SEVENS (Item#9)

Number:	Church	Seal:	Trumpet
1	Ephesus 2:1	First Beast 6:1(White Horse) –	Trumpet Rev 8:7
2.	Smyrna 2:8	Second Beast 6:3 (Red Horse) –	Trumpet Rev 8:8
3.	Pergamos 2:12	Third Beast 6:5 (Black Horse) –	Trumpet Rev 8:10
4.	Thyatira 2:18	Fourth Beast 6:7 (Pale Horse) –	Trumpet Rev 8:12
5.	Sardis 3:1	(Souls under the Altar 6:9) –	Trumpet Rev 9:1
6.	Philadelphia 3:7	Earthquake 6:12 –	Trumpet Rev 9:13
7.	Laodicea 3:14	Silence 8:1 –	Trumpet Rev 11:15

On the following page is a chart to make visual the relative lengths of the seven churches, seals, and trumpets as well as to supply a few of the relative chronological texts and historic events which occur during these periods.

CHURCH	SEAL	TRUMPET
<p>EPHESUS (33-100) strayed from its first love" of ecstatic discovery of (1) Messiah to disputation on practice and Jewish law, but did not give in to false teachers and power-grabbers. Rev. 2:1-7</p>	<p>Doctrine was pure (white horse) and it was convincing to those who heard (conquering). Rev. 6:1, 2</p>	<p>Hard truths (hail) destroyed Jewish society. Rev. 8:7</p>
<p>SMYRNA (100-313) was period of bitter physical persecution (2) (death) and has to deal with the rise of apostasy (false Jews = tare Christians.) Rev. 2:8-11.</p>	<p>Doctrine (red horse) began to be strained and sinful apostate struggle (slaying one another) as well as persecution from the outside world. Rev. 6:3, 4.</p>	<p>Rome began to be "taken out of the way." (2 Thess. 2:6, 7) -- the great mount being divided by its internal struggles and ultimately by Constantine Rev. 8:8, 9.</p>
<p>PERGAMOS (313-1160). Satan (the great apostasy) now gains a (3) throne - CHIEF RELIGIOUS RULER. He is enthroned in Rome: saints now tolerate Lordship. ((Nicol. )) and church &amp; state. They DO, however, still keep an antipope position (Antipas) Rev. 2:12-17</p>	<p>Doctrine is now not capable of reflecting light (black horse) beginning of the "dark ages." Spiritual food is at a premium weighed out with care. But work of the Spirit (oil) and of sacrifice (wine) still goes on. Rev. 6:5, 6.</p>	<p>The fall of Arius and his great truths from favor allows the poisoning of doctrine. Rev. 8:10, 11</p>
<p>THYATIRA (1160-1371) sees the saints hampered by the false (4) prophet, Jezebel (Roman Catholic church -- now in relatively total control of European states.) God slows her down by the plague (killing with DEATH). Saints' persecution by the state earns them the promise of verses 26, 27. Rev. 2:18-29.</p>	<p>Doctrine now is drained of all life (sickly - pale horse. The plague (hell) makes all else secondary for a while. The beasts (governments) are the Jezebel ordained instruments of persecution Rev. 6:7, 8</p>	<p>The lack of truth darkens the understanding of Gospel (sun). Prophets (moon), and Apostles (stars). The future, however, (3 woes) portends great changes for this problem. Rev. 8:12, 13.</p> <p>The last three trumpets ARE THREE WOES: they really shake up those who "dwell" on the earth."</p>

CHURCH	SEAL	TRUMPET
SARDIS (1371-1521) begins an upturn because the church is (5) at its low ebb and must be strengthened. The advent of Wycliffe starts a trend with the Bible translated into the vernacular. Rev. 3:1-6.	The back of the church is nearly broken: "How Long?" -- how much more can it take? They are promised their faithfulness even under depressing conditions and that help WILL come. Rev. 6:9-11	Another star is cast out of religious favor. Wycliffe is hated with a vengeance. But what he starts STINGS the error for 150 years until Luther can make a successful rebellion. Rev. 9:1-12
PHILADELPHIA (1521-1874) opens the gate to escape the apostasy. (6) Rome ("Satan" and "False Jews" must now acknowledge and abide the reform. Rev. 3:7-13	This period is climaxed by the great earthquake which breaks the back of religious and royal domination. The spread is controlled ("hurt not. . .") so the church can be completed in the next period. Rev. 6:12-7:4.	A complex trumpet! It includes doctrinal reform (horses), the opening of understanding of Daniel (the "little book"), the time of the end (42 months), (earthquake), etc. Rev. 9:13 - 11:14
LAODICEA (1874 - ?) is spoiled	The new truths are SO powerful	The announcement of Jesus,

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by riches and indifference but (7) has available all the newly found truths. Jesus has returned and is serving supper." Rev. 3:14-22.  
(Item#12)

## NAlbany

### Revelation Study --New Albany Ecclesia

that false Christianity is for a while left speechless and without answers (even wrong ones!) See alternative view under 8:1, page 98

who invisibly returns, and its meaning is made. The time of trouble ensues. The understanding of things in the Most Holy is gained. Rev. 11:15-19

## Sevens

	7 Churches <u>Rev. 2-3</u>	7 Seals <u>Rev. 6-7</u>	7 Parables <u>Matt. 13</u>	7 Trumpets <u>Rev. 8-11</u>	7 Plagues <u>Rev. 16</u>
(1) Early Church (Paul) 30-100	<b>Ephesus</b> Labored, not fainted Apostles	Conquer (White Horse)	Sower	Earth	Earth
(2) Pagan Persecution Tares John 100-313	False "Jews" & Persecutions	Peace off earth by sword (Red Horse)	Tares	Sea	Sea
(3) Papacy, Creeds grow (Arius) 313-1160	<b>Pergamos</b> Eat Idol sac./ eat hidden manna	Famine (Black Horse)	Tree Grows	Rivers, Fountains	Rivers, Fountains
(4) Jezebel entrenched (Waldo) 1371-1160	<b>Thyatira</b> Jezebel seduces her children to be killed with death (pestilence)	Death (pestilence) (Pale Horse)	Woman leavens	Sun, Moon Stars	Sun, Moon, Stars
(5) Reformation I (Wycliffe) 1371-1521	<b>Sardis</b> Repent / Worthy shall walk in white (robes)	Souls under Altar White robes	Treasure	Sun, Air Darkened / Locusts (Woe 1)	Darkness (Seat of Beast)
(6) Reform. II Luther 1521-1874	<b>Philadelphia</b> Open Door" / Promise of recognition	French Revolution (Satan's Synagogue falls)	Pearl	Euphrates erupts (4 angels loosed) Woe 2)	Euphrates dried / 3 spirits like frogs
(7) 2nd. Presence (Russell) 1874 - ?	<b>Laodicea</b> Anoint Eyes / Sup with Lord / Throne	Forehead seal applied	Dragnet (Harvest)	Christ Class receives kingdom / Wrath (7 Plagues) Woe 3	Armageddon / fierceness of wrath

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### **PREFACE TO THE INTRODUCTIONS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES, SEALS, AND TRUMPETS (Item#13a)**

As a study of the seven churches, seals, and trumpets is undertaken, it is very easy to lose track of the focus and force in each of these sequences. The way this notebook is arranged, the Scriptures which constitute ONLY THE INTRODUCTIONS to the churches, seals, and trumpets are treated first -- before the churches, seals, and trumpets are actually considered. This has the advantage of coordinating the three introductions which take place, as will be seen, all at the same time -- in close proximity to the first advent.

There are internal evidences galore that churches, seals, and trumpets are contemporaneous with each other. These introductions, however, lend much credence to this position. Each introduction clearly contains elements placing the beginning of each series at the beginning of the age. This is an important reason for considering these introductions prior to a study of the three series themselves.

-- SUMMARIES OF EACH SERIES --New Albany Ecclesia

THE SEVEN CHURCHES. This is an account of admonitions to the church throughout the age regarding conditions, needs, and experiences in overcoming. In essence, these messages represent the concerns and teachings of each of the appointed “angels.”

THE SEVEN SEALS This is the history laid out in advance. God had arranged (and recorded in His sealed scroll) pre-ordained changes and the circumstances or catalysts which would accomplish them. The stories of the seals explain these changes and their effects on the consecrated. Evidence supports that the seal is opened AT THE END of each period rather than at its beginning. Understanding comes after experiencing.

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS. This series of descriptions shows the effects of dispensational truths on surrounding society. Society hears, and is somewhat disturbed, by these messages, but is not reformed by them. Consequently, the Seven Last Plagues (chapters 15 & 16) are necessary. (It will be noticed that the plagues are poured out on the same sequence of elements as hear the trumpets.

THE FOCAL POINT OF EACH SERIES' INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION TO THE CHURCHES:

This introduction (1:9-20) stresses Jesus as the powerful, experienced, always-present advisor, director, and protector over the churches.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SEALS:

This introduction (chapters 4 & 5) stresses God's fore-ordination of events which would affect the churches; it also stresses His delegation of power for their accomplishment to the Lion-Lamb.

INTRODUCTION TO THE TRUMPETS:

This introduction (8:2-6) stresses the loudness (power) of the dispensational proclamations. It stresses that the powers of the saints (FOR THE KINGDOM) were actually being heard and carried out by this sequence of trumpets.

Finally, it stresses the eventual dismemberment of the present society by an additional pouring out (7 plagues) which will re-focus the messages of the trumpets and thus “finish God's wrath.” (15:1) (New Albany Ecclesia)

## **Summary & Ending**

Comment for Summary - It has been suggested that the 7 seals keep pace with the 7 churches or divisions of the Gospel Age.- check??

Brethern, beloved in Christ, realizing that our God has hitherto counted us worthy to look upon the wonderous Scroll of His Plan, which has been unsealed for us by Jesus our Lord, let us continue to prove ourselves worthy to look therein and to comprehend the glorious things of His word, by faithfulness, obedience and loyalty to this Plan in everything.

The privilege of this "Royal Priesthood" to "know" the secret of the Lord, "to comprehend" the deep things of God, hidden from others, was beautifully symbolized and typified in the privileges of the Jewish priesthood. When the Tabernacle was set up, with its beautiful golden furniture, lampstand, table of shewbread, golden altar, etc., all symbolizing spiritual things, they were covered over, hidden, not only from the ordinary Israelite, but even from the Levitical Servant of the Tabernacle, who were not even permitted to look therein. The privilege of seeing those typical secret things, reserved exclusively for the priests, thus typified "the royal priesthood" and their exclusive privilege of understanding the mysteries of God's Secret. '97-256.