

'Condensed version' of the Seals

Seal 1 is the resurrection, when Jesus went from being the "slain Lamb", in chapter 5, to the "Rider on the white horse". Notice that chapter 5 never refers to Jesus changing from the slain Lamb to any other form but common sense (and Rev. 1:13) tells you that He did. "He was given a crown and rode out as a conqueror, bent on conquest." And His conquest of Satan had to fulfill every Word of God (Matthew 5:18). One prophesy that had to be fulfilled was the scattering and restoration of Israel (Jeremiah 16:15) and the details were foretold in the next three seals.

Seal 2 "took peace from the earth and made men slay each other", which refers to the Jewish revolts against the Romans, from 66-136 AD. The first revolt resulted in the destruction of the second Temple, which Jesus prophesied would happen in Matthew 24:1-2. Not to mention, it was destroyed on the same lunar date as the first Temple, over six centuries before. The last revolt helped distinguish Christianity from Judaism because it was led by a false messiah named Bar Kokhba but the followers of Jesus did not support him. Their final loss resulted in the complete scattering of the Jews, which was necessary for the prophecy, and they were not allowed to own property in Palestine for over 17 centuries. That is a stark contrast from the Babylonian exile. Also, notice the exact, 70-year duration (66-136 AD), which occurs similarly in the next seal.

Seal 3 is a vague reference to "a quart of wheat for a day's wages, three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and don't forget the oil and the wine." The meaning of this seal eluded me the longest because I figured it was some kind of famine from the dark ages. However, it never actually mentions hunger or death. On the contrary, it could be construed as a shrewd business deal when food was scarce. People stereotype the Jews as being shrewd in business but I think God made it that way so they could persevere through the centuries and regain the Promised Land. To make a long story short, the Jews initially regained a foothold in Palestine, not by fighting, but by purchasing the land fair and legally. The first purchase was a multi-family settlement near Jaffa, called Petra Tekva, in 1878. Arab politicians took notice and urged people not to sell to the Jews. That caused the prices to escalate, up to ten times the fair value, but the Jews still had the resources to pay, thanks to previous prosperity and business sense. Exactly 70-years after the first purchase, in 1948, Israel was declared a nation again but I don't think the timing was any accident.

Seal 4 also contributed to Israel regaining their sovereignty but they paid with their lives instead of money. Seal 4 brought "Death and Hades". They were given power over a *fourth* of the earth to kill by sword, famine, plague, and wild beasts of the earth. I think that obviously describes the Jewish Holocaust. According to estimates in the Nuremburg trials, taken from jewishvirtuallibrary.org, about six million Jews were killed between 1933 and 1945. If you subtract the children, it equals *exactly one-fourth* of the estimated Jews at that time. Although it was a tragedy, it sped up the migration of Jews to Palestine and gave them a vote of sympathy in the United Nations. Given the timing (from seal 3) and the significance of fulfilling God's prophesy, I have no doubt that the fourth seal was the Holocaust.

Seal 5 is just a 'waiting period' while a number of martyrs, destined to give their lives to spread the testimony of God, is completed. That corresponds to the same waiting period in Matthew 24:14 (when the gospel is spread to every nation). Christians are still being killed in certain countries (left) but one could argue that satellite television and internet have, at least, carried the gospel to every 'nation'. (The Bible doesn't say every 'person'.) Effectively, the 5th Seal is 'over' when the 6th Seal 'takes place' because the 'rapture' will 'end' the waiting period.

Seal 6 is obviously the **Rapture** because the signs in the sun, moon, and stars are identical to Jesus' appearance in the clouds (to gather His elect) in Matthew 24.

Regardless of anything else, that *fact* cannot be changed because it's in the Bible. In other words, it's ridiculous to think that these two passages are two separate events.

Matthew 24:29-31 (rapture)

"The sun will be darkened, —————→ The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair,
the moon will not give its light, —————→ the whole moon turned blood red,
stars will fall from the sky, —————→ and the stars in the sky fell to earth
and the heavenly bodies will be *shaken*. -- as late figs drop from a fig tree when *shaken* by a strong wind.
Jesus will appear on clouds of the sky —————→ The sky receded like a scroll.
Nations of the earth mourn —————→ Cried for the rocks to fall on them & hide them from the Lamb
Angels will gather the elect —————→ multitude in heaven, from every nation (Rev. 7)

Revelation 6:12-13 (6th seal)

Seal 7 is just a half-hour of silence before the Trumpet plagues start in Revelation 8.

Since the multitude is in heaven *between* the 6th and 7th Seals, and Trumpets can't sound during a 'silence', pre-tribulation is proven naturally because **1.** Seals 1-5 are in the past, and **2.** many things must happen *after* the Seals in Revelation, which cannot be ignored.