

'Condensed version' of the Seals

Seal 1 is clearly 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 as 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." Jesus has been conquering Satan ever since by fulfilling every Word of God (Matt. 5:18), including the Seals.

One prophecy that had to be fulfilled was the banishment and restoration of Israel (Jeremiah 16:14-15), which was prophesied in Seals 2-4. Essentially, God scattered the Jews, kept them safe, and restored them, just as He said He would.

Seal 2 was the Jewish revolts, from 66AD to 136AD, which "took peace from the earth and made men slay each other." The first revolt resulted in the destruction of the 2nd Temple, which Jesus prophesied would happen in Matthew 24:1-2. Plus, it was destroyed on the same lunar date as the 1st 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 in Jeremiah. They were not allowed to own property in Palestine for over 17 centuries. That was far more severe than the Babylonian exile. Proof is the 70-year duration (66-136 AD), which occurs similarly between Seals 3 & 4.

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 10x the fair value, but the Jews still had the resources to pay, thanks to previous prosperity. Proof is that Israel was declared a nation, exactly 70-years after the first purchase, in 1948, after the Holocaust, which is in the next Seal.

Seal 4 was the Holocaust, which brought "Death and Hades." It also contributed to Israel regaining their nation, but they paid with their lives instead of money. Death was given power over *a fourth of the earth* to kill by sword, famine, plague, and wild beasts of the earth. According to estimates in the Nuremburg trials, taken from jewishvirtuallibrary.org, about 6 million Jews were killed, between 1933 and 1945. If you subtract the 1.5 million children, it equals exactly *one-fourth* of the world-wide Jews, at that time. (4.5 million of 18 million = 1/4) 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 of their new nation, from Seal 3 (70-years), I have no doubt that the fourth seal was the Holocaust.

Seal 5 is just a 'waiting period', while the 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, but one could argue that satellite TV and internet have carried the gospel to every 'nation'. (The Bible doesn't say to every 'person'.) The 5th Seal is effectively over when the 6th Seal (rapture) takes place because that 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 24:29-31. (below)

Matthew 24:29-31 (rapture)

"The sun will be darkened, —————→
the moon will not give its light, —————→
stars will fall from the sky, —————→
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 —————→
Nations of the earth mourn —————→
Angels will gather the elect —————→

Revelation 6:12-13 (6th seal)

The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair,
the whole moon turned blood red,
and the stars in the sky fell to earth
The sky receded like a scroll.
Cried for the rocks to fall on them & hide them from the Lamb
multitude in heaven, from every nation (Rev. 7)

Seal 7 (Rev. 8:1) is just a half-hour of silence, before the Trumpet plagues can start, which proves 'pre-tribulation' because the multitude is in heaven *between* the 6th and 7th Seals.