

Student Notes

Understanding the book of Revelation



What the book of Revelation really says.

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Student Notes

PART THREE: THE SCROLL OPENER

1. Introduction: Vision in Heaven (Chapter 4)

*"After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a **throne** set in heaven, and One sat on the **throne**. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the **throne**, in appearance like an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four **thrones**, and on the **thrones** I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the **throne**, which are the seven Spirits of God. Before the **throne** there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the **throne**, and around the **throne**, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back."* Revelation 4:1-6 (NKJV)

The key word of this section is _____

The main message is that God is on the Throne and in total _____. Though bad things are about to happen they can only happen as God allows them.

The 24 elders represent the heads of the 12 Tribes of _____ and the 12 _____ – they represent all of God's people through history.

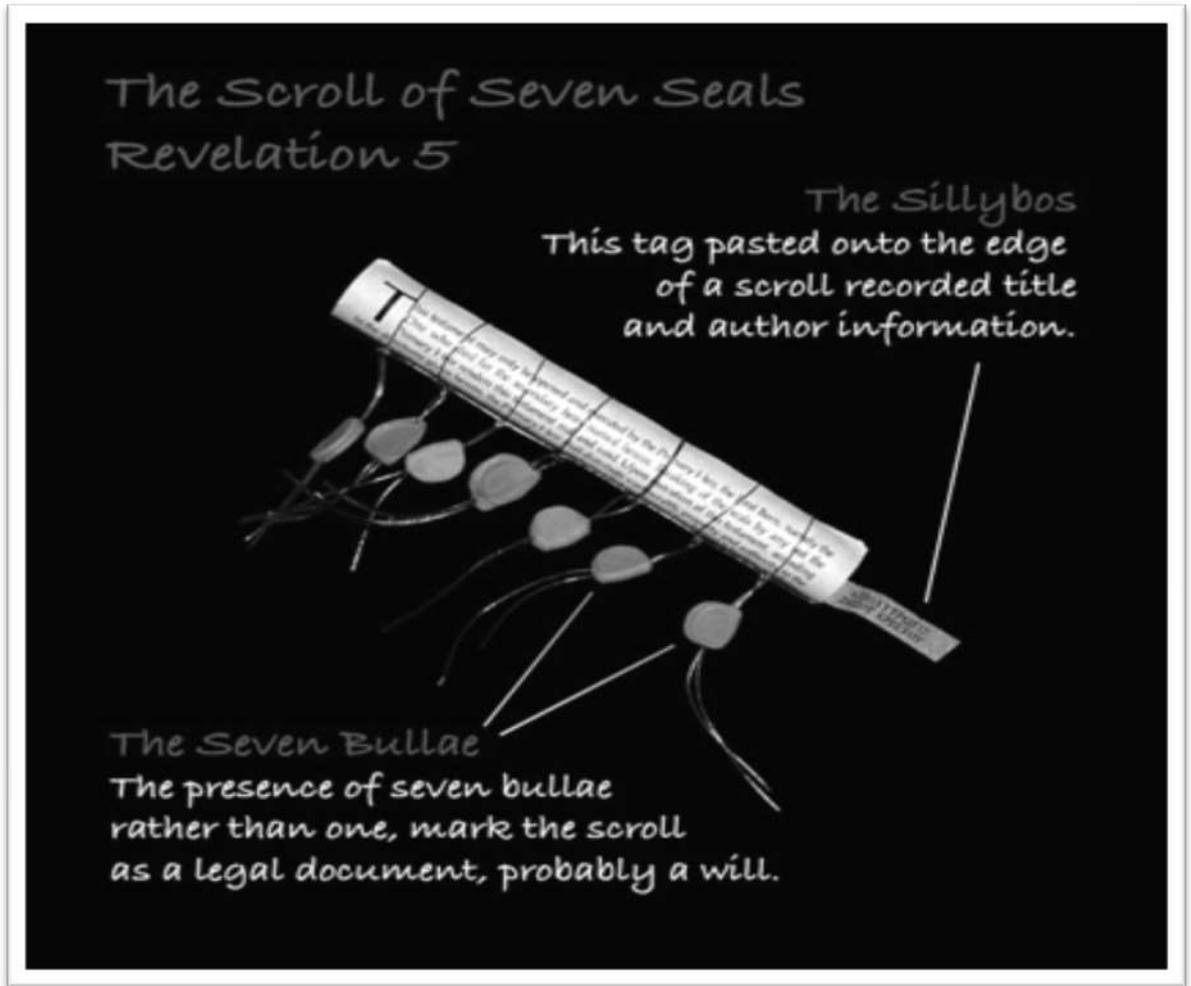
Notice that John sees this vision when he is taken up in the _____. It is when we are living in the Spirit, sealed by the Spirit, that we will be safe in His presence even during Great Tribulation.

The four living creatures are possibly representatives of all _____ which joins in the praise of God and also groans awaiting the revelation of the sons of God (Romans 8:22).

2. The Scroll with Seven Seals:

a. What is the scroll?

For a scroll to have seven seals marked it as a _____ document, probably a last will and testament as we see in the picture.



Therefore, it is possible that this scroll represents the Book of _____ itself with the names of the saved and their inheritance. The amazing thing is that it will be opened by none other than the one who wrote this will in His blood – one who died and rose again. This is the only time that a last will and testament will be opened and read by the one who died!

b. Who is the scroll opener?

“But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.” And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.” Revelation 5:5-7(NKJV)

The one who is worthy to open the scroll is of course _____, the Lamb of God (John 1:29) who is also the Lion of Judah.

c. **What do the seals and scroll reveal?**

Seals = _____ before scroll is opened

Scroll = Names of _____ and their inheritance

“Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” Revelation 5:8-10

If we believe in Him then He has truly made us “_____” and we will reign with Him (5:10). This truth will cause us to join the four living creatures and twenty-four elders in singing this song of praise, *“You are worthy to take the scroll”*. The Bible says that presently all believers are sealed by the Holy Spirit awaiting the fullness of His inheritance (Ephesians 1:12-14) and so, by the Spirit, we can praise and rejoice in Him even when times of great trial come.

The book of life will be opened and read out when Jesus _____ and the righteous are caught up in the air to be with Him. He will give the saved new resurrection bodies and then bless them with rewards – an inheritance of ruling and reigning with Him for a thousand years on earth. But before all this can take place the seven seals must be opened and each one marks terrible events.

3. Conclusion

This whole section teaches us that:

- i. God the Father is _____

- ii. Jesus Christ has _____

- iii. Holy Spirit brings _____

Those who live in the Spirit will know that Father God is in control and that they are saved by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. Only these will endure tribulation to the end to rule and reign with Him after the wrath of God is poured out.

PART FOUR: THE SEVEN SEALS

1. Introduction:

We have learnt that the seven seals are _____ for events that must transpire before Jesus returns to apportion out His inheritance to the saints. In this lesson we will look at what these seven seal events are and when they happen.

We will see that the first six seals actually release the wrath of _____ on mankind and the Seventh seal releases the Trumpet and Bowl plagues that represent the wrath of _____ to be poured out before the Book of Life can finally be opened and read out.

2. The Seven Seals

i. Events of the Seven Seals



- The first four seals release the four _____ of the Apocalypse

These are foreshadowed now but will really be opened by Jesus when the Antichrist negotiates a peace treaty in Israel for seven years.

Horseman 1 = _____

Horseman 2 = _____

Horseman 3 = _____

Horseman 4 = _____

- **Seal five marks a turning point in the rule of the Antichrist when he will _____ many saints who do not worship him.**

Halfway through the seven year peace treaty in Israel the Antichrist will break his word (Daniel 9:27) and march into Jerusalem with his armies to take over the Temple (that will have been rebuilt), setting up an abominable image (probably of himself – see Daniel 9:27 and Matthew 24:15). From this time on he will demand worship and persecute all those that do not bow down to him. Inevitably the true believers at this time will refuse to worship him and be greatly persecuted and even martyred. That is why we see many souls of the martyrs under the altar in heaven with the opening of the fifth seal. They are the souls of believers who will be persecuted and killed for their faith in the second half of the seven-year Tribulation.

This period is called the Great _____

- **The Sixth Seal releases a _____ event along with a great earthquake.**

This event is called the Great _____.

This seal marks the beginning of the pouring out of _____ wrath.

For the great day of His wrath has come” (Revelation 6:17).

During the wrath of the Antichrist (in the Great Tribulation) it is the saints that run to the wilderness to find refuge in the mountain caves, but at this time it will be all the wicked men and women, especially the rulers and rich, who will flee from the wrath of God into the mountains (Revelation 6:15-16) but they will not escape.

In between the great blackout and the opening of the seventh seal there is a vision of the 144,000 and a great multitude in heaven (Chapter 7).

Who are the 144,000?

What is unusual about the list of tribes?

Who are the great multitudes?

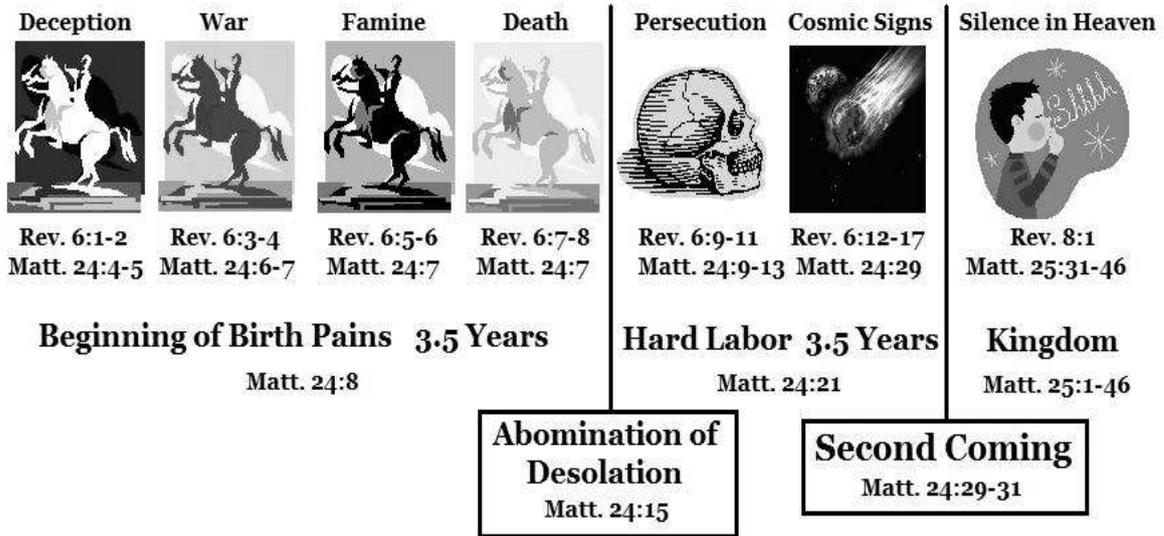
- **The Seventh Seal** marks the actual pouring out of God's _____ in the Trumpet and Bowl judgments. We will look at this more in the next lesson.

ii. Parallels with Matthew 24

Comparing the Olivet Discourse and the Seals		
<i>Event</i>	<i>Olivet Discourse (Matthew)</i>	<i>Seals (Revelation)</i>
False Messiah(s)	24:4	6:1–2 First seal
Warfare and bloodshed	24:7	6:3–4 Second seal
Famine	24:7	6:5–6 Third seal
Epidemics	24:7	6:7–8 Fourth seal
Martyrdom	24:9–28	6:9–11 Fifth seal
Cosmic disturbances	24:29	6:12–17 Sixth seal
Coming of the Son of Man DAY OF THE LORD	24:30–31	8:1 Seventh seal Trumpet judgements

7 Seals of Revelation

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iii. The Day of the Lord

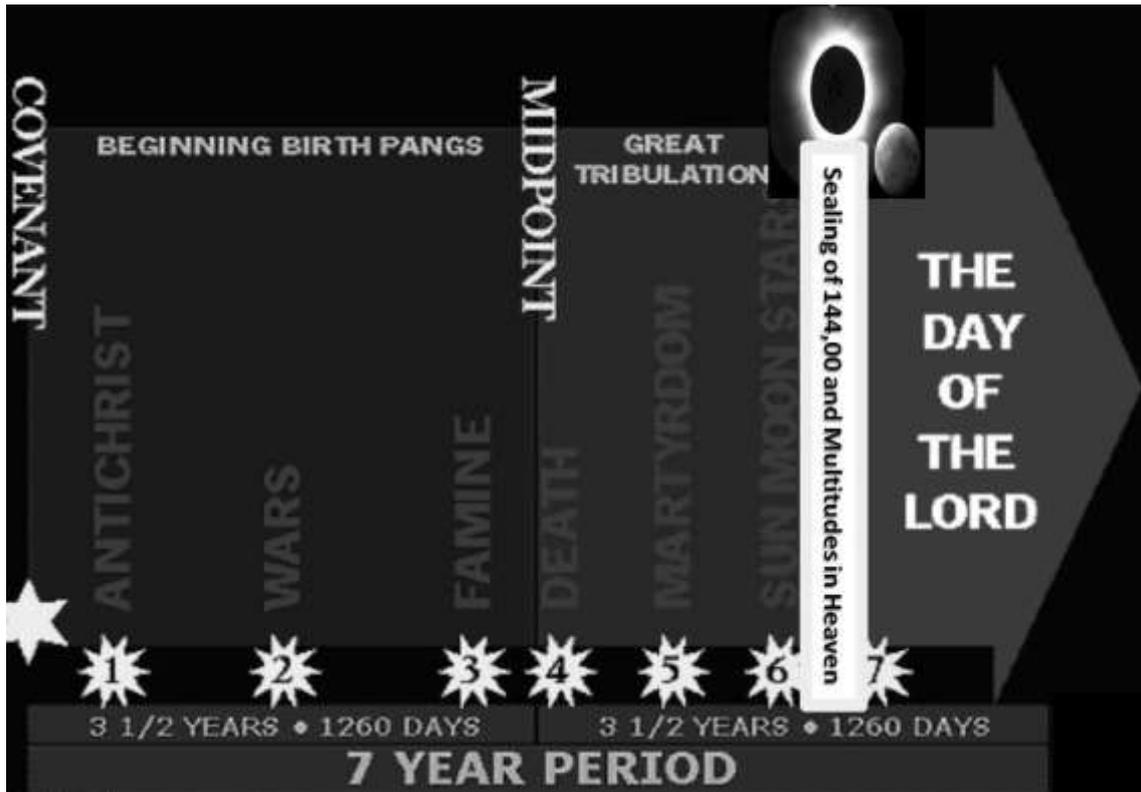
The Day of the Lord is where the wicked are _____ and the righteous receive ultimate salvation.

The Day of the Lord happens after a great _____, linking with the teaching of Revelation (See Isaiah 13:3-9 and Joel 2:31-32)

This is The Great Day of the Lord that Old Testament prophecy ultimately points to with judgment on all wickedness and salvation of all the righteous. The Day itself is actually 1000 years (as a day to the Lord is a thousand years – 2 Peter 3:8) from the second coming of Christ until the coming of the new heaven and new earth.

3. Conclusion: The Chain of Events

From what we have learnt in this lesson we can build a picture of the events that will transpire in the End Times. The chart shows that the first six seals outline the wrath of the Antichrist but the last seal marks the wrath of God with the Trumpet and Bowl judgments. The next lesson will look at the events of the Seventh Seal.



The first five seals are the wrath of _____

The sixth seal marks the start of the wrath of _____