

UNDERSTAND THE REVELATION

SESSION TWO

THE FIFTH SEAL

Rev.6: 9: And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of Yahweh, and for the testimony which they held: 10: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, Yahweh, holy and true, do you not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11: And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

Here we are shown religious persecutions involving two groups of martyrs;

- a) the **early martyrs** who were slain for their faith before the four horsemen had taken the field, and
- b) the **end-time martyrs** who are to be slain after the horsemen (war, famine, and pestilence) have begun to ride.

The Early Martyrs

These include the martyrs who died before the 20th century, they died by the millions during the period known as the **'dark ages.'**

They died, we are told, **'for the Word of Yahweh'** and **'for their testimony.'**

The blood of these martyrs has still not been avenged; nor are they rejoicing in heaven right now.

Instead they were **each given a white robe** (accredited with the righteousness of Yahshua) and told to rest, to wait for a little season till another great martyrdom took place.

Sha'ul seems to consider this the new Spiritual Body. See 1 Cor 15:35-54

The End-time Martyrs

These martyrs would be killed **'as they** (the early martyrs) **were.'**

In other words they would be martyred for the very same reason that the early martyrs died:

that is, for the **Word of Yahweh** (the Bible) and their testimony.

In short, the martyrdom under the fifth seal pictures an end-time martyrdom, a persecution of believers in our day!

There is a great deal of evidence to suggest that in some countries this end-time persecution has already begun.

But it is scheduled to intensify and will no doubt reach the free West in due course.

In his Olivet prophecy the Master also places this final martyrdom after the wars, famines and pestilence that are symbolized by the red, black and pale horses. He said this:

Matthew 24:9 **Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.** 10: **And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.**

The scene for this end-time persecution, which culminates in the death of many leading believers, is already set.

Satanic forces are even now undermining the faith of many Believers in the real **Word of Yahweh** and love within the brotherhood is fading away.

Jealousy, hatred, slander and outright rejection are all too common in the assemblies today and many believers are giving up their faith altogether.

Added to this sad reality is the fact that the real **Word of Yahweh, the genuine Bible**, is being jettisoned in favor of scores of *counterfeit Bibles!*

Those who cling to the real **Word of Yahweh** will soon be a target for persecution.

Take warning that you are not deceived by Satan into rejecting the **Word of Yahweh** or into harboring hatred in your heart towards fellow Believers;

especially those who seek to do the Almighty's will.

Because jealousy and slander are the stepping stones to betrayal; and betrayal is but one step away from a true believer's martyrdom.

Just as many of the former martyrs were betrayed by family and friends, such will be the case in this time of trouble.

When that end-time tribulation arrives in your area it will test the faith of every believer almost to the point of destruction.

But Yahweh in His infinite mercy has decreed that many will be saved through it all; be saved to stand in faultless splendor before the soul-searching gaze of the Almighty Yahweh!

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. (Matt. 24:13)

That is, those who refuse to give up their faith in the Almighty, even though they may be called to give up their lives for Him.

This end-time persecution is upon us, so do not be surprised when it starts in your neighborhood.

We are happy to report, however, that not all the assembly is scheduled for martyrdom.

Many will be spared and be miraculously protected from the onslaught of the Evil One.

They will live unscathed through the very worst Satan can do and will stand before Yahweh in faultless splendor in that last day.

This reassuring prospect will be looked at again when we examine Revelation chapters 9, 12 and 13.

THE SIXTH SEAL

Rev.6: 12: And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 13: And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casts her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 14: And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15: And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 16: And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Speaking of these same events in Matthew's gospel the Master said this:

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. (Matt. 24:29)

The prophet Joel writing of this same period wrote:

Joel 2: 30: And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. 31: **The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood**, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. 32: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

In the sixth seal the reader is given a preview of that same end-time **celestial display**.

It will be witnessed throughout our galaxy.

The language of these prophecies seems to indicate that besides their spiritual counterparts, these signs will also be *literally fulfilled*.

In other words, the whole earth will be shaken to its very foundations; the literal mountains will heave and swell like the waves of the restless sea and every island will be shifted from its primeval moorings.

Jeremiah 4: 23: I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. 24: I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. 25: I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. 26: I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger.

Panic, blind, uncontrollable panic will sweep across the globe when the events under the 6th seal occur.

Earth's terror-stricken inhabitants will incorrectly conclude that the universe is beginning to disintegrate.

The sun, we are told, will become *black as sackcloth*.

It will disappear for a short period of time and the *moon will glow like blood*.

Falling stars (meteorites) in their thousands will criss-cross the sky and the heavens will be *rolled back as a scroll*.

In that day, every man, woman and child the world over will be filled with the fear of the Almighty and nobody will then doubt his existence.

Indeed, all mankind will realize that the day of Yahweh's wrath has arrived. (Rev. 6:17)

Unfortunately, even this will not be enough to cause most men to turn to Yahweh as their Redeemer.

The events under this seal have obviously not yet happened.

Admittedly there have been a few isolated instances in history when unusually large numbers of meteorites have been sighted from certain parts of the globe, or when the sun was darkened for a few hours; but it is forcing the issue to suggest that those local happenings are the fulfillment of this awesome 6th seal, because they are not.

Why not?

Simply because all the events under the 6th seal are to occur more or less **at the same time**, and will be witnessed by the entire population of the earth.

- The great earthquake
- The darkened sun
- The blood-red moon
- The dislodged mountains and islands
- The falling stars and the vanishing sky.

All these signs happen concurrently and that has never happened before:

nor has the world's population ever exhibited the kind of blind panic described in Revelation 6:16 when mankind en-mass cried out:

'...hide us from the face of him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.

Wait for the 6th seal.

It is still future.

When it occurs Yahweh's true followers will be galvanized into action.

Gone forever will be their reticence in proclaiming the Gospel to the unconverted.

Gone too their need to even convince people of the existence of Yahweh and His Son, the symbolic Lamb.

For after the earthshaking events of the 6th seal, all the world will acknowledge the existence of the Almighty Yahweh and the prospect of the soon-coming Day of Judgment.

For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?(Rev. 6:17)

Oh yes, the world's population will accept the fact that the Messiah exists; but it will be an acceptance born of terror, **not of love.**

Nevertheless, it is part of the Almighty's plan to give mankind a final opportunity to choose between right and wrong, between obedience and sin, between the worship of Yahweh as specified in His commandments and the worship of Satan which manifests itself in various human traditions.

That final appeal, that end-time work of inviting mankind to accept Yahweh's authority will reach its climax immediately **after** the 6th seal, after the state of widespread chaos and panic already described.

It will be a unique message, a special end-time work concentrating on one aspect of the Everlasting Gospel, the Seal of the living Elohim!

The unique message concerning the Seal of Yahweh is programmed to go to all the world between the 6th and 7th seals.

Indeed, its importance can only be appreciated when one considers that the events of the 7th seal are **held up** till that special message has reached the whole world.

In Revelation chapter 7 that unique, end-time message is introduced. We will now turn our attention to that chapter and examine it carefully; not forgetting that the 7th seal has still to be opened.

THE SEALING OF THE 144,000

Rev.7: 1: And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2: And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living Elohim: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3: Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants

of our Elohim in their foreheads. 4: And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed **an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.**

After reading this passage the first question that comes to mind is:

What is the Seal of Yahweh?

According to the dictionary, a SEAL is a legal instrument, a device that makes a ratifying impression on wax or some other receptive substance to prove that it is genuine.

The word '**seal**' in this context is synonymous with an owner's name, his signature, his sign, his stamp, his brand or identification mark.

Yahweh's Seal, in other words, represents His name, His signature, His stamp of ownership, the ratifying sign He seeks to place in the **foreheads** of His followers.

The **forehead** represents the mind, the seat of a person's intellect, allegiance and faith.

We are told in chapters 7 and 14 that 144,000 believer's will accept the Father's Seal or Name **in their foreheads.**

This means they will willingly accept Yahweh's ratifying seal in their minds.

They will believe it, remember it, bear it in mind and be willing to live by it.

Obviously they will be moved to this high degree of acceptance by the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit).

But do not make the mistake of supposing that the Ruach is Yahweh's Seal, because He isn't.

A believer is sealed **by** the Ruach with the Seal of Yahweh, just as a sheep is marked **by** a shepherd with a special mark.

But the shepherd is not the mark any more than the Ruach is the seal.

The Ruach of Yahweh is the Agent who does the sealing, but the **Ruach HaKodesh is not the Seal.**

What, then, is the Seal or Sign of YAHWEH the Elohim of Israel?

To find out we will again resort to that reliable guideline of allowing the scriptures to interpret themselves.

When we do this we find that Yahweh's Seal, the identifying sign he places in the minds of followers is His TORAH.

Yes, the commandments of Yahweh is the Almighty's seal and the Sabbath commandment in His Torah is the unique, ratifying SIGN (signature) the Almighty places in the minds of His followers, to signify to the universe that they are His special people.

In other words, Yahweh's people are to be signed and sealed.

Here is proof of this astonishing fact.

Isaiah 8:16 *Bind up the testimony*, says Yahweh, **seal the Torah among my disciples.**

Hebrews 8:10 *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days*, says Yahweh; **I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts:** and I will be to them an Elohim, and they shall be to me a people.

Exodus 31: 13: *Speak thou also unto the children of Israel*, saying, **Verily my Sabbaths you shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations;** that ye may know that I am Yahweh that doth sanctify you.

Ezekiel 20: 12: *Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths*, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Elohim that will sanctify them. ... 20: **And hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you**, that ye may know that I am Yahweh your Elohim.

Exodus 13: 9: *And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand*, and for a **memorial between thine eyes**, that Yahweh's Torah may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath Yahweh brought You out of Egypt.

Hebrews 10: 16: *This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days*, says Yahweh, **I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;**

These texts indicate that Yahweh's Torah, and the Sabbath commandment in His Torah, could constitute the identifying **seal** and **signature** He places in the minds of His followers.

Consequently, when a believer remembers them, bears them in mind and keeps the Almighty's commandments, especially His Sabbath commandments, he/she is in effect declaring to the universe that Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel, is his/her Father.

We must also remember that Yahweh told Israel that keeping His commandments would cause them to be noticed by the world. Keeping Torah makes you different from the worldly system.

And what, you may well ask, are the Almighty's Sabbath commandments?

The answer is:

- They are the **weekly Sabbath** command in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8-11)
- And the **seven annual Sabbaths** mentioned in Leviticus chapter 23. Together with the true seventh-day Sabbath (**Saturday**), these annual Sabbath days constitute the signature (sign) of Yahweh, the Creator of the universe.

We will do a study on “The Sacred Calendar of the Elohim of Israel” hopefully in the near future.

When , you may well ask, ***does the sealing of the 144,000 take place?***

The answer is, the sealing begins shortly **after** the 6th seal and finishes just **before** the 7th seal.

Indeed, the events of the 7th seal (*the hurting of the earth, the sea and the trees etc.*) are held up **till** the sealing of the 144,000 is finished,

Rev.7: 1: And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2: And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living Elohim: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3: Saying, **Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our Elohim in their foreheads.**

The **four winds** which are scheduled to hurt the earth, the sea and the trees are not merely physical winds like hurricanes, tornadoes, typhoons etc.

They are far more than that.

These '**winds**' also represent the enormous spiritual authority and power that angels or spirit-beings possess.

Spirit-beings are themselves often referred to in the Scriptures as '**winds**' and even the work of Yahweh's Ruach is likened to a '**wind**.'

The wind blows where it will, and you hear the sound thereof, but cannot tell from where it comes, and where it goes: so is every one that is born of the Ruach.
(John 3:8)

The four angels are granted authority to **hurt**, that is to wreck havoc upon the **earth**, the **sea**, the **trees** and the **grass** once the sealing of the 144,000 is finished.

And in measured onslaughts of destruction that is exactly what we will find them doing at the 7th seal.

See Trumpets 1 to 3 later.

THE INNUMERABLE MULTITUDE

Besides the 144,000 commandment keeping **Israelites** who are sealed, and this number will certainly include many Ephraimite believers who may not know that they are Israelites, the prophet sees another mighty throng an **innumerable multitude** from every nation, kindred, tongue and people. (Rev. 7:9)

You will notice that all 12 tribes are listed as being among the 144,000.

It is not specified in chapter 7 whether or not these believers accept the Almighty's Seal at the same time as do the 144,000.

But this much is certain, they will eventually **all** come around to keeping the commandments of Yahweh; and that includes the keeping of His weekly and annual Sabbath days.

Here is proof of this amazing fact:

Rev.7: 13: And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? 14: And I said unto him, Sir, you know. And he said to me, **These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.** 15: Therefore are they before the throne of Yahweh, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sits on the throne shall dwell among them. 16: They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. 17: For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and Yahweh shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Note the words, **these are they which came out of great tribulation.** These believers, in other words go *through some tribulation or even the tribulation* or at least part of it.

We are expressly told that they shall *hunger and thirst no more*, implying that they had already experienced hunger and thirst during the tribulation.

Remember this important point.

The prophecy goes on to say that they **washed their robes**.

What does this mean?

It means that through the merits and power of the blood (life) of the Savior these believers now begin to keep the commandments.

The figurative phrase '*wash their robes*' in chapter 7 is translated '**do the commandments**' in Revelation 22.14.

The innumerable host, in other words, will begin to keep the commandments of Yahweh.

They will clean up their lives (*wash their robes*) by bringing them into line with the high and holy standards of Yahweh's Torah.

Obedience to the Torah will be a requirement of being included in this host.

That is what these scriptures are impliedly saying.

In the blood of the Lamb .

What does this phrase mean?

Blood is life. It also symbolizes life. (Lev. 17:14, Deut. 12:23)

The blood of the Lamb, therefore, symbolizes the life giving power of the Messiah the Lamb of Yahweh.

Washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, in short, is a symbolic way of saying that this innumerable multitude of believers would be keepers of the commandments of Yahweh.

In their own strength it would have, of course, been utterly impossible to attain the high and holy standards required by Yahweh's Torah.

But when aided by the **power of the blood**, the wonder-working, sanctifying and cleansing power of the Messiah's matchless life provided by the Ruach, they can reach the required standard of obedience just as we can today.

They will be pure, holy and perfect.

Figuratively speaking they will then be ***clothed in white robes*** .

As the old hymn **POWER IN THE BLOOD** puts it:

Would you be free from your burden of sin?
There is power in the blood, power in the blood?
Would you o'er evil a victory win?
There is wonderful power in the blood.

Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow?
There is power in the blood, power in the blood.
Sin stains are lost in its life-giving flow.
There is wonderful power in the blood.

Note that the innumerable multitude of blood-washed believers is not in heaven at the moment.

Nor will they be caught away to heaven before the ***great tribulation***, as some suppose.

We are plainly told in verses 14-17 that they will ***come out of (the?) great tribulation*** after having experienced hunger, thirst and the great heat of the sun.

And only after that terrible time, after they have ***washed their robes*** (begun to keep the commandments) and become martyrs will they stand before the throne of Yahweh.

Then it shall come to pass that Yahweh will wipe away all tears from their eyes and the Lamb shall lead them to fountains of living waters.

The word **shall** is repeated several times in this passage and it appears to place the fulfillment of this part of the prophecy after the great tribulation.

In view of these texts, and there are others, there is obviously no truth in the popular theory about the assembly being secretly caught away to heaven **before the tribulation**.

In this chapter we can plainly see that an innumerable host of believers will **be on earth during the tribulation**.

Summary of Revelation Chapter 7.

1) The chapter briefly tells of that unique, end-time work of Yahweh the **sealing work**.

2) The sealing work will begin **after** the fearsome events of the 6th seal have occurred: that is, after the great earthquake, after the sun is darkened, after the mountains and the islands have moved, and after the sky is rolled back as a scroll and after world-wide panic overtakes the peoples of the world. (Rev. 6:12-17)

3) The sealing work must however be finished **before** the 7th seal starts: that is, before the four angels begin to hurt the earth, the sea and the trees. (Rev. 7:1-3)

4) The Seal of Yahweh the Almighty Elohim of Israel is His Torah, and the Sabbath days in His Torah represent His signature. They are the divine, identifying **sign** of sanctification which the Ruach HaKodesh places in the minds of believers willing to obey Him. (Eze. 20:12 & 20, Isa. 8:16)

5) 144,000 believers accept Yahweh's Seal in their minds. They are **Israelites**, but some non-Israelite believers willing to obey the Almighty's commandments may be numbered among them as grafted in. (Rev. 7 and Romans 11:17-24) (Note that all twelve tribes are included by name.)

6) The innumerable multitude from all nations will suffer hunger, thirst and scorching heat of the sun during the great tribulation. But they will eventually come out of it and *wash their robes in the blood of the Lamb*. That is, they too will begin to keep the commandments of Yahweh.

7) At the end of the great tribulation they will stand in the presence of the Almighty. And then Yahweh will wipe away all tears from their eye. (Rev. 7:13-17)