

Study Guide #208

Total Onslaught

by Professor Walter J. Veith



The Seven Seals



DVD# 208



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The **Seven** Seals

AMAZING DISCOVERIES

2013 248 St
Langley, BC V4W 2B7
Canada

PO Box 3140
Blaine, WA 98231-3140
USA

1-866-572-9457

sales@amazingdiscoveries.org
www.amazingdiscoveries.org

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The THRONEROOM of God

1) What was John's vision in Revelation 4:1-2)? (00:02:15)



John received a very special gift from God: a peek into the throne room of the universe where God dwells.

2) Describe the purpose of the throne and throne room according to these passages:



2 Corinthians 5:10: (00:04:08)

Acts 17:31: (00:04:25)

Many view judgment from God as a negative experience, but if we are saved by the blood of Christ, judgment brings God's seal of acceptance and assurance that our sins have in fact been forgiven.

3) Who are the 24 elders that sit around God's throne (Revelation 4:3-4)? (00:12:55)



4) How does this compare to the situation in 1 Chronicles 24:7-19? (00:06:15)



*Much of the Old Testament law and even the history of Israel can be understood as **earthly symbols** representing heavenly places, people, or events. As Aaron was the high priest in Israel and had 24 elders to help him, so **Christ is the heavenly High Priest** and He also has 24 elders to officiate with Him.*

Describe the four beasts in Revelation 4:6-8: (00:07:25)



First Beast: _____

Second Beast: _____

Third Beast: _____

Fourth Beast: _____

5) What was their cry? (00:08:08)



6) Describe the beings in Isaiah 6:2-3: (00:08:20)



7) What was their cry, according to Isaiah 6:3?



*Isaiah and John are both writing about **cherubim**—magnificent and imposing angelic creatures that offer **praise, glory, and honor** to the One on the throne.*



8) Why is the One on the throne receiving power, glory and honor (Revelation 4:9-11)? (00:11:17)



Opening the SEALS

9) What was the enthroned One holding in His right hand in John's vision (Revelation 5:1)? (00:12:10)



10) Who cannot open the seven seals to see what is written, and who can (Revelation 5:3,5)? (00:12:26)



11) What do you think is written on the scrolls?



12) Describe the Lamb that stood in the midst of the throne (5:6): (00:17:20)



13) Who is the Lamb (Revelation 5:6, John 1:29)?



*In Scripture, a **horn** is a symbol for a **king** or **kingdom**.
(See Daniel 7:24, 8:5, 21, 22; Revelation 17:12, Zechariah 1:18-19)*

14) What is contained in the golden vials (Revelation 5:7-8)? (00:18:20)



15) Why is the Lamb worthy of opening the seals if no one else can (5:9-10)? (00:19:00)



16) Who else praises the Lamb? What do they say (5:11-14)? (00:21:05)



The First Seal

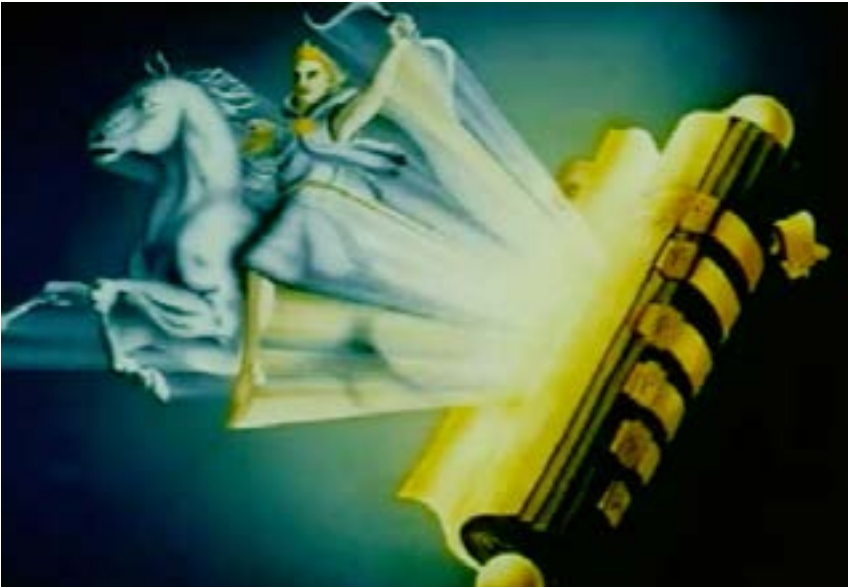
Like the letters to seven *churches* in Revelation, the seven *seals* reveal the seven *time periods* in church history. But the seals, which are affixed on the *scroll* of the Lamb, more specifically represent the herald of the *Gospel message* throughout history.

17) What does John see when the first seal is opened (Revelation 6:1-2)? (00:23:55)



18) What does white represent (Revelation 12:9; 20:2)? (00:25:07)





19) What does the bow represent in Scripture?



Psalm 7:11-12; Psalms 45:4-5: _____

Habakkuk 3:8-13: (00:26:20) _____



20) Who has the bow and shoots the arrows (Psalm 64:7)? (00:26:03)



*In this first time period, a pure message of salvation goes out: the message of a **conquering faith**. This is the period of the **early Church**, and we read of this conquering message in Colossians 1:23:*

If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.

This first time period coincides with the pure and desirable church of Ephesus in Revelation 2. The early Church in the time period of Ephesus preached the Gospel with vigor.

The Second Seal

21) What does John see when the second seal is opened (Revelation 6:3-4)? (00:30:38)





22) What does red represent (Isaiah 1:18; Nahum 2:3; Revelation 17:1-4)? (00:29:10)



*Red is the color of blood, and also can represent sin or **corruption** in Scripture. The second time period in church history included **intense persecution and bloodshed**, as we can deduce from Jesus' words to **Smyrna**—the second church as we read in Revelation 2:9-10:*

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.



23) Other than bloodshed, what can the sword represent, as in Ephesians 6:17 and Hebrews 4:12?




Seven Seals and Seven Churches

First Seal Theme: Purity	Ephesus Revelation 2: 1-7	to 100 AD
Second Seal Theme: Persecution	Smyrna Revelation 2:8-11	100 - 300
Third Seal Theme: Compromise	Pergamos Revelation 2:12-17	313 - 538
Fourth Seal Theme: Death	Thyatira Revelation 2:18-29	538 - 1560s
Fifth Seal Theme: Corruption	Sardis Revelation 3:1-6	1560s - 1790s
Six Seal Theme: End time Church	Philadelphia Revelation 3:7-13	1790s - 1840s
	Laodicea Revelation 3:14-22	1840s - End
Seventh Seal Theme: Judgment		Return of Christ



The Third Seal

24) What does John see when the third seal is opened (Revelation 6:5-6)? (00:31:40)



25) The four food items all represent the Gospel herald in some way. Explain how: (00:32:40) 

Symbol	Definition
Wheat	
Barley	
Oil	
Wine	

26) What does black represent (Exodus 10:21-23; Jeremiah 4:20-28; 8:21; Acts 26:18; John 12:35)? (00:32:30)  



Something happens to **taint the purity** of the Gospel message in the church during this time period, turning it black. This is expressed in Revelation 2:14-16 in Jesus' letter to **Pergamos**:

But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

27) How does Daniel 8:12 describe the power that ruled during the black horse period (remember, a horn represents a power or kingdom)?





*In 538 AD, a decree was passed that the **Bishop of Rome** had the power to be the corrector of heretics, the conscience of humanity. However, we know that **salvation** comes through **faith in Christ alone**:*

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

*Jesus is our mediator, but in this time period, the Roman Church set **itself** up as the **mediator** between people and God.*

The Fourth Seal

28) What does John see when the fourth seal is opened (Revelation 6:7-8)? (00:50:25)



29) What were people hungering for in this period? (00:51:10)



30) What does a beast signify in Scripture (Daniel 7:23)? (00:53:15)



This pale horse, whose very name is “Death,” came to kill by the literal sword of persecution, by holding back the truth of the Scriptures, and through the power of earthly kingdoms.

Jezebel, the ancient queen referenced in the fourth letter to the churches in Revelation 2:20, personified this power

by using her husband's *political clout* to inflict tireless persecution on the prophets of Israel—God's faithful ones. You can read Jezebel's story in Bible history starting in 1 Kings chapter 16.

The true Christian Gospel message in this period reached the brink of death, as historian Paul Hutchinson describes in his book *20 Centuries of Christianity* (Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1959, page 58):

The new Christians were, so far as thinking and habits went, the same old pagans; their desire for baptism was strictly prudential. Their surge into the churches did not mean that Christianity had wiped out paganism. On the contrary, hordes of baptized pagans meant that paganism had diluted the moral energies of organized Christianity to the point of social impotence.


But God would *not allow His Church to die*. The next seal corresponds with the fifth church of Revelation: *Sardis*, which represents the period of the *Reformation*.




In pre-Reformation Europe, Waldensian missionaries in the guise of street peddlers, preach the Gospel at the risk of being reported to or found out by Catholic Inquisitors.

These people were eventually wiped out: all martyrs of the true Gospel.

The Fifth Seal


31) What does John see when the fifth seal is opened (Revelation 6:9-11)? (01:00:10) 

32) Who are those souls under the altar in Revelation 6:9? (01:00:30) 

33) What comparisons can you find between this image and the story of Cain and Abel in Genesis 4:8-10?

And it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.



34) Do you think corruption in the Church is a new problem (see Jude 1:3-4)? 

The Sixth Seal

35) What does John see when the sixth seal is opened (Revelation 6:12-17)? (01:08:25)



36) What does Jesus say in Mark 13 that aligns with this part of John's vision?



Revelation 6	Mark 13

37) What historical events lend themselves to fulfilling Jesus' prophecy?





An artist's rendition of the 1833 meteor shower.

Source: *Bible Readings for the Home Circle*, (Chicago: Review and Herald, 1888).

The Seventh Seal

When the seventh seal is opened, there is *silence* in heaven for half an hour, followed by the appearance of seven angels who are given seven *trumpets* (Revelation 8:1). This part of John's vision is unpacked in Walter Veith's next lecture, [When Trumpets Sound](#).

My **DECISION** For Jesus

Everything the Scripture said would happen thus far has unfolded. Do you believe we are living in the world's last days? Will you choose by the grace of God to align yourself with the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world?



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