

Book of Revelation – Interim between the 6th & 7th Seals (Revelation 7)

Series REV-09

As Mordecai in the book of Esther “commanded to answer” Queen Esther in the crisis confronting all the Jews in their day, “who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” {Esther 4:13,14}; so shall we in our day know for a certainty that God has called those of us born in this time, this generation that we are come to the kingdom (come on the scene of action) “for such a time as this.”

I believe that all through the last three years we’ve been studying and some coming on board at different times, God has been leading in our selection of Bible subjects—first the Sanctuary, then Daniel, the stirring lessons, Prepare to Meet Thy God series, and finally now the Revelation, during a shaking crisis period in our history like none other. Further, God knew that we would slow our pace as we proceeded through the Book, and that could it be for such a time as now, that we’ve come to this interim spot between the sixth and seventh seal (Revelation 7)?

Before embarking on Rev 7 and the sealing of the 144,000, it would be well to take a step back and look at the big picture: So we will look first at the historical perspective in hopes we can garner some insight as to where we are in the contemporary setting and how to apply what we are studying more pointedly to our lives by the power of truth, the power of the Holy Spirit.

As we look at the historical perspective, let us peer into it from this vantage point:

*Our **salvation** is complete, because it is founded on **the accomplishment of a plan laid before the foundation of the world**. Before Christ came, a ceremonial holiness could be obtained by offering the blood of bulls and of goats; but these sacrifices **could not cleanse the conscience** [hence the need for the antitypical Day of Atonement]. They were but a representation of Christ, **the great sacrifice**. The substance of all the sacrifices and offerings, he came to this world **to do God's will by offering himself**. He came as the world's Redeemer, to stand at the head of humanity. The Holy Spirit comes to man through Christ. We are given a decided testimony regarding the value of Christ's offering. God's word declares, "**By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**" It was **a whole and entire sacrifice** that was made for us. {RH, July 25, 1899 par. 14}*

Notice in your Revelation chart, under the Seals section (4th column) that there is the word “insert” between the 6th and 7th seal. This is to convey, if you read the description of the chart that certain things will be happening between these two seals that the angel takes time out to convey to John. We also see this pattern occurring with the trumpets and the plagues.

But before we look at Revelation 7, let us look first at the Historical aspect of the book.

Historical Perspective

7 Churches >> Long Time periods last 2000 years (generally speaking).

7 Seals >> Commensurate with the seven church time periods.

6th Church- Philadelphia

Time period: 1840s The Philadelphia Church preached First Angel’s Message, which included “the hour of His Judgment is come”

1844 (summer) Second Angel’s Message (Separation from the churches which had become Babylon, since the churches then refused to preach about the Second Coming and kindred doctrines.)

1844 (Fall -Oct.22) Investigative Judgment about to begin

7th Church- Laodicea (the Judging of the People).

1856 -57 + EOT This is our day, the church we’ve come to love, realizing-- the condition of God’s remnant people during the investigative judgment.

Contemporary Perspective

The order of the churches dictates the progression of the seals and thus trumpets. (Recall that the messages Christ sent to the churches are also to reverberate throughout the seals and trumpets. The focus must be spiritual, with application to the churches.)

The Last Three Churches

- Sardis (Remember)
- Philadelphia (Judgment)
- Laodicea (Righteousness by Faith)

The Last Three Seals

5th Seal	– Souls under the altar, crying:	How Long, O Lord, until the Judgment of the ungodly?	<i>The fact this cry goes out indicating we are in the Judgment of the Living process</i>
6th Seal	– The Shaking to Sifting <i>Spiritual Application in the Contemporary</i>	(signs in the sun, moon, and stars)	<i>As the Judgment of the Living is closing– Shaking / Sifting among God’s people Final separation from Babylon. Time of Latter Rain / Loud Cry</i>
>>>	REV 7 INSERTED	REV 7 INSERTED	<<<
7th Seal	Silence in Heaven	Loud Cry given Church Militant >> Church Triumphant	<i>World brought to take their stand on Sabbath / Sunday Issue- symbol of Righteousness by Faith</i>

REVELATION 7

As chapter six concludes, John records that the One sitting on the throne and the wrath of the Lamb (at the Second Coming) will cause those mentioned in vs. 15 to cry in vs.16 to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us, and hide us from” [Them], for “the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand.”

[Since we have just dealt with this phrase in our study, “the great day of his wrath is come”, there is no need to regurgitate it again. But I bring it up, because it is the last thing the apostle records in chp. 6, linked with the parting words, “and who shall be able to stand?” Chapter 7 answers that question.

Vs. 1 reveals three fours –four angels, four corners, four winds. Also we find the word ‘earth’ mentioned three times. Of the 70 times in the book of Revelation this word, ‘earth’ is stated, this is the only verse it is mentioned three times within a verse. When something is mentioned 3x in a verse we ought to take special note.

Why do you think special effort was made to mention it 3x? What do you think would be the related subject tied to the “why” of this question? _____

_____.

Vs.2 – We find here that another angel comes up out of the east with the seal of the living God. This angel has a message for the other four angels, but before we look at that message, here is a question for thought and research:

John used a word to describe God in this verse, he said, that the angel had “the seal of the _____ God.” This phrase is mentioned 30x in Scripture, with the last time mentioned here. Do a study and if you have the time, scan all the other times the phrase “living God” is mentioned in the Bible, you will be amazed at the insight Holy Spirit gives you. This will help in understanding why the phrase is mentioned in reference to the ‘sealing’. {Feel free to share your thoughts in next week’s study.}

Vs. 3 tells us the message this angel with the seal bears to the other four angels. It is a message not to hurt the earth, sea or any trees. In your handy-dandy symbol book, find out what these elements might mean in a spiritual sense.

Earth –

Sea –

Trees –

The word “till” is the operative word in the text. This tells us that the elements of the earth will not be hurt, UNTIL something happens. That something is: _____

{It would be well for you to go over the “Seal of God” study we did months ago.}

I will close with this quote from the book, “The Lamb—God’s Greatest Gift”

Are Our Records Clean and White?

“Tell me, are you afraid of the wrath of a lamb? . . . This is the question. God has the record of every man’s life, of your life, and mine. If we confess our sins He will wash away the record of those sins.”

“What stops us from getting our records clean and white? Would it be pride? Self-sufficiency? Those are the only things that prevent confession and repentance. What have we to fear? Jesus has died to cleanse our records. He has our records in His hands ready to cleanse. Nobody else has them. Those nail-pierced hands contain the records of our sins. He is waiting and pleading and sending His Spirit, and saying, “Don’t hurt the oil, and don’t hurt the wine.” The Bread of Life is there. The seven eyes, the seven horns, the perfect sight, the perfect might, the prevailing Lamb is there. When the wrath of the Lamb arrives, who needs to fear?”

“I think the picture of the last Judgment in the Bible is the most amazingly encouraging description I have ever read of any judgment. Everything is stacked in my favor. Right now the Spirit is saying to [each of us], ‘Make certain that your life is right—confess, forsake your sin, and accept My grace. When I come in shining splendor, I will take you to live with Me forever... What is your response to Him?’ {*The Lamb p. 116-117 by Leslie Hardinge*}