

THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE



A COMPARISON

A STUDY COMPARING THE SEVEN
SEALS OF JOHN'S PATMOS
REVELATION WITH THE END-DAY
ACCOUNT OF THE LORD JESUS
GIVEN ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

PATMOS AND OLIVET

By Daniel Cox

OLIVET TO PATMOS

INTRODUCTION

As with all booklets in a series, it cannot be assumed that every reader has read all that has gone before. In this case, it is, in fact, four that have gone before. So to make sense of what we now set before our readers, a brief re-cap will set the scene.

TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS

Our first booklet considered the neglected chapters of Revelation Four and Five. Time was spent in seeing who those elders were not and then the conclusion was reached that they formed a heavenly presbytery that had the jurisdiction of all the created universe, this, of course, under the supreme authority of the Triune Godhead. We then awesomely noted one of the most significant events in all history. Although taking place in heaven, its outworking would have an impact on every man, woman and child dwelling on the earth at that juncture of the history of our world. This epochal event was the abdication by the Twenty Four Elders of their jurisdiction over all creation. This was brought about by the symbolic casting down of their crowns of authority. The vacuum created was immediately filled by the Lord Jesus who was seen both as the Lamb that was slain from before the foundation of the world, and as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. The reason for this abdication and the transfer of the control of all the happenings in the created universe was because the next period of history and all its events were to be orchestrated by the Son of God Himself. This He would accomplish by the opening of a book sealed with seven seals, which He would open one by one. These were the conclusions

reached on our booklet number one. For the journey we made to get there my present readers will have to read that booklet, which is available F.O.C. from the author, (details inside back cover).

APOSTACY

The second booklet took time considering the gallop of the First Horseman, who we considered to be a pseudo-christ and the harbinger of such deceits the like of which had never before bedevilled the people of God. This would result in a falling away and apostacy of unparalleled dimensions. The third booklet detailed some of the "Departures" in the church that would come from these deceits. Our fourth booklet considered the gallop of the three remaining horsemen. We gave some thought to the details contained in the immediate text, but majored on the causes that bring about Almighty God's heaviest judgements upon the earth. These booklets are also available F.O.C. from the author.

THE BIBLE IS A PROPHETIC BOOK

Much of our precious Word of God has to do with prophecy. Many of the major characters found within the sacred page were prophets, both forth-tellers and foretellers. There are books described as Major Prophets, others called Minor Prophets. The Psalms have a golden thread of prophecy that runs all through them. Enoch, the seventh from Adam was a prophet who walked with God, although we have to wait until the second from last book of the bible, to gain just a crumb from his prophetic output. Much of the New Testament has to do with prophecy and its last book, the "Revelation" is almost entirely devoted to it. Tragically and almost unbelievably, the great interest in

the interpretation and understanding of prophecy, awakened in the nineteenth century, which continues although somewhat lessened, in the twentieth, is waning fast. Most major Christian publishers shun books on prophecy calling them "old hat" and refuse to print them. The success of the "Late Great Planet Earth" is unlikely to be repeated. The tastes of our "have now" generation, have no room for "jam (bliss)" tomorrow. Thankfully, there is a hardcore of believers who love the Word and spend much time sat before the Lord with bible opened and experience one of the most precious and greatest of all divine gifts which is light from heaven revealing truth from the sacred page. We write to encourage those very believers, in their prophetic word inspired desire in their goal and their longing to be part of the overcomer band that will form "The bride of Christ" and who are indeed the true "*Church of the first born written in heaven*" (HEB 12 v 23). We also write as "seekers after the truth", for those who are also seeking that true gold of truth. Assertions can sometimes sound dogmatic, but this is unintentional as it is inevitable. We just long to add our little fragment to the collective understanding which is increasing as the books that have been sealed almost since Daniel's day are opened. *But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end.* (DAN 12 v 4). We now want to share a comparison of the two major prophecies which cover the end-time period; the first from the lips of our Lord Jesus Himself, the second given by revelation in vision to the Apostle John.

OLIVET AND PATMOS

The Lord Jesus was sat upon the Mount of Olives with His disciples and the talk was of

the destruction of the temple and the events of the "time of the end". Our beloved Lord then went on to give perhaps the clearest chronological accounts of the entire end-days to be found anywhere in scripture.

John was in banishment on the Isle of Patmos. This precious brother who was known as the beloved disciple was granted a revelation of the end-times which, by its nature and extent has captured the imagination of believers, not to mention poets, composers, artists, writers, the world over, ever since it was granted. This revelation also covered the entire end-day period. We have asserted that the purely prophetic portion of John's revelation commences at the opening of Chapter Four. The neglected chapters of Revelation Four and Five have been considered in our "Prelude" booklet "The Twenty Four Elders". To make sense of what is to follow, we must lay a little foundation of how those assertions, some of which may never have been considered by our readers, have been reached. Some slight repetition of what has already been penned is inevitable and no doubt those who read will both understand and exercise the little patience needed.

THE SEVEN SEALS ARE CONTAINED IN A BOOK

In this respect they are unique in all the visions granted to Apostle John. It is felt this is of considerable significance and a great aid in the understanding of what the second book contains. What the Lord Jesus taught on the beautiful Mount of Olives was a complete overview of the end-days and by and large was chronological for the sequence of events described began with the "beginning of sorrows" which are even

prior to the tribulation proper and ended with His coming and the gathering of His elect. This return would be to the very mount, where He was sharing this most complete of end-time accounts (2 ECK 14 v 4, ACTS 1 v 11 – 12). John's revelation was different in the respect of his seeing a series of visions and although there is something of a chronological thread running throughout the Revelation, it cannot be considered completely so. The vision that we are considering in this booklet is, as we have mentioned, distinct from all the others in the fact that it is contained within a book. A book gives the impression of completeness for it has both a beginning and an end, and in the case of the sealed book, no flashbacks and only one parenthesis which we will consider later. So we suggest that the vision of the book sealed with seven seals is another overview of the end-days, complete in itself and covering the same period as the Lord's Olivet account. It is our plan to compare and place alongside each other, the Lord's Olivet account and John's Patmos revelation of the sealed book. Our hope is, that the result will be a blessed help in the interpretation and understanding of the end-time events, painting as it does, a chronological picture.

A SERIES OF UNFOLDING VISIONS

Before we get into the comparison proper, there are a couple of foundational suggestions that will aid us in an understanding of what is shared. The first of them is that the prophetic visions contained in the Revelation are a series of prophecies that commence at different times or chronological points. Although they each have different starting time points, they almost all have the same point of termination. That terminal point is the

“Parousia” of the Lord Jesus. We say parousia as this expression indicates, “a coming to stay” and has a compass to embrace more than one happening or event and can also occupy a period of time.

THREE MAJOR VISIONS COMPARED

To illustrate this assertion, let us consider the climax of three of the most important visions contained in the Revelation. We will consider the vision of the book sealed with seven seals, the seven trumpets and the seven Vials of Wrath. We will note that each of the visions contains much that is of interest and also that it is unique to that particular vision. However, there are events that conclude each of the visions that are identical to events in the other two. All the three visions have the identical point of climax or conclusion, as we shall now go on to see.

EVENTS AT THE OPENING OF THE SEVENTH SEAL

A number of events take place under the opening of the last or seventh of the seals of the book. There was silence in heaven (this feature is worthy of its own study). There was a presentation to seven angels of seven trumpets which will be the integral part of the next series of visions. Following this, there is reference to incense, prayers and altar fire added to those prayers and cast to the earth. We now emphasise the next four features.

1. VOICES
2. THUNDERINGS
3. LIGHTNINGS
4. EARTHQUAKE

(REV 8 v 1 – 5)

EVENTS AT THE SOUNDING OF THE SEVENTH (LAST) TRUMPET

A lot happens at the sounding of the seventh trumpet, as we would expect. As we consider the events, the only possible conclusion is that this seventh trumpet is the "LAST TRUMPET" spoken of in an apocalyptic or end-time reference, elsewhere in scripture (1 COR 15 v 51 – 52, 1 THESS 4 v 16 – 17, MATT 24 v 31 etc., etc.,). To confirm this, there are no other series of trumpets in scripture that have any major, prophetic, apocalyptic, end-time relevance apart from those seven trumpets of Revelation. If any further confirmation is necessary, let us note features that take place under the sounding of the seventh trumpet that could only occur under the sounding of the LAST TRUMPET of God at the advent of the Lord Jesus to take His bride and set up His Millennial Kingdom. These are the features we refer to.

The mystery of God is finished; this mystery is the building of the gentile aspect of the church (EPH 3 v 3a, 5 – 6).

The Kingdoms of this world become the Kingdoms of Lord and Christ and He shall reign forever and ever (IS 24 v 23).

It would be the time of distribution of rewards to a) God's servants, the prophets. b) To the Saints. c) To the "God fearers", small and great.

The destruction of the "earth destroyers" (surely antichrist and his followers). We now emphasise again the rest of the features.

1. LIGHTNINGS
2. VOICES
3. THUNDERINGS
4. EARTHQUAKE

5. GREAT HAIL

(REV 10 v 7 and 15 – 19)

**EVENTS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE
UNDER THE OUTPOURING OF THE
SEVENTH VIAL**

We note a number of features of events that take place at the outpouring of the seventh vial. There is a great voice saying "It is done", Jerusalem is divided into three parts. There is a falling of the cities of the nations. The wrath of God is to specifically fall at Babylon. We now emphasise again the rest of the features.

1. VOICES
2. THUNDERS
3. LIGHTNINGS
4. GREAT EARTHQUAKE
5. GREAT HAIL

(REV 16 v 17 – 21)

Just in passing may we draw our readers attention to an exclamation of the Lord Jesus, that He makes during the outpouring of the previous vial, which is the sixth. "Behold I come as a thief" (REV 16 v 15). So the "Coming" of the Lord Jesus was still future at this juncture. Now to continue; we have without major comment reviewed the features or events that will take place under the opening of the seventh seal, during the sounding of the seventh trumpet and the outpouring of the seventh vial. It is during the period of these events that the long awaited "parousia" or advent of the Lord Jesus takes place. Also that all three visions have their climatic conclusion at the same juncture in the apocalyptic outworking. This can be seen even more clearly when we view together the features of which we took particular note.

SEVEN SEALS	SEVEN TRUMPETS	SEVEN VIALS
1. VOICES 2. THUNDERINGS 3. LIGHTNINGS 4. EARTHQUAKE 5.	VOICES THUNDERINGS LIGHTNINGS EARTHQUAKE GREAT HAIL	VOICES THUNDERS LIGHTNINGS GREAT EARTHQUAKE GREAT HAIL

THE FIRST SEAL

In the second of our booklets in this series, we considered in some depth, the gallop of the first horseman who we suggested that as he resembled the Lord Jesus in the one respect of being astride a white horse, he was a pseudo-christ. We must now view this horseman in the context of our comparisons between the Olivet end-day account and the Patmos view of the book sealed with seven seals. His role was to expand and develop the deceits, that Paul described as "doctrines of devils" or "doctrines that demons teach" in his letter to Timothy (1 TIM 4 v 1). This would accelerate the "Departure" from the faith, which had already begun, and this would also expand and develop the apostacy already so manifest in the church. This would rise to a crescendo in what is known as the "Great Apostacy" that Paul told the Thessalonians would precede the coming of the Lord Jesus and the ingathering of His church. The first horseman would be given a bow with which he would go forth conquering and to conquer. He would be eminently successful in his malign mission.

IT'S FAR WORSE THAN YOU THINK

It is after much prayerful consideration, that the state of what could be loosely called "the people of God" is far worse than even the burdened amongst the Lord's people realise. In books, booklets and articles we have written extensively concerning many matters that once found no place amongst the people of God, but have appeared in recent times, and in some realms even, become prevalent. It is a known fact that alcohol is by far the greatest killer in the world of drugs and the like. The recent ban on nicotine will only increase alcohol consumption, yet alcohol poses a greater

health risk even than "Killer" nicotine. When your author was first converted, observing across a wide spectrum of believers and communions, hardly a single alcohol imbibing christian could be observed. At conversion there was an about turn and complete change of life and lifestyle which always included total abstinence from nicotine and alcohol. Today the situation is reversed and the abstaining christian is becoming as rare as the dodo. This observation could be multiplied in many such areas that once had the general appellation of "the world". The net result is that the church and the world have so mingled that it becomes increasingly difficult to tell one from the other.

A GOSPEL WHICH IS NO GOSPEL

At least as bad, possibly even more serious in the brief considerations of the outworking of the pseudo-christ, the first horseman's influence is the subtle, insidious and progressive change in "gospel preaching and ministry". Just like worldliness, its progression is like a creeping paralysis. Listen to what Paul had to say to the Galatian churches.

I marvel that ye are so soon removed, from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another. (GAL 1 v 6 – 7a).

Preaching about "prosperity" is not the gospel. Preaching about the boosting of "low self esteem" is not the gospel. Preaching on "biblical psychology" a la Norman Vincent Peale and the power of positive thinking is not the gospel. In fact, there is no such animal as biblical or christian psychology, for it is just Jung and Freud et al, dressed up in christian clothes to suit, and of course dupe, a christian audience. We could go on. Let us

ever keep before us that gospel preaching is, and only is, the presentation of what we know as the "Apostles doctrine", which in a word was, "Repent and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (ACTS 53 v 19, and "Repent and be baptised everyone, for the remission of sins" (ACTS 2 v 38). Some may be saying "we know all that", then "preach it brother" and jettison all that other claptrap that will only make your hearers "twofold more a child of hell," that formally (MATT 23 v 15). So we see that the first horseman was a harbinger of unparalleled deceit and apostacy. He was the first of the horseman and his impact was mostly upon a church, weakened by worldliness and poor doctrine. He also has the purpose to pave the way for the three horsemen that were to follow. These three fearsome forces of darkness would have more to do with the world at large. All four of them had a wicked goal which was to prepare the ground for the soon to emerge antichrist.

DID THE LORD JESUS WARN OF DECEIT?

In our comparison, we now turn to the Lord Jesus and his sermon on the mount, where he gave his overview of the end-days. If our suggestion that the Patmos seals and the Olivet discourse paralleled one another is correct, then we would anticipate that the Lord Jesus should begin his presentation in the same vein as the pseudo-christ horseman manifested.

TAKE HEED THAT NO MAN DECEIVE YOU

These words were the first of the Olivet discourse. Let us quote what our Lord Jesus said in full.

Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.
(MATT 24 v 4 – 5).

So we are presented with an exact parallel with the first pseudo-christ, deceiver horseman. We previously suggested, that nothing in the scripture indicated that the first horseman ceased his journeyings when the second started his. In fact, there is a dark malign thread that runs throughout the end-days and it is a thread of the deepest deceit. The Lord Jesus returns to it, at a later juncture in this end-day account, warning of false christs and false prophets (MATT 24 v 11 – 12). So we have painted the picture of the end-days as shared by the Lord Jesus, bedevilled by deceivers, false christs and false prophets. Both John on Patmos, and Jesus on Olivet totally agreed together, and the “watch word” is to beware. If ever the church needs that precious and increasingly rare gift of “discerning of spirits” (1 COR 12 v 10), it is today. There is no greater aid than this gift, if we are to follow the Lord’s injunction, coming as a command with the force of law. TAKE HEED THAT NO MAN DECEIVE YOU.

THE SECOND SEAL

In our fourth booklet we made an indepth consideration of what took place during the period covered by the activities of horsemen 2, 3 and 4. We considered some of the god-defying collective sins of the earth dwellers that would bring about unparalleled worldwide judgements of God. We were sobered by the realisation that even before, antichrist came to power, briefly considered under seal five, one quarter of the world’s population would perish. Such carnage and death is impossible to grasp in any normal form of comprehension. Figures with

multiplied noughts can become meaningless, so we have tried to put them into some perspective.

ONE QUARTER OF THE WORLD

1. So great has been the recent population explosion of the world that one fifth of all humans born on this planet in the six thousand years since the original creation, are alive today.
2. The current World population is 6 ½ billion (6500,000,000).
3. The current European population is almost ¾ billion (725,000,000).
4. The current English population is 50 million (50,000,000).
5. For one quarter of the world's population to perish at current population levels that would amount to 1.625 billion (1625,000,000).
6. For one quarter of the world's population to perish it would be equivalent of more than twice the population of Europe.
7. For one quarter of the world's population to perish it would be the equivalent of the population of England thirty times over.

This booklet could be filled with such mind-boggling statistics. So we have before us in statistical form, without the horrors, of what will happen when the second of the seven seals is opened. This was as seen by John in vision and biblically described.

A horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword. (REV 6 v 4).

So now, as we continue our comparison, we must move from Patmos to Olivet to discover if the Lord follows His profound warnings on deceits with descriptions of what could be described as "war". The result is very illuminating, for this is what the Lord Jesus said:

And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom... (MATT 24 v 6 - 7).

Once again, the comparison and parallel is exact for both the Apostle John and our Lord Jesus leave us in no doubt for there will be WAR AMONG THE NATIONS.

THE THIRD SEAL

A PAIR OF BALANCES

We now consider the third seal, now opened, and of course the third horseman who sits astride a horse that is black. Symbolically black as a colour directs the thoughts to both famine and death. This third seal is among the more symbolic of all the visions that John saw on the beautiful but tiny Isle of Patmos, which is, in fact, much closer to Turkey than mainland Greece. Your author has had the privilege of praying in the cave on Patmos where it is believed that John had his revelation that became the "Book of Revelation". The heartfelt prayer was that an understanding of that glorious unveiling vision would be granted to the longing supplicant. Not for one moment is it suggested that "all light", has been granted, but we just add our "crumb" to the whole loaf and trust it is a little blessing to the body of Christ, His beloved "church of the

first born written in heaven" (HEB 12 v 23). But we now talk of famine for that is what symbolic pictures represent. My father sometimes told the story of his boyhood. He recounted a pitiful tale and beatings and hunger on an almost daily basis. In the end it became unbearable and he ran off into the night, never to return and in consequence we never knew of a single relative on my father's side. He was still a smallish boy who was found by gypsies who brought him up. In stark contrast the only times your author has ever known hunger has been during the all to infrequent times of fasting. But imagine, if only for a moment, a world where almost everyone is hungry, fighting, even killing for the few scraps that still exist. What a sinful past the world must have come to, for a God, who is so solicitous over His creation, would orchestrate through His Son, such want. Let us never forget how the Lord spoke concerning the judgement deserving Ninevites in Jonah's day. For He spoke of the great city of Nineveh, a password in wickedness (JONAH 1 v 2). Yet He could still speak of mercy, mentioning the one hundred and twenty thousand who could not tell their right hand from the left and even the cows were not forgotten (JONAH 4 v 11). Tragically for the world of the time we are considering, with its gross darkness, its occultism, its abortions, its perversions and adulteries, the scales have been tipped and among the fearsome judgements of that day there is famine, the like of which the world has never known. That is why John saw symbolically that which spoke of unparalleled death and famine. For he saw "A PAIR OF BALANCES" (REV 6 v 3).

DID THE LORD JESUS SEE A SIMILAR PICTURE?

The Lord Jesus began His account with those profound warnings of deceit and followed that with a graphic picture of a world convulsed by war. Would He now describe a similar picture to the one seen by Apostle John? The answer is an emphatic "Yes", for the very next sentence leaves us in no doubt, "*and there shall be famines*" (MATT 24 v 7). Again the comparison is exact for our sin laden world had been "WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES AND FOUND WANTING".

THE FOURTH SEAL

We now come to our consideration of the fourth seal with its attendant fourth horseman. In two respects at least he is unique. The first is in the fact that he has a name, which is "Death". The second which is as sombre as the first is in the fact that he has a companion follower, and that is "Hell". This picture painted in the form of a vision could not be more bleak, especially so, as it is the period, dominated by the fourth horseman that one fourth part of the earth is killed. It is of interest to note that "Hell" is only mentioned four times in the book of Revelations and in each instance it has its companion, "Death". What a dreadful, even diabolical pairing and they are given power, for even these, among the mightiest, most malign and evil of the spirit forces cannot act without the permission of the Triune Godhead. May we never forget that this seal, as with all the others, was opened by the Lamb of God who is the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

AGAIN A PERFECT HARMONY

The Lord Jesus echoes all this in His Olivet account, He also mentions "pestilences" (MATT 24 v 7), generally described as death in John's Patmos vision. H.I.V. aids have swept the earth, millions have succumbed to the plague and millions more will do so. Yet again the daily news bulletins are a confirmation of what is penned. The talk today is all of the H5N1 deadly "bird flu" virus. Will it cross the channel? Will it spread to humans? Will it be another pandemic? These questions are posed in February 2006, by the time these lines are read, months or even years could have passed by and the answer will be known. One thing is certain,

Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth...(LUKE 21 v 26).

There is another certainty, as both Apostle John and our Lord Jesus make so very plain, THERE SHALL BE PESTILENCES.

A LOST DOMINION

The last matter that John's vision of the fourth horseman brings before us is a complete reversal of the dominion given, at the very dawn of creation to man by God over the animal kingdom. For did not God say

...and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. (GEN 1 v 28).

So, the earth will be full of marauding, starving animals, roving throughout the earth, having been granted dominion and adding to the death and destruction

everywhere abounding, with mankind powerless to prevent them. For does not John tell us that power is given over one fourth part of the earth, to killAND WITH THE BEASTS OF THE EARTH.

THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS

All the horrors that we have considered together, are described by the Lord Jesus quite simply but with a graphic and far reaching impact. *All these are the beginning of sorrows* (MATT 24 v 8). All the deceits of the first pseudo-christ horseman. All the wars, famines, pestilences etc., that follow are a "prelude" and have one main end and aim which is to prepare the totally devastated world to accept, receive and ultimately worship the antichrist who will shortly manifest himself. The world has been brought to the brink of destruction and if only a leader could be found who could lead the world to a promised land of peace and safety, all would follow him, all would gladly worship him and no other, and willingly take his mark.

COULD IT REALLY HAPPEN?

Our nation and the world of which it forms a part is existing on the brink of an abyss, a black hole of unbelievable proportions, that could suck myriads of its inhabitants, into its murky depths. To illustrate, let us just view one nation, taken almost at random. Not the blood lusting Hamas led Palestinians, not Israel's old tormentor, once known as Persia, now Iran, both nations sworn to totally eradicate God's chosen people, the Jews. Let us briefly consider Pakistan. Almost thought of as innocuous, we play them at cricket, they were part of old India which we ruled in the days of "the Raj". We have observed their struggles in a

democratic direction, (may we never forget there is nothing intrinsically, godly about democracy, it is just another human form of government, only blessed if it is the hands of godly man. The foisting of Western style democracy onto the nations of the earth, can be a curse, devoid of any benefit as the world now witnesses to its great and continued cost.) yet overnight as with Hamas in Palestine, its pro-western leader could be overthrown. Al'Quaida, the Taliban or the like could take control, even through the ballot box, just as did Hamas. At their disposal would be at least forty, yes forty, nuclear warheads ultimately more powerful than Hiroshima's bomb. They will also have the most sophisticated means to deliver them inter-continently. One such method would be by means of French and American designed and equipped nuclear submarines that could deliver their fearsome payload of destruction, anywhere on our earth. Are we not sitting on a global "time bomb" with a ticking fuse? The country mentioned is only one such "time bomb" among many, for the nuclear club is a large one.

A DOSSIER OF DEATH

What we have been considering together does not make for pleasant reading. But surely all thinking observers of the events taking place in the realm that could be described loosely as "the church", also in the political world, not forgetting the calamitous upheavals in nature of increasing frequency and ferocity, must agree that the shadow of the horsemen is over us. Of course, we should have added famine and pestilential plagues to our growing list. We can only imagine what it will be like when the twenty-four elders willingly abdicate to their universal jurisdiction and the Lord Jesus

orchestrates the entire end-day scenario by opening the sealed book, then loosing its seven seals one by one. The horsemen who will be aided by a veritable army of principalities, powers and demonic forces, all under their commands-in-chief, who is the great dragon, that old serpent called the Devil and Satan (REV 12 v 9) surely bear, "A DOSSIER OF DEATH".

THE BOOK OF LIFE

If ever the often repeated words of our beloved Lord Jesus "Fear not", need to sink deep into our souls and for true faith to arise in the believers hearts, it is now. Fear, is and has torment, but perfect love casts it out (1 JO 4 v 18). Again our Lord Jesus that we must not fear any (either human or spirit being) who can kill the body (MATT 10 v 28). May we never forget that the greatest, the most abundant, cause of our rejoicing is that our names are written in heaven (LUKE 10 v 20). If our names are in that "Lambs book of Life" (REV 20 v 15, REV 13 v 8), we should be rejoicing with a joy unspeakable and full of glory (1 PET 1 v 8). Whatever is coming upon the earth, whatever fiery trial may have to be faced, may we pose the question? Is your name in the "book of life", if so dear saint of God, don't look down, don't look out, but look up, for as Luke our brother, the beloved physician encourages us

And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.
(LUKE 21 v 28).

EZEKIEL SAW IT ALL

Ezekiel the prophet saw the same vivid picture almost seven hundred years earlier, as an exile in Babylon. It was a day when

false prophets abounded, for they are not a new phenomenon. He saw them, just as the Word of the Lord ever describes them. They prophesied out of their own hearts, they followed their own spirit and saw nothing (that was true), they saw vanity and a lying vision (EZEK 13 v 1 – 9). However, the similarity of the visions did not end here, for just as this was a perfect picture of the first horseman, the next view is a perfect picture of the remaining three apocalyptic horsemen. For the prophet was told that the Lord would send His four sore judgements (EZEK 14 v 21).

1. THE SWORD
2. THE FAMINE
3. THE NOISOME BEAST
4. THE PESTILENCE

Compare this with the details under the four horsemen, twinned with the Words of Jesus, and wonder at the perfect symmetry of God's Holy Word.

THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS

It would be beyond belief, but for the fact that it was the Lord Jesus that said it, for all that we have seen so far our Lord described as "the beginning of sorrows" (MATT 24 v 8). We have seen that the Apostle John's Patmos account of the first four seals and the parallel account of the Lord Jesus, dovetail, absolutely, perfectly. We must now proceed to seal number five, "The Great Tribulation" and the most fearsome years the world has ever known.

THE FIFTH SEAL

It is our purpose to write another series of booklets on the rise, reign and ultimate

destruction of antichrist and the "beast Kingdom", our present purpose is to continue in our comparison of the two end-time visions and accounts. Seal five, as with the previous seals, occupies a considerable period of time for it covers what is called "The Great Tribulation" (MATT 24 v 21, REV 7 v 14). This is the time when antichrist reaches total dominance, which when achieved, sees all other forms of religion, completely prescribed under pain of death. This would include the world religious order (the fruit of "ecumania" among the churches and religions) that brought him to power, initially as the senior partner. It would also include the Jews with whom he made a covenant. It would be reneged upon all would have to receive his mark and worship his image under pain of death by fire and sword. This would take place halfway through the seven year tribulation (REV 13 v 5). This brief survey or synopsis will take a booklet or two to set out in detail with, of course, more biblical support, but we trust this adequately sets the scene.

THE SOULS THAT WERE SLAIN

Whenever we read in the scriptures of extreme end-time persecution, one thing is certain, antichrist and the tribulation are never very far away. Seal five is no exception, for under the altar was seen the slain ones, martyred for the word of God and their testimony (REV 6 v 9). We find an expanded view of the same situation later in John's visions, where even though the ultimate price was paid, the sufferers were the overcomers, this through the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony as they loved not their lives unto the death (REV 12 v 11). So wherever in scripture antichrist is seen dominant and persecuting,

we know, that the period of the fifth seal is before us. Interestingly the martyrs were seen as souls for rapture and resurrection bodies are still future. They call for judgement and vengeance, but at this juncture of the fifth seal, there are still two further seals and so they must wait a little while longer, content with white robes to cover their nakedness. For we must always remember a naked soul is always a disembodied one in scripture. The glorious overcoming martyr band was not yet quite complete, so they must rest a little while for a season more until that precious, blessed number is fulfilled (REV 7 v 10 – 11). So if our assertion is correct, the next series of events described by the Lord Jesus in His Olivet account will be of "Tribulation".

ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

There seems to be little doubt that there are two events that signal the rise to full power and universal domination by the beast or antichrist. The first is the destruction of a babylonish whore representative of the world religious order dominated by Rome (REV CH 17). The second is his breaking of the covenant with the Jewish people (DAN 9 v 27) and the setting up of the "Abomination of the Desolation" in a holy place, almost certainly a restored temple. The Lord Jesus refers to this as an integral part of the tribulation, something that gives understanding to the studiers of holy scripture (MATT 24 v 15). He then gives a more detailed account of the tribulation (MATT 24 v 16 – 22). So this is the account of the tribulation and its persecution given by the Lord Jesus marrying with and expanding John's vision of seal five. The Lord Jesus then goes on to say something of great significance in the pin-pointing of end-

time events. *“immediately AFTER the tribulation of those days”* (MATT 24 v 29). Please note that it is “after” the tribulations. And please also note there are two more events, described under two more seals, and note well, what are these final events. So these events we will now consider under seals six and seven.

THE SIXTH SEAL

SIGNS IN THE SKY

John’s incredible vision of the complete end-day picture continues. Expanded, later with much detail, indeed it will be, but the expansion will only flesh the bones of this first full picture. What now follows is what will take place when the sixth seal is opened. It is in two parts, the first being in the heavenlies.

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.

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;

And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. (REV 6 v 11 – 14)

The prophet Joel predicted the same incredible events.

And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.
(JOEL 2 v 30 – 31)

Ever the burning question, did the Lord Jesus see the same? He certainly did and we have to note with awe and wonder, the perfect harmony in the chronological sequence of events.

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 v 29).

HIDE US FROM HIS FACE

The second aspect of seal six, far from being in the heavenlies is very definitely on planet earth. We will let the scriptures tell their own story and very little comment is needed. What follows completes the picture of what Apostle John saw under the opening of seal six.

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;

And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? (REV 6 v 15 – 17)

Why do the kings, and all the earth dwellers hide themselves in dens and rocks of the mountains? It is because they know that “the great day of the wrath of Him that sitteth on the throne is come” (REV 6 v 16 – 17). For they see the sign of the son of man is heaven (MATT 24 v 30). It is this coming that we will briefly consider, when we witness the events when the last of the seven seals is opened. Once again the perfect harmony in both accounts of seal number six.

THE SEVENTH SEAL

SILENCE IN HEAVEN

There are just two features in the final part of John’s Patmos vision of the seals that are relevant to our comparison. The first being that when the Lord Jesus opens the seventh seal there is “silence in heaven”. To confirm the time or period of this silence, a silence that is so awe inspiring that John is forced to record it, we will have to look elsewhere in scripture. Zephaniah refers to a time of silence when all “must hold their peace at the presence of the Lord God”. Why was this? Zephaniah goes on to tell us “For the day of the Lord is at hand” (ZEPH 1 v 7). So the silence is at the day of the Lord. In one of the beautiful Asaphic Psalms the prophetic picture painted is exactly the same.

Thou didst cause judgement to be heard from heaven; the earth feared, and was still.

When God arose to judgement, to save all the meek of the earth. Selah. (PS 76 v 8 – 9)

Again, it is the “day of the Lord” when He arises both to judgement and to save the “meek of the earth”.

SEVEN ANGELS, SEVEN TRUMPETS

So we turn to the other feature, seven angels are given seven trumpets. There is only one series of trumpets that have any relevance to things apocalyptic and these, and only these, are they! We went to some length earlier in this booklet to see how the three main series of visions (the seals, the vials and the trumpets) in John’s Revelation, had the same terminal point which was the “Advent of the Lord Jesus”. So the second feature under the opening of the seventh seal is a reference to the series of seven trumpets, the seventh or last of which heralds the advent of the Lord Jesus. For details of the events please read (1 COR 15 v 51 – 52, 1 THESS 4 v 16 – 17 etc.,). So we complete our comparison of the seven seals of John’s Patmos revelation, with the predictions of the Lord Jesus on the Mount of Olives, both of which are complete pictures of the end-days. Our final task is to see if the Lord Jesus tells a similar story in His chronological account. It has been totally true for six of the seals, is it also true for the seventh? Yes, indeed it is, for we read,

...Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

And he shall send his angels WITH A GREAT SOUND OF A TRUMPET, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (MATT 24 v 30 - 31)

A LAST ADIEU

We sincerely trust our booklet “Number Five” has been a blessing. Already there has

been enough feedback from the early booklets to more than encourage us to continue. So a preacher who has become a writer (as well, not instead) will not lay down his pen just yet. Yet to come is the rise, reign and final destruction of antichrist and the return of our beloved Lord Jesus for His bride and to set up His Millennial Kingdom.

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