

Notes for FF Episode 15- Seven Seals Part 2

Revelation 6:9-11 – The Fifth Seal

The fifth seal is martyrdom. It corresponds to Matt 24:21-22 and Daniel 12:1. It will begin at the midpoint of the 70th Week when antichrist commits the abomination of desolation. He is fully revealed then as the man of sin and attacks Israel and Jerusalem with a satanic lust to kill God's people—both Jews and Christians.

The souls under the alter are not likely those who have been killed for Jesus in the past. All the other seals are a vision of future events, so is this one. They have been killed for the Word of God and their testimony. That is not unbelieving Jews—it must be Christ-followers. The recorded episode did not cover other uses of the word “alter”. In Revelation, this alter is in heaven, before the very throne of God. This would be the place of the holiest of sacrifices. The lives of those martyrs is a holy sacrifice, so are the prayers of the saints. Does this mean that the souls of those who die for the name of Christ will be suffering and crying under the alter? Probably not. This looks like symbolic language that the outrage of their death cries out in the throne room of God.

In the pre-trib view, the rapture would have occurred before the 70th Week. This would be people who were “left behind”, because they were not saved believers before the rapture. It really doesn't make much sense that 3 ½ later they have become such committed followers of Jesus that they are dying for the Word of God and their testimony. Who taught them? This first half of the final 7 years is the time of greatest deception and apostasy ever. The “left behind” scenario get pretty ridiculous... a secret rapture has all the born-again believers suddenly go missing from the world... the response of those who hadn't previously believed is that many, many of them become so committed to Christ that they are testifying and dying. Seriously?!

FF accepts the pre-wrath view, the rapture occurs after the 6th seal, so these are the Christians being martyred. In Matt 24:9, Jesus said “you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake”. He is obviously not talking about unconverted Israel—he is talking about those who stand for the name of Jesus. If we are hated by all nations (ethnos, people groups), we must be in all nations testifying to his name. During the 70th week, there will be a great harvest because we will be boldly testifying the Word of God and his name. Many will be martyred for that. God is righteously separating those who are willing to die for the name of Jesus from those who go whole-hog in following the antichrist. Then He raptures the believers and pours out his wrath on the others, while protecting a remnant of Israel. This plan calls for the endurance or patience of the saints, Rev 13:7-10. In this great tribulation, we are more than conquerors and nothing can separate us from His love, Romans 8:35-37.

Finish Faithful believes the great tribulation and martyrdom will be carried out by a “Mideast Beast”, meaning the antichrist will be a Mideast leader who will lead a coalition of Israel's ancient enemies against Israel and Jerusalem. It is hard to know what the extent of his power to persecuted Christians in the USA and Europe. The human race,

worldwide, will be dazzled, deceived and impressed with the beast. Chaotic conditions everywhere may mean he is admired in other parts of the world.

Revelation 6:12-17

The sixth seal is the cosmic disturbances—the great signs in the heavens which are foretold by Jesus and the prophets. Let's review some of these prophecies. In his sermon on Pentecost, in Acts 17:19-20, Peter quotes Joel 2:28-32. These say that these cosmic disturbances are **BEFORE** the Day of the LORD (DL). Therefore, the DL cannot be the entire 70th Week or the entire book of Revelation. The DL must be the seventh seal—and it is. Other verses also connect the great cosmic disturbances with the DL. Isaiah 32:3, 4 has the same phrases about the heavens rolling up like a scroll and the heavenly host falling like figs from a tree. Isa 13:9-11 says these events accompany or usher in the DL. Matt 24:29-31 has these events right before the time Jesus Christ appears in the heavens and gathers his elect. FF believes that this Matt 24:31 event is the same event as the rapture in 1 Thess 4.

Rev 6:12-17 give us a number of details

- Great earthquake (other prophecies mention an earthquake with the DL)
- Sun black and moon like blood or not giving its light (Is 13:10; Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15; Matt 24:29; Mark 13:24). People on earth will be walking around in the dark.
- Stars fall like figs, Isaiah had said the host of heaven falls like figs. Same thing.
- Mountains and islands moved out of their place (Jer. 4:24; Ezek. 38:20; Nah. 1:5)
- Kings and mighty men wail and hide (Is 2:10f, 19, 21; 24:21; Rev 19:18). It is recognized that this is God's wrath.

From all of these connections with the prophets, we can see that this is the Day of the LORD, the time of wrath, which they had foretold.

Revelation chapter 7 is after the 6th seal and before the 7th seal which is opened in Rev 8:1. Notice how logical that the rapture happened right here after the 6th seal. On earth 144,000 from Israel are sealed. Now the church has been gathered to heaven. In 7:9 there is a great multitude no one could number from all nations, that have come out of the great tribulation (which we have learned started at the middle of the 70th week with the abomination of desolation). This clearly fits the description of the church. They are here now, because, just like Jesus had said in Matt 24:29-31, after the cosmic disturbances which are the 6th seal he appears and gathers the elect.

The Seventh Seal

In Rev 8:1 the 7th seal is opened and there is silence in heaven. This is sooo serious that there is silence. The 7th seal is the wrath of God being poured out now. Born-again believers are saved from this wrath through Jesus Christ. He has gathered and rescued us. Now that has been done, it is the time of wrath for those who are left on the earth.

Chapters 8, 9 describe the seven trumpet judgments. The next few chapters go back and forth describing various things that go on in the 2nd 3 ½ year period of the final 7 years and the 7 bowl judgments. These trumpet judgments and bowl judgments are the wrath of God on which the prophet had spoken. The nation of Israel is experiencing this terrible wrath, but some are divinely protected during this period. After Israel's chastisement is complete, the wrath turns against those nations who have come against Israel and they are wiped out at the battle of Armageddon.

This detailed chart shows the pre-wrath view of the connections between Matt 24 and the 7 seals and how that lines up with the Daniel's 70th Seven, the Rapture, the trumpet judgments and the bowl judgments.

The Day of the Lord in the Book of Revelation

