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# *The Book of Seals*

Bill Holdstock

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## **God's Book that could not be opened.**

When Jesus died on the Cross, He satisfied the legal demands of a Holy God. The Cross was brought about in order that a debt could be paid for mankind to God. A debt to pay the cost of sin. All humanity from Adam onwards has sinned against God therefore, the debt was huge. God accepted the death of Jesus, His only Son as full payment of that debt. The price was very high. God requires man to accept His Son as our Saviour and Lord in return. All this was a legal work from the courts of heaven referred to it as "law"

Romans 8:2.

**For the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the Law of sin and death.**

Christ's death on the Cross has replaced the Law of sin and death that has kept man prisoner to Satan until the Cross. It was then replaced for the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus. It is the Law of Life in Christ Jesus that has given us eternal life, free from sin, sickness and death. If we were to believe it and accept it, we can have life and have it more abundantly on Earth and a glorious home in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:1.

**Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.**

So, this Book in God's hand is a very important document, but it was shut tight with seven seals and could not be opened.

**Throne Room**

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God Himself sat upon His throne. The throne room was packed, there had never been so many people gathered together in one place, some talking, some whispering, some stretching their necks to see beyond the thousands upon thousands of heads in front of them but unable to do so. Father's lifting up their children for them to see nothing but the backs of the heads of the millions in front of them too.

But what could be seen by everyone was a big white throne, it was high up and too beautiful to describe and, on that throne, sat Almighty God looking splendid. All round the throne was a beautiful rainbow full of colours not known to man as yet. The throne signifies the highest order, the right hand of God signifies His Almighty Power. In that right hand he held a Book, but this was no ordinary Book. It was sealed tight with 7 seals which made the book impossible to open and the Book seems to symbolize the judgement of God.

A very large strong angel stood to his feet and with a loud voice proclaimed

***"Who is worthy to open the book and loose the seals thereof?"***

That loud voice and that question was heard in every corner of the earth, on every hill, it echoed round every mountain, it could be heard from one end of every valley to the other. In every cave,

everyone under the earth, everyone on the sea, everyone under the sea. All those in heaven, everyone, everywhere heard that loud voice and heard that question “**who is worthy to open the Book and loose the seals thereof**” No one came forward, the answer to that loud voice with that vital question was. “**No man**” They looked to the Old Testament Greats including Moses, David, Isaiah and the like. The answer was the same... “**No man**”.

I believe even the Devil himself, hiding somewhere in the darkness, heard that voice, and heard that question and shivered at the thought that even he could not open that Book even if he wanted to. So, he sank lower into the darkness very annoyed because he wanted to sit on that throne and right now things were not going his way. God wanted every person dead or alive, wherever or whoever he or she may be to have the opportunity to open that Book.

But that question still had to be answered who could open that Book that was in the Father's hand? The vast crowd was waiting, heaven was waiting, God was waiting, there was total silence and you could hear a pin drop. It is interesting to note that the Lamb doesn't open the Book until the 24 Elders representing the Church and the angelic hosts, proclaim His worth to do so, telling us that the Church has been raptured and is now in heaven.

John was standing by seeing it all and started to cry bitterly, in fact he sobbed and sobbed because there was no one to open the Book that was in the Father's hand, he knew how important it was for the world at large and every individual in that world that that Book be opened. After all John's name was written in that Book too. The opening of this Book was so important because it contained information regarding the judgment of the earth and this judgment would lead to the Redemption of the Earth, and it would also be the beginning of the end of all evil.

Great importance is given to this and it was the living ones and the 24 Elders standing by waiting, wondering, watching and when they saw Jesus take the Book from His Father's hand they burst into joyous, rapturous songs of praise and worship.

Jesus dying on the cross made Him qualified and worthy to open the Book, that's how important the Cross is.

### **The Title Deed**

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That Book is the “title deed” as it were, to the Redemption of the earth, and the restoration of Israel. After all it was God who created the Earth, the stars and universe. It belongs to Him and Him alone, but He trusted it to man and in his rebellion towards God gave it all to Satan and ‘Satan's Ambition’ is to sit on God's throne and become ‘god’ in God's place. (see [www.wordlightmypath.com](http://www.wordlightmypath.com)).

No doubt the names of all the souls purchased by the shed blood of His only Son Jesus are in that Book. The names of millions upon millions who had given their hearts and lives to Jesus were the witnesses and confirmation that dying on the Cross, and the shedding of His Son's blood were the only means to save the world and make a way back to God. Is your name written in that Book, mine is and so is Pauline's, and our families?

John 3: 16

**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

This Book represents the beginning of the end of all evil and temptation for the Christian. The Book is in God's right-hand indicating power and strength, with all the changes going on at this time we thank God He is in control and knows what He is doing. The opening of the Book ushers in the Great Tribulation which the seals introduce. It also is the fulfilment of Jeremiah's prophesy and the beginning of the restoration of Israel.

## Jeremiah 30:3-7

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**For lo, the days come says the Lord, that I will bring again the captivity of My people Israel and Judah says the Lord; and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers and they shall possess it.**

**Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it**

In the death of Jesus, the Saviour of the world on the Cross at calvary, He brought together Jew and Gentile and made it possible for us to become one in Christ Jesus. The rebellion of Israel towards their God, and His love and care rejected made no difference to God, He still loved them enough to offer His Son to be crucified in their place. But at the Cross He made it possible for all to be united in Spirit. Jew and Gentile, it is the blood of Jesus shed on the Cross that brings us all together, we are united in Jesus. The Cross and the death of Jesus was brought about in order that the debt could be paid to God, because it was God who had been offended. Man had sinned against God.

## Book of Life

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Psalms 69:28. Confirms that this book, called the Book of Life was God's Book, it contained the names of all the righteous souls who have accepted that His Son had died and shed His blood for them on the Cross. God loved those names in fact He knew every person those names belonged to. He would order and arranged their lives should they want Him to, they were precious to Him, after all it was His Son, His only Son who died for them and He loved everyone who acknowledged His Son Jesus and followed Him.

## Jeremiah Chapter 1:5

**Before I formed you in the belly, I knew you; and before you came out of the womb, I sanctified you, and I ordained you a Prophet unto the nations.**

God has our lives planned for success, to be **"the head and not the tail"**, the choice is ours to follow Him, or choose our own way. Jeremiah decided to follow God, (Verse 12.)

Now, all these Born-Again men, women, boys and girls gathered in His throne room waiting for His judgement. But that can't happen, because there was a problem with the opening of .... wait a moment, what is that stirring sound, that shuffling of feet? There is a murmuring too, people are whispering, no, now they are talking, openly talking which grew louder and louder. This very large crowd started to part, the shuffling of feet are of those all around making way, a large space was being made and there they were, two feet came into view to the right of me, under a pure white robe, people were making a way for those feet, and guess what? **It was Jesus**, yes God's only Son Jesus! I know it was Jesus because there they were, the nail prints, still plainly to be seen in His beautiful feet.

Jesus continued to walk slowly towards His Father and the crowd drew back to make more room for Him. Great importance is given to this and it was the living ones and the 24 Elders standing by waiting, wondering, watching and when they saw Jesus take the Book from His Father's hand they burst into joyous and rapturous songs of praise and worship. Someone worthy to open the Book had been found.

## The Bible says

**... they fell down before the Lamb having every one of them harps and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of the Saints. And they sang a new song, saying You are worthy to take the Book and open the Seals thereof for you were slain and have redeemed us to God by your Blood out of every kindred and tongue and people.**

Jesus took the Book from His Father's hand and He broke the seals and opened the Book, the vast crowd irrupted into more praise it was Jesus, God's only Son the Lion of the Tribe of Judah who had prevailed to open the Book. Now the names of God's children could be recognised and read out legally as Children of Almighty God, Satan has lost all those hundreds of millions of souls and he could no longer have any claim to these names they were God's children, purchased by the blood of His Son.

Millions of souls could see the Book in the hand of God, the Elders saw it, the Angels saw it as is obvious. The thought here is no one was worthy enough to break the seals and release judgement. No man is qualified to pass judgement on another. Except regarding the judgement of the law of the land, but we are speaking of mankind who think they have a right to judge another by their own standards. The Bible says in

Mat.7:1-2.

**Judge not that you be not judged for with what judgement you judge you shall be judged: and with what measure you mete; it shall be measured to you again.**

The Book pertained to judgement and only God was qualified to do this.

Revelation 5:8

**And when the Lord Jesus had taken the Book, the four Living Creatures and the four and twenty Elders fell down before the Lamb having every one of them harps and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of the Saints.**

The 24 Elders and the Living Creatures had harps and they began to sing praises proclaiming His Deity and the fact that Jesus was the only one worthy to open the Book. What a glorious sound that will be.

**And one of the Elders said unto me, weep not: behold the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the root of David, has prevailed to open the Book, and to lose the seven seals thereof.**

They also had golden vials full of the prayers of the saints since time began. This scene is yet to come to pass and when it does it will precede the Great Tribulation, so it is not very far away, because the Rapture of the Church is eminent, and that Book will be opened soon after the Church gets to heaven.

For hundreds of years a young lamb was sacrificed on the altar in the Tabernacle and then in the Temple and the priest laid hands on its head and prayed indicating the passing of the sin of the owner to the lamb before it was killed and burnt on the altar. This was God's order to show Israel that **"without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin"**

The offering of sacrifices became such a ritual by Israel that even God was tired of Israel's ritualistic worship,

Isaiah 1:11

**To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto Me? Says the Lord. I am full of the Burnt Offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts: and I delight not in the blood of bullocks or of lambs or he goats.**

God was so fed up with man's loose, weak, and half-hearted worship, not recognising the shed blood of His Son through the blood of the lamb they brought. He gave His only Son to die on the Cross as the only true, perfect sacrifice shedding His blood for the sin of the whole world. What we have to do is accept with repentance and a heartfelt belief and thankfulness what He did at Calvary to receive eternal life.

## **Chapter 6 the opening of the seals.**

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The beginning of the Great Tribulation.

We are now at a crucial point, man has had his own way for centuries he has done his best to rule towns, cities, countries, nations and some have even tried world domination. The motivation has been greed, jealousy, desire for power and so on. All have failed, none have involved the Almighty God, in fact none have listened to Almighty God at all. Instead sin has ruled from start to finish and on the Cross the cry went up for all to hear **"It is finished"**. God, through His Son Jesus Christ, is bringing what man has done to an end.

Of the past 3,400 years man has been at peace for only 268 of them, or 8 percent of recorded history.

And what of today? Not only is there a lack of peace between nations, even towns and cities are often at war with one another.

God is a God of justice. My Grandfather used to say, "right is right and wrong is no man's right". You know, God may well have said that first! When we do not see justice, after a while we tend to get used to it not being part of our everyday life. Well God is not like that. The world will have to pay for its sin and rejection of God and His Son, for the way it treats its citizens and its fellow man. God said love your neighbour, the world has a problem loving members of its own family sometimes.

### **Chapter 6: Verse 1.**

**And I saw when the lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying come and see.**

Jesus prevailed to open the Book and now He opens the first seal which is the beginning of the Great Tribulation. This will follow the Rapture of the Church although we are not given any time frame for this. Jesus said this Tribulation would be the worst that the Earth has ever seen or ever see again. (Mat. 24:21). John is invited to witness what the Earth has to endure, and which cannot be avoided.

Man has failed under the Mosaic Law of the Old Testament and also failed under the Law of Grace and Truth of the New Testament so God must vindicate His Holiness and the sacrifice of His only Son. This He will do by judging justly, mankind is not responsible for the circumstances of his birth, but he most certainly is responsible for the circumstances of his death and for what he does in between. Man is born into sin, this he cannot avoid, but God has made a way for man to escape judgement of that sin and that is to except the fact that His Son Jesus died on the Cross, shed His blood in place of man to set man free from the penalty of sin.

If as we believe, the opening of the first seal initiates the beginning of the Great Tribulation, we also believe the Rapture of the Church comes before this event. In our study of the Rapture on our web site [www.wordlightmypath.com](http://www.wordlightmypath.com) we read in Revelation that the preparation of the Churches in Chapters 2-

4 by God through the Pastors is completed at the end of Chapter 3. From Chapter 4 there is no mention of the Church until Chapter 19, but the Lord does a great deal with the Earth between those Chapters.

(It is understood and with respect, there are other opinions of this event but let's keep the faith until He comes)

### **A seal is opened (Thunder)**

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John is invited to see the opening of another seal. A loud clap of thunder rumbles round the heavens announcing the beginning of the most terrible time the Earth has ever known. Jesus gets up from His Father's throne and proceeds to claim the land of Israel and His people from the clutches of Satan. God chose these people for Himself. He protected them, fed them, led them to the land He wanted them to possess. He loved them and still does. So, Israel although still rebellious, is still a nation after God's own heart. Israel is still the apple of His eye and He gets up from the throne to confirm to Satan that Israel belongs to Him.

### **Introducing the Antichrist...watch him he's dangerous!**

A man will be revealed who the Bible calls the Antichrist. He will be sponsored by Satan, he will be a deceitful man one who cannot be trusted, but he will have extraordinary powers and will win the hearts of the nations. He will create a peace agreement with the Arabs and more specifically with Palestine and Israel. There has been a long history of peace sought, agreed, signed and broken in the Middle East.

The Antichrist is given special powers by Satan and will have the ability to bring to an end the seven-year peace accord with Israel allowing Israel to worship in their new Temple and offer sacrifices and oblations to their God and live peaceably with their neighbours. (see the study on Third Temple in the website on [www.wordlightmypath.com](http://www.wordlightmypath.com))

Daniel wrote of this time saying in

### **Daniel 9:27**

**And he (the Antichrist) shall confirm the covenant with many (Israel) for one week (seven years) and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.**

After three-and-a-half years the Antichrist will break his seven-year covenant with Israel and attack her with his armies, he will stop the sacrifices and the daily worship in the Temple which will greatly upset the Israeli people. Israel has been waiting for over 2000 years to sacrifice and worship in their own Temple again. His opposition to Israel will continue until the Lord's return when He will fight for His people.

For the first three-and one-half years of the Tribulation, under the leadership of the Antichrist, backed by Satan, Israel will do very well. She will prosper, increase in prestige, and be well thought of the world over. This will lead her into a false sense of security, and she will trust in the wrong people and not fear her God. She will think she has found the Messiah, but he will be revealed as the master of deception and lies, and Israel will realise she has been fooled. This is the time that the scripture spoke of in

John 5:43.

**I am come in my Father's name and you receive Me not: if another come in his own name, him you will receive.**

Israel will fulfil this prediction just before she is made to realise the terrible mistake she has made.

### **Another Seal is opened. Bow and Crown**

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Rev.6:2.

**And I saw and behold a white horse: and he who sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given to him: and he went forth conquering and to conquer.**

The white horse signifies the proposed peaceful but false intentions of the Antichrist. He is portrayed with a bow with no arrows, proclaiming peace but preparing for war. The crown he is given indicates submission by other nations, it was given to him not won in victory.

The world has been at odds with Israel right from the beginning of Israel. There is no question, Israel belongs to God, and Satan does not like that. He has put it in the hearts of nation after nation to come against Israel and cause them trouble. This man called Antichrist, and he is a man, not a nation, or a government, nor a spirit, not a resurrected Hitler or other dictator, but a man empowered by Satan, he will be all the worlds dictators rolled into one. The verse **“and he went forth to conquer”** tells us, while he is talking peace, he is preparing destruction. His aim is to bring peace to the Israel problem which will be gratefully accepted by Israel, this will include the seven-year peace treaty guaranteeing peace *and* protection mentioned above. Partway through those seven years the Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel and attack her.

The Hebrew for ‘week’ is shabua meaning seven. Daniel’s prayer did not concern days but years. Again, more detail of this time is found in the study of Daniel in the website.

[www.wordlightmypath.com](http://www.wordlightmypath.com)

### **Another seal is open. (The peace taker)**

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Another beast appears and invites John to come and see the next seal to be broken. This time another horse was seen.

Rev. 6. 4

**And there went out another horse that was red. (symbolizing war) And power was given unto him (by Satan) 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.**

Whilst it must be understood the events are portrayed here as symbolism, that is Antichrist will not literally ride a red horse, but the scriptures are warning the reader what will come to pass and who will instigate it. However, that which the Antichrist brings is very real. The Church and its influence for all that is good and Holy will be in heaven leaving sin to have full sway on the Earth and as the Bible says without rhyme or reason people will walk the streets and kill one another. Millions will be killed for no reason at all. Peace will be a thing of the past and nowhere to be found on the Earth.

Rev. 6:4

**And power was given to him who sat thereon to take peace from the Earth and that they should kill one another.**

And another thing the Bible says **and there was given unto him a great sword**. Proclaiming the fact that more people will be killed in this Tribulation period than at any other similar time frame in history.

Jesus said in Mathew 24:21.

**For then shall be Great Tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.**

As we have noted the Antichrist will go forth to conquer, he will be preparing war with many countries, one of which will be the “**glorious land**” which according to Daniel 11:41 speaks of Israel and tells us many countries shall be overthrown including Egypt. As stated, after three- and one-half years of this seven-year Peace Treaty with Israel, the Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel and attack her.

(Dan. 9:27).

And he shall confirm the many for one week, And in the midst of that week.....

While he is planning to attack Israel, he is greatly hindered by news from the east and north probably led by Russia (north) and Japan and China (east) forming a union against or with him but without success. This interruption hinders a total attack on Jerusalem.

Revelation Chapter 5 teaches us that much if not all that transpires in that Chapter could not happen but for the Cross. The death of Christ on the Cross made way for Jesus, who was now worthy due to the fact that He was crucified in our place and made a way for mankind to return to God, and to open the Book God held in His hand releasing the Tribulation and God’s judgement for sin.

Chapter 5 warns us of the rise of the Antichrist on a white horse, and when he emerges people will know the kind of man he will be because the Bible tells us, in this very chapter... read it!

He then appears on a red horse; such power is given to him by Satan that he should take Peace from the Earth. Think about it! one man with power to TAKE peace from the Earth. Causing men and woman to kill each other in the streets for no reason at all. Houses, shops, businesses being ransacked, items being stolen, impotent Police, Antichrist’s law, no restraint whatsoever, everyone going wild! He will have no opposition, the spiritual influence of the Church will be gone so the Antichrist will have full sway to do exactly what Satan, that embodiment of sin tells him to. The people left on the earth will know what life is really like in the absence of God.

*By the way, I am not exaggerating, I am not trying to frighten the reader but several times I have heard people say, “I would read my Bible, but it is difficult to understand”. Some have said they can understand more if they read the Bible alongside my studies. In 2009 soon after I retired, I started to study a book of the Bible. I found the more time I spent reading, reading other commentators, and the 3 study Bibles I have and praying over that book the more the Holy Spirit showed me about it, and I understood and enjoyed it. When I had finished, I asked another Bible student in the church to look it over. He said, “this should go to the church and on the internet” A year later my grandson Stephen, a wizard at this sort of thing, created a website and put up the 14 chapters of Ezekiel and then a little later the book of Samuel. Since then he has added a total of 90 studies of books of the Bible to the website, and Graham has read through most of them, thank you Jesus for guys like them. I don’t pretend everyone will agree with everything they read, but no study goes up without a lot of prayer from my wife and me.*

With this study I have been extra careful to keep as close to the Bible as I can, it's that important. There have been times when I have not understood a verse so have gone to bed saying, "Lord if you don't show me what that verse means I'll have to leave it out"! The next morning, He shows me clearly what He wants me to write.

This is a very important subject and it's not nice reading but don't pass it by, don't think this will not happen, because it will it is **God's word**.

Now let's get back to those seals!

### **The third seal is opened (Famine)**

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Rev.6: 5

**And when He had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, come and see. And I beheld and lo a black horse; and He who sat on him had a pair of balances in His hand.**

John saw a black horse which represents famine. Famine usually follows war. We as Christians must understand that when the Church, and we speak of the True Church is taken out of this world everything will change. The born-again Christian has been a stabilizing influence in the world under the power of the Holy Spirit. With the Church gone, sin, wickedness, war, self-will, greed and all things devilish will not be held back by the Holy Spirit. Do you want to live in a world like this?

2. Thess.2:7

**For the mystery of iniquity does already work only he who now letteth will let (the Church) until he be taken out of the way.**

This refers to the Rapture of the Church, the word letteth also means hindering of evil which the True Church does. If you take away a hindrance what remains has free reign to do its own thing. Notice the Bible says when the Church is removed the Antichrist will be revealed. I believe the Antichrist could well be alive and maybe as a youth even now, but he will be revealed at the right time, God's time. Also notice his end! **He shall be consumed when God breathes on him!**

The one who sat on the Black Horse had in his hand a pair of balances, we might call them scales which are used to measure food in the preparation of a meal. A voice was heard to say;

**A measure of Wheat for a penny, and three measures of Barley for a penny; and see you not hurt the oil and the wine.**

In most countries a penny is the lowest denominator, you can't buy much for a penny! The cost of food is increased so much when this Black Horse appears bringing a terrible scarcity as a result of war. There will be starvation, stealing, killing one another for food. The petition that the olive tree and the grape vine is not hurt is that these plants apparently need very little cultivation, they may be the only means of sustenance there is, so they are protected.

Israel is the olive tree and the vine. Hence the prohibition not to injure the oil and the wine (v6) may mean that Daniel's people are to be shielded from famine at this time. (Williams)

### **The fourth seal is opened**

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Rev. 6:8

**And I looked and behold a Pale Horse and the name of him who sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto him over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with the sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the Earth.**

Have you noticed that so far, as we have introduced the different aspects of the Antichrist, his life revolves around killing, death and destruction? Just like his sponsor! And there is not much to look forward to for the man and woman in the street. As the scripture above tells us Death is ever present quickly followed by Hell. The Bible says Death then Hell, nothing between, no second chance, choose Jesus now before it's too late.

But for the follower of Jesus, a visit by faith to the Cross, a prayer of repentance and acceptance of Jesus as Lord, and heaven and all its glory is yours forever. No Hell! The only one who has defeated death is the Lord Jesus Christ. The Pale horse portrays the fact that untold millions of people will die and for those people the next stop is Hell! They should have listened to the preacher or have taken more notice of what they were reading. The Bible warns us that death will come to a fourth part of the earth by way of killing with the sword, with famine, with hunger, and even the beasts of the earth will have lost their restraint.

### **The fifth seal (Tribulation Saints)**

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**Rev 5:1**

**“And when He had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held.”**

It is believed that these souls are individuals who had been martyred by the Antichrist in the last few years of these troubles. Can you imagine the panic as some who thought they were Christians, thought they were Godly, the Church members who had positions on the board of directors, youth workers running from church to church to find the Pastor, or the Priest to ask what is going on, but they have all gone to be with Jesus. The Minister who thought he should have gone with the others, sobbing in the corner of his vestry because he was left behind. But none had a personal relationship with Jesus, oh they knew about him, but didn't talk to Him, they didn't read His word, and they only prayed when they were in trouble. I listened to a TV interview a few weeks ago and a man said “yes, I've had lots of jobs, I've been a postman, a taxi driver, I've been Priest, a security guard, and now I am out of work!” It's people like that, and there are millions of them all over the world that think they are Christian because they go to church at Christmas or give to charity once in a while.

These people under the altar of Incense are those who found Jesus in this troubled time, the Bible calls them 'Tribulation saints' They are individuals who have been martyred by the Antichrist. They realised their need for a Saviour and in heart-felt repentance sought someone who could help them. Maybe the Pastor sobbing in his vestry will be one of them. I believe many people will read a Bible at this time to find out what has happened and why are so many people missing, and some will come to know Jesus. Thank God in His mercy Salvation will be open to all until Jesus returns to earth at Jerusalem to fight for Israel.

Rev.7: 9 to17 is a chapter that tells us very many millions were found to be among the crowd, and they are clothed in pure white robes with palms in their hands honouring and praising the Lamb who died on the Cross. When questioned as to who they were the answer came,

**Rev 7:14**

**“These are they which came out of the great tribulation and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”**

### **The Sixth Seal Chapter 6 verse 12-17**

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**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 casts 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.**

**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 the rocks of the mountains.**

**And said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits 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?**

The Bible tells us all the businessmen, rich men, great men, mighty men, clever men, scientists, Prime Ministers, Presidents, Kings and Queens will all run and hide! Can you imagine what a frightful time this will be? All the ‘great men’ those who people look to and rely on for some answers when it’s tough going, would be found hiding from He who sits on the Throne, who is none other than God. Man will have to deal with the One who sits on the throne one day and we must never forget that.

### **Revelation 6:17**

**For the great day of His wrath is come and who shall be able to stand?**

Man has set himself against God ever since the fall. Now man will see just how powerful God is. Because this is God’s day of reckoning. The Christian is always mindful of the love of God on their lives. That love is extended to the sinner as well but if that Love is rejected together with His Son Jesus then justice is required to be vindicated. Ever since you can remember you have heard the warnings of God, from Television from magazines, from church, from testimony and much more. And the world has rejected Him, now God wants to vindicate His Son and who can blame Him, He warned us this day would come.

### **Mat. 24:29.**

**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.**

Our Television News shows us vivid pictures of what the Lord tells us in His discourse in Matthew 24. The first part He calls the **beginning of sorrows** and the last part He calls **The Great Tribulation** Mat. 24:21. We could well be in the first part of the Lord’s discourse now! The whole world is under attack from Covid19, we have never seen anything like it in living memory. Thousands are dying each day at the time of writing, men and women’s hearts are failing them for fear, towns and cities are at a standstill and empty, shops and businesses have given up trading, but man would rather put up with all that than turn to God and seek a merciful God in prayer.

### **2 Chronicles 7:13/14. God said;**

If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people, if my people, which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

That's the best vaccine for all problems, humble ourselves pray and seek His face, but notice the Lord is talking to His people. Not the world who do not know Him, but to those who name the name of Christ. Could it be the responsibility of the Church to humble themselves and pray and seek His face so our land can be healed? It would seem so according to His Word.

Think about it, please think about it.

The shaking the Bible talks about will cause Earthquakes everywhere. All of creation will respond to God, He will make His name known, some will call on His name in desperation others will still rebel and blaspheme Him.

The sun will turn black, some say due to the dust filling the air, even if this were the case would you like to walk about in the dark day and night and fill your lungs with particles of dust all the time. No, I am not exaggerating, this happens on a smaller scale in some countries today. Pauline and I lived in London in the '50's and experienced the dense fog that blotted out the daylight, it was called a "pea souper". Many times, I caught the bus home from work in Fleet Street in London, and the bus conductor had to walk in front of the bus with a torch to guide the bus driver who could not see the road from where he was sitting, and that was in the late afternoon, it was frightening!

The moon becomes as blood, probably referring to dust particles in the air. This has happened several times in history but is nothing by comparison to what John is describing. These earthquakes will be so cataclysmic, so immense and cause such devastation the hearts of men and women the world over will fail them for fear because they can't cope with it. Read what Isaiah says about this time.

Isaiah 14:18-21

And it shall come to pass, that he who flees from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he who comes up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows on high are open, and the fountains of the Earth do shake.

The Earth is utterly broken down, the Earth is clean dissolved, the Earth is moved exceedingly. The Earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard and shall be removed like a cottage: and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it, and it shall fall and not rise again.

And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings upon the Earth.

Men shall run to and fro, this way and that to escape what is happening but there will be nowhere to hide. No matter how rich and powerful some may be, how big a house people live in, how big a business they have, how much money is in the bank, and some put great store by those things, but they will not escape the wrath of God. If you have made this your choice judging by what the Bible says is going to happen, you have made the wrong choice.

When Jesus was introduced to the world by John the Baptist John said in John 1:29

**"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world"**

Considering what has been done to redeem humanity, if men reject the Lamb of God that was slain, it stands to reason they must face the wrath of God!

1 Thess. 5:9

**For God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain Salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.**

This verse points the way to God's saving grace and how to avoid these terrible events and the terrible time when the anger of the Lord will be poured out on those who reject His Son. There it is! the way of escape! accept Jesus as your Saviour, give your life to Him in faith at the foot of the Cross, repent of your sins and the Bible says you will be accepted by God and have your sins forgiven. That's a great deal better than those foolish men who are in the middle of this Tribulation experience, who pray to the mountains! Not to God who is in control of events, but to the mountains and they ask the mountains to fall on them, how foolish. And still they refuse to repent! This rejection of His Son must break God's heart.

### The Seventh Seal (Silence in heaven)

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**And when He had opened the seventh seal there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.**

The Lamb opened the seventh seal. It was the Lamb who prevailed, it was His Redemptive work on the Cross which is the foundation of His 'worthiness' to open the Book, and the seals. (Rev. 5:9). It was the work of the Lamb that was necessary before the work of the Angels and the seven trumpets and the seven vials could begin. Worship and Praise has been heard uninterrupted in heaven since time began. Some say the silence expresses the intense expectancy of what is about to come on the world it has been bad thus far, but Judgment is about to increase greatly. All our prayers are laid before the Lord on the Golden Altar of Incense before the Throne. Our prayers are imperfect, but to become effective they all go through the smoke of the incense in a golden censer out of the hand of the Angel. The Incense represents the perfection, merit, and virtue of the life of Christ and what He did at the Cross.

Alan Johnson says,

Even Heaven's choirs are subdued to show God's concern for His persecuted people in the Great Tribulation.

The breaking of the seventh seal makes way for the trumpets of judgement in chapter 8: 2 and the cups of wrath in chapter 15: 6. These verses express the activities of the true Messiah in answer to the prayers of the saints (chapter 8:3). It also marked the claiming by God of the inheritance promised to Abraham, and of the False Messiah riding forth to oppose that claim. The wars, pestilence and famine, brought about by Satan and his false Messiah to afflict the nations of the world is aimed to destroy the people of God. Satan is still on the war path, now he has the false Messiah to help him delude the people, particularly Israel.

Half an hour is a very short space of time, but it was long enough for the Angel to present the prayers of the saints to God our High Priest. This was copied in the earthly actions in the Temple see Heb.8:5 Heb.9. 23-24. While the High Priest was thus engaged, the congregation waited in silent worship.

### The four Angels

It was after these events John saw four Angels standing on the four corners of the earth. Rev.7

**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. And I saw another Angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the Living God and he cried with a loud voice to the four Angels, to whom was given to hurt the earth and the sea.**

**Saying, hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.**

This is the introduction of the 144,000 which came from each of the 12 tribes of Israel which are the first fruits of Israel, with all of Israel coming to Christ at the second coming. We have little information on the Salvation of the 144,000 Jews but we are told in;

Chapter 14:4

**These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile for they are without fault before the throne of God.**

Each of these will have God's seal in their foreheads which is a mark of belonging. Satan and his false Messiah will also require their followers to have a mark on their foreheads believed to be 666. Make sure you get the right one!

Angels are messengers of God, therefore see Him face to face, they are of an order higher than that of man. Angels are created beings, holy and uncorrupted beings, endowed with free wills. There are indications however that sometimes they fall under the influence of Satan. (Job 4:18. Isa. 14:12-15. Rev. 12:9.) Satan is also a fallen Angel (Ezek.28:12-19). Angels do the bidding of God and may appear to man with God's commands (Judges 6:11-23; 13:3-5). Now we see here in our Chapter the activity of Angels in the last day events standing on the corners of the earth with very special tasks to do.

The instruction to these four Angels is to hold fast to the four winds of Judgement on the earth for a short while. The Judgement of God is ready in obedience, but it is held in abeyance by the Word of God by the 'other Angel' whose job it is to carry out a mission while judgement is withheld for a short while.

Now we see the increasing support by the Angels to God's plans with the sounding of the trumpets.

God bless you I hope you enjoyed the study.

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