

Lesson 9 The Seven Sealed Judgments, Part 3- Revelation 6:9 - 8:6

Day 1 **The Fifth Seal Judgment – Souls of those saved during first half of Tribulation and who were martyred for the Word of God and their testimony, Revelation 6:9-11**

What did John say he saw under the altar when the fifth seal was broken?

Who were these under the altar? Why were they pictured as slain?

Under this altar John saw the saints who had been martyred; their lives were sacrificed for their testimony for Christ. These Believers refused to renounce Christ even in the face of death and probably refused to worship other gods. Though they have been martyred, they are very much alive. Here again is their hope: even though they lost their lives for Christ, they are alive. Yes, they had to suffer terrible things. This should also give us hope. We may have to suffer, but we will be eternally alive with Christ.

Which altar is John speaking of here? Is it the “brazen altar” or the “altar of incense” in God’s heavenly Temple or even some other altar?

The incense that rises from the hot coals on the altar of incense in God’s heavenly Temple, depicts the prayers of the saints rising up to God. This altar is probably that altar. See **Revelation 8:3**.

Are these the believers who received the Lord during the first half of the Tribulation who were martyred for the Word of God and their testimony to Christ? Please cross reference to **Matthew 24:9, 13-14**.

Paul said, to be absent from the body was to be present with the LORD. See **2 Corinthians 5:8**. It looks like these tribulation saints, these souls, underneath the altar, are not in the same place as all of the other Church saints who have gone before them. David Levy says in his commentary on Revelation, these who are under the altar in God’s heavenly Temple are there without their resurrected bodies.²⁴ Like I said last week, I am still trying to put all of this together.

What do these under the altar really want God to do for them? For what do these under the altar cry out? Is the cry, a cry for vengeance or are they asking God to defend and

²⁴ David Levy, Revelation, Hearing the Last Word, the Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc., Bellmawr, NJ 08099, Sixth printing 2015, p. 90.

uphold His own righteous character? Here is hope again for us as well as them. He will meter out justice for His own. In the end, He will righteously judge all men and all actions. We don't have to concern ourselves with vengeance or retaliation. Let Him do it! Vengeance belongs to God.

For how long must these under the altar wait?

Hopefully these under the altar understand this about God and revenge: See **Romans 12:9, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8**. "For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus."

Does God answer these under the altar? What does He tell them they must do?

Do you mean to tell me that after this scene, there are more yet to be martyred? Please read **2 Peter 3:9** before answering.

Wow, that is our God. He is so incredibly patient towards those who have not yet found Him, but in God's foreknowledge, He knows they will come to know Him in the future. Yes, some will be martyred, but they will spend eternity with Him. Does this not give some of you hope for those of your loved ones who are still outside the faith?

What will these who are under the altar be wearing in the interim between the time when they are under the altar and the time when God avenges them?

What does this tell you of the state Believers are in whether in God's presence or under the altar in heaven? Are they conscious? Are they at rest? Are they aware of a future judgment upon their slayers?

The white robes have always been depicted in Scripture as robes of righteousness. Do you think those under the altar who receive white robes at this time, must have some kind of intermediate bodies to wear the robes? David Levy seems to think (from the previous page) that they do not yet have their resurrection bodies.

Does **Revelation 6:11** imply there must be a certain "number of their fellow servants" or martyrs during the Tribulation?

We have already noticed in class that the word "wrath" is not used in Revelation until we get to the sixth seal. Does this mean that the first five seal judgments are not part of

God's wrath on the earth? Or does this mean the first five seal judgments are not part of God's great day of wrath upon the earth? See **Revelation 6:16-17**.

Renald Showers says this about "the day of the Lord's wrath:"²⁵

1. Absence of the word "wrath" does not prove that the first five seals will not involve God's day of the Lord's wrath."
2. All seven seals are part of a common pattern, purpose (function), and program in preparation for Christ to take possession of the earth.
3. Revelation portrays Christ as the judge and ruler over the world, exercising God's wrath in all seven seals to destroy His foes and restore and rule over His theocratic Kingdom on earth.
4. An examination of the first five seals provides specific evidence that they too will involve the wrath of God.

Day 2 The Sixth Seal Judgment – Heaven and Earth Convulse, Revelation 6:12-14

What happens immediately after the sixth seal is broken?

This is the first of the earthquakes felt by the earth dwellers in the Tribulation time. These are the other times during the Tribulation period when the earth dwellers will experience earthquakes. Check out these four other earthquakes mentioned during the Tribulation: what are the conditions surrounding the earthquakes and when do they occur during the Tribulation?

Revelation 8:5

Revelation 11:13

Here is another cause for hope: after this earthquake, those who did not die in the earthquake (7000 died), gave glory to God. I would imagine these are some of those who God is waiting on for them to make a decision for His Son.

Revelation 11:19

Revelation 16:18

With which judgment will these earthquakes stop? See Revelation 16:18-20.

How will the sun appear after the sixth seal is broken? See Revelation 6:12.

²⁵Renald Showers, *Maranatha: Our Lord, Come!* The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc., Bellmawr, NJ, 1995, pp. 110-112.

Will this darkness be worldwide? Can you imagine how eerie this will be? Can you imagine the terror this will produce? You, who went south to Austin, Texas, during the last eclipse: how eerie was it to be like night in the middle of the day when the moon came in front of the sun?

How will the moon appear after the sixth seal is broken? See Revelation 6:12.

In the past 10-11 years, we have had four blood moons on the earth. On April 15, 2014, there was a total lunar eclipse which was the first of four consecutive total eclipses in a series, known as a tetrad; a second one took place on October 8, 2014, the third one on April 4, 2015, and the remaining one took place on September 27, 2015.²⁶ What do you think will produce the “blood” moon in Revelation 6:12?

What will happen to the stars in the sky? Where will they fall? How will they fall? What do you think stars falling like “a fig tree casting its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind,” means? See Revelation 6:13.

How will the heavens appear to be ripped apart like a scroll opened to be read? See Revelation 6:14.

This is what David Levy says in his commentary on Revelation: “Heaven will first be divided in the middle, then rolled up like a scroll in opposite directions.”²⁷

What will happen to every mountain and island? See Revelation 6:14.

What will the people, rich and poor alike who reject Christ, be saying to the rocks? See Revelation 6:15-17.

What will these same people be hiding from in the caves? See Revelation 6:16.

Please read **Isaiah 2:10-22**. Is this passage in Isaiah prophesying the events we see here in the Tribulation at the sixth seal judgment? Write your thoughts below after reading this:

²⁶ “Four blood moons,” Internet, November 10, 2017

²⁷ David Levy, Revelation, Hearing the Last Word, the Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc., Bellmawr, NJ 08099, Sixth printing 2015, p. 92.

Now, I would like you to read **Isaiah 24:1-23**. Is this passage in Isaiah prophesying the events we see here in the Tribulation at the sixth seal judgment? Do you remember looking at The Little Apocalypse of Isaiah several weeks ago in class? Write your thoughts below after reading this:

Dr. Arnold Fructenbaum in his lecture titled “The Little Apocalypse of Isaiah” says this about how Isaiah 24:1 starts out:

“Isaiah begins with the word ‘behold.’ Whenever Isaiah says ‘behold’ he always refers to something that is still future. Here he points to a future judgment upon the entire earth.”²⁸

Next, I would like you to read **Zechariah 12, 13, and 14**. In these passages of Scripture we find similarities to the end times. The similarities of Zechariah 12, 13, and 14 with Revelation are these:

- The Campaign of Armageddon including the attack on Jerusalem, the battle for Jerusalem– **Zechariah 12:1-9, 14:1-5**
- The Salvation of Israel – **Zechariah 12:10-13:1**
- The Cleansing of the Land – **Zechariah 13:2-6**
- Israel’s Relationship to the Messiah – **Zechariah 13:7-9**
- The Results of the Second Coming – **Zechariah 14:6-11**
- The Destruction of the Enemy – **Zechariah 14:12-15**
- The Messianic Kingdom – **Zechariah 14:16-21**

Day 3 **The Sixth Seal Judgment – The Tribulation Saints, the second “after these things,” and the Sealing of the 144,000 Jewish Evangelists - Revelation 7:1-17**

Please Read **Revelation 7:1-17**

This chapter starts out with the second of these “after these things.” This is a key for us to understand that John is revealing another and new vision here. It is like starting a new scene in a play. In this scene we are going to see the details surrounding the sealing of the 144,000 Jewish Evangelists and also the salvation, the slaughter, and the service of the Gentile Tribulation Saints.

²⁸ Arnold G. Fructenbaum, Manuscript #64, The Little Apocalypse of Isaiah, p. 1.

Preparation Before Sealing

Before the Sealing of the Jewish Believers, what or who did John see standing on the four corners of the compass of the earth?

What were these four angels restraining?

What or who do these four winds represent?

Another angel, a fifth angel comes from the east. Who is this angel and what does he have on his head?

Some think this angel is Jesus, the Holy Spirit, or some specially prepared archangel. The Greek implies here that this angel is another of the same kind of angel as the previous four angels holding back the four winds of the earth.²⁹

What did the fifth angel command the other four angels to do or not to do?

Why did the fifth angel command in such a loud cry? Choose the best answer.

- Because the other four angels couldn't hear very well?
- Because the other four angels didn't put in their hearing aids?
- Because this was important to make sure they heard clearly?
- Because this was important and urgent that the angels held back the judgments of God until the 144,000 were safely sealed?

Do you suppose, if the book of Revelation is in chronological order of events happening, the 144,000 who were to be safely sealed were a portion of those who were yet to be saved and martyred while those under the altar were waiting for the LORD to avenge them?

What is the seal?

In **Ezekiel 9**, Ezekiel speaks of the 6 executioners who were to slaughter those in Jerusalem who did not have the mark on their foreheads of those who “sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst.” Previous to this slaughter, the man with the writing pouch, went through the city and marked all of those who did sigh over all the abominations, on the forehead. With what “sign” did the man with the writing pouch make on their foreheads? Do you suppose this is the same sign/seal placed on the 144,000?

²⁹David Levy, Revelation, Hearing the Last Word, The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc., Bellmawr, NJ, 08099, sixth printing 2015, pp. 98-99.

Why the seal? What did the seal protect the 144,000 from or did it protect them?

I want you to notice what comes immediately after the sealing of the 144,000 in the Scripture. See **Revelation 7:9**.

Revelation 7:9 says, “After these things...” What “things?” After the sealing of the 144,000, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands... What does this imply?

A HUGE HARVEST of souls for God! These 144,000 take the Gospel message to the world, and a great multitude which no one can count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, are saved!

People Saved

Could this 144,000 be Spiritual Israel represented here by the church? Could this 144,000 be a super spiritual group who are promised to be in heaven because of their special service to God on this earth?

To whom does the term “Israel” refer? Who is the ancestry of the 12 tribes of Israel? Who is an Israeli or an Israelite according to the rabbis of Israel today? Who are the Israelis/Israelites according to the government of Israel today? We looked at this earlier in the study.

How many tribes of Israel, 12,000 from each tribe, are listed here?

Is this all of the sons of Israel?

Which tribes are missing?

Who is substituted in for the tribe of Dan? There can be two possibilities.

Which nation currently believes they are the lost tribe of Dan from Revelation? There are two possibilities. Just as a fun assignment, you who have Internet access, “google” the lost tribe of Dan. Write your thoughts below:

Why do you think Dan and Ephraim are omitted? Please cross-reference **Judges 18:30-31**.

How will the angels know who to seal of the 144,000 since there has been no Temple records of lineage for the Jewish people since the second Temple was destroyed in A.D. 70?

Persecution of the Saints

The 144,000 people mentioned earlier were obviously all Israelites, but this huge harvest group of people who were “saved,” by the ministry of the 144,000, was a mixture of Israel and the Gentiles from all over the world.

Were these people who were “saved” some of those for whom the martyred saints under the altar were waiting to be killed?

Becoming Believers during the Tribulation Period implies that some of them died martyr’s deaths. These who were martyred for their faith during the Tribulation will stand before the throne and before the Lamb in Heaven. See **Revelation 14:13**. These are to rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.

We know that there is no mention of the church on earth in the Tribulation period, so those who become Believers during the Tribulation could not have heard the Gospel through the witness of the Church. Even in **Revelation 7:13** one of the elders representing the Church in Heaven asks the question: “these who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?” So, even the Church in Heaven did not know from where these Tribulation saints came. In **Matthew 24:14** it says this: “This Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.” I don’t believe this preaching mentioned here will occur during the Church Age, and so, if this is true, **Matthew 24:21** then implies that this preaching has to be completed during the Tribulation Period. So, the Tribulation saints had to come to faith through one of the following three ways according to David Levy:³⁰

- Through the teaching of the two witnesses who preach for 1260 days during the first half of the Tribulation – see **Revelation 11:3**
- Through the preaching of the angel who flies over the earth proclaiming the message of the everlasting Gospel to all of those who dwell on the earth, to all the nations, to all the kindred, to all those speaking different tongues – see **Revelation 14:6**.
- Through the 144,000 evangelists who preach the Gospel to all the Gentiles who become Believers during the Tribulation period. This access to all the Gentile world will be a result of the 144,000 Jews who will be scattered all over the world due to intense persecution.

³⁰ Ibid, p. 101.

In Revelation 7:14-15, the Church elder in Heaven answers his own question concerning where these in white robes have come from: "...these are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them..."

Perpetual Service

These who have been martyred during the Tribulation period, how will they serve God? See Revelation 7:15.

What does it mean that those who have been martyred will serve God both day and night in His Temple?

What benefits will be given to those who were martyred during the Tribulation? What will the LORD Himself give to them?

It is a hard to understand how there will be those on the earth who will reject the LORD out rightly. However, some will.

Days 4-5 **The Seventh Seal Judgment – Silence in Heaven, the sounding of the 7 Trumpets commences, Revelation 8:1-6**

Please read **Revelation 8:1-6**.

Oh! How ominous! How eerie! With the breaking of the seventh seal, there comes silence in Heaven for about a half hour! I thought there was no measure of time in Heaven. How can this be? What do you think John is trying to convey here?

Certainly, there must be awkwardness to this silence in Heaven. You know yourself that when the conversation between you and another person starts to trail off, there occurs this very awkward silence.

What happens before a storm? What do we say, "_____ the storm?" Were the first six seal judgments just warm-ups for the remaining trumpet and bowl judgments? Or, was this another pause, for men and women to hear the call to come to Christ before there will be no more opportunity to do so. We're not told, so we don't know for sure, but we do know that God's character is merciful, He is patient and His desire is for all to come to Him.

I have never thought of it this way before, but the seventh seal contains not only the seven trumpet judgments, but the seven bowl judgments as well. Are these seven seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments chronological?

David Levy says the seven trumpet judgments begin at the middle of the Daniel's 70th week. In addition to this, the "Tribulation" spoken of earlier when we talked about the seal judgments now becomes the Great Tribulation.

Is this "silence in Heaven for about a half hour" a silence of rest and peace? Or "a quiet" in preparation for God's rapid-fire wrath about to be unleashed on planet earth and its earth dwellers?

I believe it is the Greek word "en tachei" used in Revelation that means rapid fire. This is how John uses this word in **Revelation 1:1**: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things "which must soon take place;" and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John. It's that "which must soon take place." I cannot find this in my Precept Upon Precept notes on Revelation, but I know it is there where I learned about this word. This word has a rich meaning associated with it and it means this: once things get started, then whatever comes as a result of those "things" will be set in rapid motion, one thing happening right after the other. The Zondervan Parallel New Testament in Greek and English translates the Greek like this: "A revelation of Jesus Christ, which gave to him – God, to show to the slaves of him things which it behooves to occur with speed..." An additional note here, I finally, October 31, 2025, was able to find this Greek word that was used in Revelation 1:1 in Vine's complete expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament words, page 592 under "speed, speedily."

What happens after the silence in heaven for about one-half hour? How fast do the 7 trumpet judgments and the 7 bowl judgments come after the 7th seal is broken? See (trumpets) Revelation 8:7, 8:8, 8:10, 8:12, Revelation 9:1, 9:13, 11:15 and (bowls) Revelation 16:2, 16:3, 16:4, 16:8, 16:10, 16:12, 16:17.

What does John see right after the awkward half-hour of silence in Heaven in Revelation 8:1?

Who are these seven angels who stood before God?

Are these the same seven angels who will pour out the seven bowl judgments in **Revelation 16:2,3,4,8,10,12, and 17**?

What are trumpets used for in Israel? See **Leviticus 23:24, Psalm 81:3-4, Judges 3:27-28, Nehemiah 4:20, Joel 2:1-2.**

Another angel, an eighth angel, not one of the seven angels readied to blow their trumpets, stands at the altar. What does this eighth angel have?

What is the significance of the golden censer?

What does incense represent in the fiery golden censer? You who have Catholic, Lutheran or Anglican background, what do you see the priest doing during worship services?

In the study of the Tabernacle, what was the significance of the incense that was burned on the golden altar?

What does **Revelation 8:3-4** say about the importance and significance of the incense, the golden censer, and the golden altar of incense?

Where was the golden altar of incense in the Tabernacle? See **Hebrews 9:3-4.**

What does **Revelation 5:8** say about incense? What does the incense represent?

Why did God tell the Israelites they were not to make the incense recipe for any other use than in worship of Him, YHWH? See **Exodus 30:37-38.**

What would happen to the person who made and used this recipe for the special perfume for something other than worship?

God had a patent on this recipe for incense to be used in the worship of Himself. Anyone who used this for something else would be cut off from his people. What does “cut off” mean? See **Daniel 9:24-27.**

These prayers rising to heaven in **Revelation 8** are cries from the Tribulation saints asking God for deliverance from and vengeance on their enemies.

What did the angel do with the censer in **Revelation 8:5** after the prayers of the saints went up before God?

Why did the angel throw the censer with the fire of the altar to the earth?

What followed after the angel threw the censer with the fire to the earth?

In **Revelation 8:5**, of what were the voices, and thunderclaps, and lightnings, and an earthquake symbolic?

Now, as your final assignment for days 4 & 5 of this lesson, go back to your chart at the end of lesson 8 on the different judgments and fill in the first 7 seal judgments more completely.

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