

Chapter 5 – The Seals

Overview

Joh 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation (G2347 - thlipsis): but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Joh 17:15 I pray **not** that thou should take them out of the world, but that thou should keep them from the evil.

Verses 1 - 5

Rev 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

Rev 5:2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

Rev 5:3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

Rev 5:4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

Rev 5:5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

1. God tells us of things to come

A Examples

1Co 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Heb 11:39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

Heb 11:40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [us], and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

B Prophecy

1. Prophetic words and visions

Isa 43:19 Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it?

1Co 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, [even] the hidden [wisdom], which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

1Co 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: **for had they known [it], they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1Co 2:10 But God hath revealed [them] unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

2. The seals
 - a) Throughout the entire Bible, seals are always used for identification, confidentiality, approval, making secure and/or closing up for a period of time.
 - b) The sealing or unsealing never performs/produces an event of itself. A decree within it could command or initiate an action; and the unsealing of something could loose that which creates actions such as sealing/loosing of satan in the 1000 years.
 - c) The loosing of the Seven Seals is **not** the same as loosing the events that follow. However, the conclusion of the events, which are shown by the opening of the seals, does bring the earth and its ungodly people to a point where the wrath of God is manifested.
 - d) Therefore, the ending of the period of the Seven Seals is followed by what may be a display of the wrath of God with the Seven Trumpets; but definitely an identified display of His wrath in the Seven Vials.
 - e) A foreshadowing of these events is seen in how God delivered the Hebrew slaves from Egypt and purged the earth of Pharaoh and his army by issuing decrees which were brought into existence by Moses.
 - f) God will deliver His very elect (i.e., the overcomers) through the Rapture as He purges the earth of the antichrist (i.e., the beast) and the false prophet and their armies. Rev 19:20

Verses 6 - 8

Rev 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Rev 5:7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

Rev 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and 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 saints.

2. Our Prayers impact Heaven and Earth

A. Mat 18:18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Luk 18:7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

Luk 18:8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, **shall he find faith on the earth?**

B. Rev 5:8 Notice how the prayers of the saints are recognized as Jesus takes the Book and prepares to open the seals.

Rev 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer [it] with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, [which came] with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

Rev 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

Verses 9 - 12

Rev 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Rev 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Rev 5:11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and

thousands of thousands; (calculated at 100 trillion, 100 with 12 zeroes)

Rev 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

3. Power

A. Authority and Dominion

Gen 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Exo 7:1 And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

Exo 9:15 For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth.

Exo 9:16 And in very deed for this [cause] **have I raised thee up, for to show [in] thee my power**; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.

Amplified Classic

Ex 9:15 For by now I could have put forth My hand and have struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth.

Ex 9:16 But for this very purpose have I let you live, that I might show you My power, and that My name may be declared throughout all the earth.

Col 2:15 [And] having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of **power**, and of love, and of a sound mind.

B. The Plagues

1. Moses

Exo 9:1 Then the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

a) Three Plagues affecting all the land and waters of Egypt.

The first three are: the waters of Egypt became blood; frogs came upon the land of Egypt;

dust became lice throughout the land of Egypt.

The Bible does not say how these three impacted the Hebrews.

b) Four Plagues affecting only the Egyptians

The flies did not occur in the land of Goshen.

The pestilence did not kill the cattle of the children of Israel.

The ashes created boils on the magicians and on all the Egyptians.

The hail and fire did not occur in the land of Goshen but killed the animals and men in the fields, who were not obedient to the Word of the Lord.

- c) Two Plagues around the Hebrews but affecting only the Egyptians,
The locusts ate all the green trees and herbs of Egypt (but the Israelites would be leaving so it did not really affect them).

Darkness came upon all of Egypt but there was light in the dwellings of the Hebrews.

- d) The Tenth Plague is the death of the first born of all; but the Hebrews were protected by obedience to the directions for the Passover, which foreshadowed the Communion Table.

Exo 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye [are]: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy [you], when I smite the land of Egypt.

2. Seals

The opening of the Seven Seals shows us the things which are to come and are a warning for us to prepare. The events result from evil perpetuated by man on man; around us but not affecting us as we continue to partner with God.

3. Trumpets

The Trumpets are seven judgments which are targeted for (i.e., intending to affect) only the ungodly. God's protection is always upon the believers, who are walking in faith. These also should not affect us directly.

4. Vials

The Vials judgments affect only the unrighteous (i.e., the ungodly) and is probably intended only for those who have taken the mark of the beast and for those others who are among them. It is best for all believers to be obedient to the Scriptures which state "come out of them". Our example was when Lot came out of Sodom. Failure to come out of them may result in collateral damage (e.g., Lot's wife).

Verses 13 - 14

Rev 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, [be] unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

Rev 5:14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four [and] twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

4. The Generation of Praise are those who will be "alive and remain."

A. Note that this is our example, to be a people of praise. We are the generation of Praise.

Psa 102:18 This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD.

Psa 102:19 For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth;

Psa 102:20 To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to **loose those that are appointed to death;**

Psa 102:21 To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem;

2Ti 1:8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions (G4777 – sugkakopatheo) of the gospel according to the power of God;

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called [us] with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

2Ti 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath **abolished death**, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel

1Co 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep (i.e. die), but we shall all be changed.

Footnotes:

G2347 – thlipsis : pressure as in persecution, tribulation, trouble, affliction, anguish

G4777 – sugkakopatheo: suffer hardship (used only once in the New Testament).