



Empowering People to Change the World

The Seven Seals Part III

Steve Holt

The Seven Seals Part III

Introduction:

In Luke 4, Jesus announced his mission on earth:

Luke 4:16-21

**18 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me**

**To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;**

19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." NKJV

- This was Jesus mandate on earth, but it is instructive to not only see what Jesus is saying, but it is instructive to also study what the Bible does not say.
- Let's look at the passage Jesus was quoting from, Isa. 61:

Isaiah 61:1-2

**"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me,
Because the Lord has anointed Me**

**To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;**

**2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord,
And the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn,**

- Notice what he does not read...vs 2.

- There is a time when God will right the wrongs.
- There is a major trial coming and the sinful and unrighteous will be judged.
- The Kinsman Redeemer is not only the “redeemer” but also the Avenger of Blood.
- His justice will rule and sin will be judged.
- We are studying the opening of the seals in which the Lord will come and the “iniquity of the earth” will be complete.

Revelation 7

- Chapter 7 is a kind of parenthesis, a station break, in our study of the opening of the 7 Seals, a reprieve between the opening of the 6th Seal and the 7th Seal.
- God is answering the question in chapter 6:17, “Who will be able to stand?”
- We are looking at the martyrs who have died during the Great Tribulation.
- We are looking at 144,000 Jewish “Billy Grahams” who will be used powerfully to evangelize the world.
- A kind of 144,000 Kosher Billy Grahams!!
- ¼ of the world has perished from the sword of the Antichrist, there has been a mighty earthquake, and these Christian martyrs are crying out to God for vengeance.
- The 1st half are those believers who are being preserved by God during this time.
- The 2nd half of the chapter shows us those who have perished under the persecution of the Antichrist and we will have insight into what we will be doing in heaven.

- This shows God’s great love for mankind as he continues to reach out to man even during this horrific time.

Vs. 1

After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

- The earth is not square with “four corners.”
- But military strategists have divided the earth into quadrants, like the four corners of a compass.
- If you look at satellite photos of the earth it does seem that the earth had four corners.
- So we could say, Four Angels standing on the Four Corners of the Compass.
- What are these “four winds?” The Spirit? Real wind? In some parts of the world sailors call this the “doldrums” when the wind will not blow. Is that what he is talking about? We just don’t know.

2 Then 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 it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

- God will seal these believers with some kind of a mark...if we compare chapter 14:1 of Revelation, it would indicate that these 144,000 are sealed on their foreheads.
- Just as the Antichrist will have a mark upon his followers, God will place his mark upon his true followers.
- God will preserve some 144,000 Jewish believers during this time.

- **God protects and preserves His people throughout biblical history:**
 - o Noah. God supernaturally preserved Noah and his family just before the flood.
 - o Lot and his family. God supernaturally spared Lot and his family just before he brings fire and brimstone upon Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - o Jews in Egypt. Very similar to God's sparing of the Jews during the time in Goshen when the Angel of Death came and slew the first born of the Egyptians on the Passover evening.
 - o 5k prophets. During the time of Elijah we see the preservation of 5,000 prophets who have not bent their knee to Baal.
 - o In Ezekiel 9, the angel goes through Jerusalem and seals the forehead of those who have not given themselves to idolatry, so that when the judgment comes those who are pure are passed over from the judgment that came.
- We will soon see that there are two groups during this wave of catastrophic events: 1) Those who worship the Antichrist will have their foreheads sealed, and 2) those who worship the Lord will also be sealed with some kind of physical mark.
- Those who receive the mark of the Beast will never be saved and damned forever.
- **Ephesians 1:13-14**
And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession-to the praise of his glory.
- God has already place his seal upon us...this is another group being sealed.

- And this is not the Jehovah Witnesses! This is so obvious to be utterly ridiculous.
- Let's read this and see if we have a pattern forming ...

5

***of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;***

6

***of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed;***

7

***of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed;***

8

***of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.***

- What does that add up to? 144,000 JEWS! It is very clear.
- So if someone tells you they are one of the 144,000, ask them what tribe they are from? And prove it!
- Ex. When the Wise Men came to Jerusalem looking for the Messiah they told Herod the Great this Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem, and he was so insecure he had all of the genealogical records of the tribes destroyed. Since that time, no one has known what tribe they are from.
- So only God knows which tribe the Jews belong to.
- So these Jews will get saved and be used powerfully, like the world has never experienced, to evangelize the world.
- How will these Jews get saved? Many theories:

- o That the Rapture will shake them up.
- o That the Two Witnesses in Jerusalem will bring a great revival (chapter 11).
- o That God just does it supernaturally through a profound awakening.
- 29x the Bible speaks of the tribes (first in Gen 35).
- The last listing is in Ezekiel 48 which looks to the kingdom age. That listing is exactly like the first listing in Gen 35. God is fulfilling His covenant as he first promised.
- Ephraim and Dan are omitted, which lends itself to Deut. 29, where God will curse any of the tribes that brings idolatry into the nation.
 - o Dan and Ephraim introduced idol worship into Israel. Thus, they are under God's judgment.
 - o Thus, under God's covenant, God will bless those tribes in the original list, but for God's service in the latter days, Dan and Ephraim are omitted.
- A beautiful picture of God's preservation. It doesn't mean they will all be in Israel. They will be all over the world, preaching to a lost world.
- This is a powerful, supernatural demonstration of God's love.

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

- Probably speaking of the Feast of Tabernacles
- This will be worldwide harvest that includes all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues.

- We will have the privilege of seeing our friends from Japan, Uganda, Mexico, and England.
- What a party: imagine sushi enchiladas and sashimi tacos.

10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” 11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

- In the middle of all of this chaos, murder, and persecution, who can stand?
- We now enter this kind of oasis from the storm.
- God gives us a glimpse into His sovereign love during this time.
- They are worshipping and praising the Lord.
- This about intimacy—loving God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
- You see during this time you will either be marked and martyred! Make that decision today.
- God wants to change your eternal destiny today!!
- This world is not getting better, but you can be getting better, by coming to Jesus and letting Him live His life in and through you.
- You can be sealed by the Holy Spirit today.
- For we that are saved, what will heaven be like? We get insight into heaven through these passages:

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?”

14 And I said to him, “Sir, you know.”

So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. 16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

- What does God want from you? God doesn't want anything! He doesn't want or need your money. He only wants you.
- What does God want from us? Some of you are thinking:
 - He wants to take away all of my fun.
 - I can't go to Cripple Creek anymore!
 - I can't have casual sex anymore!
 - I can't get drunk anymore!
 - I can't go to Vegas anymore!
 - He wants to take away all my fun! I can't snort Cocaine anymore!
- Satan knows that if I come to know Christ ...
 - I won't be able to get AIDS anymore
 - I won't get cirrhosis of the liver
 - I won't be broke from blowing my money in Vegas and Cripple Creek anymore.
 - I can't get hepatitis anymore...He doesn't care about me. He just doesn't want me to have any fun!!
- Isn't that ridiculous? Look here what he wants for us!
- This is what God wants for us:

What will Heaven be Like?

- o I observe 8 blessings for the believer.
- o Reread Rev. 6:9-11

9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

- o In heaven:
 1. We will be fully conscious and able to interact, pray, and communicate with the Lord and each other.
 2. We will be able to see what is happening on the earth and fully conscious of God's plan on earth.
 3. We will be in a state of "rest", real rest!! I mean Hawaii, ten hours of sleep, and no worries all wrapped into an eternal state!! I'll take that.
 4. (Ws. 14-15) We will be in the presence of the Lord and before the Throne of God.
 5. We will not be floating around, but be serving God.
 6. (vs. 16) We will be fully protected with all our needs being fully met.
 7. (vs. 17) We will have a full and growing relationship with the Lord.

8. We will have not more pain, depression, anxiety, or concerns!!

That's what God wants for you!! He loves you! He is for you! But you have to give your heart to Him fully and completely.