

## **SEALS OF REVELATION: REVIEW**

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I have spent a few weeks looking at Daniel. Key prophecies ... many of which relate to the end-time.

Jesus warned us to watch out for the Abomination of Desolation “spoken of by Daniel” ... and in Daniel we read of “latter-days” ... “time of the end” ... there is a mention of a Great Tribulation ... time of the resurrection of the saints. Clearly END-TIME.

Most believe that the Book of Daniel is a key to understanding the Book of Revelation. A number of clear associations — beasts ... 7 heads and 10 horns — there is war against the saints — Great Tribulation in both books — return of Christ and the Kingdom of God established.

Some people say if you want to understand Revelation ... you need to understand Daniel first. [And hopefully we saw that this could only be done at the time of the end! Sir Isaac Newton wrote a treatise on “Daniel and the Apocalypse” — saw the link ... but his understanding was premature].

Having spent a few weeks on a brief summary of Daniel ... I thought it might be worth a very brief summary of Revelation. In fact ... I just intend to cover one aspect for now.

I am going to review the 7 Seals in the Book of Revelation.

A quick reminder! Which is ... when we look at prophecy ... we see through a glass darkly!

We should be familiar with the narrative ... but be careful with the interpretation when we think what it means. There is bound to be some speculation. That’s okay ... we just need to recognise that speculation is speculation.

We've been through the Seals of Revelation in the past. We are probably all familiar with the view that the Holy Roman Empire ... Europe ... and the Vatican are behind the fulfillment. I don't intend to go over that.

I will try to show how the 7 Seals work out IF in fact ISLAM is the 4<sup>th</sup> and Terrible Beast of Daniel 7 (which re-appears in Revelation 13).

### **Revelation 5:1-7**

**1 And I (John) saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.**

2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "**Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?**"

**3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.**

4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

5 But **one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."** (*talking of the Lord Jesus*)

**6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.**

**7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.**

Since Jesus Christ is the Revelator ... leads many to land on Matthew 24 — Jesus' Olivet Prophecy — to interpret the seals. Jesus gave many signs to His disciples to watch out for ... in more or less plain English (Greek!). We're all familiar with that approach?

### **Revelation 6:1-2**

**1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals;** and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."

**2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.**

The first of the Six Seals. A White Horse ... conquering. Who is this white horse?

Many commentaries suggest this represents Jesus Himself — with the Gospel ... spreading it worldwide. For example: Adam Clarke or Jamieson Fawcett Brown.

There is a rider on a White Horse.

### **Revelation 19:11-13**

11 **Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.**

12 **His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.**

13 **He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.**

Jesus Christ on a White Horse.

Is this the same horseman? The answer is no. Let's go back to Revelation 6.

The timing is different! Revelation 6 is before the end-time destruction and Tribulation. Revelation 19 is right at the very very end — when Jesus returns with His Saints.

If we want to look for parallels ... Jesus' first sign in Matthew 24 "Take heed that no man deceive you" suggests religious deception.

It seems to be the meaning of the 1<sup>st</sup> Seal. **The rider on the White Horse is a conquering religion.**

Traditionally ... the Vatican and the Roman Catholic religion? Or in recent decades ... One-world Church?

I would suggest that in the light of Daniel's various Beasts — we are looking at ISLAM.

Today on the earth ... there are 1.7 billion Muslims (1 in 4 people). The fastest growing religion in the world — largely down to its birth rate ... plus a reasonable number of conversions.

Many devout Muslims are awaiting their Mahdi (Guided One) — the Islamic Redeemer ... due to arrive just before the Time of Judgment ... and he will come to convert the whole world to Islam.

Notice the references in verse 2 to the “crown” and “conqueror”.

“Crown”: Mohammed > 200 names: Iklil = The Crown

“Conqueror”: “ “ “ “ :Mansur = Victorious One

Perhaps we can't be too dogmatic ... but Islam certainly is plausible? So the White Horse could represent Islam in the end-time.

Let's look at the next horseman.

### **Revelation 6:3-4**

3 When **He opened the second seal**, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."

4 **Another horse, fiery red, went out.** And **it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.**

The Red Horse. Takes away peace. So WAR.

Is this a German-dominated European army and Vatican? A better fit ... an ISLAMIC JIHAD? Islam is a political system whose end objective is to take over the whole world for Mohammed.

Mohammed was often called a “warrior” (killer! from day 1). Particularly fond of beheadings. He set the example. A blood-thirsty killer from day 1.

Some estimate that over 1,400 years (since about 600 AD) ... Islam has slain over 270 million people.

Muslims are still fighting today in Syria ... Afghanistan ... Yemen ... Libya ... unrest in Iraq ... Nigeria ... India ... Pakistan ... and — since 9/11 ... over 34,000 deadly terror attacks involving Islam (Religion of Peace!!!)

That's history right. But ... the Red Horse indicates future. More wars ... more killings ... more beheadings — which we saw in Daniel 8 — where Iran ... Turkey are heavily involved.

Notice in verse 4 ... a Great sword? Swords have always been key in Islamic military history — especially those made of Damascus steel. Common surname in Islam is Saifullah — which means “Sword of God”.

The strong likelihood is of a dominant religious/military leader of Islam (A Caliph) ... who will seek to impose Islam — and Sharia Law — on much of the world.

### **Revelation 6:5-6**

5 **When He opened the third seal,** I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and **behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.**

6 **And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."**

The Black Horse. Economic turmoil. Shortages of essentials. Banking/financial crisis (if ... the Red Horse is going to picture war ... particularly in the Persian Gulf).

Many knock-on effects region-wide (or world-wide) Islamic Jihad under charismatic leader.

In verse 5 ... interesting: “Pair of Scales” = zugos in Greek.

Thayer’s: “A yoke ... metaphorically, used of any burden or bondage (such) as that of slavery”.

Under Islamic Sharia Law ... following invasion or take-over ...they give you a choice. You must either convert — or accept Dhimmi status. “A subjugated second-class non-citizen — almost a slave — and who is subjected to dictatorial deprivation of any legal and human rights”. On top of that ... as a Dhimmi ... you must pay a special tax.

Zugos is a perfect term to describe the impact of Islam on its conquered nations.

It seems like Islam continues to be a good fit for the Seals?

### Revelation 6:7-8

7 **When He opened the fourth seal**, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."

8 So I looked, and behold, **a pale horse**. **And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.**

The Pale Horse. **Greek: Chloros = GREEN!** Yet most translations say "pale" or "sickly pale"! One or two say Green Horse (Passion Translation, New Matthew Bible).

It is used 3 other times in the New Testament — where it talks of green grass.

Is it a coincidence that GREEN IS THE COLOUR OF ISLAM? Many Islamic countries include green in their flags. The Quran (the Holy Book of Islam) says inhabitants of Paradise will wear "green garments of fine silk" and will "recline on green cushions".

It also mentions in verse 8 that this horse will have power (authority/influence) over ¼ of the earth. What does that mean ... ¼ of the earth?

By population ... number of countries ... land mass? All apply to Islam and Islamic countries. Currently ¼ of sovereign countries are Islamic. ¼ of land mass. And ¼ of the world's population! Islam is a neat fit here.

Note: Death and the grave. Muslims have been fighting and killing since day 1.

### Revelation 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.**

MARTYRDOM FOR THE WORD OF GOD!

Once upon a time ... most of the Middle East was nominally “Christian” (in so far as they had Bibles ... Churches ... Theologians ... Christian Festivals ... Saints) ... in North Africa ... Syria ... Asia Minor (The Churches of Revelation Chapters 2 and 3). Now they are all Islamic!

Islam wiped out most ... about 99% of “Christianity” ... by the sword ... unless they converted. It is still happening today.

The Crusades of 1100/1200 AD were European attempts to defend Christianity from Islamic Jihad of the day.

They have a history of about 1400 years of wiping out Christianity and any one who talked about Jesus Christ.

Prophecy shows this will happen again in the future.

#### **Revelation 13:1, 5, 7**

1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And **I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.**

5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and **he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. (3½ years)**

7 **It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.**

This end-time Islamic power will have 3½ years to make WAR WITH THE SAINTS.

#### **Revelation 20:4**

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. **Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

Here are people who had been beheaded for the Word of God.

Who are these saints mentioned here (in the future)? The remnant of the WCG? Those converted in the last days (because of the Ministry of the 2 witnesses ... with many converts to the truth)? Or ... perhaps a broader application ... to include nominal Christians? Islam is unlikely to be interested in the subtle differences?!!

Daniel and Revelation are linked to each other in many ways.

### **Daniel 7:25**

**25 He shall speak pompous words against the Most High,**  
**Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,**  
**And shall intend to change times and law.**  
**Then the saints shall be given into his hand**  
**For a time and times and half a time.**

The Saints persecuted for 3½ years. Right at the end-time ... just before the Kingdom of God is established.

Again — Islam is a good fit. I am doubtful about Vatican-led European armies.  
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### **The Sixth Seal:**

#### **Revelation 6:12-17**

**12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal,** and behold, **there was a great \*earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.**

**13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth,** as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

**14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up,** and **every mountain and island was moved out of its place.**

**15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,**

**16 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!"**

**17 "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"**

Heavenly signs. \*Earthquake = seismos = shaking, commotion (used of "tempest" on the Sea of Galilee).

Great panic and fear! People seem to know the truth? It says that the "Wrath of the Lamb" has arrived. Perhaps the 2 witnesses had preached about it?

The wrath of the Lamb is about to start. But ...

THE SAINTS WILL NOT FACE THE WRATH TO COME.

### **Matthew 24:15-16**

15 "**Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place**" (whoever reads, let him understand),

16 "**then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.**

The Abomination of Desolation is set up.

### **Matthew 24:21-22**

21 "For **then there will be great tribulation,** such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 "**And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.**

The Great Tribulation.

### **Matthew 24:29-31**

29 "**Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.**

30 "**Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**

31 "**And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**

Immediately after the Tribulation:

Heavenly Signs and the Gathering of the Saints at Jesus' return.

**As the Day of the Lord's wrath arrives ... certain countries are specifically identified in prophecy as being singled out for punishment:**

There are many references in Isaiah 13 through 21: Arabia ... Jordan ... Syria ... Egypt ... Saudi Arabia ... some others. Note: they are ALL ISLAMIC countries today.

God's punishment presumably against wickedness in general? But ... interesting that all of the countries named in prophecy are Islamic? Not European?!

Then the Seventh Seal.

**Revelation 8:1-2**

**1 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.**

**2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.**

The Seventh Seal = 7 trumpets.

Devastation and destruction from God ... culminating in the 7 last plagues ... but then God's Kingdom finally established on the earth.

In closing ... that is all I intend to say about the 7 Seals. How close are we to the Seals being opened? Fairly close?

Scripturally ... the Middle East is where it is all going to take place.

I see nothing at all in the 7 Seals that casts doubt in my mind that we should be looking at Islam and Islamic Jihad. Though if you want to keep one eye on Europe and the Vatican ... feel free!