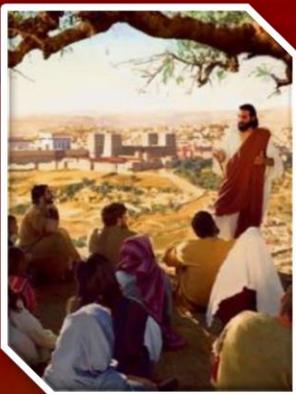


THE SEVEN SEALS

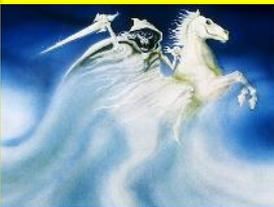


The message of the seals is an outline of the history of the church since its beginning until the Second Coming.

The seals follow the same historic pattern Jesus used in Matthew 24.



MATTHEW 24		Revelation 6	
Early signs (4-14)	Wars and rumors of wars, famines, pestilences, the Gospel is preached	The Gospel is preached, sword, famines, pestilences	The four horsemen (6:1-8)
The tribulation (21-22)	The Great Tribulation	The souls under the altar complain about their tribulation	Fifth seal (6:9-11)
Signs on the sky (29)	The Sun, the Moon, the stars and the powers of the heavens	Signs in the Sun, the Moon, the stars and the heavens	Sixth seal (6:12-17)
The Son of Man appears (30)	A sign in the sky, lamenting on Earth	People hide from the wrath of the Lamb	

v.	Living creature	Horse	Horseman	Was given	Time period (AD)
1-2	First 	White 	Had a bow 	A crown 	31-100
3-4	Second 	Red 	Was granted to take peace from the earth 	A great sword 	100-313
5-6	Third 	Black 	Had a pair of scales in his hand 	Directions on the price of food 	313-538
7-8	Fourth 	Pale 	His name is Death, and Hades followed with him 	Power over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth	538-1517

THE FIRST SEAL

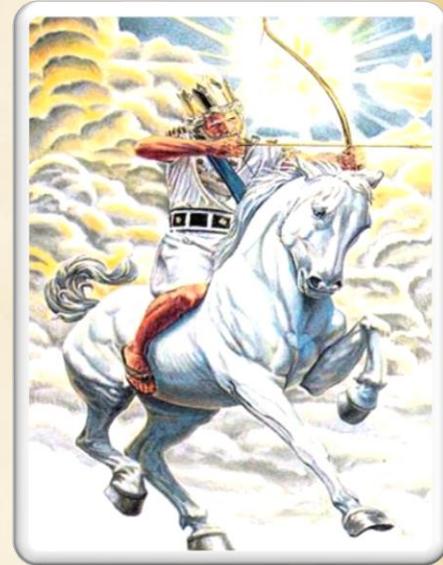
“And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.” (Revelation 6:2)

The first seal was broken, and John saw a pure (white) horse. The horseman was brandishing a long-range weapon (a bow) and was victorious (crown).

This horse is a symbol of the early Church.

The early Church received power at Pentecost and “went out conquering and to conquer.”

Only 30 years after the death of Jesus, Paul said that the Gospel “was preached to every creature under heaven.” (Colossians 1:23)

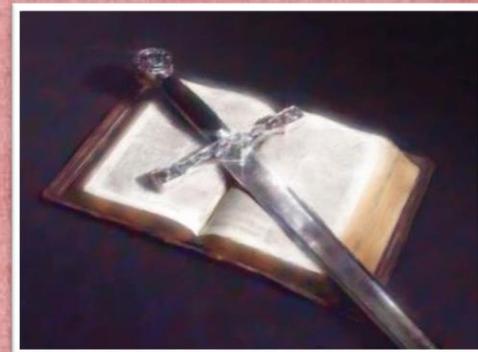
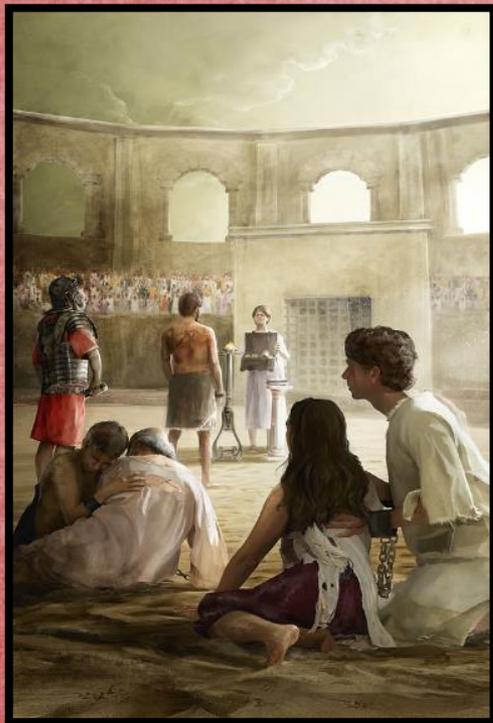


THE SECOND SEAL

"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." (Revelation 6:4)

Jesus had foretold that the Gospel would face opposition from the powers of evil (Matthew 10:34).

The Roman Empire had persecuted the Christians and shed the blood of many martyrs since the 2nd Century.



The persecution was intense during the reign of Diocletian, Maximian, Galerius and Constantius. That period ended when Constantine stopped the persecution.

THE THIRD SEAL

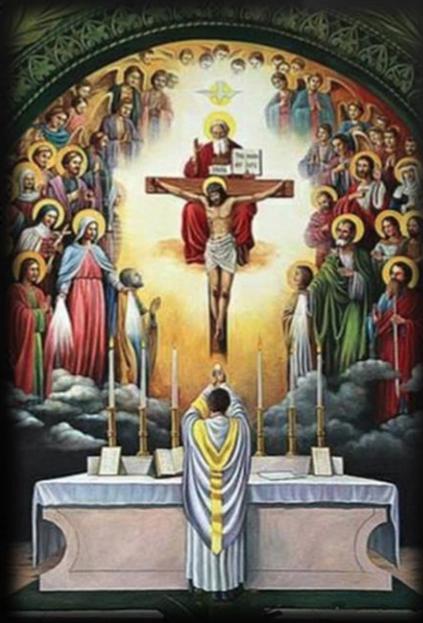
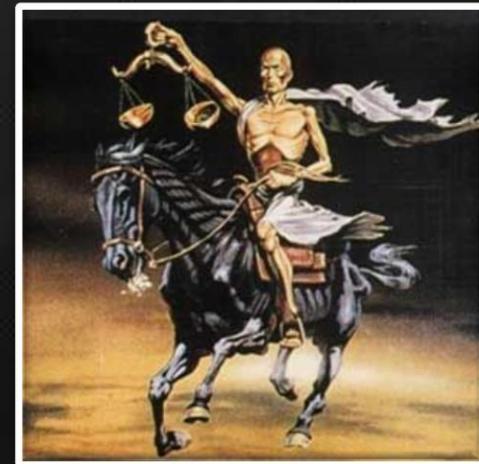
"So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, 'A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.'" (Revelation 6:5-6)

Black is the opposite of white. The purity of the Gospel of the white horse became corrupted during the period between 313 AD and 538 AD.

Hunger and poverty would devastate the laborers if a quart of wheat cost the equivalent of one day's wage.

The Bible was abandoned, and the people suffered hunger for the Word of God (wheat and barley).

However, God still offered salvation through the Holy Spirit (oil) and the blood of Jesus (wine).



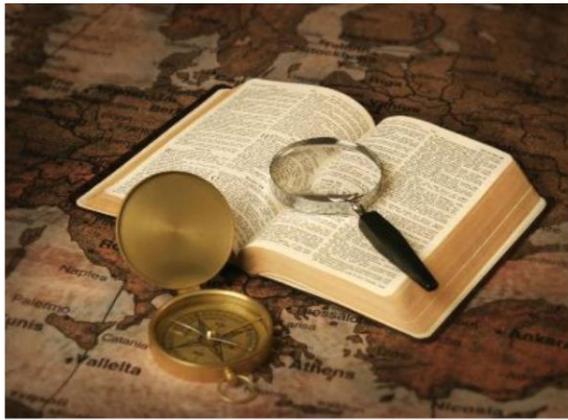
THE FOURTH SEAL

"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." (Revelation 6:8)

The color of this horse is the color of a rotting corpse. It's a symbol of spiritual death as a consequence of abandoning the Bible and the principles of the Gospel.

This is the same time period as the message to the church in Thyatira, a spiritually dead church.

New punishments (death and beasts) are added to the previous ones (sword and hunger). Maybe this is a divine attempt to awaken the Church and make her turn away from her apostasy (Leviticus 26:21-41).



THE FIFTH SEAL

**“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.”
(Revelation 6:9)**

In the Temple, the blood of the victims was shed at the Altar of Holocaust (Leviticus 4:25).

That’s where John—symbolically—saw the people (souls, see 1K. 15:29) that were killed by the Roman Church because of their faith.

Those martyrs are considered worthy (see Rev. 3:4) and are assured that God hasn’t forgotten them. They must wait for some time until every case has been deliberated and Christ comes again “to give to every one according to his work.” (Rev. 22:12)

At that moment, they will be resurrected and will join “their fellow servants and their brethren.”



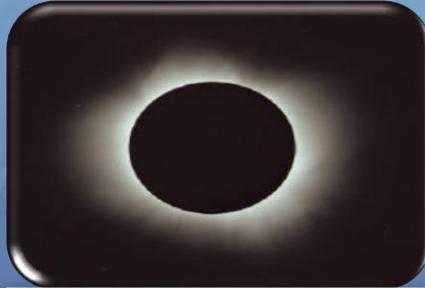
THE SIXTH SEAL

“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.” (Revelation 6:12)

The signs this verse foretold were fulfilled in the exact order they were listed:



**11/1/1755 The
Lisbon
earthquake**



**5/19/1780
Darkness
from 10 AM**



**5/19/1780
The Moon
looked like
blood**



**11/13/1833
Great
meteor shower**

We're living within the time period of the sixth seal, until every person has heard the truth of the Gospel. Those rejecting that truth will want to flee from the presence of the Lamb. “And who is able to stand?”

We'll find the answer to this question in chapter 7.

“The world is perishing for want of the gospel. There is a famine for the word of God. There are few who preach the word unmixed with human tradition. Though men have the Bible in their hands, they do not receive the blessing that God has placed in it for them. The Lord calls upon His servants to carry His message to the people. The word of everlasting life must be given to those who are perishing in their sins.”

E.G.W. (Christ's Object Lessons, cp. 18, p. 228)