

BEGINNING OF SORROWS

- Many coming in Christ's name (v.5)
- Wars (and rumors) (v.6)
- Nation against nation (v.7)
- Kingdom against kingdom (v.7)
- Famines (v.7)
- Pestilence (v.7)
- Earthquakes (v.7)

&

THE SEALS



Matthew 24:4-8

Revelation 6,8

BEGINNING OF SORROWS (“BIRTH PANGS”)

“BEGINNING” IS NOT “THE END”

“...See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet” (Mt.24:6)

⁴And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. ⁵For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. ⁶And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. ⁸All these are the beginning of sorrows.

MATTHEW 24:4-8

BEGINNING OF SORROWS

BIRTH PAINS — Mt.24:4-8

BEGINNING OF CHURCH

RETURN OF CHRIST

- Many coming in Christ's name (v.5)
- Wars (and rumors) (v.6)
- Nation against nation (v.7)
- Kingdom against kingdom (v.7)
- Famines (v.7)
- Pestilences (v.7)
- Earthquakes (v.7)

Natural Historical Trends
Normal Evidences of Sin

Approximately 2,000 Years

3 1/2 Years

Unknown Length



32AD 70AD

CHURCH AGE

1

FIRST 1/2 OF 70th WEEK

2

3

4

5

6

7

GREAT TRIBULATION

DOTL

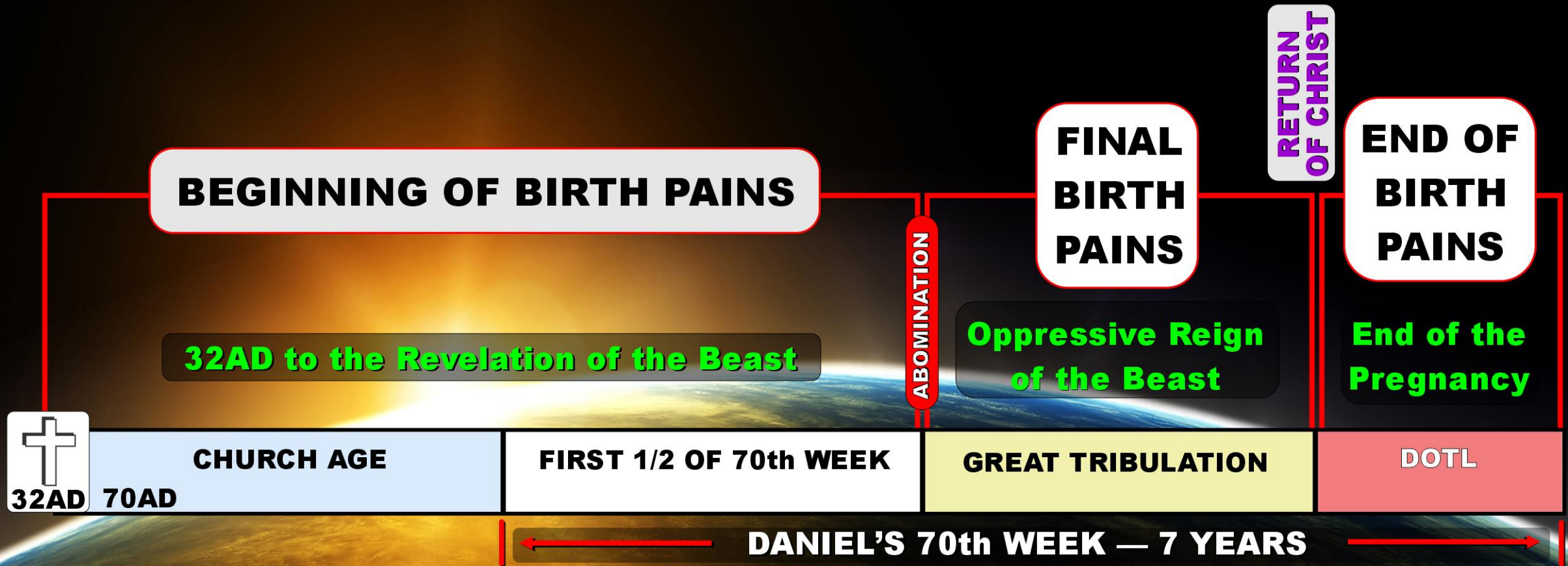
Beginning of
Daniel's 70th Week

The Covenant
Created

Middle of
Daniel's 70th Week

The Covenant
Broken

BIRTH PAINS IMAGERY



Birth pains are those intermittent pushes which indicates a pregnancy is moving toward its “end” (Mt.24:6). Before that “end” (Mt.24:13-14) can occur, there must be the final birth pains which are the body's actions to bring that baby into the world, and thus “end” that pregnancy.

SEALS

(Revelation
6:1-17; 8:1-2)



**SETTING
CONDITIONS
BEFORE THE
WRATH OF GOD
BEGINS**

Made From the Stem



Papyrus Plant

Grows up to 15 feet long

Papyrus made from the triangular stem



SCROLL AND SEALS — Rv.5

⚡ **“Scroll” — Sheets of papyrus joined edge-to-edge [rolled]**



⚡ **“Written within and on the backside”
[both sides, no blank spaces]**



⚡ **“Sealed” — [completely closed]**

⚡ **“Seven seals” — Perfection, [each seal reveals more of the whole]**



⚡ **Jesus alone is worthy to open the seals [He shows His sovereignty over events of the earth]**

SEALS: THE CONDITIONS

- ⚡ The seals are not God's wrath.
- ⚡ These are conditions that have to be met before the scroll is opened.
- ⚡ All 7 seals have to be opened before God's wrath begins.
- ⚡ The seals are natural events.



HISTORIC TRENDS: BEGINNING OF SORROWS

- The wars will continue till THE Covenant is Made (Da.9:26).
- The Covenant will interrupt the historical trend of “wars and rumors of wars” and bring a period of peace (Da.11:21,34).

1. False Christs
2. Reign of Evil Leaders
3. Economic Problems
4. Death
5. Martyrdom

MESSAGE OF THE 7 SEALS



**1-4 Seal PROVES
the Guilt for God's
wrath (Rv.6:1, 3,
5, 7, "come and
see")**



**5th Seal PROMISES
wrath (Rv.6:9-10,
"How long, O Lord,
holy and true, until
You judge and
avenge our blood
on those who dwell
on the earth?")**



**6th Seal PORTENDS
wrath (Rv.6:17,
"For the great day
of His wrath has
come, and who is
able to stand?")**

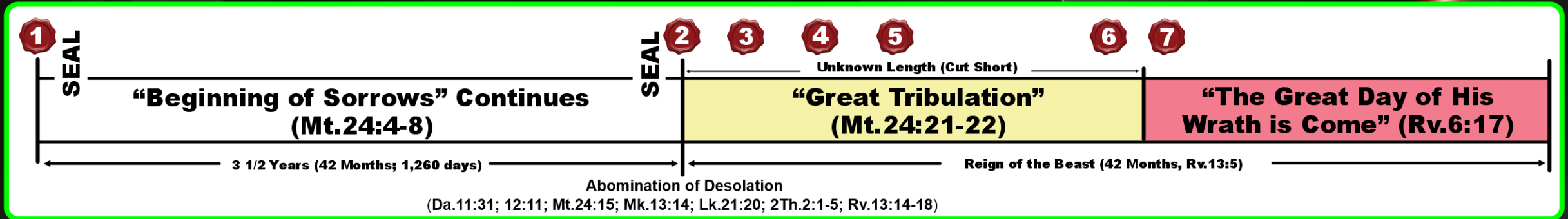
**Rv.7 Interlude
PROTECTS
From Wrath**



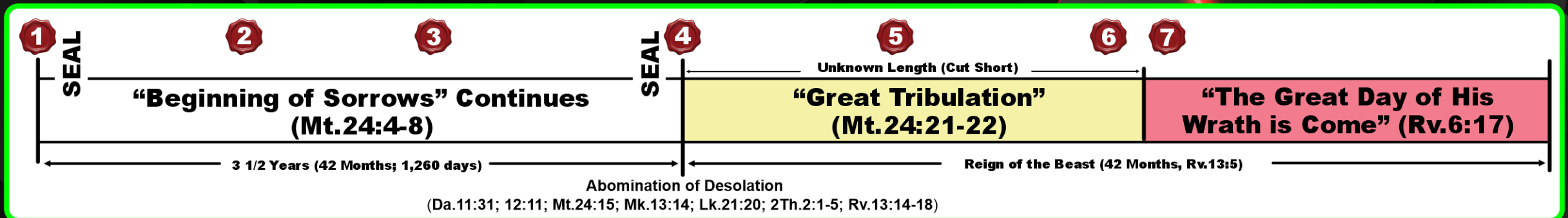
**7th Seal
PRONOUNCES
God's wrath
(Rv.8-9; 15-16)**

SEALS MODELS – TIMING

MODEL 1



MODEL 2



PARALLEL

MATTHEW 24:3-30

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

REVELATION 6:1-13

MATTHEW 24

False Christ's (v.5)

Wars (v.6)

Famine (v.7)

Killed & Hated (v.9)

Mt.24:9-14, 21-26

Death (v.22)

Sun, Moon, Stars (v.29)



"looking after those things which are coming on the earth" (Lk.21:26)

Rapture (v.30-31)

The Event!

Wrath of God (v.37-39)

REVELATION 6-8

1 Antichrist (6:1-2)

WHITE HORSE - Makes Covenant

2 Wars (6:3-4)

RED HORSE - Breaks Covenant; Persecution or Great Tribulation begins; Mid-point in Daniel's 70th Week

3 Famine (6:5-6)

BLACK HORSE

4 Death, Kill w/ sword (6:7-8)

PALE HORSE

5 Martyrs (6:9-11)

UNDER THE ALTAR, Martyrs: "How long, O Lord" (Rv.6:10); God: "rest yet for a little season" (Rv.6:11)

6 Sun, Moon, Stars (6:12-17)

WARNING: Men hiding because they see signs in heaven (Jl.2:31) and see Christ expecting judgment (Lk.21:25-27)

Multitude in Heaven (7:9-14)

The Result!; On earth 144,000 Sealed (Rv.7:1-8)

7 Wrath of God (8:1-7)

"silence in heaven about the space of half an hour" (8:1); 7th Seal opens into the 7 Trumpets

TRIBULATION

Tribulation is BEFORE the Cosmic Signs (Mt.24:29-31)

Tribulation Ends at the Cosmic Signs (Mt.24:21-22)

Future Anticipation (“is come”) of Soon to Come Wrath (Rv.6:17).

The Source: Satan and Man Persecution (Rv.12:12; 13:7)

The Result: Persecution Against God’s People (Rv.6:9-11; 12:12)

COSMIC SIGNS



WRATH

Day of the Lord wrath is AFTER the Cosmic Signs (Jl.2:30-31)

Day of the Lord Wrath Begins at the Cosmic Signs (Jl.2:30-31)

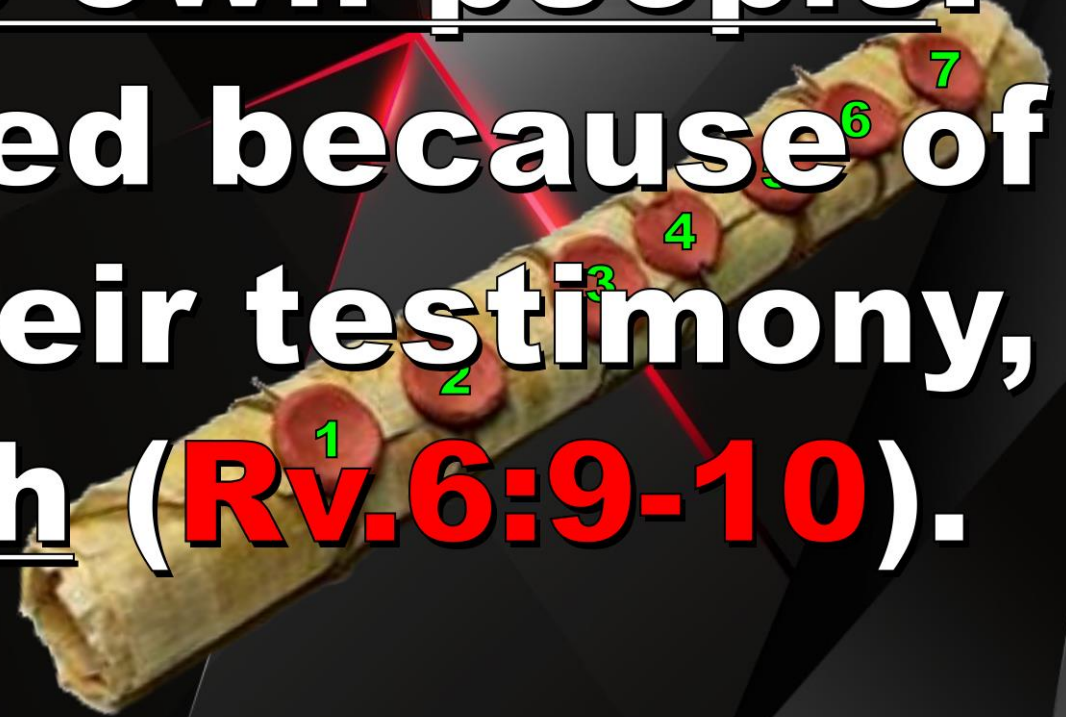
Past Summary Statement: Earth Dwellers “repented not” (Rv.9:20; 16:8)

The Source: God (Zp.1:14-15; 1Th.1:10; 5:9; Rv.11:18; 14:10, 19; 15:1,7; 16:1)

The Result: Judgment Against the Unbelievers Who Dwell on Earth

SEALS ARE NOT THE WRATH OF GOD

The 5th Seal of the martyrs cannot be God pouring out His wrath upon His own people. These were killed because of the WOG and their testimony, not God's wrath (**Rv. 6:9-10**).

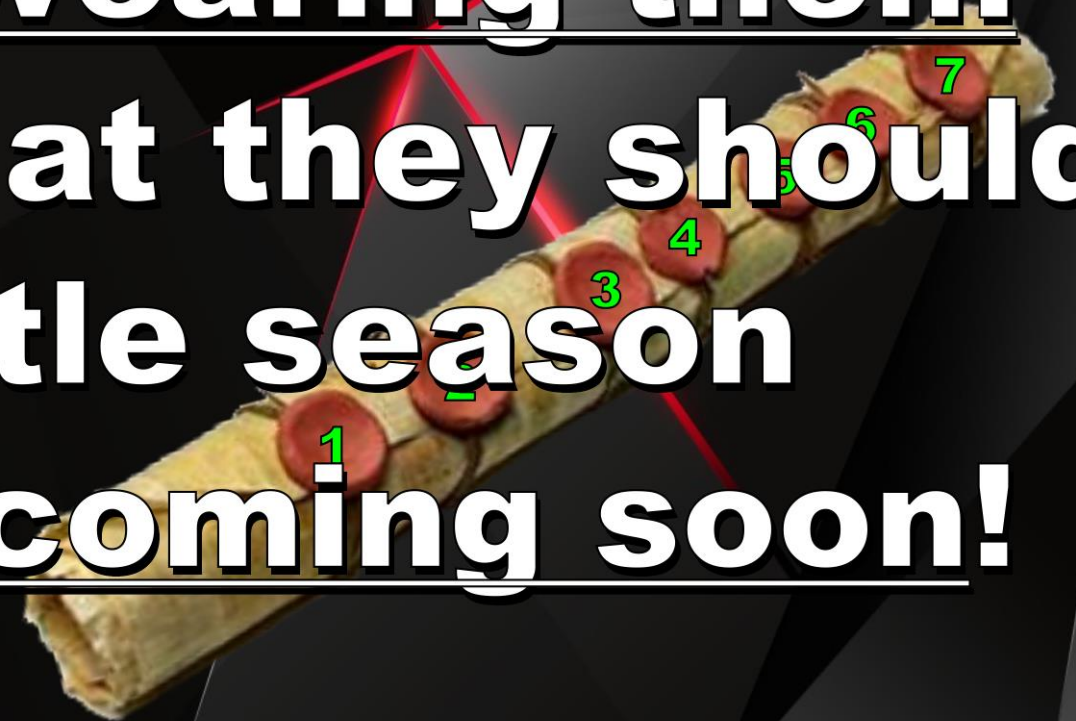


SEALS ARE NOT THE WRATH OF GOD

The martyrs cry out “How long,
O Lord, holy and true, dost thou
not judge and avenge our blood
on them that dwell on the earth?”
This affirms that the wrath is still
future (**Rv.6:10**).

SEALS ARE NOT THE WRATH OF GOD

God answers the martyrs' request. They are given white robes but not wearing them yet. God says that they should rest for a little season (**Rv.6:11**). It is coming soon!



SEALS ARE NOT THE WRATH OF GOD

God will not break His promise of protecting His children from wrath
(**Rm.5:9; 1Th.1:10; 5:9; Rv.6:17**).

The “elect” are present till the tribulation is “cut short” (**Mt.24:22**)

THE SEALS OF REVELATION

SEAL 1 — The Antichrist

Rv.6:1-2

Daniel's 70th Week begins (Da.9:24-27)

- This is the activity of a specific person (the Prince) that appears to dominate the world of politics by going out to conquer politically (Da.8:21-25; Rv.6:1-2).
- For 3½ years he will be a benevolent dictator appearing to solve economic, social, and military issues in the world, at least partly through a 7-year peace covenant made with Israel (Da.9:24-27) and other nations.
- Israel, as a nation, will attempt to realize Messianic promises through a human agency (Da.9:27; 2Th.2:4; Mt.24:15). Notice sacrifices and the Temple presence.
- “And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space” (Rv.17:10).
- This 7th kingdom will become the 8th kingdom at Seal 2 (Rv.17:10-11).

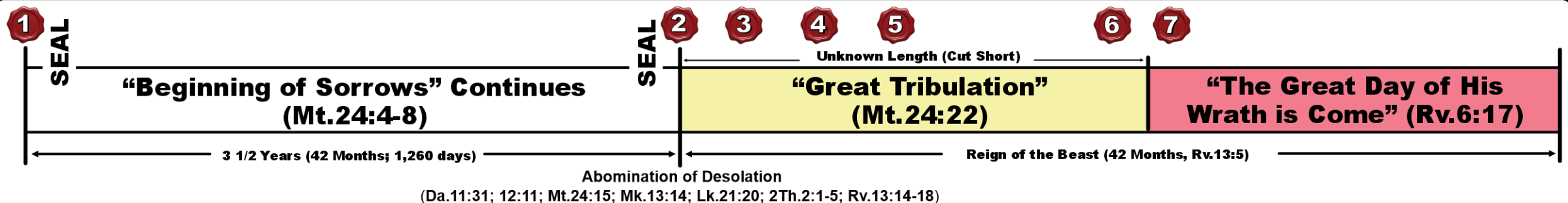
FALLEN:

1. Egypt
2. Assyria
3. Babylon
4. Persia
5. Greece

ONE IS:
6. Rome

NOT YET COME:

7. Antichrist (Prince, Da.9:26-27)
8. Antichrist (Man of sin, 2Th.2:3)



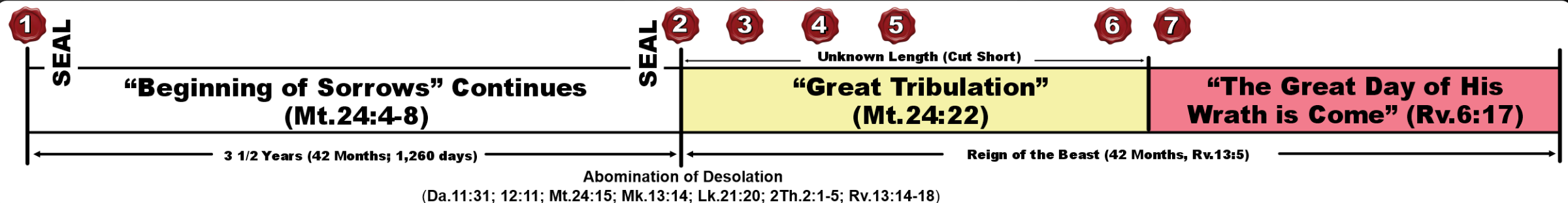
THE SEALS OF REVELATION

SEAL 2 — The Beast

Rv.6:3-4

The Tribulation begins
(Je.30:4-7; Da.12:1; Mt.24:21; 2Th.2:4-10)

- This is the midpoint of Daniel's 70th Week (Da.9:27).
- When he interrupts THE peace, this deceitful world leader becomes known as the man of lawlessness (2Th.2:3) and the Beast (Rv.13:1-2).
- The daily sacrifice shall be taken away (Da.8:11; Mt.24:15).
- He will declare himself to be God (2Th.2:4; Da.11:36-37).
- Along with this broken treaty, the conquering one will become empowered by Satan (2Th.2:9). He will demand that everyone worship him. He will become very oppressive.
- The middle of Daniel's 70th week (Da.9:27; 12:1,6-7; Mt.24:9-15) is the beginning of the Tribulation. This is also the beginning of the reign of the beast (Antichrist, Rv.13:5, i.e., 42 months).
- Revelation 17 tells us this ruler is the SEVENTH ruler who becomes the EIGHTH. So this SEVENTH ruler is represented by Seal 1, and the EIGHTH ruler is represented by Seal 2. This is why two Seals are used to symbolize the same person.



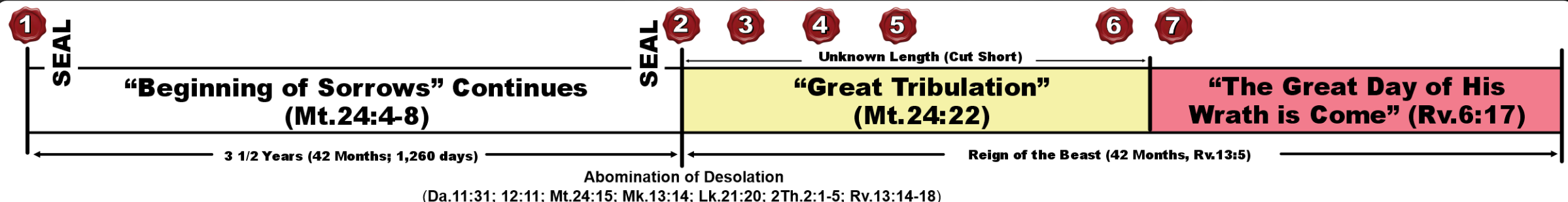
THE SEALS OF REVELATION

SEAL 3 — Condition: Beast Economy

Rv.6:5-6

Beast Control Over Economy

- This seal involves famine caused by the strict economic control by the Beast.
- Seal 3 represents some kind of economic control. Because the Beast takes control of resources, he has the ability to restrict who can buy and sell based on whether or not they have the Mark of the Beast.
- The use of “scales” represents control over the money system.
- The “penny” is the Roman denarius which was one days work wage. To buy one measure of wheat is to eat one meal for that day. To buy the cheaper grain, barley, is to eat three meals a day.
- There appears to be massive food shortages for anyone not working within the Beast system.
- For those working under the Beast system things may appear to function “normally” (Rv.13:17). That is, they will be able to buy and sell the oil and wine.
- The Beast will offer “peace” and safety to those who accept Beast worship and take the mark of the beast. This time of safety is short lived as it will be cut short as the Day of the Lord arrives, and shall catch them by surprise like a thief (1Th.5:1-3)



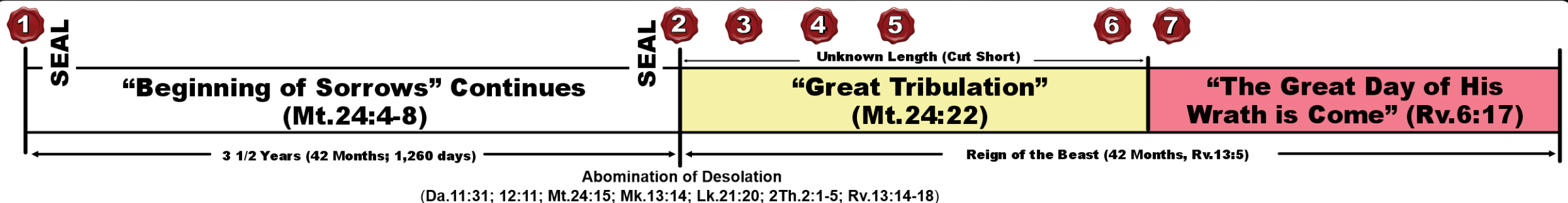
THE SEALS OF REVELATION

SEAL 4 — Condition: Death

Rv.6:7-8

Much Death Everywhere

- There will be much death coming from multiple sources.
 1. Death from the sword. The Beast will try to kill anyone who will not take the mark.
 2. Death from famine. Since the Beast controls resources, he can allow shortages for those outside his domain.
 3. Death from disease. The natural result of massive food shortages (famine) is death from starvation and disease.
 4. Death from animals. Hungry wild animals will encroach civilized areas seeking food for their survival. These appear to be predator and scavengers.
- The killings appear to be the result of the Beast's attempt to control the world.
- One quarter (1/4) of earth's land area will be subject to physical death (Rv.6:8). This is not 1/4 of the earth's population. This suggests that the Beast's authority extends to 3/4 of the earth.

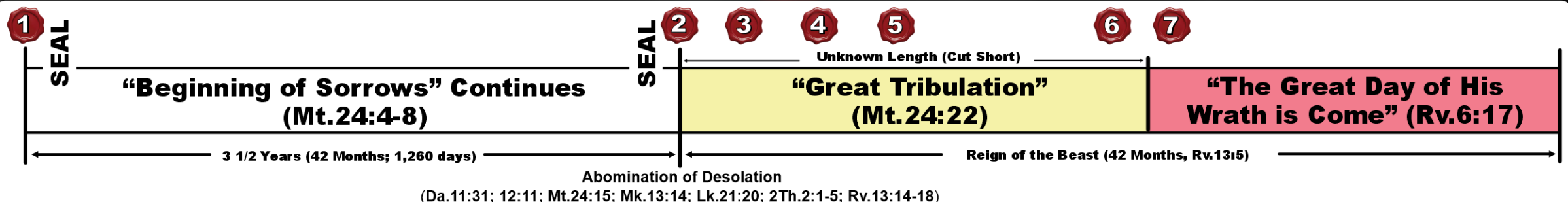


THE SEALS OF REVELATION

SEAL 5 — Condition: Martyrs

Rv.6:9-11
Martyrs in Heaven

- This seal recognizes all believers who have been killed for their faith. Many will die as martyrs.
- These martyrs are already in Heaven. Thus, it is not next in a chronological sense.
- This is a representative group for all martyrs throughout history. This is a symbolic image for the vision.
- These are not simply recent martyrs who are hanging out underneath the altar waiting (Rv.6:9) for justice to be poured out on the world.
- When we die we are brought face to face with our Lord. They are experiencing peace and joy in Christ's presence.
- These martyrs are called “souls” (6:9). That is, they do not yet have bodies. After the sixth seal these martyrs are in heaven wearing “white robes” (7:9) because they have already been resurrected (raptured). The martyrs do not consider their martyrdom to be God’s wrath upon them (Rv.6:10). They believe the wrath is still future (v.10).



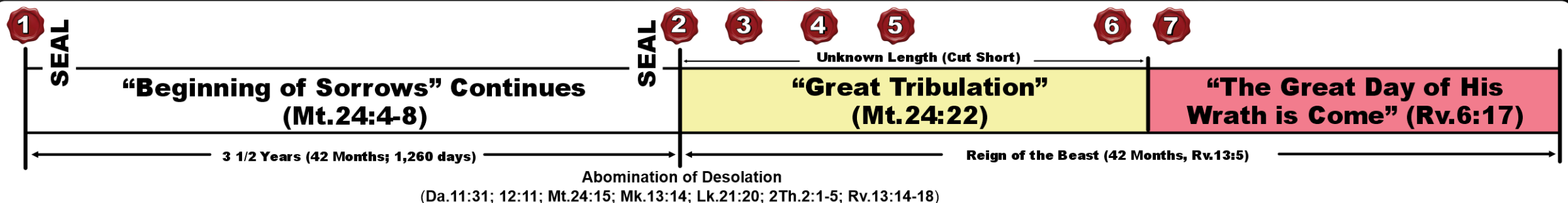
THE SEALS OF REVELATION

SEAL 6 — Day of Christ

Rv.6:12-14

Cosmic Signs (Jl.2:30-31; Mt.24:29)
then Resurrection (Rv.7:9-17)

- The Day of Christ is the arrival of Christ to gather all believers (2Th.2:1).
- **AFTER** the Tribulation of those days, Christ comes in the clouds. He does not come all the way to the earth. Believers are gathered together with Christ in the clouds (1Th.4:13-18; 2Th.2:1-2; Ti.2:13).
- This Seal interrupts the oppression of the Beast and ends the Tribulation by being “cut short” (Mt.24:22).
- The signs in the Sun, Moon, and stars will be followed by darkness (Jl.2:10, 30-31; 3:15; Am.5:20; Mt.24:29). Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear (Mt.24:30a). Believers will respond with expectation, and unbelievers will panic, mourn (Mt.24:30b) and try to hide from the face of the Father and Jesus Christ (Is.2:12-21; Rv.6:15-17).
- The arrival of Christ and the rapture occur after Revelation 6:14. The vision does not mention the arrival of Christ (Mt.24:30), nor the rapture (2Th.4:13-18). But the vision does show the response of the earth dwellers (Rv.6:15-17).
- If a rapture had just taken place, we would expect the narrative to describe (1) the condition on the earth (Rv.7:1-8) and (2) the raptured saints in Heaven (Rv.7:9-17). Chapter 7 gives us this very description. John sees the raptured saints **STANDING** before the throne as if they just got there.



THE SEALS OF REVELATION

SEAL 7 — Day of the Lord

Rv.6:15-17; 8:1-2

Wrath of God (Judgment, Rv.6:17)

- Between the 6th and 7th seal the narrative is broken.
- The content of the 7th Seal are the 7 Trumpets (Rv.8:1-6).
- The wrath of God begins to fall upon the earth dwellers via the 7 Trumpet judgments.
- This will be a judgment upon all the proud (Is.2:12-22).
- In Rv.6:17, the verb “is come” is an aorist active of *erchomai*, which indicates that the Day of wrath has NOW arrived. It speaks of the cosmic signs that just occurred.
- The 7 Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls are connected together and are three succeeding series. The 7th Seal introduces the 7 Trumpets. And the 7th Trumpet introduces the 7 Bowls.

7 SEALS

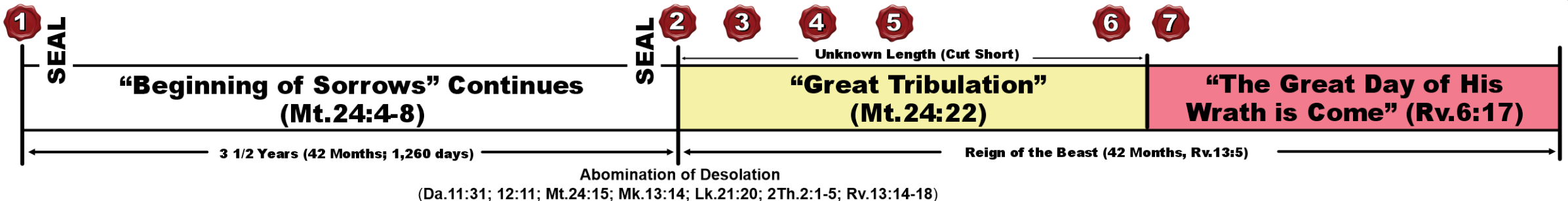
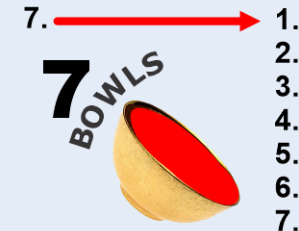


- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
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7 TRUMPETS

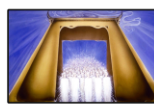


7 VIALS



JESUS' BIRTH PANGS AND THE SEALS OF REVELATION 6

Jesus spoke of events in response to His disciple's question concerning His coming and of "the end of the world" (Mt.24:3). It is significant to note that He describes events that are the same, and in the same order, as the "Seals" in the book of Revelation. It must be pointed out that the "many" (Mt.24:5) does not parallel the ONE (Rv.6:2). That is, the many false Christs, who "come in my name" (Mt.24:5) does not parallel the ONE beast (Antichrist) (Rv.6:2) who does not come in Jesus' name. The beginning birth pangs of Matthew 24:4-8 are historical trends that have been occurring since the resurrection of Jesus. The first seal describes the beginning of the 70th week of Daniel. Seal 2 begins the Great Tribulation period. And seals 3-5 symbolize the results of the Beast breaking the covenant.

70TH WEEK BEGINS  1 White Horse False Christ's ¹"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. ²And I saw, and behold a white horse: and <u>he</u> that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto <u>him</u>; and <u>he</u> went forth conquering, and to conquer." (Rv.6:1-2)	TRIBULATION BEGINS  2 Red Horse Wars & Rumors of Wars ³"And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. ⁴And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword." (Rv.6:3-4)	ECONOMIC CONTROLS  3 Black Horse Famine & Starvation ⁵"And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. ⁶And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." (Rv.6:5-6)	MUCH DEATH  4 Pale Horse Death & Martyrdom ⁷"And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. ⁸And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth." (Rv.6:7-8)	REPRESENTS ALL MARTYRS  5 Souls Under the Altar ⁹"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: ¹⁰And 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?" (Rv.6:9-10)	COMING OF CHRIST  6 Sun, Moon, Stars ¹²"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; ^{13A}And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. ... (Rv.6:12-17)
³"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? ⁴And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. ⁵For <u>many</u> shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." (Mt.24:3-5)	"And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet." (Mt.24:6)	⁷"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. ⁸All these are the beginning of sorrows." (Mt.24:7-8)	"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake." (Mt.24:9)	¹⁰"And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. ¹¹And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. ¹²And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. ¹³But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." (Mt.24:10-13)	²⁹"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: ³⁰And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." (Mt.24:29-30)

REVELATION 'SEALS' BRIEF

THE PRINCE - BEAST

CONDITIONS AFTER BREAKING COVENANT

BLESSING THEN WRATH

Daniel's 70th Week Begins

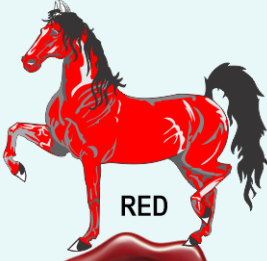


SEAL

This person will dominate politically (Rv.6:1-2). He will establish a peace treaty with Israel for 7 years (Da.9:24-27).

Rv.6:1-2

Tribulation Begins



SEAL

The person of SEAL 1 breaks his treaty with Israel 3½ years after it was confirmed (Da.7:8, 20; 8:23). This begins the reign of the Beast (Rv.13:3-7) and the start of the Great Tribulation (Mt.24:15-28).

Rv.6:3-4

Economic Controls



SEAL

The Beast will use a Mark (666) to control economic currency (Rv.6:5-6; 13:16-18). He will have control over resources so he has the authority to restrict buying and selling.

Rv.6:5-6

Much Death

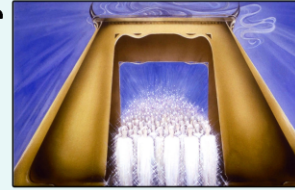


SEAL

There will be death from the sword, famine, disease, and wild animals (Rv.6:8). For the most part the deaths are from natural causes.

Rv.6:7-8

Represents All Martyrs



SEAL

Martyrs from all ages are represented as being under an altar (Rv.6:9; 13:7; Da.7:21). This is direct persecution from the Antichrist.

Rv.6:9-11

Christ Coming for Believers



SEAL

Signs in the heavens appear as Christ comes to rescue believers (Rv.6:12-17). This interrupts the Great Tribulation (Mt.24:22, "shortened"), and begins the Day of the Lord's soon coming wrath upon the earth.

Rv.6:12-14

TRUMPETS: Wrath of God



SEAL

The wrath of God falls upon the earth dwellers through the 7 TRUMPET judgments (Rv.6:12-17). The 7th SEAL is the half hour of silence in Heaven (Rv.8:1-6), and becomes the first TRUMPET.

Rv.8:1-2