

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

SEALS

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



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

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.



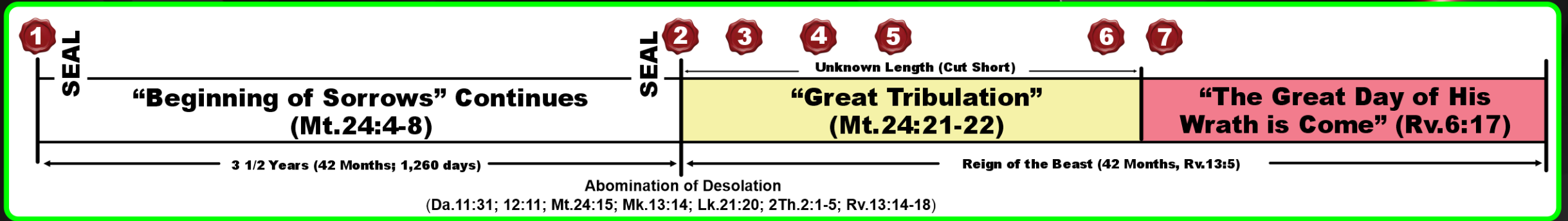
HISTORIC TRENDS: BEGINNING OF SORROWS

- 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).

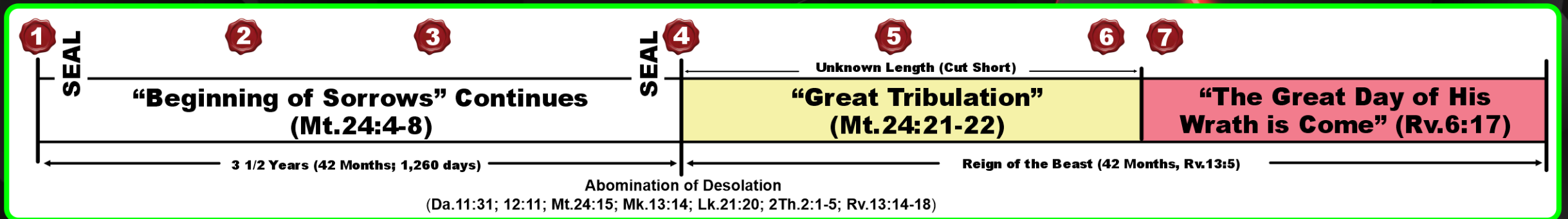
1. False Christs
2. Reign of Evil Leaders
3. Economic Problems
4. Death
5. Martyrdom

SEALS MODELS – TIMING

MODEL 1



MODEL 2



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



Antichrist (6:1-2)

WHITE HORSE - Makes Covenant



Wars (6:3-4)

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



Famine (6:5-6)

BLACK HORSE



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

PALE HORSE



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)



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)



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



PERSECUTION & THE GOSPEL

**“The world hates you”
(John 15:19)**

¹⁸"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. ²¹But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

JOHN 15:18-21

BELIEVER PERSECUTION PREDICTION

(32-64AD)

Jews who killed Jesus (Ac.2:22-23; 4:27-28) & Apostles

(64-313AD)

- > Emperor Nero (64)
- > Emperor Domitian (90's)
- > Emperor Decius (250)
- > Emperor Diocletian (303)
- > Emperor Constantine (306-337) (Forerunner of the RCC)

(313AD - Present)

- > Edict of Milan (313AD)
- > Begins The "Dark Ages"
- > RCC sources say 70 million Christians killed (conservative). 2/3rds after start of 20th century

(7th — Present)

- > Muslim Persecution against all "infidels".
- > Jihad: Fight against enemies of Islam.

LINE OF FAITH

- Acts 8, Saul; Stephen killed

- Viewed as treasonous
- Revolutionaries (another king)
- Afraid influence on lower class
- Afraid extend to slaves
- All Roman festivals tied to idol worship

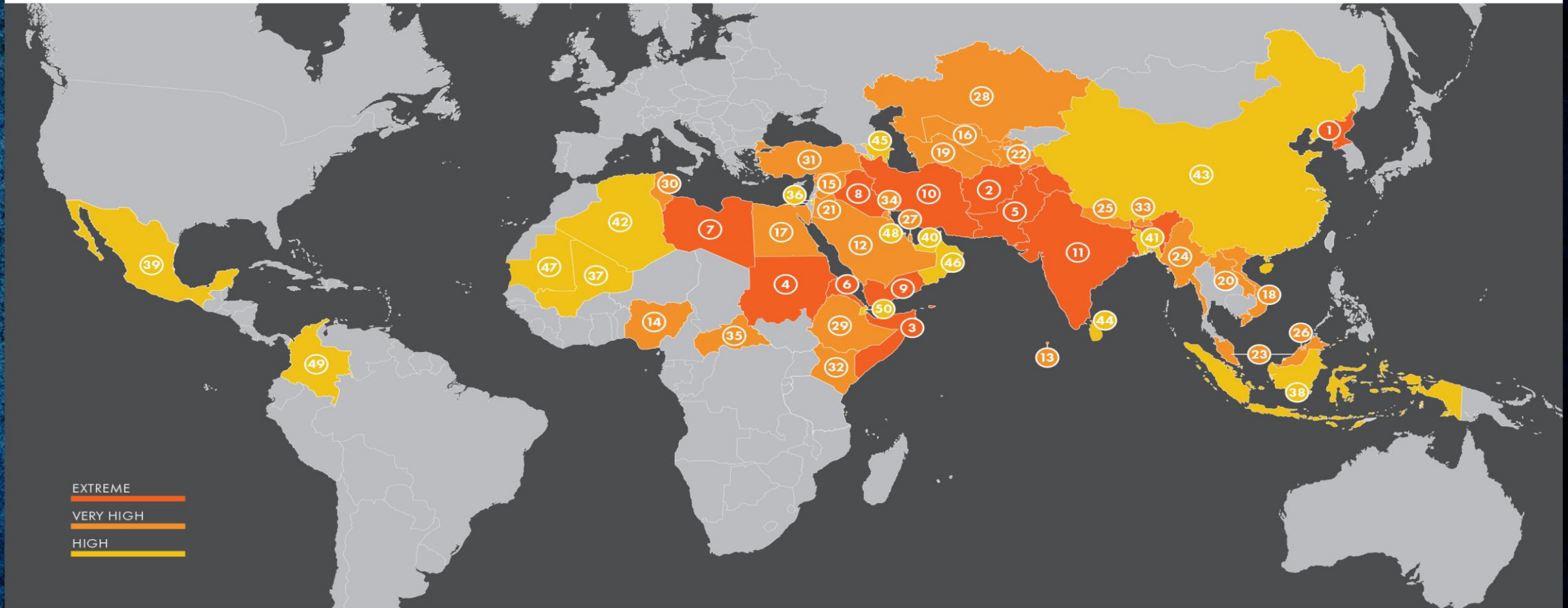
- Edict declared religious tolerance for Christianity in the Roman empire
- Why Jews liberal so-called Christians in Europe
- Jews (different laws, customs, clothing) & true Christians (Rm.12:2, be not conformed) did not integrate into the culture

- Nominal & True Christians killed

GOVERNMENT BASED

RELIGIOUS BASED





50 MOST DANGEROUS COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW JESUS:

- | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. North Korea | 11. India | 21. Jordan | 31. Turkey | 41. Bangladesh |
| 2. Afghanistan | 12. Saudi Arabia | 22. Tajikistan | 32. Kenya | 42. Algeria |
| 3. Somalia | 13. Maldives | 23. Malaysia | 33. Bhutan | 43. China |
| 4. Sudan | 14. Nigeria | 24. Myanmar | 34. Kuwait | 44. Sri Lanka |
| 5. Pakistan | 15. Syria | 25. Nepal | 35. Central African Republic | 45. Azerbaijan |
| 6. Eritrea | 16. Uzbekistan | 26. Brunei | 36. Palestinian Territories | 46. Oman |
| 7. Libya | 17. Egypt | 27. Qatar | 37. Mali | 47. Mauritania |
| 8. Iraq | 18. Vietnam | 28. Kazakhstan | 38. Indonesia | 48. Bahrain |
| 9. Yemen | 19. Turkmenistan | 29. Ethiopia | 39. Mexico | 49. Colombia |
| 10. Iran | 20. Laos | 30. Tunisia | 40. United Arab Emirates | 50. Djibouti |

EACH MONTH

322 CHRISTIANS ARE
KILLED FOR THEIR FAITH



214 CHURCHES AND
CHRISTIAN **PROPERTIES**
ARE DESTROYED



772 FORMS OF **VIOLENCE**
ARE COMMITTED AGAINST
CHRISTIANS (SUCH AS BEATINGS, ABDUCTIONS,
RAPES, ARRESTS AND FORCED MARRIAGES)



The Esther Project www.theestherproject.com
A Voice of the Persecuted Church

2016 was the worse year for Christians persecution on record

FUTURE PERSECUTION

**WILL
ALSO
BE**

RELIGIOUS

NOW — CHURCH AGE

1Jn.2:18

“Little children, it is the last hour” (1Jn.2:18)

2Tm.3:1-5

“...in the last days perilous times will come...” (2Tm.3:1)

1Tm.4:1-3

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith” (1Tm.4:1)

**The apostles wrote with the impression
that they were in the last days**

FUTURE — 2 PETER 3:1-13

³knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days...

⁴Where is the promise of His coming?...

¹⁰the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night...

¹³Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth

FUTURE — 2 PETER 3:1-13

- **The content of these mockers revolves around the second coming of Jesus.**
- **For these scoffers it has been too long for the promise to still have any credibility.**
- **They appeal to distant past promises including God coming to judge the living and the dead (Ps.96:13; 98:9).**
- **It is this coming and judgment that these scoffers mock.**
- **These appear to be Jews who are well aware of this promise.**
- **The earth has been destroyed before which refutes the scoffers claim to no changes have occurred (v.5).**

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).

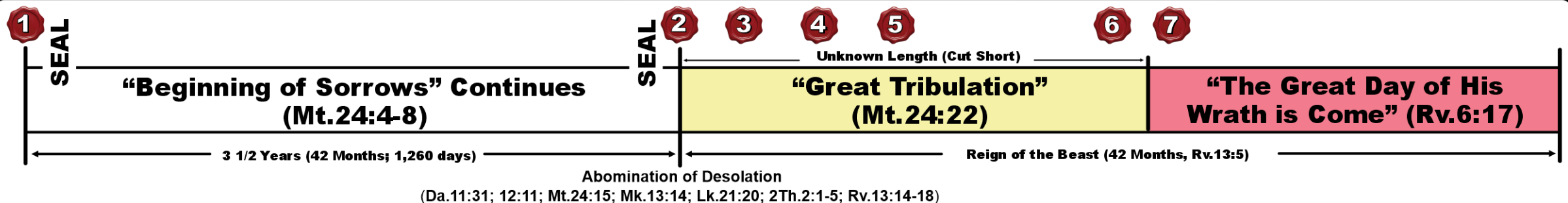
FALLEN:

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

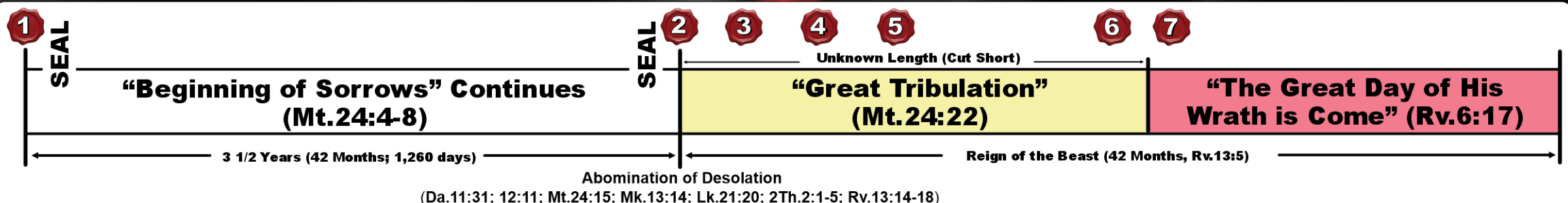
SEAL 2 — The Beast

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.**
- 
- A red horse standing on a red seal with the number 2 and the word RED. The horse is facing left and is standing on a red, circular seal that has the number '2' in white. Above the seal, the word 'RED' is written in black capital letters.



JUDAS: MODEL OF BETRAYAL

The other disciples were completely unaware Judas was the one

²¹When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." ²²Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.

JOHN 13:21-22



THE

MATTHEW 24:9-12; LUKE 18:8; 1TIMOTHY 4:1; REVELATION 12:17; 13:7

APOSTASY

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

**³Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
(2 Thessalonians 2:3)**

THE FALLING AWAY

THE APOSTASY (ἡ ἀποστασία)

- As a noun *apostasia* occurs two times in the New Testament (Ac.21:21 and 2Th.2:3). Both refer to an ideological departure.
- In the Septuagint (LXX) it refers to an ideological departure (Js.22:22; 2Ch.29:19; 33:19; Ez.4:19; Je.2:19).

A defiance of an established system or authority, rebellion, abandonment, breach of faith.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-4 — THE APOSTASY

PAST: (52AD)

Thessalonian's Misunderstanding

COMMENTS

- Some taught the Thessalonians that they were experiencing the Day of the Lord (**2Th.2:3**). They were taught they missed the rapture creating despair.
- Paul laid a foundation of hope teaching that they will be delivered at the Revelation of Christ before the Day of the Lord judgment (**2Th.1:5-10**). Since the apostasy and the revealing of the Lawless one has not yet occurred, they could not be in the Day of the Lord's wrath.

FUTURE: (Prerequisites)

1. The Apostasy (False Believers)
2. The Revealing (Man of Sin)

COMMENTS

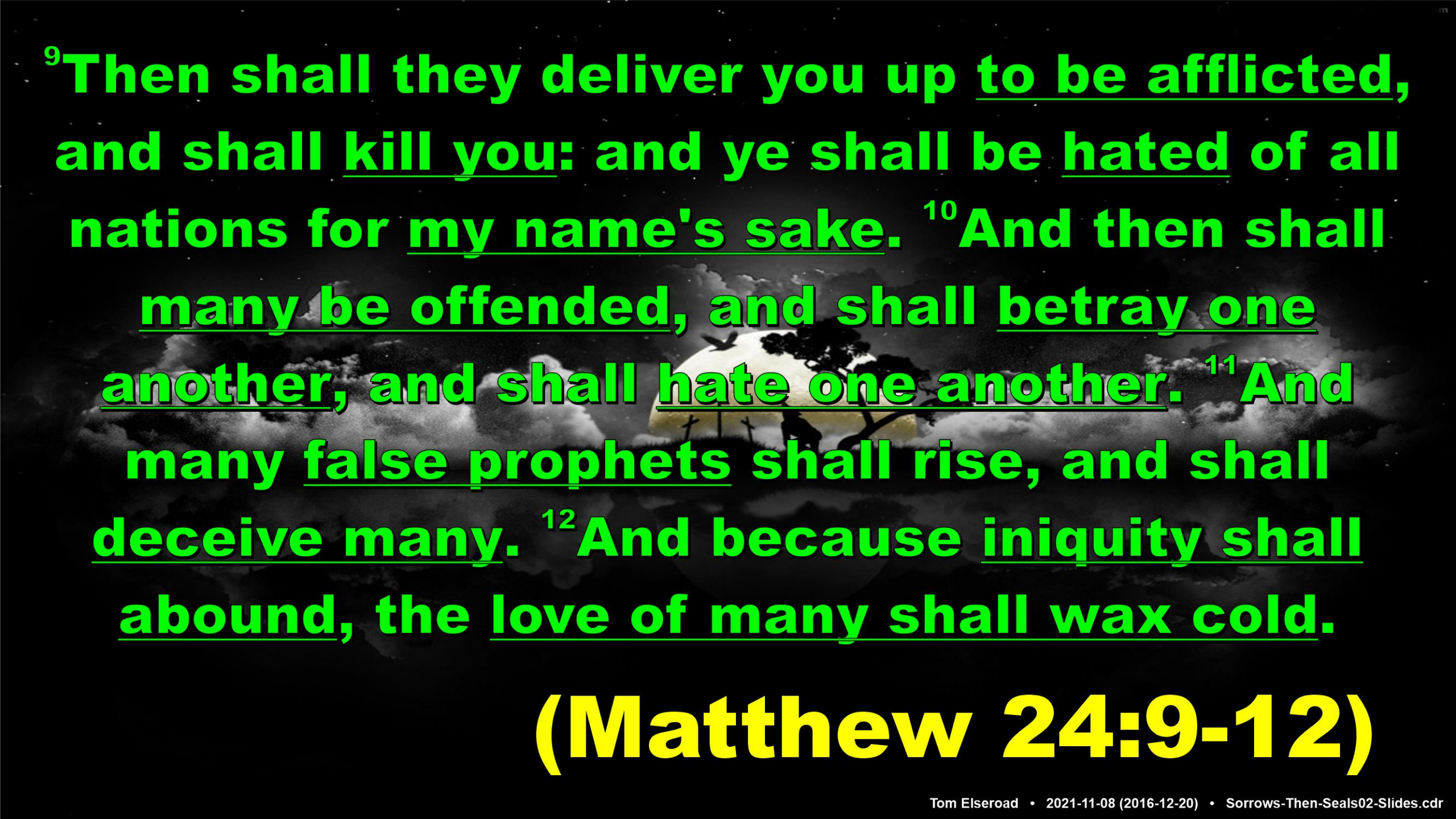
- That the word "falling away" (*apostasia*) is accompanied by the Greek article (*ho*, "the") points to a specific and more discernible eschatological event.
- Paul expected the recipients of the letter to know about the apostasy and revelation of Antichrist (**2Th.2:5,15**). This certainly has already been taught in Scripture.
- Jesus taught that there will be a time of great Tribulation (**Mt.24:9**). That is, there will be a great falling away because of intense hatred and persecution toward believers (**Mt.10:22; 24:9-25**). This will be an unparalleled time in human history (**Mt.24:9-12**), and of unknown duration. This will be so intense that Jesus said it will be "cut short" for the sake of the elect (**Mt.24:22**).

FUTURE: (Unbeliever: Judgment)
(Believer: Blessed Hope)

Day of the Lord

COMMENTS

- The revelation of Christ is the "blessed hope" of the believer (**Ti.2:13; 2Th.2:1**). The believer looks forward to that day.
- The revelation of the Antichrist is the beginning of the Great Tribulation (**Mt.24:15, 9-14**).



⁹Then 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. ¹⁰And 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.

(Matthew 24:9-12)

THE APOSTASY

- **“Deliver you to be afflicted” (Mt.24:9)**
- **“Shall kill you” (Mt.24:9)**
- **“Shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake” (Mt.24:9)**
- **“Many be offended” (Mt.24:10)**
- **“Shall betray one another” (Mt.24:10)**
- **“Shall hate one another” (Mt.24:10)**



- **“Many false prophets... shall deceive many” (Mt.24:11)**
- **“Iniquity shall abound... love... shall wax cold” (Mt.24:12)**
- **“Great tribulation...not since the beginning... nor ever shall be” (Mt.24:21)**
- **“There shall arise false christs... if possible... shall deceive the very elect” Mt.24:24)**
- **“Behold, I have told you before” (Mt.24:25)**
- **“Except those days should be shortened... no flesh saved... but for the elect’s sake” (Mt.24:22)**

**And it was given unto him to
make war with the saints, and
to overcome them: and power
was given him over all
kindreds, and tongues, and
nations.**

(Revelation 13:7)

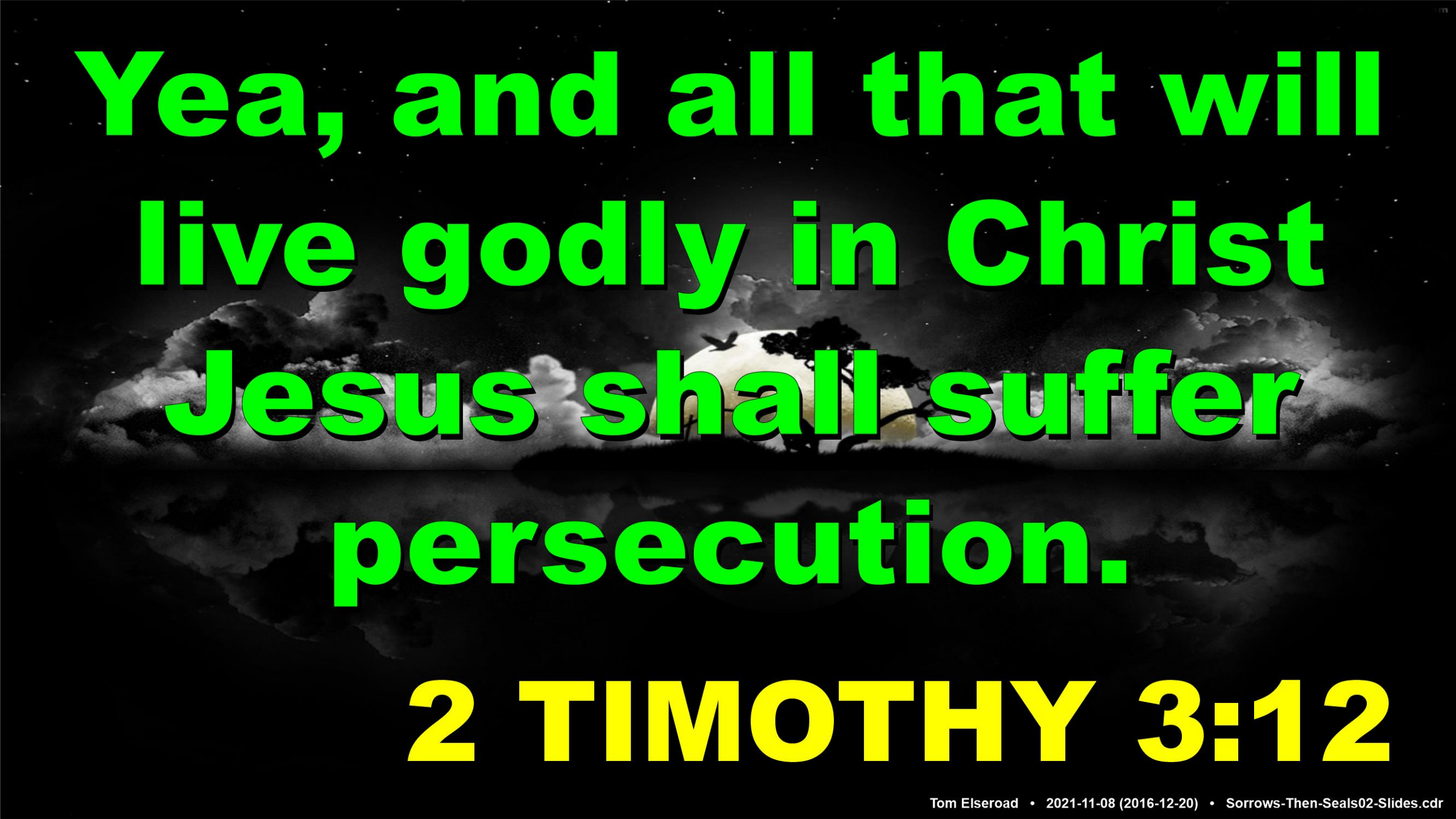
¹³And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, ¹⁴And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

(Revelation 13:13-14)

APOSTASY QUESTIONS

? What is easier, living for Christ or dying for Christ?

? What is worse, dying for Christ or apostatizing from Christ?



**Yea, and all that will
live godly in Christ
Jesus shall suffer
persecution.**

2 TIMOTHY 3:12

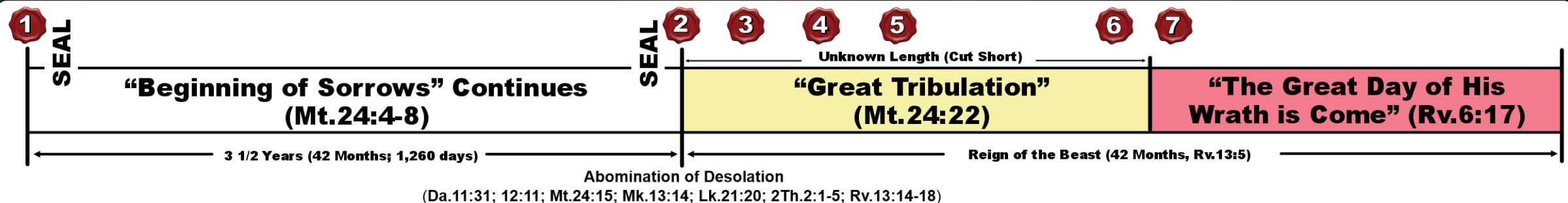
THE SEALS OF REVELATION

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)



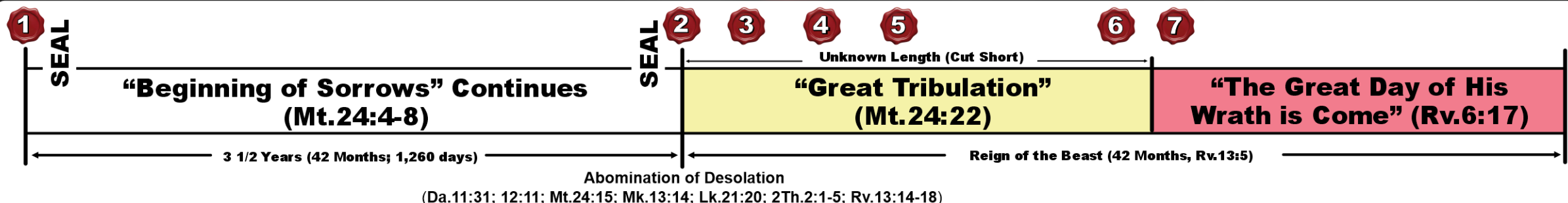
THE SEALS OF REVELATION

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.

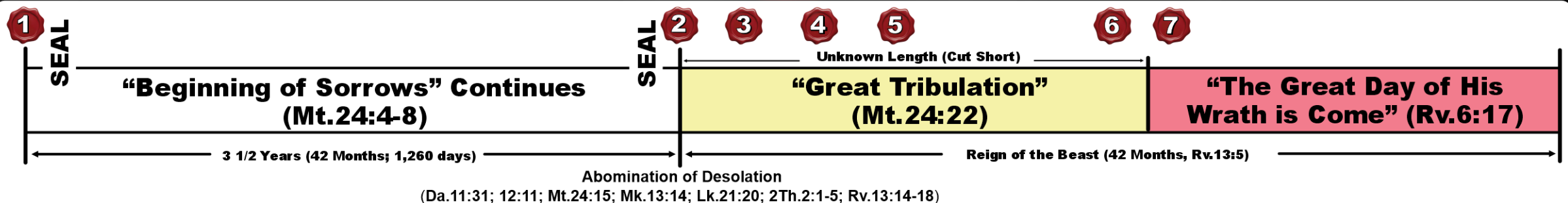


THE SEALS OF REVELATION

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).



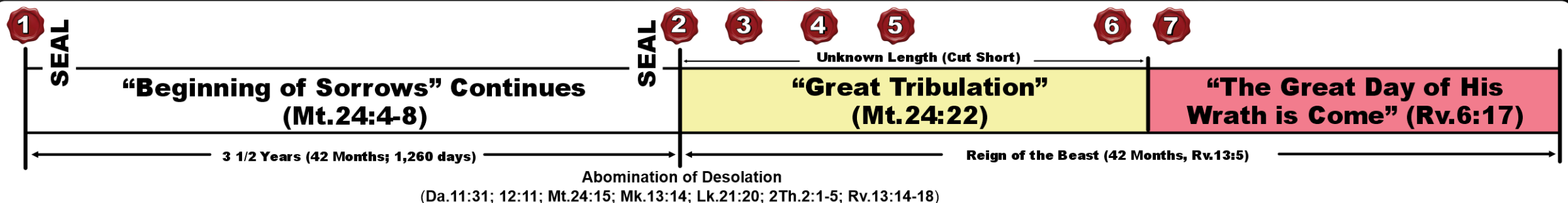
THE SEALS OF REVELATION

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

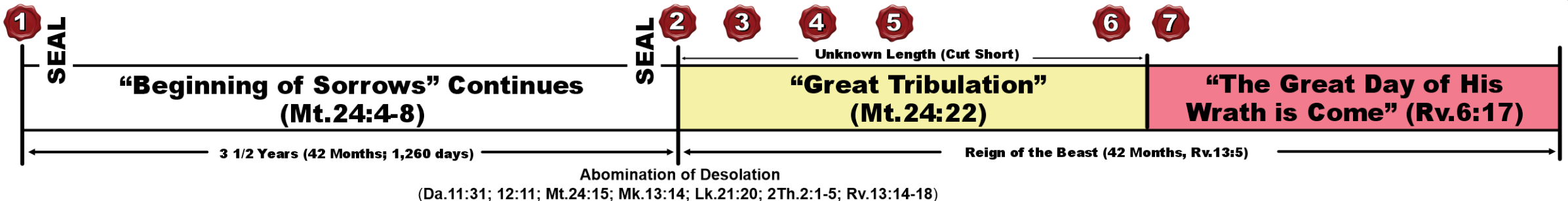
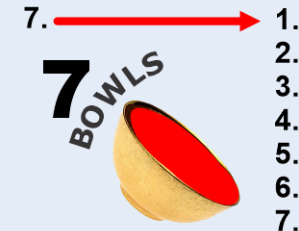


- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

7 TRUMPETS



7 VIALS



REVELATION 'SEALS' BRIEF

THE PRINCE - BEAST

CONDITIONS AFTER BREAKING COVENANT

BLESSING THEN WRATH

Daniel's 70th Week Begins

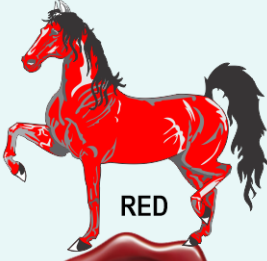


SEAL

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

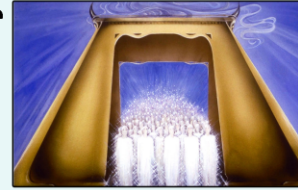


SEAL

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