

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: 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

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

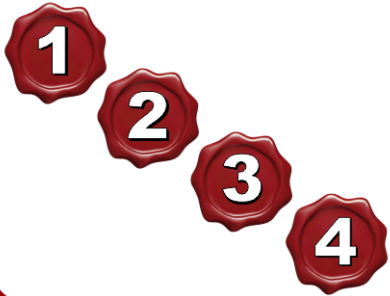
The Covenant
Created

Middle of
Daniel's 70th Week

The Covenant
Broken

PROGRESSION OF GOD'S WRATH

1-4 Seal

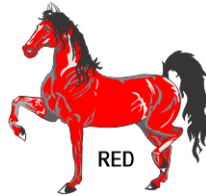


PROVES The Guilt for God's Wrath (Rv.6:1,3,5,7)

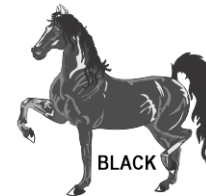
“come and see” (v.1)



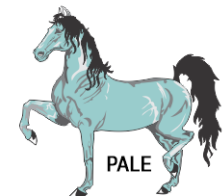
“come and see” (v.3)



“come and see” (v.5)



“come and see” (v.7)



5th Seal



PROMISES God's Wrath (Rv.6:9-10)

“¹⁰How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth? ...¹¹rest a little while longer” (Rv.6:10-11)



6th Seal



PORTENDS God's Wrath (Rv.6:17)

“For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” (Rv.6:17) **2 Remnant Groups PROTECTED (Rv.7, 144K & Church)**



7th Seal



PRONOUNCES God's Wrath (Rv.8–9; 15–16)

“there was silence in heaven for about half an hour” (Rv.8:1)



PROGRESSION OF GOD'S WRATH

1-4 Seal



PROVES The Guilt for God's Wrath (Rv.6:1,3,5,7)

God wants us to “come and see” the condition on the earth that will prove the guilt of the inhabitants

5th Seal



PROMISES God's Wrath (Rv.6:9-10)

The martyred saints ask how long before God will bring judgement. God promises them to just “rest a little while longer”

6th Seal



PORTENDS God's Wrath (Rv.6:17)

It is announced that judgment is inevitable and “who is able to stand” when it comes. The implication is no one.

7th Seal



PRONOUNCES God's Wrath (Rv.8–9; 15–16)

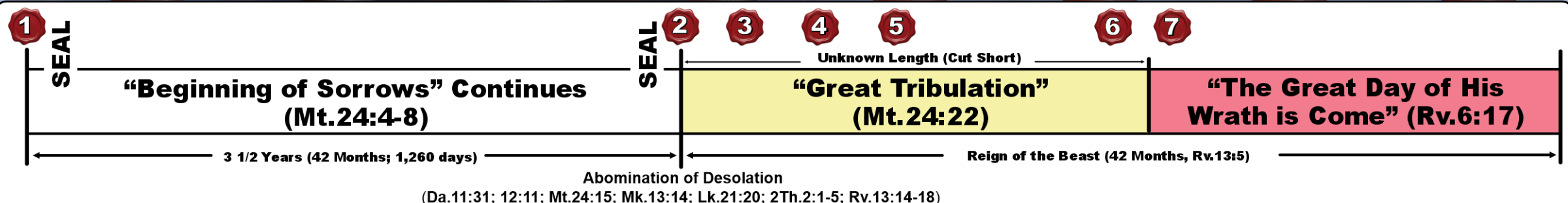
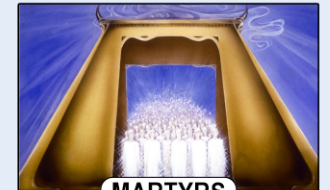
The wrath of God is starting specifically through the trumpet then bowl judgments

THE SEALS OF REVELATION

SEAL 5 — Condition: Martyrs

Rv.6:9-11
Martyrs in Heaven

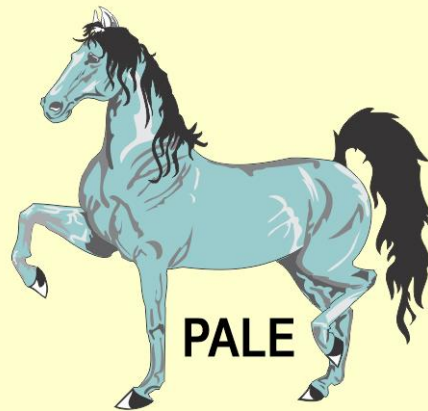
- This seal recognizes all believers who have been killed for their faith. Many will die as martyrs.
- These martyrs are already in Heaven. It is not saying that they are being killed. So, it is not next in a chronological sense.
- This is a representative group for all martyrs throughout history.
- 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. We experience 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.17).



NATURAL DEATH SEEN

Scene on Earth

SEAL 4

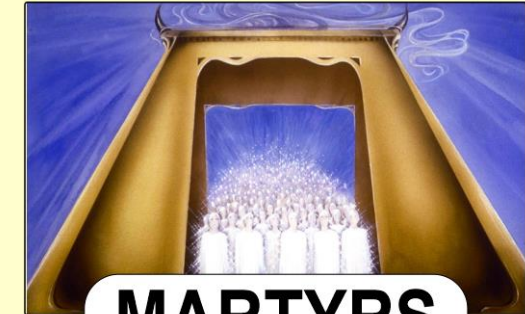


PEOPLE ARE KILLED BY:

- **Sword:** Seal 2 are those who do not comply with beast worship. Here it refers to using violence to obtain items from the famine.
- **Hunger:** Result of famine
- **Death:** Result of disease
- **Beasts:** Attacks by wild animals
("My four severe judgments," Je. 15:2-3; 24:10; 29:17-18; Ek. 5:12; 5:17; 14:21)

Scene in Heaven

SEAL 5



- These are representatives of all believers who have been martyred for their faith, from both the Old and New Testaments.
- These martyrs recognize that their fate is not the result of the Lord's judgment which they affirm is still future (v. 10, 17).
- These martyrs are called "souls". That is, they do not yet have bodies. They were given "white robes" and told to rest a little longer before they can wear them.

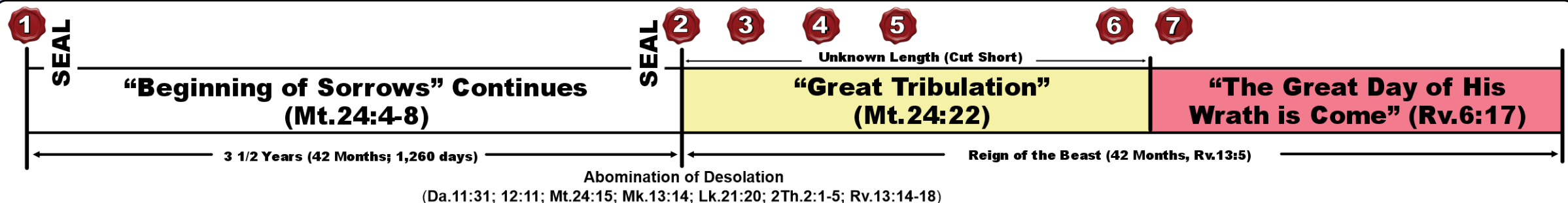
THE SEALS OF REVELATION

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.



COSMIC SCENE & ASSOCIATED EVENTS

Joel 2:30-31; Mt:24:29-30; Mk.13:24-27; Lk.21:25-28; Rv.6:12-14



Earthquake

Joel; Matthew; John



Sun Grows Dark

Joel; Matthew; Luke; John



Moon Loses Light

Joel; Matthew; Luke; John



Stars Lose Light

Matthew; Luke; John



Sky Departs as a Scroll

Luke; John



Islands and Mountains Moved

Luke; John

THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN

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 (Mt.24:30)

- It will be seen all around the world as it permeates the total darkness.
- There is likely not much time gap between the SIGNS and the SIGN.
- When the unbelievers see Jesus they will panic (Lk.21:25-28).
- It is AFTER Christ's arrival that "all the tribes of the earth will mourn" (Rv.1:7).



WRATH COMES AFTER COSMIC SIGNS

Rv.6:15-17

The unbeliever's fear, in context, is directly connected with them seeing the **SIGNS**

Lk.21:25-26

“²⁶men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth”

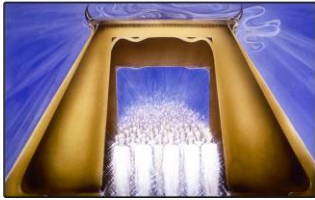
Rv.7:1-3

Harming the earth and sea is anticipated wrath of God. It is delayed until the conversion of the 144,000 bond servants

Rv.8:1-5

Shows that the judgments of the trumpets constitute the anticipated wrath of God.

THE RESULT OF THE 6TH SEAL



Rv.6:9-11

(Scene in HEAVEN)

- These are called “souls” because they have not yet received their resurrected bodies.
- Their question, “how long” is not personal revenge, but vindication of God’s holiness, and the desire to establish God’s justice.
- They are given “white robes” and asked to “rest” or wait a little longer. More will be martyred first.



Rv.6:12-17

(Scene on EARTH)

- The first 6 seals were consecutive and uninterrupted.
- The events of Revelation 7 is a delay between the 6th & 7th seals.
- What is so important that it breaks the continuity between Christ’s Coming (6th) and the start of the wrath of God (7th) Seal?

(REVELATION 7)

(Scene on EARTH, v.1-8)

(Scene in HEAVEN, v.9-17)

Before the 7th seal is opened two groups are delivered:

- 144,000
- The Church



Rv.8:1-5

(Scene on EARTH)

- The scroll is opened and the wrath of God begins as the trumpets.
- There is silence in Heaven for a half hour (Zp.1:7). Something huge (DOTL) is about to take place.

REVELATION 7 PURPOSE

Revelation 7 is the answer to the question asked in Rv.6:17, “Who shall be able to stand”?

- 1. The 144,000 on the earth will be able to stand**
- 2. The newly raptured church, now in heaven, will be able to stand**

If a rapture had just taken place, we would expect the narrative to describe:

- 1. The condition on the Earth (Rv.7:1-8)**
- 2. The raptured saints in Heaven (Rv.7:9-17)**

UNPARALLELED PERIOD OF TIME

BIBLE TEXT	TEXT NOTE
¹ Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For <u>the day of the LORD is coming</u> , For it is at hand: ² A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, <u>The like of whom has never been</u> ; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations. (Jl.2:1-2)	<i>This is an “alarm” warning that the “day of the LORD is coming”. Thus, this unparalleled period of time may include the day of the LORD.</i>
At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And <u>there shall be a time of trouble</u> , Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. (Da.12:1)	<i>Michael, who watches over Israel, will “stand up” which initiates a “time of trouble”, yet those “in the book” will be “delivered”</i>
Alas! For that day is great, <u>So that none is like it</u> ; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it. (Je.30:7)	<i>This is called the “time of Jacob’s trouble”</i>
For then there will be great tribulation, such as has <u>not been since the beginning of the world until this time</u> , no, <u>nor ever shall be</u> . (Mt.24:21)	<i>It is called “great tribulation”</i>
For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has <u>not been since the beginning</u> of the creation which God created until this time, <u>nor ever shall be</u> (Mk.13:19)	<i>It is described as “tribulation”</i>

SUMMARY

This is the time just prior to the start of the Day of the LORD. This is the period of time between the “abomination of desolation” (Mt.24:15) at the mid-point of Daniel’s 70th Week, and Christ’s coming for His saints (Mt.24:29-31). Jesus spoke of this period being “shortened” lest “no flesh” would survive it (Mt.24:22). This period is shortened for the elect’s sake.

UNPARALLELED PERIOD OF TIME

THE UNPARALLELED PERIOD



**Beginning of
Daniel's 70th Week**

Daniel 12:1

“At that time Michael shall stand up... there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time.”

Matthew 24:21-22

²¹For 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. ²²And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

(Je.30:7; Mk.13:19)

7 SEALS



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

7 TRUMPETS



7 VIALS



UNPARALLELED: RESURRECTION & THE WICKED

DA.12:1, 2, 10

¹At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. ²And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt. ¹⁰Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly...

MT.24:21, 22, 31

²¹For 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. ²²And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. ³¹And 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.

**Unparalleled
Time of Great
Tribulation
Ends With
Resurrection,
Yet the Wicked
Will Continue
To Do Wickedly**

3 SUMMARY CONCEPTS

Unparalleled Time of All History

Great Tribulation

Da.12:1; Mt.24:21

Unparalleled Time Ends with Resurrection

Rapture

Da.12:2; Mt.24:31

Unbelievers Continue to do Wickedly

Day of the Lord

Da.12:10; Mt.24:40

ANTICHRIST'S PERSECUTION IS AGAINST TWO GROUPS OF PEOPLE

- Da.12:1 concerns Israel in general (“your people”) and true believers (those “written in the book”) — Separation

- Mt.24:21 concerns the elect believers aka, the church (Mt.24:9, “because of my name”)

- It will be the worse period of tribulation for both groups

- But for the church those days will be ‘cut short’ before the end of the 70th Week (Mt.24:21-22)

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). Technically, the 7th Seal is the half hour of silence.
- 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

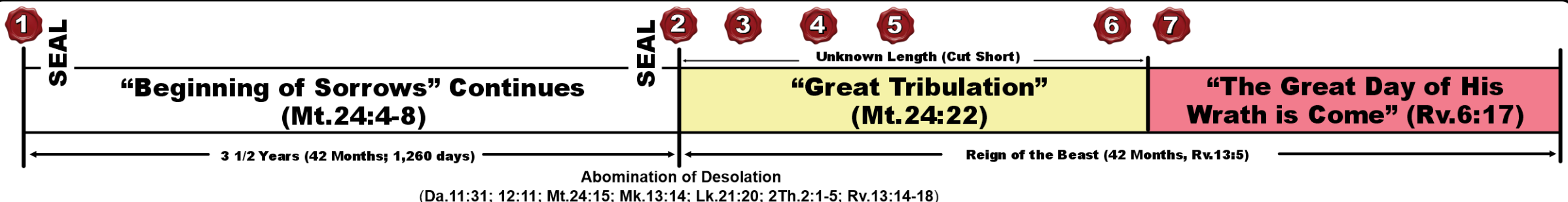


- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

7 VIALS



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



The 7 Seals of Revelation



REVELATION 'SEALS' BRIEF

THE PRINCE - BEAST

CONDITIONS AFTER BREAKING COVENANT

BLESSING THEN WRATH

Daniel's 70th Week Begins

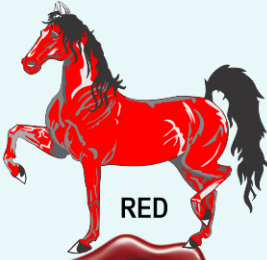


SEAL

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

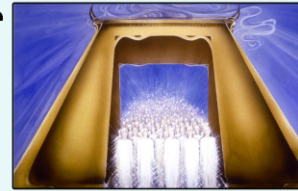


SEAL

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.6:12-17

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