

## Transcript\* – Seven Seals – John Klundt 9/22/2024

Well good morning everybody. It's great to see you this morning. So, my name is John Klundt, one of the pastors here. And, we're in a series going through a revelation. And if you didn't or haven't been here as we been going through it, a great way to catch up is to go online [bccmesa.com](http://bccmesa.com), and you can get caught up to where we are today, which is in chapter six, and we're going to go all the way today.

We're going to cover a lot of ground. We're going to go from six all the way through the first five verses of chapter eight. So just as a reminder, as we've been going through this, one of the things we've been saying, is, hey, revelation, people have a lot of opinions about revelation and about how, to interpret it.

And our thinking is this, that, we want to approach this with mutual respect and humility and, we want to honor each other as we go through our time together today. Having said that, if you don't agree with me, which could happen, That's okay. That's all right. But let's still honor and and go through it with a respectful way and, approach as we go through this, we're again going to be in chapter six, and we've gone through the first five chapters and we've seen some incredible things unfold in, in revelation.

And as we go through the next, several chapters, what we see is three particular judgments that happen. We see the seals, which is what we're going to cover today, literally the seven seals. Then there's the seven trumpets and the seven bowls. And so breaking these out, they're a little bit different. And the way that the the trumpets and the bowls unfold is really parallel in a lot of ways to how, the story that we see in Exodus with the Israelites in the Egyptians unfolds in particularly with the plagues.

And so that as we get into that in the next couple weeks, what we're going to see is how, in particular, when it comes to judgment. And I, I want to say this and I'm not trying to shock anybody, but revelation really talks about the end and like, and that's what these judgments are going to talk about. And so as we go look at the trumpets and the bulls, what we're going to see is really how God is going to bring the judgments on people who are outside of his will, the evil people, the unrepentant people, the people who chose not to believe where today we're going to talk about through the Seals, the seven

seals in particular, are how it's going to end and what it's going to look like for the people of God. We're both going to go through it, but there's going to be a difference how it unfolds in regards to the way it works. And so as we look at it, as we set the seals up, that's how we're going to see it is how how is this going to be for the people of, of, of God?

And I hope as we continue to go through this, what we're seeing is so incredible. It's so amazing. My hope is that this is helping us along for, what heaven one day will be for us. Like, there's an anticipation and an excitement, an understanding that, hey, yeah, it's not great here on earth sometimes, but, boy, if we remain faithful, there's something so good for us in how it's going to all wrap up, and and and we will talk about the end because there there's literally a judgment in judgment, as the seals unfold today.

So in chapter six, verse one, that's where we're going to start reading. We're going to read the first eight verses. So it's it's pretty long, but but this is all the way we need to look at this, is that these are all happening at one particular time. Okay. As he's opening up these seals. So I now watch the the lamb open one of the seven seals.

And I heard one of the living creatures say with a voice like thunder, come. And I looked and behold, a white horse and its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him. And he came out conquering. And to conquer. I guess that's what people who want to conquer do. They conquer, right? And when he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, come, and out came another horse, bright red.

Its rider was, permitted to take peace from the earth so that people would slay one another. And he was given a great sword. When he opened the third seal, I heard the living creatures say, come. And I looked, and behold, a black horse and its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, and saying, A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil in the wine.

When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the four living creatures say, say, come. And I looked, and behold, a pale horse and its rider's name was death. And Hades followed him, and they were given authority over the fourth of the earth to kill with the sword, and with famine, and with pestilence, and by wild beasts of the earth.

So the first thing that's really important, and we've been talking about this, and particularly in chapter four and five, and actually all the first five chapters, but that we need to make sure that we do not forget there is one who opened the seal. And he said in verse one, John says, the lamb opened the seal. The lamb was the one that instigated it and started it, and which helps us to be reminded that without the lamb doing it, it would not be permissible and it would not be allowed.

Which means the lamb who represents Jesus in this case that's Jesus, is the one who has the authority and the sovereignty to open the seals. If we can continue to be reminded in this day, September 22nd, 2024, that Jesus is sovereign and he has authority over it all, and as he's instituting this, it's only happening because he is allowing it to happen.

And we're going to get into the why of the of the why it's happening, but we're going to see how it unfolds. But Jesus is sovereign and he's given permission for these things to unfold. And it would not happen unless he allowed it to happen. And as we see the big picture unfold, what we're going to see is that in our world today that he is still sovereign.

He is still in control, and we can not forget it. Can we be reminded of that today? Who is in control? Jesus. Thank you a spectacular. So he says, hey, the ears. The first seal. The seal gets open and it's only opened because the attention of the four creatures, which we saw already, being described in in chapter four.

And you see the four creatures are going to help us open each of the seal. And out of that seal comes a white horse, and its rider has a bow. And then there's a red horse, and its rider takes peace, and it's got a great sword. And then there's the the black horse. And we'll just talk about the black horse in just a little bit.

But really that's related to, to economic suffering and difficulties. And then there's the Pale Horse, which as we see that rider has death and Hades and just causes all kinds of havoc. So the question that most of us want to figure out, well, who, who's the writer of each one of the horses and yeah, that that's important. But more importantly, it's what the seal is allowing them to do.

Now, as we unfold the the scene here, what needs to be seen is that all four of these writers are happening at the exact same time, and that's been happening this way since the first

coming of Jesus. And it's going to continue to happen until the very second coming of Jesus, when Jesus returns and it wraps up all right.

So they're all at the exact same time that each seal is opened. But this is what is happening. And they're actually working together, each one of these horses. And here's what they're bringing about. So the first one says, hey, it's got a white white horse. And this rider on it has a bow. And they are bent on nothing less than conquering.

And they want to conquer things and think with me through all of history. What do we know? There's always been at least someone or some nation that's wanting to take, a group of people or land, and they wanted to conquer people. That's been that way since, since the very beginning of time. And it's continuing to happen even as we speak today.

The seal was opened, and the rider comes out and is bent on conquering. We we can see it in our in our eyes, because we know of times in history when there's been people or nations who want to conquer other nations, they want to take their land, they want to take their property, they want to take the people themselves, and they're bent on conquering them, but they can't do it alone.

So here comes the second seal of the horse. That's that's red. And this horse brings,

The taking away of of peace again. The conquering, the taking away of peace and has a great sword and is beginning to to wreak havoc, to do what we know is called war. And then it gets to the the black horse. And I don't know if you noticed the description, which was very interesting when it comes to the black horse.

I want to read what the black horse rider does. It says a quart of wheat for a denarius. That's not like a bow or a sword, which is what we think of when we think of conquering in three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil in the wine. So think about it this way when it comes to the unfolding of this third seal, anytime there is conquering, anytime there is peace that is being taken and war that has been brought among the people.

It it causes suffering on the people. But more than just all the people, the people who get hurt the most are the people who are the least of these, the ones who are poor and they work. They work all day, and at the end of the day, all they have enough is to buy the the food for that day, but not for their entire family.

Just for themselves alone. So there brings it brings suffering literally on the people who are experiencing this the least of these. And think about, think about our our world today. We know there's a couple of different wars that are happening, over in Israel. There's another one in Ukraine. And what we know when war breaks out, when there's conquering, when peace is taken, that there are people, the innocent people, the the people who are in poverty, who get hurt the most because of it.

And they are the ones who suffer more consequences than those who are actually waging the war and conquering and taking the peace. And so these people are suffering economically, and we can go, oh, yeah, that makes sense. We see that happening to the people right now who are experiencing war. The there are some who get a lot and get rich because of war.

But the multitude of people are experienced seeing suffering because of it. And then it describes the, the last rider, which is the pale rider. So one of the things I got to tell you, in

the end of July, went up to New York and went out on a boat to fish with my, son and his family.

And we were out on one of the big seas, lakes. And it was it was a great day. And as we were driving out, and going heading out to go fishing like it was just, I was so amazing. And and then when we stopped and we started fishing, by the way, we were catching really huge fish, and it was incredible.

But we stopped and and this is what started to happen. The boat just began to go up and down and up and down and up and down. And when it describes the horse that's pale, it really the actual wording is actually more like a green color. I think that's the color I had because I was getting so sick.

Now I want you to know, I wobbled, but I didn't jump. It didn't come out. Boy, I really wanted it to, though I might tell you that much right now. But the horse, the rider, it says that death and then Hades followed and it created incredible destruction in its path. And so all four of these horses and these riders are happening at the same time.

And we look at culture and we see over time that these are things that continually happened throughout history, and they're happening as we speak right now. And they will go on until Jesus returns, until the end of the end. And here's what we here's what we learned the most, that when there is war, people will suffer, including the people of God.

And whether that's a actual physical war, well, that's a spiritual battle. There is suffering that happens. Now, here's the thing. When it comes to what we're experiencing today. The question is when things unfold and difficulty happens. And again, we're not we're not in the midst of a war, and we're not experiencing persecution because of our faith in Jesus, which the people of of that time were.

And we we know about the seven churches in Asia. As, John was writing about them, some of those churches were experiencing persecution, but not all of them were experiencing persecution. But there was hardship. And in the midst of that, here's what we see happen. People in our world today, right here in this room, have to come to the conclusion about what they believe about Jesus.

If hardship and difficulty and sometimes persecution and sometimes issues that are relational happen in the culture that or that you're facing and you're experiencing, here's the question will you stay faithful? Will you stay committed? Or will you say, I can't if God is going to allow this, I can't do this anymore. And see, the intent of this, of this chapter is we're going to go through this is to give us more encouragement and more confidence that, yeah, it's worth it.

It's worth it to stay faithful. It's worth it to stay true to the end. But there are times when it's like, man, I don't know if I can. I don't know if I can trust God anymore because he's allowing this to happen to me, or he's allowing this to happen in this world, or, or why would God do this?

And so we're asking these questions. And as these seals are being opened, what we're seeing is that, yes, bad stuff is going to happen and there will be suffering in the midst of it. The question will be, what will we do when it happens? And will we stay faithful? And so these scenes are to give us this idea that, yeah, we can stay faithful.

And by the way, judgment is coming and it doesn't mean it's all going to be easy for the followers of Jesus. Actually listen as he opens up the next the next seal. So when he opened

the fifth seal, it says, I saw under the altar of the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God, and for the witness they had borne.

So there were people who are believers in Jesus who continue to profess Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Because they stayed faithful, they had their life taken from them because they stayed faithful. They were persecuted because of their faith, but they remained faithful. They remain true. They remain committed. They did not give up even when all kinds of hardships came their way.

Here we think about that, and we think about what would happen if you were faced with persecution or suffering. Would you remain faithful? It's interesting in the next couple of verses, in verses ten and 11, the people who were the ones who were being put to death were asking the question, hey, God, when are you going to where are you going to get when are you going to get avenge the blood that's been shed?

When are you going to avenge the blood? You would think, oh, no, the people of God. They're just going to be like, hey, you know, forgiven for what they did and they shouldn't have done that because most of us and I want to say this, most of us have never been under that kind of suffering and under that kind of persecution, we probably don't understand crying out to God and asking God to avenge the blood that's been shed.

Because we've never been suppressed like that. We've never been persecuted like that. We've never been put to. But the people were asking like, hey, God, this is happening. And as the seal is being opened up and persecution is being allowed of your people, and don't forget, the one who is sovereign over it all is allowing it. He's allowing the suffering, the hardship and the persecution.

And the people are saying, hey, like, when are you going to avenge this? It's interesting that God's response is, so more people are going to die. More people, which means they're going to be more suffering. There's gonna be more hardship is gonna be more difficulty. What do we know about the kingdom? What do we know about the kingdom of God in relationship to suffering?

That really for those who are in Christ, that victory comes through suffering. Victory comes through suffering. And how we know that is because that's exactly how we have victory in the name of Jesus. Jesus experienced suffering not because he committed any sin, not because he did anything inherently wrong, but because he went to the cross for us.

He was persecuted for us. He was beaten for us. He was nailed to a cross for us. He was put to death for us. That is suffering. Now. On the other side of it, there was victory, but first there had to be suffering. And that's the same thing for us in this room today. There's going to be suffering all the way to the very end.

And the question for God's people is, are we going to stay faithful even when the suffering comes, even when there's hardships, even when we look around and there's injustice that's happening in the world, will we remain true and faithful? Will we? Will we stand firm and deep with what we believe about Jesus? And that's again, that's the question that we have before us.

And so he says, the end. The fifth seal opened up, and there's going to be more suffering. But can we say this one more time? Victory comes through the suffering.

And although maybe we haven't experience suffering because of who we believe Jesus to be, we experience suffering because we live in a broken and fallen world. One day there will

be a physical death for all people. That is true. We experience that. And then he goes on to open the sixth seal. And I got to tell you, this is the end.

It's the can. Would you like for me to read to you how the end unfolds? Here we go. Good news. When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth. The full moon became like blood. Everybody likes to talk about the blood moon. There it is. And the stars of the sky fell to the earth as a fig tree sheds its winter fruit.

When it was shaken by a gale, the sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up. And every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the great ones and the generals, and the rich and the powerful, and everyone slave and free, hid themselves in the caves, among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains.

And the rocks fall on us, and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the lamb. For the great day of their wrath has come. And who can stand? We're going to come back to that question in just a minute, because ultimately, that is the important question that we need to answer today.

Who can stand? And so what we see unfold here is a judgment over all of creation. Listen to the things he says, like, hey, the earthquake and and the the mountains and and the, the islands. By the way, at any point in time, if a star would fall to the earth, it would be the end. It says many stars falling to the earth.

If a mountain was removed, it would be the end. If an island went away, it would be the end. This is. This is the end. This is the judgment. And as we are in, this is happening as we are. Maybe we're here, maybe we're not. I'm not sure because we don't know exactly when it's going to unfold. But this is what it's this is what it's going to look like.

And then it says it's not just judgment over all of creation. It's also judgment over all of humanity, which, you see, it begins with saying, hey, there's the there's the general and those who did the war. And you go back to the first four seals, and it was those who were the conquerors and taking the peace, and those who caused the economic distress over other people.

And all of this is unfolding and and it describes these people and it describes seven, different in terms of creation, the seven different, ways the judgment will happen over all of creation and the seven different judgments over all of humanity as well. And anytime we see the number seven, we see the number represent, a finality, a completion, a total completion.

But don't miss the question. That is the question that everybody in this room needs to make sure we've answered, which is who can stand. It's like all of this is happening. And now who can stand? And so when we are seeing the seals opened up and all of this is happening, the question is, will, well, who who can stand and what does that what does that mean for us in relationship to that.

And it's interesting. That's chapter six. Guess what happens in chapter seven. They answer the question who can stand? Do you want to know who can stand? I would love to tell you because this is good news for us. And I heard the number of the sealed 144,000. By the way, that number is not a literal number. So if we read this in terms of like, hey, we're saying, oh, there's 144,000 people that are going to get to go to heaven who are living on earth right now.

You know, this number represents a big, big number, a big number, and it's not 144,000. It represents a large, gigantic big number. And I heard the number of the sealed 144,000 sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel. And so for us in this room today, this is what it means to be sealed for those that belong to the kingdom of God, for those that belong to Jesus, for those who Jesus is, your Lord and your Savior and your King.

Those are the ones who are sealed. It's the church. It's the church. It's everyone who is a part of the kingdom here on earth. So as we're seeing the question get answered, who can stand the first group of people that can stand when the judgment comes and when God is judging the people of the world?

Those who can stand are those who are in Christ. And there is no salvation found outside of the name of Jesus. It is in the name of Jesus. And Jesus alone. So that is the number of the people who are sealed on earth and who are going through the judgment here on earth. And he said, there's a second group of people who are also part of the kingdom.

There's the kingdom here on Earth. But that's not the totality of the kingdom. There's also another group of people in chapter seven, verses nine and ten. He says, as I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number from every nation. I love the description. These are the people who are currently in heaven as we speak, from every nation, and from all the tribes and peoples and languages.

Did you see who's going to be in heaven? Every people, from every nation and every tribe and peoples of, different language. Standing before the throne, did you see the ones who can stand are the ones who are in heaven currently speaking. And you know what they experienced here on earth? They experienced persecution. And they were punished because of their belief in Jesus.

And yet through it all, they stood faithful. Think about this just for a moment. The church is that the book of Revelation were written to the seven churches in Asia. Some of the churches were experiencing persecution, don't you think? As John was writing this and they were reading this letter and they saw that there were people in heaven who stayed faithful even to the end, and now they're standing before the throne.

They're standing before the throne because they recognize that their faith in Jesus was the most important thing in their life, and they stayed faithful. So there's the kingdom on earth, and then there's the kingdom in heaven. That's the totality of the kingdom that that we see. Those are the ones who can stand. Those are the ones who can, who can stand when the judgment comes.

So when the judgment comes, what does that mean for us? It doesn't mean physical protection. We're going to experience hardship and difficulty physically speaking. We're going to have hard times. We live in a broken world. There's going to be there's going to be hardships and difficulties. So it doesn't mean we're going to be protected physically, but we will be protected spiritually.

That's how we get to stand. God's going to allow hardships and difficulties to come our way for sure, all the way to the end. But we are sealed. We are sealed as heirs of the kingdom of God. That's what we get to be a part of. And so he's like, hey, those are the people that that can stand.

And then the Seventh Seal, which really begins the introduction to the seven trumpets. But there's such an important piece here that I don't want to miss about this. The Seventh Seal

says, when the land in verse, chapter eight, verses one through five, when the land open up the seventh seal, there were silence in heaven for about a half an hour.

Then I saw the angels who stood before the throne of God with seven trumpets were given to them. And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer. And he was given much incense to offer with prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense with the prayers of the saints rose before God.

From the hand of the angel. The angel took the censor and filled it with fire. That's not good. Filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on to the earth. And there was peals of thunder and rumblings and flashes of lightning and an earthquake. So as we wrap up, the seventh seal, the judgment has come.

And the question is, those who can stand, those who can stand are those who are on earth, who are part of the kingdom of God, who believe in Jesus and those who are already in heaven with him and have stayed faithful no matter what, to the very end. And as the seventh Trump, excuse me, the seventh seal is being opened.

Yes, we get an introduction into the seventh, trumpet, which is coming next week, by the way. But what we see is very interesting that. Just like we, we saw when the temple was built and there was incense that was being burned in the, the temple. And when we pray, that's the way our prayers go up to God.

They go like a fragrance of incense.

And I don't think it's shocking to you that that prayer is powerful and that prayer works. I think it's shocking how little we do pray. For some reason. I think it's shocking that oftentimes we make little time for prayer, knowing how powerful it is. And it does work really for us in every way. But boy, we need to be people who pray for one another.

We need to be people who pray on behalf of other people. Intercessory prayer church, especially for those who cannot stand because they do not believe in Jesus. If you know people in your life who don't believe in Jesus, you must pray for them and pray often and pray a lot and take serious the business that yes, you and I can stand because we believe in Jesus and we are sealed.

But there is a multitude of people who do not and are not. And on our on our part what we can do for them. We can pray. We can pray for their very salvation. The more we read revelation, the more we see what unfolds and how it ends. We know there is no heaven without Jesus. It is only through Jesus and Jesus alone.

And because of that, we have to take seriously the business of praying for other people. We should have incredibly long list of people that we're praying for. Who do not know Jesus. And we pray for their very salvation. More importantly, probably what we need to be praying about is our ability to speak to them the right words so that they can hear the good news of Jesus and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior about our boldness and our courage and our willingness to take steps of faith and to say, you know what?

If if somebody doesn't, if somebody doesn't like me because I tell them about Jesus, what would I what would I rather have somebody who doesn't like me or somebody who I knew wasn't saved by the grace of of Jesus Christ? And because Jesus loved them.



I think sometimes what revelation helps us to do is, is to be reminded there is a finality, and that's whether you take your last breath or whether the second coming of Jesus comes, which we don't know the day or the hour. We just know it's going to come. But there is a finality. And and when it happens, there is no second chances.

It's it.

And so maybe, you know, Jesus, we're in church. My guess is most people here do. And that's a great thing because we're sealed, which means we can stand when the judgment comes. But for those that don't church, it's it's really grave and sad and bad news.

We know Jesus, and we need to tell the people about the good news of Jesus.

There will be a finality one day. We don't know, but we do believe that God will keep his word. All of it. So who do we pray for today? And if you don't know Jesus, I want to. I want to invite you to come and make that decision today. Today for you could be the day of salvation. Do not wait one more day.

Be sealed. As a believer in Jesus Christ, let's pray. Father, we thank you for our time together today, and we thank you for these chapters in revelation that reminds us of your sovereignty through your son, that you've given him the keys to the Kingdom and his authority and father, the seals that were being opened because he had the, he told them they had the authority to to do what was being done.

And, father, that one of the truths that we wrestle with so often is that victory comes through suffering. And so, father, help us to be faithful through all of it. No matter what happens, no matter what comes our way. Father, help us to stay true and faithful to you. Father, may we be bold and courageous in our faith and tell people about the Good News of Jesus.

May we pray for people without ceasing. Father, may we care enough to pray. May we care enough to share. We pray today in Jesus name, Amen.

Text

Well good morning everybody. It's great to see you this morning. So, my name is John Clint, one of the pastors here. And, we're in a series going through a revelation. And if you didn't or haven't been here as we been going through it, a great way to catch up is to go online bc Amazon.com, and you can get caught up to where we are today, which is in chapter six, and we're going to go all the way today.

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And so that as we get into that in the next couple weeks, what we're going to see is how, in particular, when it comes to judgment. And I, I want to say this and I'm not trying to shock anybody, but revelation really talks about the end and like, and that's what these judgments are going to talk about. And so as we go look at the trumpets and the bowls, what we're going to see is really how God is going to bring the judgments on people who are outside of his will, the evil people, the unrepentant people, the people who chose not to believe where today we're going to talk about through the Seals, the seven

seals in particular, are how it's going to end and what it's going to look like for the people of God. We're both going to go through it, but there's going to be a difference how it unfolds in regards to the way it works. And so as we look at it, as we set the seals up, that's how we're going to see it is how is this going to be for the people of, of, of God?

And I hope as we continue to go through this, what we're seeing is so incredible. It's so amazing. My hope is that this is helping us along for, what heaven one day will be for us. Like, there's an anticipation and an excitement, an understanding that, hey, yeah, it's not great here on earth sometimes, but, boy, if we remain faithful, there's something so good for us in how it's going to all wrap up, and and and we will talk about the end because there there's literally a judgment in judgment, as the seals unfold today.

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And I heard one of the living creatures say with a voice like thunder, come. And I looked and behold, a white horse and its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him. And he came out conquering. And to conquer. I guess that's what people who want to conquer do. They conquer, right? And when he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, come, and out came another horse, bright red.

Its rider was, permitted to take peace from the earth so that people would slay one another. And he was given a great sword. When he opened the third seal, I heard the living creatures say, come. And I looked, and behold, a black horse and its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, and saying, A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil in the wine.

When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the four living creatures say, say, come. And I looked, and behold, a pale horse and its rider's name was death. And Hades followed him, and they were given authority over the fourth of the earth to kill with the sword, and with famine, and with pestilence, and by wild beasts of the earth.

So the first thing that's really important, and we've been talking about this, and particularly in chapter four and five, and actually all the first five chapters, but that we need to make sure that we do not forget there is one who opened the seal. And he said in verse one, John says, the lamb opened the seal. The lamb was the one that instigated it and started it, and which

helps us to be reminded that without the lamb doing it, it would not be permissible and it would not be allowed.

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