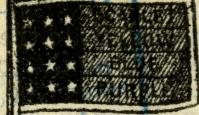


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The Living Word



The

# REMNANT OF ISRAEL



THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS

"All ye inhabitants of the world and dwellers on the earth, see ye; when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountain, and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye."—Isaiah 18:3.

Volume 4

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION AS ADDRESSED TO THE CHURCHES.

### THE SEVEN SEALS.

#### An Examination of Chapters 4, 5 and 6 of the Book of Revelation.

"After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

"And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

"And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

"And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

"And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast was like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

"And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty."

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."—Rev. 4:1-11.

In the introduction to the churches Christ was seen walking among the golden candlesticks, which represent the seven churches. In the introduction to the seven seals, he is represented as sitting on a throne, with twenty-four elders seated around him. These elders each had a golden crown on their head. In the midst and round about the throne were four beasts full of eyes round about them. These beasts had wings. Now we see at once the scene is different from the one of the churches.

A throne signifies a king and subjects over which he rules. The twenty-four elders with crowns signify that they, too, are rulers of the people. They having wings teach the lesson as taught elsewhere in the Bible such as Dan. 7:4, 6; Hosea 8:1; Eze. 1:10. These wings teach their rapidity of movement. A beast is a symbol of a civil power. Dan. 7:17. The faces of

these four designative of the character of the power. As this prophecy teaches a lesson it should be carefully studied.

The question is what does the whole scene teach? We understand the symbols teach a lesson of civil power or kingdoms, in contrast to the ecclesiastical taught by the seven churches. This must appear plain to all as we further pursue the line of prophecy of the seals. It will appear also clear that Christ has such an organization though not now visible, the same as he had of old in the days of literal Israel. I feel as I write this I wish I had the language to make it plain to the reader in order that they might understand clearly Christ's organization of both the church and the civil power which the children of God should still regard and be in harmony with in preference to any man made organization devised by men. Our king is still Christ. His laws are still our laws. His church alone is still our church. His government is still our government. Our citizenship is in heaven and not on earth. We render to Caesar that which is his and to God that which is His. These things are what every child of God should clearly know. It is all taught by the churches and the seals. The book of Revelation contains the climax of the whole story of the Bible. It is now to be understood clearly by all the children of God. Don't dally longer to make it a careful study as never before.

### The Seven Seals.

As a result of being able to place the whole Bible into one harmonious story of redemption, it aids much to a clear understanding of each separate subject. The reason is that each subject is but a part of the whole and all fit together as a perfect piece of mechanism.

The story of the building of the temple is an excellent representation of the Bible. Though each stone was prepared and each piece of timber made before the putting together of the temple, yet when it come to place each piece of material there was not the sound of a hammer to be heard. Every thing fit. So with the Bible every subject will fit in its place perfectly when the story of the whole is understood in the study of each subject under consideration. The number seven is the basis of it all, as based upon the creative week representing seven thousand years. This is where the secret of an understanding of the whole book lies. Every subject, every study, and every teaching of the whole will fit to that one basis, whether it be the law or the prophets. All is built on that



foundation and nothing else will fit or work with it.

This being the case it is easy to see that the book of Revelation is the closing part of it all. When the last chapter of the book is once reached and understood nothing is wanting. Nothing has been left out to complete the whole.

The principles involved in all the past has been most strictly followed in the book of Revelation, and the story of redemption through Jesus Christ is faithfully finished, and if any man shall add to the book or take from it, it results in their loss of eternal life. We can as prophets (ministers) teach just what is written but no more. The building is complete. Not the sound of a hammer (another doctrine) should be heard. The book closes with the statement, "Behold I come quickly." The end of the story and the coming of Christ is the climax of it all. "Even so, come Lord Jesus, Amen." That is the last utterance of the Spirit to the people of God.

The seven churches was Christ's messages to his people. These seven churches were but one church and that was the church of the first born, composed of those whose names are written in heaven, in the Lamb's book of life.

The seven seals is but an addition to another phase of the story. The word seal means an instrument used by the civil ruler in legal documents. Hence, the seven seals we will learn has their application to the civil conditions of Israel and their relations to civil governments during the same history covered by the seven churches. Namely, from the first to the second advent of Christ.

Civil rule is what God has ever had in connection. He has not left the world to be ruled entirely by Satan through his agents. The civil power is over and always "for the punishment of evil doers and for the praise of them that do well." Therefore says the Lord, "We must needs be subject to the powers that be." It is true that civil rulers are many times influenced to do wrong and become oppressors of the good. Even the good people of God. But that does not signify that the governments of the world are not necessary. Neither does it signify that God's eye is not upon them. Christ is still the prince of the kings of the earth. Rev. 1. God ever respects a good civil ruler. The story of the civil governments during this history under consideration was written in a book and sealed. "No one in heaven nor in earth, nor under the earth" was found that could open even one of the seals. Finally we read that one was found that could open the book. That one was the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, which was Christ.

"And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

"And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

"And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

"And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

"And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."—Rev. 5:1-5.

While the things written in this book were sealed, it is a comforting thing to know that through Christ nothing shall be hid from His followers, but all things shall be open as the day; and, while the world says the book of Revelation is a sealed book, let the reader bear in mind that we have an Intercessor that maketh intercession for the children of Men, and ever reveals to His followers all that would be for their good.

"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

"And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we

shall reign on the earth."—Rev. 5:9, 10.

The last expression leads our minds to the ultimate consummation of the seven seals, brought to view in this line of prophecy, namely, to carry the mind of the student of prophecy down through the world's history over into the new earth; and when this was seen by the faithful, they joined in the prospective song described in the scriptures just quoted.

"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.

"And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer."—Rev. 6:1, 2.

We have in the book of Revelation three distinct lines of prophecy covering the world's history from the first century after Christ till He shall come again, namely, the seven trumpets, the seven churches, and the seven seals. The trumpets cover the political and warlike movements of the nations; the churches, the Lord's true people; the seven seals, the line covering the apostasy from the true church, as described by Paul in 2 Thessalonians, where he states that Christ shall not come except there come a falling away first, and the man of sin be revealed. To the latter the seven seals are devoted. The first represents the church in the first century. White being an emblem of purity, so the church in both the seven churches and the seven seals is presented in a favorable light during the first century, as described here by one sitting on a white horse; "and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him; and he went forth conquering, and to conquer." This represents the history of the church during the first century.

It is important to know that no one can give us light on the word of God but Christ. He says, "If any man lack wisdom let him ask of me and I will give it to him willingly." It is ever the oil (the spirit of God) that leads into truth. That spirit is Christ's spirit. He can give the desired information needed on His word.

There is much to consider in the above scripture. Remember we are in this story of the seals, studying the story of the civil power and its relation to the people of God. There is first introduced in this a throne. That signifies a king. Melchisedek was both priest and king. Hence, wherever God's people are under the rulership of God there is both the civil and the spiritual phases to be considered. In the study of this scripture we see Israel as they were, and are, ruled by Christ our King. Note our comments on Revelation 1. This is seen clearly by studying when we note the items seen by the prophet: The colors, the bow, the four and twenty elders, the seven lamps and the four beasts (civil divisions of Israel) and so on. On examination of the ancient camp of Israel we find just these things here mentioned. First there were twelve heads, one for each tribe of Israel. Num. 1. These tribes were camped three on each side of the tabernacle. On one side was the camp of Judah, on another was the division of Reuben, on the north side was the camp of Dan, and on the west was the camp of Ephraim. Thus the four divisions of three tribes each, made the four heads called in this prophecy the four beasts. A beast is the symbol used to represent a civil government. Dan. 7:17. The Lord named the one which was to stand at the head of each tribe twelve in number.

Then in addition to this the tribe of Levi was also stationed around the tabernacle between the tabernacle and the other tribes. By the study of the different divisions of the Levites who had the charge of the tabernacle the rest of the heads can be found which constituted the twenty-four elders or rulers of Israel. So it is clear that in order to place Christ's



throne in the midst of Israel it was necessary to give the full description. The word heaven is used to locate the place where the vision was given. It could teach that such an organization exists in heaven above or it could represent heavenly things here on the earth. Paul says we are raised up and made to sit together in heavenly places. Others speak the same. The prophet Ezekiel had a vision very similar to this one given John. Eze 1; also chapter 10. The description of each beast is to express their character. Christ is the "Lion of the tribe of Judah."

Israel was so thoroughly organized they could move from place to place in short notice as represented by the wings. Hosea 8:1. They were full of eyes within. They kept their eye on the throne. So when the cloud lifted they were ready to follow it at once. Zechariah speaks of Christ, the stone, with seven eyes. We are admonished to anoint our eyes that we may see. The light of the body is the eye. If the eye be single the whole body is full of light. These beasts have eyes with which to look in every direction. The civil ruler as well as the spirit ruler must have their eyes open and see the movements of God in civil things. The proper symbols are used when we know the rule which each stand for.

We would cite the reader to Numbers chapters 1 to 4, where they can see and learn the perfect order of Israel's encampment. To see which each tribe's ensign or color was. Ezekiel says, "When the throne was lifted up from the earth the wheels were lifted up." This was as it was in the wilderness when the cloud lifted Israel was lifted up from the earth and moved forward. A wheel in a wheel is significant of perfect order. Take a watch for example. It is a wheel within a wheel, yet each wheel has its place among the wheels, so with God's perfect organization. Christ is the center, and at his command all and each one individually move together in their perfect order. Such is God's order, and so it will be when redemption is completed. Every individual will have their place among the whole to act. This is organization. If men would but study God's organization and not try to devise one of their own as an imitation how much better it would be. Man-made organizations is of Satan and causes confusion in the church, while God's organization works perfect peace and order. Because there is unity. With these remarks of introduction we can now pass to the civil influences as they have existed since the days of Christ and the apostles.

Though God's government of both spiritual and civil as united was broken up at the time of the captivity here on earth it still exists in the hearts of his children and will again exist as it was when the earth is restored and Christ again rules his people.

The rider on the white horse had a bow and a crown. A bow accompanied him on his mission. The bow contained the colors of the bow in the cloud as described by Ezekiel. Eze. 10. The colors that made up that bow stood for the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. See our tract, "The Sign of the Son of Man." This rider went forth conquering and to conquer with the gospel message. As long as the apostles and their followers taught and practiced the true doctrine of the true church nothing could stand before them. God witnessed to their work and great inroads were made into the heathen worship of Baal. The first century since Christ was crucified success attended the work of the gospel. Signs and wonders were wrought by the apostles such as the healing of the sick, speaking in other languages which they had never learned, the discerning of spirits, and so on. This was all a witness to the doctrine and the pure lives lived by the followers. The crown on the head

of the rider shows the civil kingdom of Christ still exists.

But remember that there never fails to follow such moves a loss of that first love, as those come in later who do not realize the importance of such a life of close adherence to the truth and to a holy life. Their love wanes. Paul predicted this falling away. Moses predicted it would come after his day, and so it never fails to come.

"And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see."

"And there went 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."—Rev. 6:3, 4.

We notice in this that the horse changes his color to that of red, and power was given the one that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and there was given unto him a great sword. There never was an apostasy from God that was not followed by the development here described, namely, that of seeking the arm of flesh and a spirit of cruelty and oppression developed. This description covers the period to the beginning of the fourth century, or till A. D. 300.

We now feel that we are prepared to introduce the clear distinction between the seals and the churches, namely, the seals refer more directly to that phase of the great apostasy which came in, namely, man-made organizations both of the church and the state. The theocracy of Israel was a union of both the church and the civil power. God being the direct ruler. But 606 B. C. that form of government was broken up. God from that date till he comes again has turned the rulership of civil things into the hands of the governments of earth. The position held in the Bible is that since the captivity the children of God are in captivity and under the yoke of man devised governments. The children of God will wear that yoke "till he comes whose right it is." Jer. 30:7-9. Hence the apostles never yoked up with any church organization during their history. They went out and preached the pure gospel. As a result companies of believers were raised up. The true among these companies were pointed to the church of the first born whose names are written in heaven for their membership. Heb. 12. The Bible alone was their guide. No man had dominion over another's faith. Christ himself has always been the head of the true church and he adds to it such as shall be saved. No man can put any out nor take them in. Christ sets in the church all the gifts of the spirit and selects such as he sees fit to preach the gospel. All this is done through Christ and as a result perfect unity like a wheel in a wheel. All for the purpose of accomplishing one end is the result of such a unity. See our tract, "Is There a True Church Organization?" But this did not satisfy the unconverted who wished control of others. The spirit of church federation began to come in. Men began to teach and to reason that God was a God of order and all that he did was perfectly organized with Christ on the throne as the head and why should they not do the same, and thus be able to accomplish much more by such a united effort. This all sounded well. They further taught that as earthly governments were organized with a head why should not the church be the same. So history records that such was the plan followed. They reasoned that such an organization gave power of discipline. It would bring unity of faith. It would develop the best talent as councilors. Hence the written record is that certain men brought about this formation of the followers. So bishops and all officers of the church were selected and elected by men to fill the various places in the church which Christ had been filling by the Holy Spirit.

(Continued on page 5)



# The REMNANT OF ISRAEL

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## A CARD RECEIVED.

We have just received a pretty post card from a reader who says, "Do not send paper any more. Your paper is always full of controversy which is not of Christ." Paul says, "Without controversy great is the mystery of Godliness." I doubt not but this party is in the fog of mystery and most probably does not wish to get out. She is blind and being led by the blind. Where will they land? This paper does not engage in controversy for controversy sake. Far from it. That is wrong. We do contend for the faith once delivered to the saints that crosses some paths and then they cry out too much controversy. We want Christ. They do not know that Christ put in three years and a half in controversy every day. Poor blind people, they don't want the gospel offered them.

## DON'T FAIL.

Don't fail to read the comments on the seven churches of Revelation, second and third chapters, in the January issue. Then read "The Seven Seals." After that read the "Seven Trumpets" in the book, "Time, Tradition and Truth." In the meantime you will have the privilege also of reading "The Seven Thunders" of Revelation tenth chapter. The book of Revelation is now the book to study on prophecy. This book is the climax of the story of the prophets in every age. All the ancient prophets pointed to the things which John writes about. John finishes the story. The Churches, The Seals, The Trumpets and the Seven Thunders will be added to our tract list.

## OUR TRACTS.

Our tracts are more properly booklets, for they are the full size page of the books and some of them would make, if bound, a book. We are fixing them up in a strong envelop and expect to have the name of each on the envelop, with a view to placing them in shape to sell or loan to readers. When completed the whole will contain four hundred or more pages the full size of our books. They will represent twenty special subjects of the law and the prophets of the Bible. We have said that this teaching covered the

whole Bible. It is not boasting by any means to say it is the only system of teaching that does this. As to the final results of this teaching there is no question. The one who connects with it will be connected with that which will stand while everything else will go to pieces in that day when all must stand the test.

## THE MARK OF THE BEAST AND THE SEAL OF GOD.

We have just finished a study on the above subject. It will appear in tract form, "The Seven Seals." I was impressed as I wrote this point up of what a difference there was in accepting from others that which seemed plausible from that of being led by the spirit in a personal investigation of the subject. This the reader will see as they read with us on the mark of the beast and the seal of God. We are not, nor never was, hunting for something to differ on, but for the truth, and it has come many times to the point where I had to surrender the former positions received from others. But when led by the spirit in the investigation for truth I have not to this day seen a necessity of changing positions taken. While on the other hand there has been a continual weeding out of error held by myself received from others. At the same time I could say I have been helped by others, to see what they had that was truth.

## THE FRENCH TRACT.

The French tract on the age of the world is now out and ready to be furnished in any quantity from one up. The price is fifteen cents. The terms to the supporters of the work is the same as all other tracts. So use it where you have a chance. I can say it was printed by our New York printer, Brother Ask, and it is surely a good piece of workmanship. We have no condemnation against the work done on the paper or tracts. Brother Ziegler and his sons do good work. We are sorry the paper does not always come out promptly. It has been owing to sickness, lack of material and so on. I am quite a fellow for doing things on time and I do hope the time is not far distant when the paper will be prompt and on time. A slow coach always arrives after the train has left the station. The weekly wage earner who owes for his week's provision at the end of the week never eats that which is his own but that which belongs to the other man. I prefer to manage in some way even at a great sacrifice for a week or two so I can pay when I get what I buy and thus eat my own and not the other fellow's. I fear that the person who lives on the theory, "Don't be in a hurry, there is time enough." will be among the foolish virgins, find the door shut. We can say that after the years passed in this office there has been no order for books delayed, no letter that could be answered has been neglected, neither copy for the paper not ready. Economy, sacrifice and promptness are the principles upon which we try each day to carry the work which we feel we are called upon to do.



(Continued from page 3)

Thus they imagined the work would be greatly hastened. They could not wait for Christ to do all that. Well, Paul said such would be the case that men would place men at the head in the place of Christ, so "they as Christ would sit in the temple of God, showing themselves that they are God."

Note, it is the system that is adopted that makes the head. It is not some one organization alone that fulfills this scripture but it is every one that follows the system adopted to make one as head sit in that position to the organization that made him sit there. In this manner the wisdom, the power, and all management such as the sending out of workers, the fitting of workers, the hiring of workers, the selecting of workers, the infallible interpretation of the scriptures, etc. All is vested in this head where Christ belongs in the church, and when this form of organization is adopted, Christ and the Holy Spirit and the word of God are all to take a back seat and wait to be called by the head of this new order of things. Thus the church becomes a man power and not the power of God. As a result of this organizations without number exist in our day. All and every one of them standing on the same basis and belong to the title, "The man of sin," "The son of perdition."

But that was not all. Man is never satisfied when one point is gained. Nothing short of being king of the world stops the desire. Hence the next step was to have the church take over the reins of civil government under the control of the church, and thus again "sit in the temple of God, showing himself to be God." This did not occur till later as shown by the next horse which is black. Under the red horse "peace was taken from the earth." No longer had the child of God that liberty to read and think for themselves and be directly connected to Christ only as they became connected to a man made organization devised by man where they were compelled to subscribe to the creed, nor could they even approach to Christ. That approach was to be made through the visible head here on earth. The real peace of the gospel is perfect freedom for every individual to believe or disbelieve, to obey or not to obey, was gone. No man has power over another. Christ said, "My peace I give unto you; my peace I leave with you. Not as the world giveth give I unto you." To this day there is no peace of the gospel. All are under a regime of men. They as a whole are called "Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth." The Protestant says that is the Roman church. I say it is everything that calls itself a church that in any way devises a man made machine. All such are an imitation and counterfeit of the church of Jesus Christ. Every one that has men, or a committee of men, to sit at their head, they are imitators of the church of Rome. The church of Rome and the Greek church are a counterfeit of the church of Jesus Christ. God pity those of his children who can not see and understand the seven seals. The very reason why Christ is seen sitting on his throne, the twenty-four elders and all is given is to point us to the true organization.

The dates here given is to merely follow the general history of the different periods and not to be understood as definite, like the prophetic periods. Prophetic periods are exact as to time, not so in this history given.

This brings us to A. D. 323, and of this time the scriptures say, "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. And 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."

The color of this horse is black. He that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. The first one had a bow and a crown, and went forth conquering and to conquer. To the second one power was given to take peace from the earth. The third has given the truth and subdue the world by the gospel, and in its place has taken the balances and gone into the world to buy and sell and get gain. He tells what wheat is worth, and he tells what barley is worth. He converses about the oil and the wine, and his whole missionary efforts have turned into worldly gain. His light is under a bushel, and his doctrines are as black as hell itself. Instead of carrying the gospel to the regions beyond, and partaking of the spirit of sacrifice of the lowly Nazarene, the rider upon the black horse goes to the regions beyond for gain under the name of Christianity. Real ministers of the gospel are gone, and money changers have taken their place. Such is the condition of those who choose error instead of truth. This period reaches from 323 A. D. to 538, the time when the Papacy was fully established in the empire of Rome.

The desire grew in the minds of men for full control of both the civil and the ecclesiastical rulership of all till it become a great issue in the Western Empire of Rome. Finely through the influence of the Eastern Emperor Justinian which represented the Greek Catholic church who had already attained to the point in the east the Bishop of Rome became the head over all the churches in the western Empire. The definite date when this took place is A. D. 538. This period is sustained by a prophetic period found in Dan. 7:25. As we study the civil power of the governments of the west as ruled by the church there is much that could be considered. At this point of history remember the union of state and church was fully accomplished. The head of one was the head of the other, so the bishops and pope of Rome then reasoned, as the head in heaven and as Christ was the head of both under the theocracy of Israel, then why not the pope hold, as they claimed, the headship on earth and sit as Christ's representative here? He should also be the logical head of both the civil and the ecclesiastical. This was simply patterning after God's organization which all looked very plausible and still does to all who make church organizations. But they do not realize that all such as that are a false and a counterfeit theocracy whether it be a small or large organization. The headship is there just the same. Christ said such should be no more till he come. Now as Rome was an imitator there is another very strange thing which occurred among these civil nations of Europe. It is this, when we study ancient Israel in their tribal organizations still further we find there was after the death of Solomon three divisions of Israel.

First. The twelve tribes were divided thus, Judah and Benjamin and the half tribe of Manassa, the son of Joseph, were to have their headquarters at Jerusalem. That was called the house of Judah. The other ten tribes were divided as follows: Ephraim, the other son of Joseph, had his seat of government at Bethel. The other tribes had Dan at their head with their seat at Samaria. Thus there were three divisions. See our writings on the three divisions of Israel. There are and also the same three divisions in latter times among the Gentiles.

In the book of Revelation on Babylon, in chapter 12, 13 and 17, the beast representing the Western Empire of Rome where the black horse belongs. The



beast has ten horns. Was the reader to follow our writings on these chapters they would see that in modern times America is to be the land of Ephraim, leaving the other tribes of the house of Joseph to be in Western Europe with the two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, in the Eastern Empire. Just what power brought these about in this imitation of ancient Israel we would say it was no doubt overruled by Satan, who is the one behind the curtain to deceive and lead the people of God astray. It, however, remains a truth that these divisions contain the modern tribes of Israel. We can say this every prophecy teaches this to be a truth, even if we do not fully understand what brought it about. I would further say that the seals are the foundation. Later prophecies as these governments are symbolized by beasts, horns, are for the purpose of showing the fuller development and so on. We can only give suggestions in this brief development of the subject of these divisions of today. We now pass to the fourth seal.

"And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

"And 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."—Rev. 6:7, 8.

The fourth seal introduces the pale horse of death, while hell followed him, and power was given him "over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death." This covers a period from 538 until the time of the Reformation, which began in the fifteenth century, under Wycliffe, Huss, Luther, Zwingle, and others. Buck, in his theological dictionary, put the number of martyrs during this period at fifty millions. The woman in Revelation 17 is represented as being drunken with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. No wonder the pale horse of death is taken to symbolize this period of persecution!

The church of Rome claim they never put to death any one. That is true. But the civil power did, and that power was created by the church for the very purpose to do the work. The laws for what the church called heresy was enacted with their penalties. Thus the churches so-called, stood behind the curtain while the civil law carried out the laws of the churches so-called. Is it not strange to think that today the churches are clamoring for laws to punish persons for not doing as the church requires? Is it not strange that the people are so blind that they cannot see that any man-made organization is simply the work of Satan? Does not the Lord say that "Satan's seat is in the midst" of these man-made organizations under the name of churches? The soul who still remains in these organizations will soon see they are being led by Satan when it is too late. The call is now to "come out of her my people," who will do it? We will now pass this seal of the pale horse where the grave follows its path till we again consider the churches of Pergamos and Thyatira which had their history during the age we are now considering. The following is taken from the chapter on the churches:

"And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

"I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

"But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel; to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

"So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

"Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto

the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it."—Rev. 2:12-17.

The definition of "Pergamos" is "height, elevation." The church at this period is represented as having a sharp sword with two edges. This is explained by the apostle Paul: "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The church of Pergamos is represented as dwelling even where Satan's seat is. The Papacy was fully established in A. D. 538, with its capital at Rome. Christianity at this time was largely in the Western Empire of Rome, as that division of the Roman government constituted the second division of the great city of Babylon, as is shown in the comments on the last of the three great divisions of the world, as we shall see presently. The church was dwelling where Satan's seat was, but even there God had some that held up the light of truth, and did not deny His name, and those persons were represented as Antipas. They were opposed to the apostasy, and many were martyrs to the truth. But, notwithstanding all this, there were some, even among the faithful, that had yielded to the worldly influence in the doctrine of Balaam, which was polygamy. The Nicolaitans were of the same class as the followers of Balaam. The Lord requires discipline of those in His church, even under the most trying circumstances, and if this is not heeded, the judgments of God will surely follow, as described in the scripture.

"And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgement of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

"With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

"So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

"And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

"And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

"And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.—Rev. 17:1-6.

This scripture represents this power by the symbol of a woman seated upon a scarlet-colored beast, the woman representing the ecclesiastical and the beast the civil phase. This woman has committed fornications with the kings of the earth,—the church living in spiritual adultery with the civil power. She has here enforced her adulteries through the civil law, until fifty million martyrs have been slain by her. Such is the portrayal God gives of this power during this period of the world's history.

"And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

"I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

"Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

"And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

"Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

"And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

"But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.



"But that which ye have already hold fast until I come.

"And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

"And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessel of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I receive of my father.

"And I will give him the morning star.

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."—Rev. 2:18-29.

This church, the fourth in number, covers the period from 538 to 1798 A. D. The definition of Thyatira is the "sweet savor of labor." Works have been a strong element of favor in all of these churches; for, while charity and faith are mentioned with works, it is said, "The last shall be more than the first." Notwithstanding God's great love and gentleness toward His people, He calls attention to the points wherein they come short. One of the charges against this church was that they had suffered "that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication (unite with the world), and to eat things sacrificed unto idols." As a woman is a symbol of a church, this woman Jezebel is taken to symbolize the apostate church of the Papacy at this time. The true people had no doubt suffered the teachers of the apostasy to teach in their churches, and were influenced by them. Jezebel was the wife of Ahab in the days of Israel, and was one of the bitterest persecutors against the prophets of God that ever lived in the world's history; hence she fitly represents this age of the church.

Verses 22 and 23 threaten the Papacy, by saying: "I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am He which searcheth the reins and hearts; and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."

While the apostasy of Roman Catholicism has done her work of death and destruction, she has not escaped the judgments of God, and the greatest judgments of all still await her in the near future. The Lord says to the true ones in this age of the world that have not known the depths of Satan, "I will put upon you none other burden." The church had all she could carry, without God requiring the strict discipline which otherwise would have been laid upon her. God would not mete out to them more than they could bear, as stated in verses 25 to 28.

To the church that lived in the second and third centuries the Lord said, "Hold fast until death," but to the church of Thyatira He says, "Hold fast till I come;" "and I will give him the morning star," and he shall rule the nations "with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers." Whether there will be a people living in the closing days of this church that will continue to live until the Lord comes, the reader must judge. One thing certain, the coming of Christ is now introduced, and to each church following substantially the same admonition is given: "Hold fast till I come."

To the Philadelphian church the Lord says, "Behold, I come quickly;" unto the Laodiceans, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock;" and to the Thyatira church, the one now being considered, "I will give him the morning star." The morning star is the one that shines so brightly just before the morning light appears. In the twenty-second chapter of Revelation we read: "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star." Rev. 22:16.

Don't lose sight of this one thought, namely, that all persecution upon the people of God has risen as the result of man made organizations under the

name of Christianity. Those organizations are what takes peace from the earth. They are the man of sin wherever they are found regardless of name they bare. When will the true light shine upon the children of God sufficiently that they will forsake her and be a free people? Thus the whole theme of this line of prophecy of the seals is a revelation showing the evils of any form of, or imitation of the one organization which God has ordained for his people. Note that any attempt to forward the cause of the gospel by any other plan is a failure and only leads to persecution of the saints. Returning to the seals, we read:

"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:

"And 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?"

"And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."—Rev. 6:9-11.

Some have supposed that the altar here mentioned was in heaven, and that immaterial souls of those that had been slain by this cruel power were there shut up under the altar, crying for vengeance upon them that dwelt upon the earth. If this is literally true, then, as a result, the Lord took them out, and put white robes on them; but yet they must rest for a little season, until their fellow servants also should be killed. Once, while traveling in a train, the writer overheard two ministers talking upon this text, and one of them was speaking a third minister's exposition of this text, and saying that he had never understood before that people were in heaven without heads on, but Brother So and So made it very clear that there were live, immaterial souls in heaven without heads, crying to God for vengeance on them that dwell on the earth.

There is in the scripture what is called personification. Abel's blood is represented as crying to God from the ground, and other similar instances might be cited. The fifth seal applies from the beginning of the Reformation of the sixteenth century to 1798. These souls that had been slain on the altar of persecution are represented as crying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"

The expression, "under the altar," is taken from the law written by Moses. When the burnt offering of consecration was offered the blood of the victim was poured out at the bottom of the altar. The life is in the blood. So the life of the sacrifice was poured out at the bottom of the altar. So John was shown how the lives of those who had suffered. Their lives were represented as under the altar. We can say today, "How long, O Lord, will the power of man made organizations rule over men and crush out the blessed gospel of peace?" We are now in this period of waiting till the end comes. Every martyr for truth. Every one branded as an heretic. Every one burned at the stake. Every one disfellowshipped by his brother as a heretic. Almost every civil war between Christian powers and scores of other things come as a result of these false organizations which place power in the hands of men. How long, O Lord.

"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;

"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.

"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

"And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

"And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide



us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

"For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"—6:12-17.

The reader will see that the sixth seal or period of time reaches to the time when the judgments of God are finally visited on all who have not accepted the gospel and have failed to be sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

The sixth seal is introduced by an earthquake being the opening of the seal. Some have held this to be the Lisbon earthquake wherein 90,000 lost their lives in 1755 A. D. I know of nothing to offer as an objection to this interpretation. The prophets Joel, Isaiah, Christ and John all testify to the next things, namely, the darkening of the sun, the moon and the falling of the stars, being signs that would precede the coming of Christ. To this we also agree. Then the next step is the time when men will cry for the rocks and mountains to hide them by falling on them "for the great day of His wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand?"

It is no trouble to see that the sixth and seventh seals reach to the time of the coming of Christ and the end of the world. These nations will then find their plans were a failure, they have not served the Lord, neither were they willing to obey His laws nor accept of his form of government. Hence the result is finally reached. We notice that there is a brief period to follow under the seventh seal as we now read:

"And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

"And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

"Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

"And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

"Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.

"Of the tribe of Asher were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Mannasses were sealed twelve thousand.

"Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.

"Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand."—Rev. 7:1-8.

This seal is devoted to the work of the Lord's children. The seventh is for the people of God. This work is largely to call out of Babylon and seal them with the truth of God. They will then be able to discern between the organization of men and the organization of God. This work is symbolized as the rays of the sun rising in the east till the whole heavens are ablaze with its light. Every honest heart, every child of God, every soul who is prepared to meet the Lord at His coming will free themselves from every earthly organization and belong to one only and that will be the church of the first born of which Christ is the head. They will, during this period, be taught the truth in its purity.

It is shown clearly that the same organization which was of old will then be the one still in use for there are twelve thousand sealed of each of the tribes of Israel. They sing the song of Moses and the Lamb. We say, speed on the day Lord, when we will all serve Thee with one mind and one consent. Then we will work as a wheel in a wheel. Then we will be full of eyes to see on every side and clean up the rubbish of Babylon from among us. Then Christ's throne will be the only throne.

(To be continued)

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