

## Seals

### Overview

Joh 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Joh 17:15 I pray **not** that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

#### A. The Plagues

##### 1. Moses

Exo 9:1 Then the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

##### a) Three Plagues affecting all the land and waters of Egypt.

The first three are: the waters of Egypt became blood; frogs came upon the land of Egypt; dust became lice throughout the land of Egypt.

The Bible does not say how these three impacted the Hebrews.

##### b) Four Plagues affecting only the Egyptians

The flies did not occur in the land of Goshen.

The pestilence did not kill the cattle of the children of Israel.

The ashes created boils on the magicians and on all the Egyptians.

The hail and fire did not occur in the land of Goshen but killed the animals and men in the fields, who were not obedient to the Word of the Lord.

##### c) Two Plagues around the Hebrews but affecting only the Egyptians,

The locusts ate all the green trees and herbs of Egypt (but the Israelites would be leaving so it did not really affect them).

Darkness came upon all of Egypt but there was light in the dwellings of the Hebrews.

##### d) The Tenth Plague is the death of the first born of all; but the Hebrews were protected by obedience to the directions for the Passover, which foreshadowed the Communion Table.

Exo 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye [are]: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy [you], when I smite the land of Egypt.

##### 2. Seals

The opening of the Seven Seals shows us the things which are to come and are a warning for us to prepare. The events result from evil perpetuated by man on man; around but not affecting us.

##### 3. Trumpets

The Trumpets are seven judgments which are targeted for (i.e. intending to affect) only the ungodly. God's protection is always upon the believers, who are walking in faith.

##### 4. Vials

The Vials judgments affect only the unrighteous (i.e., the ungodly) and is intended only for those who have taken the mark of the beast and **probably** for those others who are among them. It is best for all believers to "come out of them" to avoid any collateral damage (e.g. Lot's wife).

#### B. Chapters 6

##### 1. Seals 1, which is conquering, and Seal 2, which is war, are men warring with men.

##### 2. Seal 3, famine, is the result of both men's action and of nature responding to those actions.

##### 3. Seal 4 is death, resulting from war, famine and beasts over 1/4 of the earth (? ME & Africa ?).

##### 4. Seal 5 are the martyrs, who were killed by the tribulation above.

##### 5. Seal 6 is a massive earthquake with heavenly and earthly manifestations. Because all previous five seals involve the actions of men, it can be induced that the sixth seal is also a result of men's

actions. Consistent with what has been previously shown, it is likely to be the result of a nuclear war. The falling stars are probably incoming missiles or satellites being shot down.

It is true that the earthquake could be of a natural cause or the result of a meteor hitting the earth. However, since in Chap 8, a falling star is identified as the cause of the earthquake, it is reasonable to assume that here the cause is not a meteor.

### C. Chapter 7 Great Tribulation

1. It is likely that the events of the Seals, especially #6, have affected the earth including the winds.  
Rev 7:1 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.

2. The Trumpet Judgments of Chapter 8, wherein the earth is hurt, are clearly influenced by the actions of God's angels.

Rev 7:2 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,

3. Those who are sealed by God are immune to the trumpet judgments. Those sealed in Chapter 7 are the 144, 000 Israelites; note not necessarily Israelis.

Most likely, the sealing means that they have accepted Jesus. This is especially likely since the next time, that these are mentioned, we see them with Jesus on Mt. Zion. Remember that born again believers are sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30) **until the day of their redemption, which for those who are raptured, is in Rev 19**. Believers are also sealed with the Spirit of Promise in Eph 1:13.

Rev 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

4. Great Tribulation

- a) The expression "The Great Tribulation" is not used in the Bible. "Great tribulation" is used three times, each in the context of and similar to "Great persecution" as in the verse,  
Act 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

- b) Occurrences of "great tribulation"

Mat 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Rev 2:22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. **Note that Jesus said this.**

Rev 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of **great tribulation**, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. **Note** that this occurs long before the anti-Christ comes into power.

5. The martyrs, shown by Seal #5, were given by robes in Rev 6:11 and match Rev 7:14

### D. Chapter 8 - Silence in Heaven

1. As we saw in Chapters 4 & 5, Heaven can be a noisy place. Silence in Heaven is very significant and is probably because there have been no salvations for a period of time.  
Luk 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.  
Luk 15:10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.
2. No salvations mean that sides have been drawn. Sinners are refusing to repent as we see in Rev 9:20-21. Thus, Seal #7 shows that the earth is ready to be judged by God's wrath.

A list generated by [Open Doors USA](#), a nonprofit organization focused on serving persecuted Christians, shows the Middle East accounts for a majority of countries ranked in the top 10 for extreme persecution of Christians. In order, the countries are as follows:

1. North Korea
2. Somalia
3. Afghanistan
4. Pakistan
5. Sudan
6. Syria
7. Iraq
8. Iran
9. Yemen
10. Eritrea

Egypt ranks No. 21. According to the Christian advocacy group, one in 12 Christians today experiences high, very high or extreme persecution for their faith. Nearly 215 million Christians face high persecution, with 100 million of those living in Asia.

The Center for the Study of Global Christianity, an academic research center that monitors worldwide demographic trends in Christianity, estimates that between the years 2005 and 2015, 900,000 Christians were martyred — an average of 90,000 Christians each year.