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TOP STORY >

The Seven Seals: Are they the wrath of God?

This is a question I get asked quite often. The answer is tied very closely to a proper understanding of the scriptural doctrine of the "Day of the Lord" (DOL). The scripture reveals that the DOL was a common teaching in Jewish faith. This is evidenced by 1Thess 5:1 (NIV) "Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, **2 for you know very well** that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." Even in the Old Testament it is evident that the DOL was commonly understood. Amos 5:18 (NIV) "Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD! Why do you long for the day of the LORD? That day will be darkness, not light."

Now in the book of Revelation, there is a graphic picture of a scroll sealed with seven seals. Some have tried to interpret this that each seal opens a part of the scroll. But the scripture plainly tells us that this is a single scroll that is sealed along the edge with seven seals and cannot be opened until all seven seals are broken. Rev 5:2 (NIV) "And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to **break the seals and open the scroll?**'" It is "seals," plural, and "scroll," singular. This is also consistent with common ancient practice. Note that when the sixth seal is broken the proclamation is made... Rev 6:16 (NIV) "They called to the mountains and the rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of **their wrath** has come, and who can stand?'"

It becomes apparent that this scroll IS the scroll of the Day of the Lord. God's wrath is not mentioned until this scroll is opened. On the contrary, As the seals are each broken, events are depicted as a reporter reporting the news. None of the events are attributed as coming from God. This also coincides with Matt 24:6 (NIV) "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come... 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains." Therefore, the seals are not the wrath of God, but a list of events that will lead to the Day of the Lord.

Cup of What?

Recently, I had a pastor friend who was preaching of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane when He was praying that if it was possible that the cup might pass from Him without Him having to drink from it. He asked the question, "What was in the cup that Jesus dreaded so much?" Was it the physical suffering?

I have heard some say it was our sin...

He pointed out that in all of scripture when a cup is spoken of as containing destiny - it is most often a cup of God's wrath.

This struck me because with our understanding of the Day of the Lord's wrath, this brings a whole new meaning to what Jesus did for us by going to the cross.

Notes from the PreWrathMinistries Desk...

Hello! It has been a busy and traumatic time for the past couple of weeks. My web server was hacked and the PreWrathMinistries site was down for about a week. But we are back up and going! I had to utilize a new guestbook engine and I am also using a new newsletter engine with this issue. Even through the tough times God blesses, doesn't He?

Below are some recent FAQ questions I have been asked. You can also find these on the website FAQ page.

Questions

What about the different periods of 3 1/2 years mentioned in scripture... Are they different or are they all the same time period?

There are four references that deal with this 3 1/2 year period:

- 1) The Abomination of Desolation,
- 2) The protection of the woman,
- 3) The Beast rising, and
- 4) The two witnesses.

All four of these are said to last 3 1/2 years or 42 months.

There is no question according to Daniel 9:27 - the Abomination of Desolation (AOD) happens at the middle of Daniel's 70th Week. So, there are remaining 3 1/2 years after the AOD. According to 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 - which we know describes the AOD, this is when the Antichrist will set himself up as God to be worshipped. This would explain the persecution of the Woman. Furthermore, the persecution of the woman and the rising of the beast follow the casting down of Satan "knowing he only has a short time." Therefore, it would stand to reason that the 3 1/2 years attached to these two events would have to be the latter half of the 70th Week.

The two witnesses also endure persecution which, like the woman and the beast, would necessitate that it happen after the Antichrist has come to full power. All of these events are recounted at the interlude after the 7th trumpet has sounded which would also seem to indicate that they would not happen in the first half of the 70th week.

Also, it is only after the Abomination of Desolation that a time of tribulation is described. Until then it is said there would be wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes, etc. - but all of these are described as the "beginning of birth pains," and therefore, not a part of the later described tribulation. The result is that contrary to popular pre-trib teaching, there is no evidence that the entire 70th Week of Daniel is a time of tribulation.

In Matt, the disciples ask "when will these things be?" The question seems to be about "the stones left upon one another." So wouldn't the first portion of Jesus' answer be addressing that part of the question and, so, this was fulfilled in 70 A.D.?

You are right - and that is why there are those who hold to a view called "Historical Preterism." They believe that all end-time prophecy was fulfilled around AD 70. The problem is that the questions the disciples asked were lumped together and the stones being removed was only one question. The main question was when Jesus would return. This cannot be answered by Historical Preterism - unless you and I missed Christ's return!

So, the choices are that Jesus was separately answering two separate questions, or that Jesus was answering the disciples main question of what will be the sign of your coming - the stones being thrown down was relatively unimportant. This second choice is what I believe.