

The Book of the Revelation (#3)

2nd ... THE SEVEN SEALS—OF TROUBLE (Chapters 4-7) –

OPENING SCENE: Chapters 4-5...

In these two chapters (Chapters 4-5) we are given **four key symbols**...

(1st) A Throne ... (2nd) A Scroll... (3rd) The Lamb... (4th) Seven Seals

1st – The picture of A THRONE – symbolizing government, rule, and authority... Whose authority?—God's... which is absolute... We call this the **doctrine of God's sovereignty**...

(Ps 115:3> 'But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.'

(Dan 4:34-25> "And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. ³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

Chapter's 4-5 – don't give us a picture of heaven as much as they give us a **picture of the universe** from the perspective of heaven...

★ **Notice the similarity between:** Rev 4:2-3 Ezek → 6-28 ...
Rev 4:5 → Ezek 1:13-14 ... Rev 4:6-7 Ezek 1:4-5 → ...

The believer's perspective on the world and current events should be a lot different from the perspective of unbelievers around us (liberal or conservative)... The difference is that we believe that GOD is governing the universe... **That the real power controlling the universe of people and things—is God!**

John Newton once wrote, *"I READ the, newspaper that I may see how my heavenly Father governs the world."*



It's only when we see all things (especially our problems) from the perspective of **the sovereignty of God**—that we begin to appreciate life in the **kingdom of God's grace** – (1 Jn 5:4> *'this is the VICTORY that has OVERCOME the world -- our faith. Who is he who OVERCOMES the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?'*)

2nd – The picture of A SCROLL – symbolizes **the book of God's will**—God's decrees, providence, and judgments... The SCROLL (book) pictures the holy, mysterious, unchangeable **WILL OF GOD** – (Ps 40:7-8> *"Then I said, "Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. ⁸ I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."* ... Ezekiel 2:9-3:3... Daniel 12:4-9...

3rd – The picture of OPENING OF THE SEVEN SEALS (Chapters 6-7 and 8:1) – symbolizes the unfolding and accomplishment of God's will on earth during the millennial period—from the perspective of the Church...

1st Seal (6:1-2) the White Horse – symbolizing the **CONQUEST of Christ** – Rev 19:11-16 – that no matter what calamities happen in the world... Christ has already won the victory – Ps 45:3-11 – (Jn 16:33> *"These things I have spoken unto you... in the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD."*)

2nd Seal (6:3-4) the Red Horse – symbolizing the calamity of **CONFLICT and violence in the world...**

3rd Seal (6:5-6) the Black Horse – symbolizing the calamity of **FAMINE and economic hardships...**

4th Seal (6:7-8) the Pale Horse – symbolizing the calamity of **DEATH** ... four universal woes (war, famine, death/pestilence or disease, beasts) – symbolic of all kinds of death..

5th Seal (6:9-11) The Cry of Murdered Saints – symbolizing the calamity if **INJUSTICE**

6th Seal (6:12-17) Natural Disasters – symbolizing the calamity of **GOD'S WRATH** – as prophesied (Is 34:1-4; Joel 2:30-31)

Interlude ... 7:1-17 – What about God's people?

- **THE CHURCH MILITANT** (Church on earth) – 7:1-8 – 144,000 (sealed) – protected – Rev 9:4; 14:1-3> Ezek 9:3-11) Represent the whole company of God’s elect through all ages—(Old-12 tribes... New-12 apostles> see> **21:12-14**).
- **THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT** (Church in heaven) – 7:9-17 – **‘a great multitude which no one could number of all the nations’** (clothed in white)...

7th Seal (8:1-6) **Silence in Heaven** – all creation stands in awe of God and the Lamb...

*(Hab 2:20> ‘...the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth **keep silence** before Him.” (Zeph 1:7> **‘Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD; For the day of the LORD is at hand, For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests.’***