

THE WEEK OF
July 13th, 2009



Series 5, Number 21
The Tribulation Judgements Part 1
The Seals, Revelation 5-8:6
Zondervan Charts of Bible Prophecy, Chart 94

"And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?' And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.' And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain..."

Revelation 5:1-6a

This week we're covering part one in a two part study of the Seal, Trumpet and Bowl Judgments during the Tribulation. This week we tackle the opening of the seven seals and next week we'll finish up with the Trumpet and Bowl Judgments. These chapters in Revelation predict events that can most appropriately be described as apocalyptic in the modern vernacular. From war, to famine, to disease, to economic collapse, the seals only begin what ultimately will all but destroy the earth and its inhabitants. But there's an interesting scene that John sees in his vision. A "strong angel" ask who is worthy to open the scroll and loose its seals. Initially no one is able, which causes John to weep. Then an elder tells John not to weep because the Lion of the tribe of Judah is worthy. This, of course, is none other than Jesus Christ. John then sees Christ standing - "a Lamb as though it had been slain." This vision portrays Christ in His fullness. He is the Lion and the Lamb. As we have already discussed, He came the first time as a lamb to the slaughter. Now, as He prepares for judgment, He is seen as a Lion and as a King (Root of David). How do you think of Jesus? Do you err in thinking of Jesus as one or the other? He is both. And as we live to serve and to represent Him we must never forget that although Jesus loves and forgives the sinner, He hates and will ultimately destroy evil. This week as we examine His opening of the seals and the beginning of mankind's worst judgment, let's examine ourselves, judge ourselves that we may not take lightly the freedom we have because we are "in" Christ.

Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day example:
If it's the 1st day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)

This week we consider the first phase of judgement and the opening of the Seven Seals:

Mon: Who is Worthy To Open the Seals? "Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah..." Revelation 5

Tue: The First 6 Seals: Conqueror, War, Scarcity, Death, Martyrs, Cosmic Calamity; Revelation 6

Wed: The 144,000: "And I heard the number of those who were sealed." Revelation 7:1-8

Thu: The Multitude: "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation..." Revelation 7:9-17

Fri: The 7th Seal: "When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven..." Revelation 8:1-6

Discussion Questions for Bible Café:

1. Where is the Church during the opening of the Seven Seals? How do we know from what is written in chapters 4 and 5 of Revelation?

2. Are we as serious about sin our own lives as Christ is about evil when He comes to judge it?

THE DAYS OF NOAH
PREPARING FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):