

THE OPENING OF THE SEVEN SEALS

**The Seven Seals Revealed
The Beginning Of The End**



MORRIS CERULLO

THE OPENING OF THE SEVEN SEALS

MORRIS CERULLO

This book or parts thereof may not be reproduced in any form without the written permission of Morris Cerullo World Evangelism.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the King James version of the Bible.

Scripture references marked TAB are from The Amplified Bible version Copyright © 1965 by Zondervan Publishing House.

Scripture references marked NIV are from the New International version of the Bible, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, by the International Bible Society.

Scripture references marked NAS are from the New American Standard version of the Bible. Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1977 by the Lockman Foundation.

Scripture references marked TLB are from the Living Bible. Copyright © 1971 by Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois 60187. All rights reserved.

Published by Morris Cerullo World Evangelism Copyright © 2000 San Diego, California Printed in the United States of America

Morris Cerullo World Evangelism P. O. Box 85277 San Diego, CA 92186-5277

Morris Cerullo World Evangelism of Canada P. O. Box 3600 Concord, Ontario L4K1B6

Morris Cerullo World Evangelism P. O. Box 277, Hemel Hempstead, HERTS HP2 7DH

Tel: (858) 277-2200 Website: www.mcwe.com

Cover artwork is used by permission.
It is from a series of illustrations by Pat Marvenko Smith
©1982, 1992 on the Book of Revelation, available as art
prints and visual teaching aids.

A free brochure is available from Revelation Productions
1-800-327-7330 Website: www.revelationillustrated.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Introduction</u>	7
CHAPTER 1	
<u>In the Throne Room of God</u>	9
CHAPTER 2	
<u>A Powerful Key to Victory</u>	15
CHAPTER 3	
<u>The Book With Seven Seals</u>	17
CHAPTER 4	
<u>The Seven-Sealed Book Is Opened</u>	23
CHAPTER 5	
<u>Between the Sixth and Seventh Seals</u>	31
CHAPTER 6	
<u>The Seventh Seal</u>	37

Introduction

As we continue our spiritual journey through the Book of Revelation, I want to invite you to walk through an exciting door with me. It is an open door to the future...

As we learned in the previous three books in this series, the Book of Revelation is summarized in chapter 1 verse 19 where Jesus commands the Apostle John to "*Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.*"

In chapter One, John writes what he sees in the supernatural vision Jesus gave him—the "*things which thou hast seen.*" In chapters two and three, he shares messages from the Spirit to the churches—the "*things which are.*"

In the last book in this series, *The Rapture of The Church*, we examined Revelation 4:1, where John is commanded to "*come up hither.*" This verse is key to understanding Revelation, for this command signifies the Rapture of the Church of Jesus Christ. It also marks a transition in the Book of Revelation. Everything following this verse is identified as "*the things which shall be hereafter*"—events that will occur after the Rapture of the Church from earth to heaven.

As we enter this door to the future, I want you to receive a powerful revelation within your spirit—to see that the world is not out of control. Our future is not determined by men or major political powers. Satan is not directing world events, nor is he in control of the circumstances in your life.

The all-powerful, all-knowing Creator of the Universe

is on His throne directing the course of world events in His own timing, according to His own plans, purposes and objectives. He left nothing to chance! This is true for the world, as well as for your personal, individual life. As we continue our spiritual journey through this prophecy, the details of this plan and its timetable will be revealed to you.

In the midst of the fear and uncertainty that plagues our world today, Jesus wants to reveal Himself to you in a new way. He wants you to see Him as Isaiah did, sitting upon His throne *"high and lifted up"* (Isaiah 6:1). He wants you to see Him as John did, in all His beauty and majesty in the position of Supreme Authority, holding the seven-sealed book containing His end-time plans in His right hand.

Jesus assured the churches in Asia that He was in control and would enable them to be victorious—regardless of the trials and persecution they faced. Likewise, He wants you to know that regardless of the trials you are facing you will also experience victory in your life.

Now let us return to the Isle of Patmos where Jesus had just finished revealing the messages to the churches and had commanded John, *"Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter"* (Revelation 4:1).

Chapter 1

In the Throne Room of God

Immediately after the command to “*come up hither,*” John is caught up in the Spirit into heaven through an open door, into the very throne room of God:

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 thundering and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. (Revelation 4:2-5)

John was given a glimpse of God sitting on His throne IN CONTROL—in a position of supreme power and authority directing the course of events that will take place on the earth.

There are no words adequate in our human vocabulary to describe the throne room of God. Encircling God's throne, John saw a rainbow which glowed like an emerald. The brightly colored hues of the rainbow—emerald green, sapphire blue, ruby red—were all reflected in what John described as a crystal sea of glass spread out before the throne.

In front of the throne were seven lamps of fire. They represented the seven Spirits of God. As John stood there, flashes of lightning shot out from the throne and he heard

the roar of thunder.

John's gaze turned from the throne to an even more glorious sight, the One seated on the throne. John did not see a form with a face, arms, and legs. He saw a brilliant light reflecting colors, which he compared to precious jewels. John said: "*And there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the One who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian*" (Revelation 4:2, NIV).

People sometimes ask, "What color is God?"—meaning, what race is He? God is not black, or white, or brown—for He is not a man as we are. He is a spirit. John saw Him as a brilliant gemstone, one which reflected all colors. The carnelian ("sardine stone" in the King James Version) is a blood red stone, representing the blood of Jesus Christ.

The elders whom John saw around the throne were clothed in white raiment and had crowns of gold upon their heads. The Greek word for "crown" is "*phanos*." This was a champion's crown given in recognition of winning races, athletic games, or wars. The crowns that the twenty-four elders were wearing were the same types of crowns that Christ promised to the faithful. He said: "*Be thou faithful to death, and I will give thee a crown of life*" (Revelation 2:10). It is the crown which James said was promised to all believers who endure trials and temptations:

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. (James 1:12)

It is the same crown we will receive when Christ returns:

and when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. (1 Peter 5:4)

The white robes worn by the elders were representative of the righteousness of those who have received Jesus Christ as Savior:

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands... (Revelation 7:9)

And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. (Revelation 19:8)

Clothed in robes of righteousness and wearing crowns of glory, the twenty-four elders were seated in an exalted position before the throne of God.

The identities of these twenty-four elders is not revealed in the Book of Revelation. However, I believe they are the twelve apostles and twelve of the Old Testament patriarchs who serve as representatives of the Church triumphant.

As we look closely at the twenty-four elders, we see their main duty is to minister as priests unto God. They are continually before the Lord, seated on their thrones. They give praise, thanksgiving, and offer up the prayers of the saints as sacrifices to Him.

The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 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. (Revelation 4:10-11)

The Beasts Around the Throne

The Opening of the Seven Seals

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 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, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever... (Revelation 4:6-9)

In a prominent place around the throne, John saw four "beasts". The original Greek word for "beasts" is translated as "living creatures." John saw an exalted order of angelic beings—cherubim. These living creatures appeared to Ezekiel in a vision by the river Chebar. He identified them as cherubim who served God. Isaiah saw similar living creatures in a vision above God's throne and referred to them as seraphim.

The living creatures in Revelation are described as a lion, a calf (or lamb), a man, and a flying eagle. As we learned in Volume One of this series, Jesus Christ is the Spirit—or center—of all biblical prophecy. Therefore, each of these creatures reflect one of His attributes:

- He is called the Lion of the tribe of Judah—a victor.
- He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world—our Savior.
- He took on the form of man—deity made flesh.
- He is like a flying eagle—the high places are His habitation.

In John's vision, these angelic beings are pictured as leaders of worship. They do not rest, but offer up praise day and night unto God, saying: "*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come*"

In the Throne Room of God

(Revelation 4:8, NIV).

Chapter 2

A Powerful Key to Victory

Jesus had a specific reason for giving us this glimpse into His throne room. He revealed a tremendous spiritual key to building our relationship with Him, living in victory, and enduring to the end as an overcomer. Are you ready to receive it?

The key is **WORSHIP!** Worship of God and Jesus is a priority in Heaven. Jesus wants it to be the top priority in our lives also.

All too often, Christians associate the Book of Revelation with the judgments of God that are poured out upon the earth. True, there were visions which represented God's judgment. However, John also described seven powerful scenes of worship in heaven, which illustrate the tremendous value God places on it. Through these powerful scenes God reveals our true purpose. Yes—we are called to preach, teach, etc. But our highest calling is to be ministers and priests unto God, and to worship Him.

We were created to bring pleasure to God through worship. God said of the nation of Israel: "*This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise*" (Isaiah 43:21). Under the New Covenant, we are God's spiritual Israel and Christ has redeemed us and made us priests unto God:

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his

marvellous light. (1 Peter 2:9)

Our Highest Priority Must Be Worship

Jesus wants us to break out of our old, ritualistic form of worship into a new, vibrant, life-giving worship that involves all aspects of our beings—our spirits, our minds, and our bodies.

As priests unto God, it is important that we minister to others—praying for the sick, witnessing, teaching, interceding, etc. However, we must first minister to God. This is our highest calling, and we must make it our first priority.

The word "minister" means "to be in attendance upon, to wait before, to receive orders." Ministering to the Lord involves waiting in God's presence in times of prayer and praise. During these times of waiting upon the Lord and basking in His presence your strength will be renewed, you will receive your "marching orders," and you will be empowered to minister to others.

You Can Enter a New Dimension of Power Through Worship

In the spirit, I want you to close your eyes and picture yourself standing before God's throne as John did in this vision. Think about God's unlimited power, His faithfulness, righteousness, unsurpassed love, and His forgiveness. Begin to worship Him. As you worship, you will see Him as John saw Him: high and lifted up over every circumstance of your life. He is on the throne. He is in complete control.

Chapter 3

The Book With Seven Seals

As John stood before God's throne, his attention was drawn to a book in God's right hand:

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. (Revelation 5:1-3)

Throughout the ages, God has always revealed His plans before they took place:

Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets. (Amos 3:7)

God is about to reveal the future to John, but the prophecies are written in a book sealed with seven seals. Why is the book sealed? What is the meaning of the seals? Who is going to break the seals and open the book?

The number seven is the number God uses symbolically in His Word to denote completeness. The book was completely sealed—no one could read or understand it until it was opened. In Bible days, a seal was a device, often made of wax, with a name or design on it. When the wax hardened, it bore the impression of the seal.

Seals were used for different purposes: to protect books and other documents so they could not be tampered with, as a proof of authority and power, and as an official mark of ownership.

For thousands of years, God's end-time plan remained a mystery. God revealed a portion of it to His prophet, Daniel, but told him...

... Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. (Daniel 12:9)

Now, in the Book of Revelation, God revealed the details of His plan to us. The veil was lifted so we can know the things which must shortly come to pass.

The Search for One Who Is Worthy

John waited patiently for the book to be opened, but God did not break the seals. Instead, He called for a Mediator. A great challenge is made throughout Heaven, earth, and under the earth for someone who is worthy to break the seals and open the book to reveal God's plan.

A mighty angel appears on the scene and proclaims in a loud voice that echoes throughout all of creation: "*Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?*" (Revelation 5:2).

It is a futile search. No one can be found who can open the book and read its contents. This news is too much for the prophet to bear. He has been summoned into the throne room to be shown things which are to come to pass, but unless the seals are broken, God's plan will not be revealed. The disappointment causes John to break down and weep uncontrollably.

And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And He came

and took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne. And when He had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 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. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever. (Revelation 5:5-14)

As John wept, one of the twenty-four elders stepped forward to comfort him. He told John: "... Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof...." (Revelation 5:5).

The word "*prevailed*" in this verse means "to overcome" or "to conquer". John stopped weeping because there was hope. There was a Conqueror—the Lion of the tribe of Judah—who could open the book.

As the Lamb of God, Christ was led to the slaughter and sacrificed. As the Lion, He was revealed as the One who conquered Satan and won the victory over sin, death, and hell. As the mighty Conqueror, the Lion of the tribe of

Judah alone had the right to open the book and break the seals.

Then John saw before the throne of God *"... a Lamb as if it had been slain having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth"* (Revelation 5:6).

John used symbols to describe Jesus' divine attributes as the Lamb of God. Throughout the Bible, horns were symbols used to represent power. The number seven is God's number, and it symbolizes completeness. In this vision, Christ is pictured as a Lamb that was slain with seven horns—representing complete power—and seven eyes—representing perfect vision which leads to perfect knowledge. These eyes are identified as the seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Can you imagine the excitement and glory of the moment when the Lamb of God, the Lion of Judah, stepped forward? All eyes in heaven were focused intently upon Him. The cherubim, the elders, and thousands of angels surrounding the throne all watched in holy reverence and anticipation.

As Jesus took the scroll from the right hand of God, John witnessed one of the most glorious scenes recorded in the Bible. Tremendous waves of worship and praise swept throughout heaven. The cherubim and the elders fell on their faces before the Lamb and worshipped Him with a new song for His work of redemption. All of creation joined in worshipping the Lamb. Throughout heaven and earth their voices sang:

To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor glory and power, for ever and ever. (Revelation 5:13, NIV)

The song the elders and the Cherubim sang was a new

song because Jesus established a new covenant through His sacrificial death on the cross. Jesus was the Lamb "*slain from the foundation of the world*" (Revelation 13:8). Even before the world was spoken into existence, God planned to give His only begotten Son as the perfect sacrifice to redeem man out of Satan's deadly grip. When man sinned, he became a slave to Satan. Jesus came to earth to reconcile man back to God. He was the perfect sacrifice, one without spot or blemish.

The elders and angelic beings fell on their faces before the Lamb and cried out, "*Thou art worthy to take the scroll and open the seals*" (Revelation 5:9). Thousands upon thousands of angels cried out "*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain....*" (Revelation 5:12) All of creation joined in worship, saying, "*Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.*" (Revelation 5:13).

This spectacular worship scene ended as the cherubim cried "*Amen.*" Once again, the elders fell on their faces and worshipped the Lamb.

Then Jesus boldly stepped forward and took the book with seven seals which contained God's end-time plan.

Before we look at each of these seven seals to determine what they are and their significance in our lives, there is an important, powerful truth I want you to grasp.

God Is Releasing the Last Great Anointing!

God has shown me a powerful anointing that is going to be released upon God's people. This anointing will be the last great anointing before Jesus comes and it will release the greatest manifestation of signs and wonders this world has ever known.

In Revelation 5:8, John saw the prayers of the saints

mingled with worship being lifted up. The elders and cherubim each had golden vials *"full of odours, which are the prayers of the saints."*

Beloved, the prayers of the saints have a significant role to play in the unfolding of God's end time plan. Before the seals are broken, our prayers are offered up to God as incense. Again, in chapter 8 before the trumpet judgments are released, the angel first offers the prayers of the saints upon the golden altar:

And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. (Revelation 8:3-4)

I am convinced there is coming a new end-time anointing. It is an energizing, global call to prayer that is coming upon the people of God. As a result of this end-time prayer anointing, we will see the greatest spiritual harvest this world has ever known!

In these verses, the angels were not released until the prayers of God's people were lifted up in golden bowls with the 'incense' of praise. Jesus taught us to pray, *"Thy Kingdom come."* Before the Kingdom of God can be set up on this earth, it must be set up in the hearts of men. The Gospel must be preached to every creature and this will only be accomplished through the intercessory prayer of God's people.

Chapter 4

The Seven-Sealed Book Is Opened

John had been caught up in the Spirit where he has been given a glimpse of heaven. He has seen God seated on His throne controlling the universe, and the Lamb of God. He witnessed a great scene of worship.

All of these sights were shown to John for a specific purpose—to prepare him for what was yet to be revealed. Can you imagine the terror and hopelessness that would have gripped him if he had been shown only the judgments of God? Can you imagine what believers of that day, who were already facing intense persecution, would have thought when the Book of Revelation was read to them if all they heard about were wars, famines, death, the rise of the Antichrist, and God's wrath outpoured?

As we continue our spiritual journey through the Book of Revelation, remember that God wants you to be prepared. He does not want you to be fearful about upcoming events. Yes, judgment is coming upon the earth. But remember: all true believers are with the Lord Jesus before judgment begins!

As we look at the judgments of God, it may be hard for you to understand why such a loving God would bring these things upon the earth. God is a God of love. It is His will that no man should perish but that all men everywhere should be saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4).

But God is also a God of wrath. He said, *"My Spirit*

shall not always strive with man" (Genesis 6:3). Since man's rebellion in the Garden of Eden thousands of year ago, God's Spirit has been pleading and striving with man to turn from his wicked ways and serve Him.

Even in the judgments of God we can see His mercy revealed. The four seals were warnings from God of the judgments to come. The six trumpets were a final appeal for mankind to repent. Then finally—because of their refusal—God's wrath was poured out through the sounding of the seven trumpets.

Up to this point in John's vision, he had witnessed the beauty of heaven. The scene changes dramatically now as Jesus begins to break the seven seals. As they are opened, the seals reveal end-time events that will occur prior to Christ's Second Coming. We will look at each one of these in terms of the symbol that is used to describe the judgment and what the symbol represents.

The First Seal:

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. (Revelation 6:1-2)

The symbol used: A rider on a white horse.

What it represents: It represents the false christs that Jesus told His disciples would be a sign of His coming:

For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. (Matthew 24:5)

The Second Seal:

The Seven-Sealed Book Is Opened

And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out 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. (Revelation 6:3-4)

The symbol used: A rider on a red horse.

What it represents: This rider on the red horse is symbolic of war. Jesus warned His disciples that in the end-times there would be wars and rumors of wars:

And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. (Matthew 24:6)

Almost since the beginning of time, the world has been plagued by wars. The world cries out for peace but there cannot be any lasting peace until Jesus returns to set up His Kingdom on earth.

The Third Seal:

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. (Revelation 6:5-6)

The symbol used: A rider on a black horse.

What it represents: This rider represents famine and pestilence. Jesus warned His disciples of these things:

... there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. (Matthew 24:7)

As the black horse charges forward, John hears a loud voice from among the four cherubim. The voice announces

greatly inflated prices of commodities—ten to twelve times what they should have been. This reveals that a time of great scarcity is coming upon the earth. It will require a day's wage to buy even the basic necessities of life.

In recent years we have witnessed the results of regional famines in places like Mozambique, Africa, where 200,000 people died or Ethiopia where 300,000 died from hunger. Images of a devastated landscape, starving children, and hordes of people fighting over what few provisions exist have flashed across our television screens. But this end-time famine will be a world-wide famine of tremendous magnitude. There has never been anything comparable to it in history.

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. (Revelation 6:7-8)

The symbol used: A pale, sickly green horse and rider.

What it represents: This horse and its rider are symbolic of the wave of death that will sweep across the face of the earth, killing one-fourth of earth's population through war, famine, and plagues.

Just think about this! If this fourth seal were opened today with our world population of six billion, that would mean 1.5 billion people would die. That is almost six times the population of the United States!

The Fifth Seal:

The Seven-Sealed Book Is Opened

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 fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. (Revelation 6:9-11)

The symbol used: An altar with souls of believers who had given their lives for the Gospel.

What it represents: The altar and souls represent the persecution and martyrdom of the saints. At the time of this vision, many believers had been slain for the cause of Christ. In John's vision, these martyrs were crying out to God in a loud voice wanting to know how long it would be until Christ would pour out His wrath upon the wicked and avenge their blood.

These martyrs were given white robes—representing righteousness—and were told to wait until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed was completed. There will be another, final martyrdom of believers who turn to God during the tribulation:

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another... For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. (Matthew 24:9-10; 21-22)

The word "tribulation" means "affliction, anguish, persecution, trouble." It refers to a time of great suffering

and persecution that will come upon the earth. It is called the Great Tribulation. It will be a period during which Satan and the Antichrist will execute a reign of terror upon the earth. We will learn more about this in volume six in this prophetic series.

In the next chapter, John is given a glimpse of a great multitude from every nation, tribe, and people who have come out of the Great Tribulation. They are clothed in white, and are in God's Presence where they offer up sacrifices of worship and praise continually unto Him.

What a consolation it must have been to John and other Christians who were being persecuted to have God's end-time plan revealed—to permit them to see the victory and triumph that belonged to them! They were persecuted, tortured, and slain, but they were not defeated!

- Regardless of what you are facing in your life right now...
- Regardless of the difficulties you may encounter in the future...

Your final victory is assured!

The Sixth Seal:

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

The Seven-Sealed Book Is Opened

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?
(Revelation 6:12-17)

The symbols used: Supernatural signs in heaven and earth.

What they represent: These signs signal that the great Day of the Lord is at hand.

Many people confuse the time referred to as "the Great Tribulation" with the "Day of the Lord." Here is a simple way to keep these events straight in your mind:

- The time of the Great Tribulation is instigated by Satan, who is fighting against God's people.
- The "Day of the Lord" is when God's wrath is poured out upon the wicked.

Chapter 5

Between the Sixth and Seventh Seals

Six seals have been opened. One remained. Before the seventh seal was opened, however, something very significant occurred in Revelation 7:1-17. John saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth holding back the four winds of the earth, preventing them from blowing on the land, sea or trees:

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. (Revelation 7:1)

These four winds are symbolic of the judgments of God which will cover the whole earth when the seventh seal is opened. The angels are ready to release these judgments, when another angel comes from the east:

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. (Revelation 7:2-3)

The seal John saw the angel carrying was the "seal of the living God." It was an official mark of ownership which identified the servants of God and ensured their protection and security. This seal was placed upon 144,000 people identifying the redeemed who are the true servants of God. The purpose of the seal was to protect the servants of

God living upon the earth when the trumpet judgments are released. For example, in Revelation 9:14 the fifth trumpet sounded and the bottomless pit was opened. A plague of locusts is released upon the earth. However, they were not allowed to hurt those who had the seal of God in their foreheads!

John records that there were 144,000 people sealed from the tribes of Israel (Revelation 7:4-8). Some people think this represents a remnant of Messianic Jews who will be saved from every tribe of the nation of Israel. I believe these verses are symbolic of God's spiritual Israel. These people represent those redeemed from every tribe and nation, both Jew and Gentile alike.

We know that under the New Covenant we are God's spiritual Israel:

For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God. (Romans 2:28-29)

I believe the seal in the forehead is not limited to a select group of the tribes of Israel. In chapter three, in His letters to the faithful church in Philadelphia, Jesus promised to write the Name of God upon all those who overcome. He said, "*... and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and, I Will write upon him my new name*" (Revelation 3:12).

In Revelation 22, we see the redeemed in the heavenly New Jerusalem with God's Name written in their foreheads, "*... and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads*" (Revelation 22:3-4). In chapter 14, verses 1-5, we again see

the 144,000—representing the redeemed and with the seal of God in their foreheads—standing before the throne singing a new song, the song of the redeemed.

You may be wondering, who are the 144,000 people described here? In each of these references, we see that the 144,000 who were sealed are actually representative of all faithful believers who are saved and kept during the Great Tribulation.

- The 144,000 are redeemed from among men (Revelation 14:3). These have been bought with a great price, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.
- The 144,000 are "virgins" (Revelation 14:4). This description is symbolic of spiritual faithfulness and purity to Christ. The Church throughout the New Testament is often referred to as the "Bride of Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:2).
- The 144,000 are followers of the Lamb (Revelation 14:4). They have kept His Word and followed His example.
- The 144,000 are first-fruits unto God and the Lamb (Revelation 14:4). Jesus...

... Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. (James 1:18)

Just as God's protection was upon the Israelites protecting them from the terrible plagues He sent upon the Egyptians, God will protect those who are sealed during the great tribulation.

God protected His people from the plagues that fell on Egypt, including the final plague of death from which they were delivered by the blood of the lamb. Not only did God have a plan for delivering them, He protected them supernaturally while they were still in Egypt. God drew a

line between His people living in the land of Goshen and the Egyptians in their land (Exodus 8:22). God's seal of protection was upon His people. They overcame by the blood of the lamb!

God has put a difference between you and the world. It is the blood line of His Son, Jesus Christ. The blood of the lamb is your protection against the problems that plague the world!

We Will Overcome!

In Revelation 7:9-18, John records a second vision during this intermission between the opening of the sixth and seventh seals. John saw the victorious, triumphant, redeemed saints of God gathered around the throne. This is one of the most glorious sights ever recorded:

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 7:9-12)

Stretched out as far as the eye could see, John saw vast multitudes so great that it was impossible for them to be numbered. The redeemed of all nations, every tribe, and every tongue were wearing white robes and holding palms in their hands. They stood before the throne of God worshiping and praising God and the Lamb for their salvation.

As the redeemed worship and praise God for their salvation and deliverance, a multitude of angels, the elders, and living creatures joined in worshipping God with a seven-fold praise: Blessing! Glory! Wisdom! Thanksgiving! Honour! Power! Might! (Revelation 7:12).

Beloved, here we are given a brief glimpse of that awesome day when we will stand together around the throne and lift our voices in praise to God for redeeming us. What a glorious day that will be!

As John beheld this great victory celebration of the redeemed, one of elders came near and asked him, "*These in white robes—who are they, where did they come from?*" (Revelation 7:13, NIV). John answered, "*Sir, you know.*" (Revelation 7:14, NIV).

Then the elder explains more about the great multitude:

... 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. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. (Revelation 7:14-17)

This scene is one of the most beautiful in the Bible. It describes the final victory of the servants of God, their eternal relationship with Christ, and the glories of Heaven as they serve Him forever around His throne.

This vision of John ends with Christ—the Lamb Who becomes our Shepherd—leading us to the water of life. "*For the Lamb Who is in the midst of the throne will be their Shepherd, and He will guide them to the springs of the waters of*

The Opening of the Seven Seals

Life; and God will wipe every tear away from their eyes"
(Revelation 7:17, TAB).

Beloved, this is the victory that awaits us as we remain faithful to Christ and endure to the end. We have nothing to fear! God has given us this mighty revelation of the final victory that belongs to us.

Rejoice in the knowledge that, regardless of the persecution, turmoil, and trials you go through, you will persevere. You will be victorious, and you will stand before Him at His throne with the great number of the redeemed saints!

Chapter 6

The Seventh Seal

And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thundering, and lightning's, and an earthquake. And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. (Revelation 8:1-6)

The symbols used: Seven angels with seven trumpets.

What they represent: The seventh seal opens a revelation so mighty that there is silence in heaven for half an hour. The seventh seal reveals seven angels with trumpets.

- What will the angels do with these trumpets?
- When will they sound?
- What will happen as these trumpets sound?

Before these trumpets sound, the prayers of the saints are offered upon the golden altar:

And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. (Revelation 8:3)

The prayers of God's people release the angels to sound the seven trumpets which unleash the judgments of God upon the wicked. The judgments heralded by these trumpets will be detailed in the next book in this series entitled, *The Seven Trumpets*.

As we close this study of the seven seals, let me stress one final, powerful truth: God is bringing us to a new strategic level of warfare prayer! Through this strategic warfare prayer, God's people will be used mightily in this end-time hour to push back the enemy in the nations, tear down his strongholds which blind the hearts and minds of lost souls, and release those who are bound by Satan's power.

God has given His Church His power of attorney. We are His delegated authority upon the earth! As we enter this new level of warfare prayer and begin praying with His authority, God will release His power to fulfill His will in this end-time hour.

In response to the prayers of God's people, we will see a tremendous demonstration of His mighty power in salvations, healings, deliverances and restorations—greater than we have ever known!

Coming Soon...

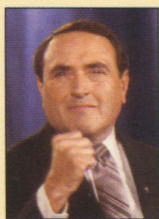
In volume five of the Morris Cerullo New Millennium 2000 Prophetic Series entitled *The Seven Trumpets*, you will learn:

- What happens when the seventh seal is opened.
- Events which occur when the seven trumpets sound.
- The meaning of the three woes of Revelation.
- Why the meaning of the seven thunders is concealed.

The Seventh Seal

- The meaning of the mystery of God.
- How prayer is vitally linked with God's end-time plan.
- The contents of the little Book of Revelation 10:10.
- How to appropriate the revelation God is giving you through this end-time prophetic series.

Be sure to obtain your copy of the next book in this powerful New Millennium 2000 Prophetic Series, *The Seven Trumpets*.



Dr. Morris Cerullo, President Morris Cerullo World Evangelism

Morris Cerullo's accreditation for spiritual teaching is, in itself, quite formidable: a divine, supernatural call from God to preach and evangelize when he was 15 years old...graduation from New England Bible College...over half a century of experience as a pastor, teacher, author and worldwide evangelist. Many honors have been bestowed on Morris Cerullo, including honorary doctorates of Divinity and Humanities, both by academic and spiritual leaders around the world in recognition of his achievements and contributions to global evangelization. Dr. Cerullo is respected and looked upon by thousands of Nationals as God's end-time apostolic prophet to the nations of the world. Dr. Cerullo's ministry outreaches include:

Mission To All The World – reaching the entire world region by region with major regional Schools of Ministry, miracle crusades, major television prime time specials and local Schools of Ministry designed to cover every village, city and town in every region!

Schools of Ministry – training National pastors, ministers and laypeople to reach their nations for Christ through mass evangelistic crusades.

Global Satellite Network Schools of Ministry – monthly, ongoing training for National ministers worldwide.

Victory Miracle Living – a 48-page, monthly study manual presenting revelational truths from the Bible to equip God's Victorious Army.

Victory Television – cutting edge daily television programming designed to strengthen the Body of Christ to reach the entire world.

The New Inspirational Television Network – the 24-hour Christian satellite television network that provides Christian programming to the entire North American continent, with an ever-expanding outreach toward linking the world via satellite television.

Dr. Cerullo has also authored more than 50 books. Few ministers have had such an impact on the destiny of the nations of the world. Morris Cerullo's life has been sacrificially dedicated to training and spiritually equipping pastors, laypeople and evangelists to reach their nations for Christ with a supernatural endowment of God's Power.

Morris Cerullo World Evangelism

U.S. • P.O. Box 85277 • San Diego, CA 92186

Canada • P.O. Box 3600 • Concord, Ontario L4K 1B6

U.K. • P.O. Box 277 • Hemel Hempstead • HERTS • HP2 7DH

Website: www.mcwe.com