

# THE JUDGEMENT AND THE SEVEN SEALS

## REVELATION 4 & 5

(Outline # 17)

**Meditation:** *TM 116, MYP 260*

**INTRODUCTION:** This study reveals that the breaking of the seven seals did not take place as an isolated event, but in the context of the investigative Judgment which is brought to light in chapters 4 & 5. Therefore, the study of the seven seals is a study of the investigative judgment. It reveals the cases of every generation from Adam up to the crucial events that mark the opening of the Judgment for the living.

### 1. Identify Each Part Of The Prophecy.

**Read: Rev. 4 & 5**

A Door was opened	(verse 1)
One Sitting on the Throne	(verse 2)
A Rainbow Around The Throne	(verse 3)
24 Elders	(verse 4)
Seven Lamps	(verse 5)
Sea of Glass	(verse 6)
Four Beasts (with four faces, six wings, and full of eyes)	(verse 6-8)
The Lamb (with seven eyes and horns)	(chp. 5:5,6)
Thousands of Angels	(verse 11,12)
The Book	(verse 1)

### 2. This Must Be The Heavenly Sanctuary

- a. A DOOR was opened in heaven —the only door this could be is the door to the MOST HOLY PLACE in the heavenly Sanctuary. See *EW 42*. Also *GC 429, 430*.
- b. SEVEN LAMPS OF FIRE before the throne —the candlestick or seven lamps is a sanctuary fixture. Therefore, this proves that this scene in Revelation 4 & 5 must be in the heavenly sanctuary.

**Summary:** Thus John, the Revelator is describing what took place in 1844—the opening of the investigative judgment, which for John was “HEREAFTER” --after about 96 A.D. This is the heavenly court scene where all those who professed Christ will be judged. (*GC 480*).

### 3. Daniel And John Both Saw The Judgment

**Daniel's Vision**  
(Daniel 7)

**John's Vision**  
(The Revelation)

- |                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a. Thrones were cast down (verse 9). | a. “And I saw thrones” (Rev. 20:4) |
| b. “The Ancient of Days did sit”     | b. “And One sat on the throne”     |

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|----|--|----|---|
|    | (verse 9)  |    | (Rev. 4:2)  |
| c. | "A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him." (verse 10)   | c. | "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire" Rev. 15:2.  |
| d. | "One like the Son of man came...to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him." (Verse 13)  | d. | "In the midst of the throne and of the four beasts...stood the Lamb." (Rev. 5:6)  |
| e. | "The books were opened." (verse 10)  | e. | "And the books were opened." (Rev. 20:12)   |
| f. | "Thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him." (verse 10) | f. | "I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne...and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." (Rev. 5:11).                |
| g. | "The judgment was set, and the books were opened." (verse 10).   | g. | "And I saw the dead small and great stand Before God; and the books were opened...and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books..." (Rev. 20:12) |

**Note:** The only difference is that Daniel saw the Judgment being set up, while John saw it in full session. Daniel saw the opening of the Judgment-John saw the entire proceedings from beginning to end.

4. **The Judgment is in Three Phases**

- First phase: the investigative judgment of the DEAD.  
(GC 390; EW 280)
- Second phase: the investigative judgment of the LIVING  
(GC 390; EW 280)
- Third Phase: the judgment of the wicked-SENTENCING  
(GC 480; EW 52,53)

**Note:** The FIRST TWO PHASES of the judgment are INVESTIGATIVE-DURING PROBATIONARY TIME-while Jesus is still the bleeding Lamb. It involves ONLY those who have entered the service of God. (GC 380, 381; COL 310). The THIRD PHASE of the judgment takes place DURING THE THOUSAND YEARS-the millennium. THE SEVEN SEALS DEALS PRIMARILY WITH THE INVESTIGATIVE PHASES.

5. **The Judgment And Its Symbols**

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|-----------------|--|
| Door            | The door to the Most Holy Place. EW 42         |
| The One who sat | The JUDGE-God the Father                       |
| Rainbow         | God's faithfulness to His promises. Gen. 9:12- |

	15; <i>COL</i> 148 — His divine mercy— <i>ED</i> 178; <i>DA</i> 834;
24 Elders	JURY. They are from among those who ascended with Christ. Matt. 27: 51-53; <i>DA</i> 785, 786; <i>EW</i> 184.
7 Lamps of Fire (Candlestick)	Completeness of truth—the church throughout the all ages.
Seven spirits (verse 5)	Seven is complete—this shows that the Holy Spirit has been guiding the church from the very beginning by revealing light and truth.
Sea of Glass	Sea denotes expansive—endlessness. Clear as crystal denotes perfection. Together it represents eternal perfection—life eternal.
Four Beasts	The saints—The DEFENDANTS—those to be judged. Rev. 5: 8,9—only human beings have been redeemed. Note that the saints are not physically there yet represented there as beasts. ( <i>EW</i> 54, 92)—like the beasts of Daniel and Revelation symbolizes nations.
Lion	First period of the church before the ceremonial system.—Adam to Moses.
Calf Man's	Period of the ceremonial system (Moses to Cross)
Man's head	Cross to harvest period —144,000 & GM.
Eagle	Period when the church is to be translated (144,000 & Great Multitude).
Full of eyes	Eyes give light to the body, it provides sight. Thus it shows that God's people had sufficient light in every age.
Eyes before and behind Six Wings	Prophetic light-past, present and future. Wings represent periods of time. Thus the six wings represent the sixth period of the judgment when the judgment begins.
Lamb	Jesus—ADVOCATE—LAWYER—as a priest—a lamb bleeding, "as it had been slain.
Seven horns	Jesus has complete power. (Matt. 28:18)
Seven eyes	Complete vision-knowledge Ps. 139:12 God's
Seven spirits of God	Spirit at work in all ages. John 14:26.
Many Angels	The WITNESSES-Angels record and testify to all events. <i>GC</i> 482,483.
The Book	The BOOK OF LIFE—the book that decides every man's destiny. Rev. 13:8, 20:12, 21:27, 22:19; <i>EX</i> 32:33; <i>COL</i> 294; <i>GC</i> 483. The Book of Life is the only book that is specifically

claimed for Christ. Christ alone opens the Book with seven seals. Thus they must be one and the same.

6. **The Judgment Investigates Each Successive Generation**

The Judgment reviews every case with thorough scrutiny beginning with Adam through each successive generation and closes with the living (*GC* 482, 483.1).

## The Opening Of The Book— The Seven Seals

7. **When Do The Seals Begin? —With Adam.**

- a. The Seven Seals begin with those who first lived upon the earth, and closes with the living. Therefore, it covers the entire world's history. See *GC* 483:1; *Manuscript Release*, Vol. 9, p. 7.
- b. The Book of Seven Seals is the same as the book of life. Therefore, the unveiling of the seals must be the revelation of the lives of all those who ever entered the service of God. The first person would have to be Adam. (*GC* 483). It cannot then start in the New Testament period as it is generally taught.
- c. The setting of the Seven Seals is in the context of the Judgment, and the investigative judgment includes all of the world's history—not just the New Testament.

**Read: Rev. 6:1-8**

**What is the meaning of the:**

**Colors:** (White, Red, Black, Pale) A progression of worsening conditions.

**Implements:** Similarly, the symbols of the crown, sword, balances and death indicates that by men's deeds, the earth has gone from good to bad to worse.

**Horses:** Something created by God but ruled (driven) by man. It symbolizes the earth given by God to man to rule.

8. **First Seal**

White Horse	The earth in a pure, sinless state ( <i>PP</i> 47)
Rider	Adam (Gen. 1:26, 28)
Crown	Kingly authority (Gen. 1:26)
Bow	The instrument with which Adam was to conquer and people the earth. It represents Eve. In harmony with the symbolism, children are compared to arrows. Ps. 127:4, Gen. 3:20.
Conquering and to conquer	Man was to inhabit the earth-fill it with people—conquer it. Gen. 1:26,28)

**SUMMARY:** The first seal reveals those who first lived upon the earth—Adam and

Eve particularly who were commanded to reproduce and thereby conquer it—subdue it. These were the first ones to be judged in 1844 when Jesus our High Priest took the Book of Life (book of seven seals) and began the investigative Judgment for the dead.

9. **Second Seal**

- a. This denotes the period in which murder and war broke out among the nations.
- b. RED is a symbol of curse, bloodshed. Abel was the first victim.
- c. This condition climaxed just after the flood and the Babel disaster with its confusion of languages.

**Note:** To “take peace from the earth” (verse 4), implies that there was PEACE BEFORE THE TIME OF THE RED HORSE. This again proves that the first seal must have begun with Adam when the earth was pure and at peace. There was no peace on earth at the time of the New Testament era—the time generally taught to be the beginning of the seven seals.

**SUMMARY:** The second seal reveals the lives of those who lived particularly during the time just after the flood.. Remember, the seals overlap. So, after Adam and Eve, the world gradually became “red” —curse, wars, and murders until it peaked with the birth of the nations at the Tower of Babel.

10. **Third Seal**

Black Horse	Spiritual darkness-idolatry. This is the time when the knowledge of God was nigh obliterated. In fact, we have record of only Abraham and lot who served God.
Balances	Trading, commercialism —led by the Phoenicians. Tyre and Sidon, were the chief centers of commerce —ISA. 23:8. The Phoenicians were known as the “busy bees of the ancient world.”
One measure of Wheat for a penny and three measures of Barely.	SEE MATT. 20: 8-16 and the study of the 11th hour. All workers received a penny (eternal life). The last workers worked for only one parabolic hour All other workers worked for three parabolic hours. The first workers complained that they should have received more. The 11th hour workers received their penny first even though they were hired last.
Penny	Eternal Life-Salvation (Only human beings receive salvation as a reward for labor here on earth)
Wheat	144,000 & GREAT MULTITUDE (GM)—who were hired last.
Barley	JEWS —who were hired first
One measure	The ONE HOUR (Matt. 20:6,12) —the length of time

the 11th hour workers labored.

Three measures The THREE HOURS (Matt. 20: 1-3) —symbolizing the work of the Jews.

**Note:** The **REWARD** was given to the 11th hour workers **FIRST** —showing that the 144,000 will receive (penny) eternal life or **SALVATION BEFORE THE** ancient **JEWS** and the other laborers. Thus, the voice (God) said, “**ONE** measure of **WHEAT** [first] for a penny and **Three** measures of **BARLEY** [last].” Jesus said, the “last shall be first and the first last.” Matt. 20:16

Do Not Hurt the Oil and the Wine No interference with the Holy Scriptures that which was then being written by Moses (*GC v*). Oil and Wine are symbols of spiritual food-Jesus said that His words are “Spirit and Life” John 6:63. See also Ps. 45:7; Zech. 4:12.

**Note:** It is during the time of the black horse (third seal) that God called Israel, the time when Moses began to write the Bible. Thus it was appropriate for God to announce protection for the Scriptures.

**SUMMARY:** The third seal reveals the time when mankind well nigh lost the Knowledge of God—the time God called Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Israel—the time men introduced commerce—the time the Bible was introduced.

11.

**Fourth Seal**

Pale horse Non-descript color. Same period as the Non-descript beast of Dan. 7:7,8—the period of the ancient Roman government. The color denotes a mixture of paganism and Christianity.

Rider (death) Persecution—Rome killed thousands and thousands of people, especially the Christians.

Fourth part of the earth Rome was allowed to persecute the Christians for a fourth part of earth. After which its power was to wane.

The earth is to be 6,000 yrs old. To get a fourth part you must Divide four into 6,000 (6,000/4=1500). Beginning from the crucifixion (31 AD) add 1500, which will bring you to 1530 AD —the date of the Augsburg Confession-the separation of Lutherans from Catholicism.

12.

**Fifth Seal**

Souls under the Altar Souls slain for the word of God—already dead at the time of the opening of the fifth seal. These were martyrs from the preceding period (4th seal). Their untimely deaths demanded justice.

Altar An altar signifies a renewal of faith, worship-a

reformation. Even in our churches we use the expression an “altar Call”— “come down to the altar.” Therefore, the altar must symbolize the PROTESTANT REFORMATION which began the downfall of Rome —the beginning of a spiritual renewal.

How Long... The answer that they should “rest for a little season, until then fellow servants also and their brethren that should be killed as they were should be fulfilled”, is evidence that the persecution and martyrdom of the 4th seal were to overlap the fifth seal and the judgment was not to begin until after the persecution had ceased completely. That is, although the reformation brought the decline of Rome (the papacy), some of God’s people were still to be martyred for their faith up to the complete fall of the papacy. Then the Judgment of the dead would begin.

White Robes Accounted worthy of eternity.

13. **Sixth Seal**

Earthquake	Lisbon: Nov. 1, 1755 ( <i>GC</i> 304)
Sun, Moon	May 19, 20, 1780 ( <i>GC</i> 306)
Falling Stars	Nov. 13, 1833 ( <i>GC</i> 333)

See also Matt. 24:29.

**Sixth Seal—Future (Rev. 6:14-17)**

It is normally taught that these verses apply to the second coming of Christ. However, the following will prove that the second coming is only secondary; that in fact it applies primarily to the purification of the church—the slaughter of Ezekiel Nine.

14. **Why Could Not Rev. 6:14-17 Primarily Apply**

To The Second Coming of Jesus?

- a. THE JUDGMENT IS STILL IN PROGRESS—all seven seals must be opened and reviewed before Jesus can leave the sanctuary. There are still more names to be judged.
- b. JESUS IS STILL A BLEEDING LAMB (verse 6,16). That indicates that probation is still opened.
- c. THIS IS THE WRATH OF THE **LAMB**, not the wrath of God. This shows again that probation is still open. The wrath of God is the seven last plagues and the 2nd advent. (See Rev. 15:7; 16:1,18-21).
- d. INSPIRATION APPLIES THESE VERSES TO THE CHURCH. **97 268**
- e. VERSE 17 IS THE SAME AS MALACHI 3:1-3, AND THIS PASSAGE APPLIES TO THE PURIFICATION OF THE CHURCH IN THE TIME OF THE JUDGMENT.

**Note:** Chapter six ends with the question “who will be able to stand?” The

answer is found in Rev. 7—the 144,000 and the Great Multitude.

**OPTIONAL:** See Isa. 2:1, 19-21—this shows that wicked in the church will also run to the rocks and the mountains. 1 TG 51:12; 1 TG 29:12  
Isa. 34:4-8—The heavens will also depart at the purification of the church. 1 TG 35:19-21; 17190,198.

**Summary:** Thus the sixth seal will close not with the second coming of Christ, but with the slaughter of Ezekiel Nine—THE JUDGMENT OF THE LIVING (JOL) ON EARTH.

15. **Seventh Seal**

This seal is also generally taught to be the second coming. However, the following will prove that this is the opening of the **judgment of the living in Heaven**. The SIXTH SEAL CLOSES WITH THE JOL ON **EARTH**, but the SEVENTH SEAL OPENS WITH THE JOL IN **HEAVEN**, which is **after** the slaughter of Ezekiel Nine and continues during the loud cry to the final close of probation. (For further information see 12 SC 3:18-22).

**Note:** The JOD involves only cleansing the books in Heaven since those on trial are not alive. However, the JOL involves two parts—the cleansing of the books in Heaven and the cleansing of the church on earth.

16. **Is The Half Hour Of Silence The 2nd Advent Of Christ?**

- a. THE JUDGMENT IS STILL IN PROGRESS since Jesus is still in the Sanctuary opening the seventh seal which means that he is still investigating the names of those during this period.
- b. CHRIST IS STILL A BLEEDING LAMB.
- c. AN HALF HOUR OF SILENCE IMPLIES THAT THERE IS AFTER THE HALF HOUR WHAT EVER WAS GOING ON BEFORE MUST CONTINUE—The Judgment. Therefore the half an hour divides the judgment into two sections— the JOD and the JOL.
- d. THE PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS ARE OFFERED UP BEFORE GOD. This indicates that probation is still open since you cannot offer prayers after Jesus' 2nd advent—there will be no need.
- e. THE ANGEL CAST DOWN FIRE TO THE EARTH. Fire is a symbol of THE HOLY SPIRIT. (Acts 2:1-4). No one will need the outpouring of the Holy Spirit after the second coming of Christ.
- f. THE VOICES, THUNDERINGS, LIGHTINGS, RETURN, SHOWING THAT THE JUDGMENT STARTED AGAIN. Compare with Rev. 4:5. The voices must represent the speaking of the beasts, elders, angels, etc. When God speaks it is like thunderings and lightnings. The voices clearly indicate that judgment continues AFTER THE HALF HOUR OF SILENCE.

17. **What Happens During The Half Hour Of Silence?**

—The Purification of the Church.

- a. The silence reveals that the Judgment must have ceased for a time. The only event which would cause silence during the judgment is the **purification of the church**--Ez. 9. It is the only time

we know from both the Bible and the Testimonies that Jesus will interrupt his mediatorial work.

**Read: 57690**

- b. This passage must be fulfilled during probationary time because it mentions: "...the unfolding of truth..." Truth only unfolds while probation still lingers. Furthermore, it states that "the Lord Jesus shall rise up FROM HIS MEDIATORIAL WORK..." This would indicate that He will interrupt his work of atonement.

18. **How Long Is The Half Hour Of Silence?**

—About Seven Days—One Week.

[Using PROPHETIC TIME (A day=a year)]

- a. One day=24 hours
- b. One year=360 days
- c. **360/24=15**
- d. **15=1 hour**
- e. **15/2=1/2 hour =7.5 days (ABOUT a week).**

Thus the purification of the church—Ezek. 9, will last about a week.

**SUMMARY:** The seventh seal reveals that the JOL in Heaven will begin after the half hour of silence—purification of the church. The half an hour of silence, therefore, divides the investigative judgment into two parts: the JOD and the JOL.

**CONCLUSION:** The study of the seven seals reveal that God's professed people have been on trial since 1844. This court case is the greatest and most important in the history of earth and the Universe. Each individual and generation is investigated with terrible exactness. It especially, and more importantly, reveals that the Judgment in the SDA Church will mark the opening of the Judgment for the living. Thus we see, that soon we will have to stand before the never erring Judge and give an account for our deeds—not physically, but our records will testify to whether we are worthy through the merits of Christ to be sealed, allowing the slaughtering angels to pass by and have our names retained on the Book of Life. Thus, we determine our own destiny by either holding on to our sins or repenting of them.

**FURTHER STUDY: 2 SR 187-221**

**15 TR 1-67 (To The Seven Churches)**

**2 TG 12,13,14.**

**2 ANS. 29-31 (Answerer Book)**

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