

The Book of Revelation

The Seven Seals (The Seven 1000 Year Days of the Earth's Temporal Existance*)



John Summarizes the Highlights of the First Five Seals

Joseph Smith said: "The things which John saw had no allusion to the scenes of the days of Adam, Enoch, Abraham, or Jesus, only so far as is plainly represented by John....John saw that only which was lying in futurity and which was shortly to come to pass." (*Teachings*, p. 289.) That such is the case is evident when we see that the first five seals are dealt with in 111 verses (only 3% of the total verses) while 281 verses (70%) deal with the events of the sixth and seventh seals and the final glory of the earth.



JOHN SEES THOSE SAVED IN GOD'S KINGDOM

Just prior to the sounding of the seven trumpets of judgment, John is shown the multitude of those who have achieved salvation praising God and the Lamb in the celestial kingdom.

(7:9-17)

THE "LITTLE BOOK" INTERLUDE

Between the sounding of the sixth trumpet and the vision of the two witnesses in Jerusalem, an angel delivers a book to John and commands him to eat it. We know from later-day revelation that this symbolized a special mission given to John to participate in the gathering of Israel (D&C 77:14), thus John is shown his part in the great events of the future which he sees in vision.

(10: 1-11)

JOHN SEES THOSE SAVED IN GOD'S KINGDOM

Just prior to the pouring out of the vials of judgment, John is shown the multitude of those who overcame the beast praising God and the Lamb in the celestial kingdom.

(15: 1-4)

THE DESTRUCTION OF SATAN'S KINGDOM

After the seven vials of judgment have been poured out, an angel explains the symbolism of the great whore and the beast. He is then shown the great overthrow of the whore (the symbolic representation of Satan's kingdom and the counterpart to the true church—the bride of Christ). The world laments in great sorrow the fall of Satan's empire.

(17: 1-18; 18: 1-24)

The Kingdom of God—Its' Triumphant Destiny

While the events of the future ages were revealed around the basic chronological framework of the seven seals, it does not seem to have been the Lord's purpose to arrange every aspect of the revelation in a strict order of the occurrence of these events. Like a master teacher who digresses from his presentation to further clarify or expand what he teaches, even so the Lord interrupts the order of the presentation to give greater insight, further truths, deeper knowledge of the marvelous future destiny of his kingdom. These "teaching interludes" are shown on the chart below.



AN EXPLANATION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND ITS OPPOSITION FROM SATAN'S KINGDOM

The Voices in heaven announced the coming triumph of the Kingdom of God. This kingdom and its great satanic counterpart are now discussed in some detail.

- I. The Church and Kingdom of God
 - A. The church (the ecclesiastical aspect of the kingdom) brings forth the kingdom where Christ reigns as king (the political aspect of the kingdom).
 - B. The church and kingdom of God are opposed by the great dragon (Satan).
 - C. This opposition actually began in the premortal existence and caused war in heaven.
 - D. The church of John's time would not bring forth the kingdom but would be driven into the wilderness (apostasy) by the dragon.
- II. The Church and Kingdom of Satan
 - A. John sees the beast from the sea and is shown that Satan has power over earthly kingdoms (the political aspects of his kingdom).
 - B. John sees the beast from the earth exercising great evil through religious power (the ecclesiastical aspects of his kingdom).
 - C. The followers of the beast are sealed in their foreheads to mark their allegiance.
- III. The Final Outcome
 - A. John sees the Lamb on mount Zion with those who have been sealed in their foreheads by God. (The 144,000)
 - B. John sees the angelic restoration of the gospel, which signals the fall of Satan's dominions.
 - C. The Son of Man is seen in heaven with the sickle and winepress. The great harvest (judgment) of the wicked is to begin. (14: 1-20)

*These "days" should not in any way be confused with the major gospel dispensations. Such dispensations have not been initiated at regular intervals but have been subject to the wisdom of God and willingness of man to believe the prophets. (See D&C 77: 7, 12)