

## THE SEVEN SEALS

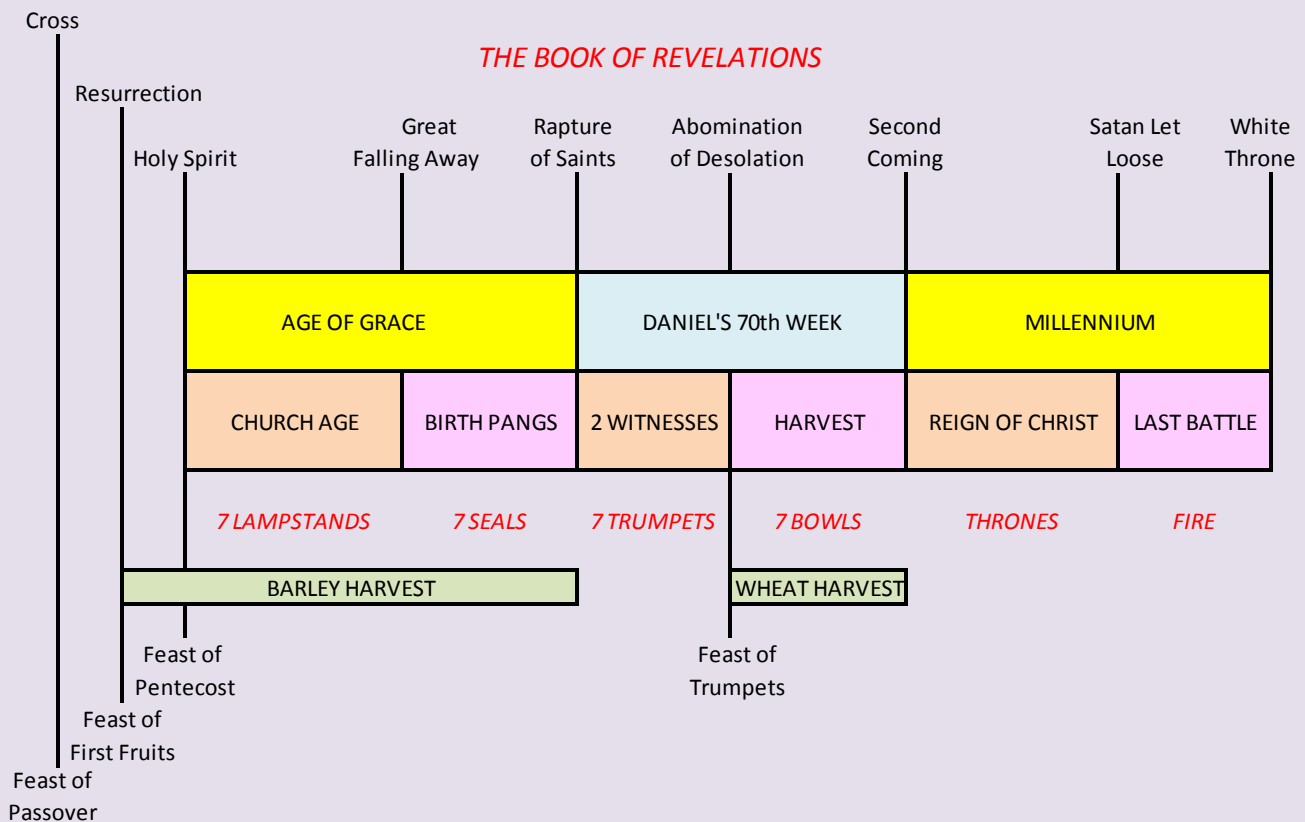
### INTRODUCTION

Revelations is the premier prophetic book in the New Testament. It sets forth earthly and heavenly events from the first coming of Christ to the second coming of Christ and beyond.

Revelations divides history from the Cross to the Eternal State into four ages:

- (1) Age of Grace (2) Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week (3) The Millennium (4) The Eternal State

The diagram below shows within the ages there are subdivisions (eras). Between each era there is a crisis event. Beneath each sub-division are the corresponding prophecies of the Book of Revelations. The **Seven Seals** correspond to the '**Birth Pangs**' period.



### TWO HARVESTS – TWO COMINGS

In Biblical prophecy there are two harvests: the Barley Harvest, and the Wheat Harvest. The Barley Harvest speaks of the resurrection of Jesus and the salvation of Christians; The Wheat Harvest refers to the salvation of Jews. There are also two comings: At the end of Barley Harvest Christ meets the saints in the air and at the end of Wheat Harvest Christ comes to back to earth with his holy ones.

## THE TEACHING OF JESUS ON THE END TIMES

The most extended and detailed discourse of Jesus on prophecy in the last days is Matthew chapter 24. The disciples came to Jesus and very specifically asked him to tell them: “**What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?**” (Matt. 24:1)

Much confusion has arisen over the interpretation of this passage. This is avoided by recognizing that:

- There will be two comings of Jesus (one at the end of each harvest)
- There will be signs for each coming of Jesus
- Jesus addresses the signs for both of the comings in Matthew 24

One cause of confusion is the popular term: ‘Second Coming’, which is actually the Third Visitation. To be precise it should be called the ‘Second Coming – To Earth’ or the ‘Third Visitation’.

The disciples expected Jesus was only coming again once, and so they asked for ‘the sign of your coming and of the end of the age’. Jesus tried to explain that there will be two comings and two sets of signs. The disciples could hardly be faulted for failing to grasp what he said – there are still scholars 2,000 years later who are confused!

As would be expected, Jesus addresses the signs of his Second Visitation in the first part of the discourse (Matt. 24:4-14) and he addresses the signs of his Third Visitation in the second part of the discourse (Matt. 24:15-35).

The dividing line between the separate accounts of his two comings is crystal clear:

“**And this gospel to the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.**” (Matt. 24:14)

“**So, when you see the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place, spoken of through the prophet Daniel, let the reader understand, then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.**” (Matt. 24:15)

**The first account** (Matthew 24:4-14) pertains to the Age of Grace, the period from Pentecost to the Rapture, during which time any soul can be saved and go to heaven by believing the gospel. This is the period that corresponds to the Barley Harvest. The end of the Age of Grace will be the Rapture. When Jesus said ‘**then the end will come**’ it means the end of the Age of Grace – of Christians on the Earth.

**The second account** (Matthew 24:15-31) begins precisely when the Abomination of Desolation occurs in the Temple, which is in the middle of Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> Week. This is the period that corresponds to the Wheat Harvest. The end of that age will be the ‘Second Coming’ or the Third Visitation – when he appears with his holy ones and all his elect to destroy the Anti-Christ and the False Prophet.

## THE ACCOUNT OF JESUS' SECOND VISITATION - MATCHES THE SEAL EVENTS

The complete text of the first account of Jesus pertaining to the signs of his Second Visitation:

“Jesus answered: ‘Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name claiming ‘I am the Christ’, and will deceive many. You will hear of **wars** [**First Seal** – Rev. 6:1-2 and **Second Seal** – Rev. 6:3-4] and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but **the end** [**Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> Week**] **is still to come**. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be **famines** [**Third Seal** – Rev. 6:5-6] and **earthquakes** in various places. All these are **the beginnings of birth pangs** [**Birth Pangs**]. Then you will be handed over to be **persecuted and put to death** [**Fifth Seal** – Rev. 6:9-11], and **you will be hated by all nations because of me** [this is happening to Christians]. At that time **many will turn away from the faith** [**Great Falling Away**] and betray and hate each other. And many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And **this gospel of the kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations** [**Age of Grace**], and **then the end** [**Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> Week**] **will come**.” (Matt. 24:1-14)

We notice that there is a high degree of symmetry between the description of last days events provided in this account and the description of the Seals in Revelations. All seven of the Seal events are described in detail in the Book of Revelations. We don’t see them all in the account of Jesus. In Jesus’ description earthquakes occurs before the Fifth Seal event (persecutions). There may very well be earthquakes before the Fifth Seal event. Even though Jesus did not mention it, this does not preclude the Great Earthquake (Sixth Seal) from occurring after the Fifth Seal. In addition to the Great Earthquake (Sixth Seal) Jesus also does not mention Plague (Fourth Seal). That doesn’t mean all the events described in Revelations won’t happen – it just means Jesus did not provide all details in his account. Jesus was going to die on a cross in two days (Matt.26:1) – time was short.

It is significant that Jesus refer to this period of time as ‘Birth Pangs’. Not a word in Scripture is by accident. Rachel had great difficulty in giving birth to Benjamin and she died when he was born (Genesis 35:17-18). She named her son ‘Ben-Oni’, which means ‘son of my trouble’. Benjamin is the last son of Jacob and his only son born in the Promised Land – Benjamin is prophetic of the nation of Israel that appears for the third and last time in the Promised Land in Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> Week. For the transition from the New Covenant (Sarah<sup>1</sup>) back to the Old Covenant (Benjamin) to happen, the Church on Earth (Rachel) must go through birth pains.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Galatians 4:21-31

<sup>2</sup> Leah represents Gentile nations (i.e. sons born in Syria) founded on Christian professions up to the Reformation; Rachel represents Gentile nations (i.e. son born in Syria) founded on Christian professions after the Reformation [Joseph counted as Ephraim = US + Manasseh = UK]; just before Rachel dies she gives birth to Benjamin (i.e. son born in Holy Land) Jewish.

## THE ACCOUNT OF THE RAPTURE IN 1<sup>ST</sup> THESSALONIANS – MATCHES THE SEAL EVENTS

Conservative Christian belief is the Rapture occurs immediately prior to Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week. This paper agrees with that. Conservative Christian interpretation of Revelations is Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week begins with the first Seal (Revelations 6). This paper does not agree with that - we propose the Seals occur while Christians are still on the earth.

According to 1 Thess. 4:16, Christians are raptured when: "(1) the Lord comes down from heaven, (2) with a loud command, (3) with the voice of the archangel, and (4) with the trumpet call of God".

Each of the four signs described above in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 are described in Revelations in close proximity to the Seventh Seal – which is identical in earthly time to the First Trumpet. In fact there are seven events recorded in Revelations, which occur simultaneously in earthly time, that are clustered about and in between the four events described in 1 Thessalonians 4:16:

- There is no wind on earth – the Holy Spirit [breath or wind] (living in hearts of Christians) is taken out of this world when we meet the Lord who comes down from heaven (Rev. 7:1)
- The archangel calls out in a loud voice (Revelations 7:2-3)
- The 144,000 Israelites on earth are sealed by angels – unknown to the 144,000 (Rev. 7:4-8)
- The raptured saints appear in heaven as a great throng no man can number (Rev. 7:9-17)
- The Seventh Seal is opened (Rev. 8:1)
- Silence in heaven for one half hour (Rev. 8:1)
- The First Trumpet sounds (Rev. 8:7).

Three of the four events described in 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians perfectly match the Seal events described in Revelations. The other event described: "the Lord comes down from heaven" is not explicitly described in Revelations. However it is strongly suggested by the absence of wind on the Earth and the appearance of the great throng of raptured Christians in heaven which closely follows that.

The doctrine that the Holy Spirit will be withdrawn from the Earth when the saints are raptured to meet the Lord in the air is based on 2 Thessalonians:

**"Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus [Second Visitation] and our being gathered to him [the Rapture] we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report, or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the Day of the Lord has already come...for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed [The Anti-Christ]...And you know what is holding him back [the power of the Holy Spirit], so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is at work; but the one [Holy Spirit] (living in Christians) who holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way [Rapture]." (2 Thess. 2:1-7)**

## THE SEALS ARE PROPHETIC EVENTS – THE WRITING IN THE SCROLL IS THE JUDGMENT OF ISRAEL

There is a difference between the writing in the scroll and the seals upon the scroll.

“Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat upon the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.” (Rev. 5:1-3)

The only other reference in Scripture we have of a scroll with writing on both sides comes from the call of Ezekiel to prophesy to Israel:

“He said to me ‘Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you’. As he spoke the Spirit came into me...Then I looked and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll, which he unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written words of lament, and mourning, and woe. And he said to me ‘Son of man: eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the house of Israel.’” (Eze. 2:1; 2:9-10; 3:1)

Two points are critical to understand about the scroll of Ezekiel:

- (1) It was a record of judgment of punishments (lament and woe written on both sides);
- (2) The judgments were against Israel.

We infer that the scroll of the Apostle John was also a record of judgments against Israel. It is emphasized in Scripture numerous times: the scroll pertains to Israel (see Ezekiel 2:5).

The scroll cannot pertain to the Church because the blood of Jesus has washed away all our sins. There is no judgment ever against the Church: we are sons not slaves, governed by the Spirit not by laws.

“He forgave us all our sins having cancelled the written code with its regulations that was against us and stood opposed to us; he took it away nailing it to the cross” (Col. 2:13-14)

“Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?” (Romans 8:33)

“For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath [of God] but to receive salvation...” (2 Thess. 5:9)

The Seals are not judgments against Israel or against the Church. Only the Scroll contains judgments – and those are against Israel. The imagery is clear: no one could see inside the scroll of John – it must first be opened in order to be read. To be opened the seals must be removed. But, there was no writing on the seals. The seals are merely there to bind the scroll of the judgments against Israel together. So, removing a seal does not imply a judgment either against the Church (we are not subject to judgment) nor against Israel (her judgments are written upon the scroll). Certain prophetic events must occur prior to Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week – this is what the Seals signify.

## WHO IS WORTHY TO OPEN THE SEALS?

The entire fifth chapter of Revelations deals with the issue of who is worthy to loosen the seals and to open the scroll. The issue of who has the right to open the Seals supports our interpretation of them.

And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice 'Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll? But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open 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 loosen 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 having seven horns and seven eyes which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then he came and took the scroll out of the right hand of him who sat upon the throne. Now when he had taken the scroll the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb; each having a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song – saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals; for you were slain and have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on earth.'" (Rev. 5:2-10)

A slain lamb was not needed for Ezekiel to eat the scroll with the judgments of Israel upon it (Eze. 2:9) – it was simply handed to him. So, what is all the fuss about 'who is worthy?' to loosen the seals?

According to our interpretation, the Seals do not relate to Israel – the impact of the Seals will fall on Christians and Gentiles. The fifth Seal of Revelations will be the martyrdom of millions - possibly hundreds of millions - of Christians. Christians are the bride of Christ – the beloved of the Lord Jesus. It is necessary for Christians to be taken out of the way, for Rachel to suffer birth pangs, in order for Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week to take place. But who in heaven, or on earth, or under the earth could be worthy to break the fifth Seal and permit mass suffering to fall upon the Bride of Christ?

John the Apostle was in tears over this issue. John did not weep that no one was worthy to permit the martyrdom of Christians. John was concerned the promises of God would be honored – that those who were asleep in Christ or alive when he came would be raptured and go to heaven! In order for the rapture of Christians to occur the Great Falling Away and the persecution of Christians must come first.

Who is worthy to break the seals? The answer: "I saw a Lamb as if slain" (Rev. 5:6); "You are worthy because you were slain" (Rev. 5:9); "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain" (Rev. 5:12). The death of Christ pays for our salvation and guarantees Christians will go to heaven. The One who permits the suffering and martyrdom of Christians is our Savior.

## **NO ANGELS ARE INVOLVED IN THE SEALS – WHICH SUGGESTS THEY DO NOT PERTAIN TO ISRAEL**

In contrast to the trumpet and bowl judgments, when the Lord opens the Seals no angels are sent forth to deliver consequences or to announce events. Instead, we see the four living creatures, who stand before the throne day and night, cry out: “**Come!**” as the first four Seals are opened (Rev. 6:1-7).

Who are the four living creatures? They stand before the throne of God – suggesting their role pertains to the government of God over the Universe. (Appendix I addresses the role of the four living creatures). One of their tasks is to announce when prophecy comes to pass.

Many future events have been announced aforesaid to the patriarchs in the form of the prophecy in the stars. The four living creatures stand before the throne day and night – because the motion of celestial bodies is continuous no matter if the Sun is up or down. The Lord is the one who set these objects in motion and the Lord determined there would be prophetic information in them:

“**The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech [messages]; night after night they display knowledge.” (Ps. 19:1-2)**

For those who are interested in Revelations and wish to investigate the prophetic information in the names of the stars and the pictures of the constellations we invite you to learn more about the three constellations relevant to this topic: Taurus (The Time of the Gentiles), which includes the ‘Birth Pangs’ time period; Gemini (1<sup>st</sup> Half of Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> Week); and Cancer (2<sup>nd</sup> Half of Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> Week).<sup>3</sup> If you are not familiar with star knowledge, you will be astounded how much prophetic detail is contained in them. If you question whether the stars contain specific prophecy consider the teaching of the Bible that the Magi knew from the stars (and planets) the time and place of Christ’s birth.

In contrast to the ministry of the four living creatures, God deals with Israel through angels:

“**The law was put into effect through angels by a mediator [Moses]” (Galatians 3:19)**

Angels were witnesses of all the terms of the Old Covenant. Angels also kept records of all transgressions of the Law. Finally, angels participate in the judgments for those transgressions. When the scroll is opened a litany of judgments will fall upon Israel – these are the consequences of the transgressions of the Law. This is why we see angels involved in Trumpet and Bowl judgments.

Even in Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> Week, God will offer an opportunity for repentance. At the mid-point of Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> Week when the Abomination of Desolation occurs – every Jew will be given a choice to believe in Jesus and be martyred, or take the Mark of the Beast. Only a remnant will be saved. Those who do not repent will receive the full force of the judgment of God for the sins of Israel.

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<sup>3</sup> Papers are provided for those three constellations on Page 7 “STARS” on www.biblenumbersforlife.com

## THE SIXTH SEAL – WRATH FALLS ON THE GENTILE NATIONS

The Scripture says:

“I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by the wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.” (Rev. 6:12-14)

“Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks: ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the lamb!’ For the great day of his wrath has come – and who can stand?” (Rev. 6:15-17)

When the kings report ‘the great day of his wrath has come’; this is a quotation from Isaiah:

“The Lord, the LORD Almighty has a Day – of tumult and trampling and terror in the Valley of Vision; a day of battering down walls and of crying to the mountains.” (Isaiah 22:5)

Isaiah tells us more about this Day:

“The floodgates of the heavens are opened, the foundations of the earth shake [great earthquake]...The earth reels like a drunkard, it sways like a hut in the wind...In that Day the LORD will punish the powers in the heavens above [stars fall to earth] and the kings on the earth below [kings and mighty men hide]...The moon will be abashed [blood red – guilty], the sun ashamed [blackened out]...” (Isaiah 24:18-21)

The kings of the earth unknowingly fulfill prophecy when they say ‘who can stand?’:

“At your rebuke, O God of Jacob, both horse and chariot lie still. You alone are to be feared. Who can stand before you when you are angry?” (Psalm 76:6-7)

“He breaks the spirit of the rulers; he is feared by the kings of the earth” (Psalm 76:12)

In these passages we see the same thing: the **Day of the Lord** will be a twenty-four hour day, when cataclysmic disaster reaches every place on planet earth. It is a day of God’s wrath, not against Israel, not against the Church (which contemporaneous with the sixth Seal no longer exists) but against the Gentiles. The Gentile nations have had thousands of years to hear the gospel and repent – but the Age of Grace is over – the only thing left for them is punishment. The Gentile nations did not protect Christians from persecution – to the contrary - they cooperated in their genocide. Once more we see



the Seals refer to prophetic events that occur prior to Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week. God's dealing with Israel will begin at the first trumpet. Only at that time will we see start to see angels in the Book of Revelations.

### SPIRITUAL NUMBERS RELATED TO THE SEVEN SEALS

We offer the following numerical insights hidden in the gematria<sup>4</sup> of the words and verses describing the opening of the Seals in Revelations. The spiritual meaning of numbers and the methods by which we prove those meaning is provided at [www.biblenumbersforlife.com](http://www.biblenumbersforlife.com)

- The numerical value of the word 'slain' (Rev. 5:6) is  $831 = 3 \times 277$ . The spiritual meaning of 277 is "Emasculation" and refers to the gross humiliation of a man. The spiritual meaning of 3 is "God". The crucifixion was the public display of an unclothed man in extreme suffering. The Son of God was not only murdered – he was grossly humiliated in a public place.
- The verse in Revelations 6:14 concerning the Sixth Seal: "The sky receded like a scroll – rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place" is the 110<sup>th</sup> verse in the Book of Revelations. The spiritual meaning of 110 is "Day of the Lord".

### GEMATRIA STUDY – VERSE BY VERSE STUDY - REVELATIONS CHAPTER 6

The numerical value (Gematria = G) of the verses in Revelations chapter 6:

- Verse 1 {First Seal Opened} G= 15,230 =  $10 \times 1523$  [241<sup>st</sup> prime] which has the spiritual meaning: "Testimony" (10) of "Saints in Prison" (241); Christian fellowship is no more;
- Verse 2 {Rider on White Horse} G= 10,395 =  $9 \times 5 \times 7 \times 11$  which spiritually can mean: "Weeping and Mourning" ( $315=9 \times 5 \times 7$ ) and "Fear" or "Hiding" (11) but it also means: "False Prophet" ( $77=7 \times 11$ ) is "Protected" ( $45=9 \times 5$ ) – what a contrast! The Anti-Christ, the rider on the white horse, will crush Christians – hence weeping and mourning - but he will protect his ally the False Prophet. In these days the Anti-Christ will wage his wars from behind the scenes – the secret power of lawlessness is already at work – but he will not be revealed as the One World Ruler until Christians are raptured to heaven;
- Verse 3 {Second Seal Opened} G= 8,737 [1,099<sup>th</sup> Prime]  $1099 = 7 \times 157$  which means: "The End" (7) of "The Chosen People" (157) <no. 157 distinctly refers to the Church!> See 1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen people..." Also, see Spiritual Theme 12;

<sup>4</sup> Greek letters have numerical values. The value of a word is the sum of the value of its letters. The numerical value of a verse is the sum of the numerical value of its words. For more information on gematria please visit [www.biblenumbersforlife.com](http://www.biblenumbersforlife.com) (especially relevant are Page 1.0 INTRODUCTION and Page 8.0 GEMATRIA)

- Verse 4 {Red Horse of War} G = 13,873 [1,649<sup>th</sup> Prime] 1649 = 17 x 97 which means: "**Victory**" (17) by "**Fire Burns Enemies**" (97)
- Verse 5 {Third Seal Opened: Black Horse / Scales} G = 16,291 = 11 x 1,481 [234<sup>th</sup> Prime] which means: "**Turning to Man for Rescue**" (234) is "**Hidden**" (11), i.e. impossible;
- Verse 6 {A quart of wheat for a denarius} G = 15,271 [1,793<sup>rd</sup> Prime] 1,793 = 11 x 163 which means: "**Word Hid in Heart**" (163) is "**Hidden**" (11), i.e. nowhere to be seen – in that day the whole world will be obsessed with markets and prices and commercialism – not spirituality, i.e. believing the Word of God;
- Verse 7 {Fourth Seal Opened} G = 10,925 = 25 x 19 x 23 which spiritually can mean: "**Utter Weakness**"(25) of "**Faith**"(19): "**Death**"(23);
- Verse 8 {Pale Horse – Power To Kill ¼ of Earth} G = 21,592 = 8 x 2,699 [403<sup>rd</sup> prime = 13 x 31] which could be interpreted "**Holy Man**" (8) from "**Rebellious**" (13) "**Family**" (31); note: this suggests a connection between these events and the dealings of the False Prophet – who is the High Priest of Israel – the 'Holy Man of the Rebellious Family';
- Verse 9 {Fifth Seal Opened – Saints Under Altar} G = 15,954 = 6 x 2,659 [385<sup>th</sup> prime = 35 x 11] which could be interpreted "**Suffering Servants**"(35)"**Hidden**"(11) from "**Man**"(6); the martyrdom of Christians is swept 'under the rug' so to speak – the world doesn't wish to remind itself of this unpleasant business of ridding itself of believers – but they are not hidden from the LORD – he continues to hear their cries after they die;
- Verse 10 {The martyrs cry out: "How long O Lord ... till you avenge our blood?"} G = 12,338 = 2 x 31 x 199 which means "**Division**"(2) of "**Dramatic Rescue**"(199) of "**Family**" (31); in other words, there will be no dramatic rescue of the family of faith on earth (which are the Christians at this time) – all that is left is to judge their murderers;
- Verse 11 {Given white robes told to wait} G = 18,685 = 5 x 37 x 101 which means: "**Chosen Servant**"(37) has "**Life**"(5) but "**Rebellious Cast Out**"(101). The number 101 occurs in Spiritual Number Theme 8 – which is concerned with the purification of the church through persecution and affliction; God is saying very forcefully – evil may triumph for an hour – but good will overcome and evil will be thrown down;
- Verse 12 {Sixth Seal Opened – Great Earthquake, Sun turns black} G = 10,407 = 3 x 4,369 [487<sup>th</sup> prime [93<sup>rd</sup> prime]] which means: "**God!**" (3) the "**Might of God!**" (93); doesn't it make your spine tingle when you see such a close correspondence between the literal

word meanings and the meaning of the spiritual numbers! When the Sun turns black as sackcloth – what else could it possibly mean to a watching world than God Almighty is demonstrating his mighty power!

- Verse 13 {Stars in the Sky fall to earth – like late figs}  $G = 10,625 = 5 \times 5 \times 5 \times 5 \times 17$  which can have two interpretations. First: “**Lord’s Supper**” ( $85=5 \times 17$ ) “**Multitude of Holy Angels**” ( $125=5 \times 5 \times 5$ ). Second: “**Victory!**” (17): “**Forgiveness of Sins**” (25) “**Exalted**” (squared); This verse has a such a deep and important spiritual meaning. Verse 13 of chapter 6 of Revelations is the 109<sup>th</sup> verse in the Book. The spiritual number 109 means “**Protector of the Poor**”; as soon as the Sixth Seal is broken what has happened is clear to every observer – the stars, which symbolize prophecy, drop to earth – meaning that a gigantic day of prophetic fulfillment is at hand: which is the Rapture of the Saints! When Christians celebrate the Lord’s Supper – they remember the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ; this encourages our faith because it also speaks of the day when believers will be resurrected too. **When does the Rapture occur? It occurs shortly after or simultaneous with the Sixth Seal breaking**; Dear reader: are you saved? Will you rise again on that day? Believe in the death and resurrection of Christ! He is coming again, we will meet him in the air, and return with him to our new home in Heaven!
- Verse 14 {Sky recedes like a scroll; every mountain is moved}  $G = 10,197 = 99 \times 103$  which means: “**Shekinah Glory**” (99) “**The Name of God**” (103); the Sixth Seal is an event experienced on earth by unbelievers in the form of a great earthquake and the Sun being blacked out. What happened when Jesus was crucified? “**It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness was over all the land until the ninth hour, for the Sun stopped shining.**” (Luke 23:44) And what happened at the resurrection? “**There was a violent earthquake,...**” (Matt 28:2). These two signs in combination point to God’s name: Jesus Christ; Those without faith only see the signs in the visible realm – but they point to a momentous event in the spiritual realm – the resurrection of the dead;
- Verse 15 {The kings of the earth hide among the rocks}  $G = 15,010 = 10 \times 19 \times 79$  which means: “**Testimony**” (10) of “**Faith**” (19) of “**Martyrs**” (79); on the day the saints of the Lord rise from the grave, and as they ascend, will the Lord permit them to look down and see his vengeance visited upon their persecutors? Will they see the kings, the mighty men, and the rich men – hiding in the rocks from the wrath of God? I believe they will – and when they meet the Lord in the air – they will give him glory for it;
- Verse 16 {They call to the rocks ‘Fall on us! Hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!}  $G = 13,467 = 3 \times 67 \times 67$  which means:

- “Gentiles Praise God!”** (67) **“Exalted”** (squared) **“God!”** (3); There are times in history when even the most hardened heart appreciates that something divine is happening; Another example would be the Roman centurion who exclaimed at Jesus’ crucifixion **“Surely this was a righteous man!”** In the case of the Sixth Seal – the unbelievers give glory to God; But, it is too late for them to be saved – the Rapture signals the end of the Age of Grace;
- Verse 17 {**For the great day of their wrath has come and who can stand?**}  $G = 4,685 = 5 \times 937$  [159<sup>th</sup> prime] which means: **“Grace”** (5) to the **“Faithful Church”** (159); it is sad, but the downfall of the wicked on earth is the surest sign that God upholds the righteous and will make them stand - in the last day - in heaven.

## APPENDIX ONE – THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES

Four living creatures stand before the throne of God. What or who they are?

Ezekiel (Eze. 1), Isaiah (Isa .7), and John (Rev. 4) all saw them. They are real – they are alive - and most significantly - they are continually before the throne of God - this suggests they have something to do with God's judgment and rule - since that is what the throne symbolizes.

In Exekiel's vision:

**"As I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the ground beside each creature with its four faces. This was the appearance and structure of the wheels: They sparkled like chrysolite, and all four looked alike. Each appeared to be a wheel intersecting a wheel... Their rims were high and awesome, and all four rims were full of eyes all around."** (Ezekiel 1:15-18)

We propose these wheels represent the four celestial movements and circles: (1) Moon around the Earth; that circle intersecting with (2) Earth around the Sun; that circle intersecting with (3) Sun around the center of the galaxy; that circle intersecting with (4) The galaxy around the center of the Universe.

In Ezekiel's vision the wheels were covered with eyes. Eyes are symbolic of the stars - who look down upon the earth - keeping watch so to speak - every day. So, there is some basis for supposing the wheels refer to movements of heavenly objects - or stars.

Ezekiel says:

**"When the living creatures moved, the wheels beside them moved"** (Ezekiel 1:19)

Now, you might ask: what could four LIVING creatures possibly have to do with the orbits of zillions and zillions of stars in the heavens? We know those planets and stars are INANIMATE objects: rocks and gas and metal. We know the laws of physics that GOVERN the movements of inanimate celestial objects, even ones separated by millions of light years.

Wait a second...there is that word 'GOVERN'. Is there a connection between celestial mechanics and the throne of God?

Take civilian laws for example: we have a parking laws that say you get a ticket if you overstay the time you paid for. What good would such a law be unless there was an enforcer - a parking officer - who patrolled the parking spaces and ensured the law was kept?

Here we have an example of a living creature - a parking officer - given the responsibility of overseeing the keeping of civilian laws.

In the same way - the four living creatures enforce the laws of God regarding the heavens - they ensure the law of gravity is obeyed - and all the rest of the laws of physics. The laws of physics have no power in themselves - the power comes from the living creatures - who in turn receive their power from God.

God created the heavens and the earth - and by his mighty power He continually upholds all things. The moment God decides not to uphold all things - the entire heavens will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:12).