



## Episode 6 - Opening the Seals

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This discussion begins to dive into the meaning of the seven seals of Revelation. What would life be for a true believer if he lived in a church-world of apostasy? God is showing us ourselves and what we become when we listen to the discrepancies of the apostate church.

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are transcribed directly with notations. Refer to KJV for verbatim wording.

Hi. This is Scott Stanley, DTG Ministries, exploring the deep things of God. I want to say that on every podcast because we are getting into some pretty deep things. In the last few podcasts, we have seen that the apostasy spoken of in the New Testament that would come on all over the world happened 2000 years ago. And if you don't understand that, if you haven't been able to see that, I would encourage you to take some time and listen to the podcasts that we put out here, because the Bible is explicitly clear.

You can't misunderstand it. Paul writes that this apostasy will happen before the man of sin, and he already sees evidence of the man of sin, and it's going to last to the end of the world. Then John tells you that we see antichrist already- "*They went out from us.*" So this apostasy began in the first century, and people walked away from the apostle's

teachings after being in the church.

So I maintain that there were certain things that they were taught to join the church: Jesus is Christ, he died, he was buried, he arose, and he appeared. But they walked away from the teachings of the apostles dealing with the Father and Son in eternity past, and dealing with the birth of Christ, that he came in the flesh without a knowledge of God. They deny that- John tells us that's what makes an antichrist an antichrist.

So let's just say that you accept 1 John, chapter 2, and 1 John, chapter 4, and Paul's writings about the antichrist in 2 Thessalonians 2. Let's say you accept all of that, and you realize that all of your life, you have been dealing with the apostasy in the churches. You really don't deal with it the way I'm describing unless you want to become a Christian and you enter into a church, any denomination, any of them. You enter a church, you're honest in heart. You really want to serve God. You really want to know the truth.

If you're one of those people, like I was, I was as sincere as I could be. I believed that God had forgiven me, and I wanted to serve God. And I wanted to surround myself with people like me who wanted to serve God. So I found myself in a denomination, no different than anybody else. I'm looking, I'm searching. What would life be like for a person like me? What would life be like for you if you were born at a time when apostasy reigned but you didn't know it? You didn't realize that, and you didn't realize that the Trinity was one of the things that kept the apostasy the apostasy.

What would life be like for you? Well, I can tell you what life was like for me. I gave my heart to the Lord. I was as sincere as I could be, and I found myself in a denominational group because I had been raised by a mother who believed in sending me to church even though I wasn't converted. I mean, I was a kid who went to church, had a Bible, learned the books of the Bible, and so on- Vacation Bible School, the whole thing.

So what was life like for me when I finally really gave my heart to God? Well, of course, I was encouraged to study the Bible. So I gave my heart to the Lord. A week later, I bought a Bible. I got a Thompson Chain Reference, King James, and I began to study the Bible. And, of course, I don't have a perfect understanding, who does? But the people in my denomination didn't either. And so everyone is teaching us things, and I'm seeing it on television with televangelists. I'm hearing all kinds of things about God, wondering what's true and what isn't, and I began to be uncomfortable trying to live what I was being told I should be doing.

Of course, we have to keep the Ten Commandments. And depending on where you're at, maybe you need to be speaking in tongues. Maybe you're in a group telling you that you need to go to church on Saturday. Maybe you're in a group that says, well, you can't play a stringed instrument in church. Maybe the things that you're being told about life, for example- "You've got to love your wife, and you've got to love your neighbor. You've got to love God. And if you look at a woman and lust, that's sin. You can't do that. You can't get mad. Don't let the sun go down on your wrath."

See, there are all of these verses that people are interpreting, and you give me a Bible, I'm going to read the things I'm being told. And what happens? I began to lose my peace because what I want to do, I can't do, and what I don't want to do, that's what I'm doing. I am literally living a Romans 7 experience, and I don't even know it. I can't understand, you know, does God expect me to do all this? "Well, no. Jesus died, and he paid your sin debt. So your sin is all paid for. Past, present, and future." Depending on who you talk to, they will stress that future, that you can't live without sin until God gives you a new body. And that isn't going to happen until the rapture.

When's the rapture? Well, I don't know. Pre-trib, post-trib, mid-trib? We don't know. We just know it's going to happen. So stay in tune with God. Let his spirit lead and guide you, and if you mess up... see, that was another thing. Well, when I sinned, did the Holy Spirit leave my body, because how can he be with me, a sinner? And then I have to go pray and ask forgiveness and get him to come back into my body.

Now this may sound silly to some of you, but I'm telling you, it wasn't silly to me. I couldn't understand it. I couldn't understand the way the book had been defined for me. So, depending on what you're told and what denomination you're in, some verses are more important to you than others. What do I mean? Well, for instance, the "golden verse" is John 1:1:

Jhn 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, ... And that has to be one of the most valuable verses in the Bible because it tells us the Trinity is true.

1Jn 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven... and they're all one.

Mat 28:19 Go preach in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

Those verses are more valuable. Well, you become Pentecostal. Let's say you go to a Pentecostal church, and now 1 Corinthians 14, Acts 2- these verses are what's important because God wants you to speak in tongues. And I'm telling you, if you don't speak in tongues, you don't know God. Believe it or not, people said that to me.

So, depending on who you're listening to, depending on the church you're going to, you are as honest and sincere as you can possibly be. You want to serve God. But when you pick up the Bible, you start putting your own meanings into it. I say your own meanings, things that you've been taught, and you read that into the Bible yourself. And then you start determining, well, these verses are more important than those verses. So this is what's important. And I've even been told many times that if you don't understand Genesis chapter 1, then you don't know anything. The whole Bible is based on that. And I was told, well, we are a New Testament church. We don't even read the Old Testament; we're a New Testament church, so these verses are more important than those verses.

Okay. This went on in my life for years, until finally, I felt like God was not even in anything I was doing, because I was not able to live what I was being told I was supposed to live, and it just wasn't making sense anymore. I'm reading the Bible; I'm seeing things that don't add up to what I'm being told. I realized, honestly, one day, I don't think God is even in anything I'm doing. How could he be? I mean, the life I'm living, I have sin in my life. He's forgiving me, but I can't overcome sin. I'm just having a bad time here.

So I cried out to God to help me. And what God did to help me was first show me the apostasy I was in, in not understanding that Jesus really is the Son of God. The Trinity is not true. Jesus really is the Son of God. To get that through my head, the Lord had to show me verses in the Bible that contradicted what I was being taught at church. Now it's frightening because, you know, who am I? Who are you to tell that preacher you're wrong? Who are we anyway? You know, I've never been to a theological seminary in my life, and yet I'm seeing things in the Bible that these teachers deny to be true.

He showed me that the way I was reading the Bible, I was putting my own meaning to it, and that all of the things I had learned needed to be cast down. In fact, how I thought God thought needed to be changed. The way I'm looking at God and what he is determining, what God is desiring, what God is leading us to do, that just had to go away. God had to change that. He had to give me a new way of perceiving his understanding.

All of this took courage. All of this leads you to a place where you're basically standing alone. You don't have a denomination anymore. Go read the verses that there's only one God, that Jesus is the Son of God, and let those sink in. Then go find a church that will let you come in there and believe that and teach that, and share that. Well, there isn't one. So you're basically on your own.

Now you're going to find individuals who will agree with you, and maybe you'll start meeting with them. Maybe you'll be searching for people who understand that this Trinity and this oneness doctrine and all these things being taught about God are just not true. When you do, you're standing alone in a church world that's based on apostasy. It's at this point that God will start moving in your life to help you and to bring you to him, to bring you to understand his redemption, what he means by redemption, and you'll discover salvation is actually taking place in your heart, between your ears.

Now, why am I going through all of this? Because in Revelation, you have the seals. And what I have just described to you is the process a believer goes through to find the truth, living in a world of apostasy. If you are honest in heart, when you give your heart to God and you want to serve him, you're going to want to read the Bible. And when you start reading that Bible, you're going to be reading and seeing things in it that you've been told are in it, and you're going to be putting your own meanings to it. You're going to start weighing these verses out. What is more important than the other?

If you're honest in heart, you'll come to a place where you'll realize something is not right in your life. Something is wrong here. You'll ask for help, and the Lord will begin to straighten you out. Now, look at Revelation, chapter 6, verse 1.

Rev 6:1 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 living creatures saying, Come and see.

Seals of what? Well, it's a book that the Lamb or Christ is opening. Turn back to Revelation, chapter 5, verse 1.

Rev 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and behind (King James put "backside"), and it was sealed with seven seals.

This book is you. The book is your life starting when you begin to serve God. God is holding this book, and notice that there is one on that throne. That book is your understanding. It is written within your heart and your past. Within and behind. It's sealed with seven seals.

First of all, a seal is positive. Seals are "confirmation." So when the Lamb begins to open your book to you, he is giving you an understanding of how you got to where you are. Remember, these seals go all the way to chapter 8. Chapter 6 has six of them, but there are seven seals. So, when you look at the first confirmation, confirming what? Confirming you're sincere, you're honest. The seals are numbered, so when the Lamb opened or gave you an understanding of this first confirmation,

Rev 6:1 ... I heard the noise of thunder, ... (The voice of thunder. Thunder is a rebuke, Psalms 104:7. Remember, Revelation was signified. It's in symbols.) I heard rebuke, ... and one of the four living creatures said, Come and see.

As we get into Revelation, I will show you what those living creatures are and what all of that represents. Right now, I'm just trying to make a point. This is your life as a Christian.

Rev 6:2 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.

That is you coming to the Lord, accepting Christ, finding forgiveness, and going forth conquering, and to conquer sin in your life.

Rev 6:3 When he opened the second confirmation, ...

See, it's a confirmation that you're honest- you're on a white horse. Well, the second is another confirmation that you're honest, you're sincere.

Rev 6:4 And there went out another horse, this one is red: ...

Why red? Because red is self, red is the earth. Earth is a symbol of self. This horse is red. Why? Well, look what happens.

Rev 6:4 ... There was given him that sat on that horse to take peace from the earth (or from yourself) that they should kill one another: and there was given him a great sword.

What is he talking about? The sword is the Bible. The Great Sword is the book. What's beginning to happen here? You're beginning to read the book, and you're putting your own definitions to it. Rev 6:4, *another horse that's red- there's given to him that sat to take peace from the earth...* "I can't do what you're telling me to do. I'm doing what I'm not supposed to do." Peace is taken from the earth because of what you're reading in the Bible and what you think you're supposed to be doing. See, peace was taken from the earth, and you're given a great sword, the Bible, and notice what he says.

Rev 6:4 ... There was given unto him that sat to take peace from the earth, that they should kill one another...

I just think of my life and studying the Bible, and putting people to death with my sword, and showing them they don't know what they're doing. "You're going to hell."

You know, peace is taken from the earth, and you kill one another, and you're given the sword.

In verse 5, he opens the third confirmation. See, these are confirmations. We all do it. What God is telling you is, if you come to him and you're honest, you give your heart to him and you don't start studying the Bible and putting your own definitions to it, something's wrong. Something is wrong because if you don't want to study, something's not right. Immediately, you should see that. But if you do want to study the Bible and grow, not knowing you're in apostasy, you're going to begin to defend the apostasy.

Rev 6:5 So he opens the third seal, and there's a black horse. And he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

Rev 6:6 .... and he's measuring the wheat and the barley. He's putting value on the wheat and barley.

Wheat and barley are how you make bread. Bread is a symbol of the word of God. Here, you're determining the value of verses in the Bible- that these are more important than those. What you're reading over here, you've got to keep those Ten Commandments, and one of them is the Sabbath. You have to go to church on Saturday, and I'm telling you that it is highlighted. That's something you have to do, and the Trinity is true. This idea in 1 Corinthians 8:6, there's only one God, you think, "I'm not even sure I've read that. The Trinity is true. That can't be true that there's only one God the Father." So you're going through a process of developing the apostasy in your own life.

Rev 6:7 He opens the fourth confirmation, ...

Rev 6:8 ... and there's a pale horse: his name (or character) is Death, and the grave follows it. And authority was given unto them (these people) over a fourth part of the earth, to kill with the sword, with hunger, with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

So here, you're riding a pale horse. That word is not just "pale," it's pale green. See, if you take the sun away from a plant, it turns pale- a picture of taking sunlight (the truth) away. What you're seeing here is somebody who is not experiencing life. They're experiencing spiritual death. Remember the message to Sardis in Revelation 3?

Rev 3:1 ... you have a name that you are living, but you're dead.

The prodigal son... *"This my son was dead, now he's alive"* (Luk 15:24). He's not talking about literal physical death. He's talking about spiritual death. Believing the Bible according to your own understanding does not have life. That is an abomination to pick

up the word of God, say it's the word of God, and then say, "Well, I'll tell you what it means." See, that is an abomination. It leaves you empty.

I mean, if God is revealing the truth to you, that's one thing. But if you're putting your own definition to it, you're living in death and the grave. Just think about a grave. Get in a grave and look around you. What do you see? I see nothing but the earth unless I look up. And once they fill this thing with dirt, that's all I'll see. I'll have no air. I'll have no spirit. I'll only see what I want to see, my own opinion. That's death and hell. The word "hell, Hades," means "not to know." What does he mean by a fourth part of the earth?

Rev 6:8 ... The fourth part of the earth to kill with sword, hunger, death, and beast...

"Four" is "earthly completeness." If you look at the number 4 throughout the Bible, it's earthly completeness. There are four directions on the compass. There are four seasons to finish a year. Four is earthly completeness. There are four things: The Bible, hunger, death, and the beast that will put you to death. We could identify each one of those symbols, but I think you're getting the picture. You have to come to a place of the fifth seal in verse 9, where you cry out to God to help you.

Rev 6:9 These people, their souls are under the altar...

If you remember, go back to the Old Testament, that altar of whole burnt offering, they would slay an animal and pour all the blood under the altar on the ground. In Leviticus 17, blood is a symbol of the soul. I could say when I read this, these people are pouring out their souls unto God, confessing, "We're in error. Something isn't right. I can't get my hands on it. I can't put my finger on it, but I know something isn't right in my church." So, he's going to answer you. How? Verse 12, the sixth confirmation.

Rev 6:12 There's an earthquake (which is great conviction), and the sun (the way you perceive Jesus) became black as sackcloth of hair (He's showing you this is your problem. The way you perceive Jesus is black), and the moon (which is a symbol of the law, the teachings, the scripture) is like blood; ... Your own soul, your own meanings are in this. It's red.

Rev 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth ...

The stars are produced by the father and the mother, and then the children. Remember in Genesis, Joseph's dream, where the sun and the moon, and the stars all bowed to him? His father said, "You mean me and your mother and your brothers are going to bow to you?" Well, I have Jesus, the sun. I have the book, the law- and when the sun



shines on it, it produces truth: The children, the stars, the messages. So what is happening here?

Rev 6:14 The heavens depart as a scroll when it is rolled together;

Not opened, it's closed. The heavens represent God's understanding. Remember, you've got the heavens, the earth, and the sea. What God thinks, what you think, and what the world thinks. Heavens, earth, and sea. *Rejoice if you're in the heavens. Woe be to you if you're on the earth and sea. The devil's come down to you having great wrath* in Revelation 12. So if you're dwelling in God's understanding, you're safe. If you're living according to your own understanding, you're not. And when the Lord begins to help people see the truth, they hide from that truth and cry out that the mountains and rocks fall on them and hide them (Rev 6:15-16).

Mountains are doctrines. Rocks are concepts. They want to be hidden from the truth of God, from the face of him that sits on the throne. This is the great day of his wrath (Rev 6:17). Well, his wrath is not against you individually. His wrath is against the lies you believe. So you need help, God will help you. For you to remain strong and courageous and accept the truth as God gives it, that's the question. Are you going to do that? Can you do that?

Well, again, I'm hoping that we can make Revelation practical and that you can see by using these symbols that the Lord is showing us who we are, where we are in time, and what's going on.

Father, help us to see and glorify you in the deep things of God. We praise you in Jesus' name. Amen.