

## Chapter 5

### The Sixth Seal

The end-times begin with seven seals.  
The initial five seals are invisible to people on earth.  
However, the sixth seal is an authentic attention-grabber!

End-time events begin with the opening of a document supernaturally closed with seven seals. The opening of the four initial seals brings four angels riding horses. These are commonly referred to as “the four horsemen of the apocalypse.” People on earth cannot see these angels or their horses.

An event occurs with the release of each rider. One angel was given *power ... to take peace* (Revelation 6:4) and another angel *power ... to kill*. (Revelation 6:8) Note that having *power ... to kill*—does not mean that the corresponding deaths occur at the exact moment the seal is broken. Deaths from the effects brought by each angel occur over the entire seven-year period. People will not see the fifth seal either. At that time, martyred saints in heaven call for God to avenge their deaths; it is a call for justice.

**TABLE 5-1: INVISIBLE SEALS**

Seal	Event		Scripture
#1	Angel riding white horse	Spirit of CONQUEST	Revelation 6:1-2
#2	Angel riding a red horse	Spirit of WAR	Revelation 6:3-4
#3	Angel riding a black horse	Spirit of FAMINE	Revelation 6:5-6
#4	Angel riding a pale horse	Spirit of DEATH	Revelation 6:7-8
#5	Martyrs ask God to avenge their deaths		Revelation 6:9-11

## Signs in the Sky

Events of the sixth seal are described in detail. Asteroids (stars) slamming into the earth are the likely source of worldwide disturbances. This coincides with some sort of lunar eclipse. It is a scientific fact that the moon turns a metallic (blood) red when a sun block occurs. *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 a strong wind.* (Revelation 6:12-13)

Next God protects selected believers, specifically those identified as being “the servants of our God.” The seal placed upon these believers identifies them for participation in the impending rapture. *After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.”* (Revelation 7:1-3)

At the time God provides his servants this protection, the earth will have remained largely unharmed. Neither the land nor the sea has been harmed—even the trees are unharmed.

*Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.* (Revelation 7:4) The Philadelphia rapture includes 144,000 Jewish believers. Angels seal believers around the world—all the members of the Philadelphia Church—identifying them for immediate rapture.

The 144,000 Israelis are never again seen on earth, but are later seen on “Mount Zion,” which is an ancient term for “heaven.” (Revelation 7:4, 14:1)

### DISPENSATIONAL ERROR

Traditional interpretation states that countless millions of people die during the first four seals—yet clearly *the land, the sea, and even trees* remain under God’s protection going into the sixth seal.

## The Philadelphia Rapture

Then this great multitude of raptured believers, members of the Philadelphia Church, suddenly appears in heaven. *After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.* (Revelation 7:9)

A question is asked about the identity of those who suddenly appear in heaven—who are they?—and where they came from? *Then one of the elders asked me “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”* (Revelation 7:13-14) The answer clearly states that this multitude was rescued from the great tribulation.

This rapture must occur at this point—after the sun is blotted, the moon turns blood red, and a worldwide earthquake occurs—because this sequence of events matches what Jesus taught.

*“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars.*

← SIXTH SEAL

*On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*

*When these things begin to take place,*

*stand up and lift up your heads,*

← CONFIDENCE

*because your redemption is drawing near.”*

← RAPTURE

(Luke 21:25-28)

When believers see peculiar signs in the *sun*, the *moon*, and the *stars*, it is time to react with confidence—*stand up and lift up your heads*. Believers can act with confidence because God’s rescue—the rapture—is eminent!

Now correlate Jesus’ end-time commentary recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke—with events in Revelation.

**BIBLE PROPHECY**

**TABLE 5-2: THE EARLY RAPTURE**

Matthew 24:29-31	Mark 13: 24-27	Luke 21: 26-28	Revelation 6:12 – 7:14
<b>WORLDWIDE DISTRESS</b>			
<i>Immediately after the distress of those days... (v29)</i>	<i>But in those days, following that distress, ... (v24)</i>	<i>Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world ... (v26)</i>	
<b>SIGNS IN THE SKY accompanied by EARTHQUAKES</b> The <i>sun</i> is darkened and the <i>moon</i> turns <i>blood red</i> . Worldwide <i>earthquake</i> causes <i>the heavenly bodies</i> to appear <i>shaken</i> . <i>Stars</i> (likely asteroids) slam into earth, one after another.			
<i>...“the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be <u>shaken</u>.” (v29)</i>	<i>...“the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be <u>shaken</u>.” (v24,25)</i>	<i>...for the heavenly bodies will be <u>shaken</u>. (v26)</i>	<i>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 <u>shaken</u> by a strong wind. (6:12-13) ... and every mountain and island was <u>removed from its place</u>. (v14)</i>
<b>JESUS IN THE CLOUDS</b>			
<i>At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man <u>coming on the clouds</u> of the sky, with power and great glory. (v30)</i>	<i>At that time men will see the Son of Man <u>coming in clouds</u> with great power and glory. (v26)</i>	<i>At that time they will see the Son of Man <u>coming in a cloud</u> with power and great glory. (v27)</i>	Described as: <i>The <u>sky</u> receded like a scroll, rolling up, (v14)</i> This would unveil a view of Jesus, in the <i>sky</i> , <i>coming in clouds</i>
<b>WORLDWIDE DISTRESS</b>			
			<i>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</i>

## THE ETERNAL CROWN

		<p><i>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 their wrath has come, and who can <u>stand</u>?"</i> (v15-17)</p>	
<b>SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR BELIEVERS</b>			
		<p><i>When these things begin to take place, <u>stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.</u></i> (v28)</p>	
<b>PHILADELPHIA - HARVESTED FROM EARTH</b>			
<p><i>And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the <u>four</u> winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.</i> (v31)</p>	<p><i>And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the <u>four</u> winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.</i> (v27)</p>		<p><i>After this I saw <u>four</u> angels standing at the <u>four</u> corners of the earth... (7:1)</i></p>
<b>PHILADELPHIA MEMBERS ARRIVE IN HEAVEN</b>			
		<p><i>After this I looked and <u>there before me</u> was a <u>great multitude</u> that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb ... (7:9) Then one of the elders asked me "<u>These in white robes--who are they, and where did they come from?</u>" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "<u>These are they who have come out of the great tribulation...</u>" (7:13-14)</i></p>	