

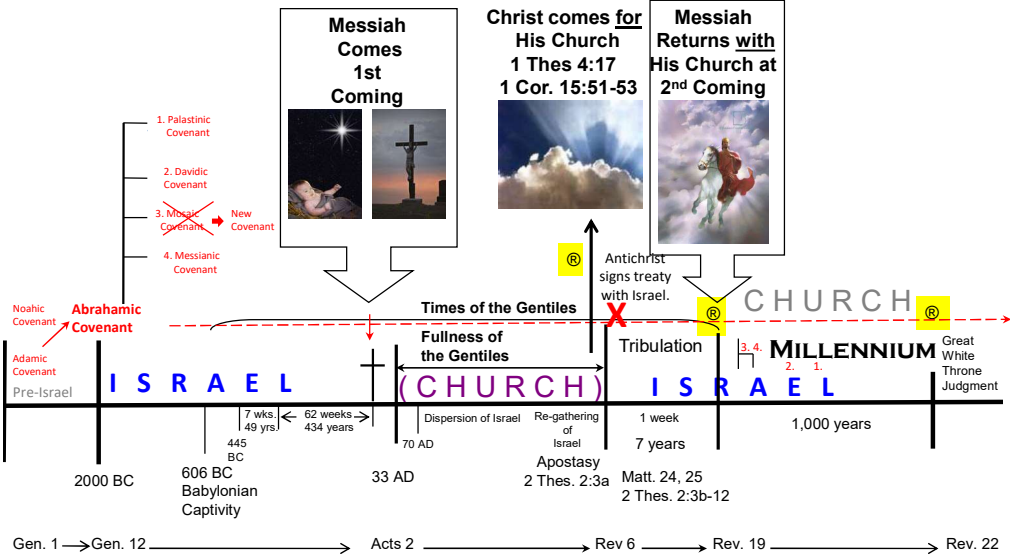


“Who Is Worthy To Take The Scroll?”

Rev. 5:1-4

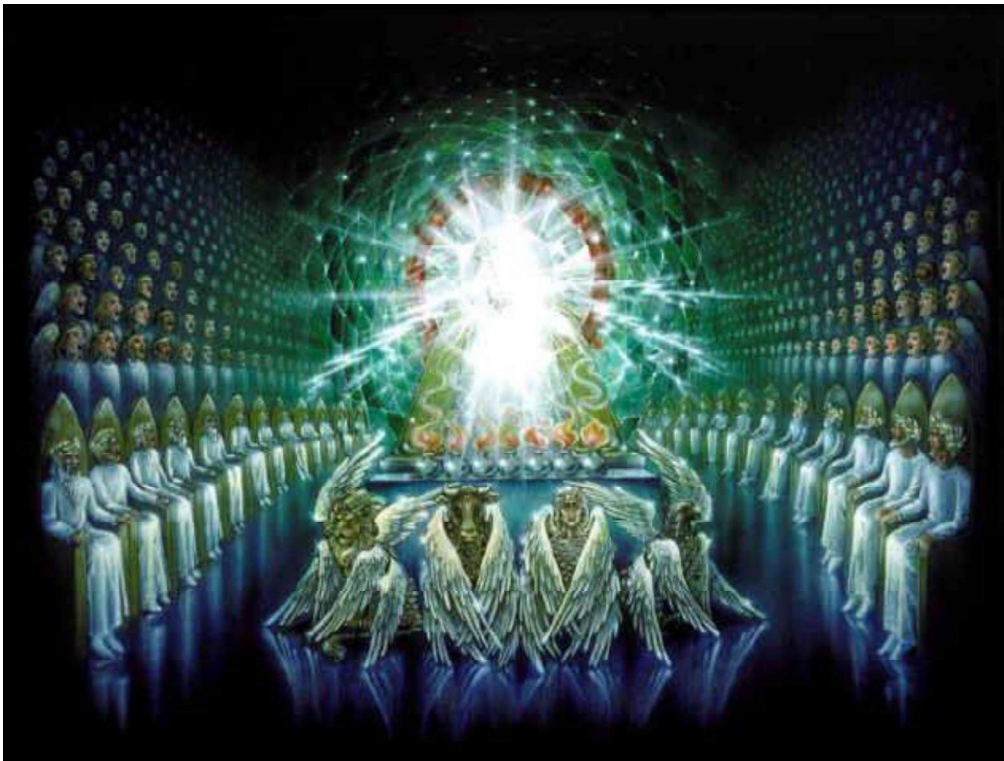
April 23, 2017

Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events



Ⓜ = Resurrection





Rev 5:1-4

- 1 I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.
- 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?"
- 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it.
- 4 Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it;

A scroll with seals.

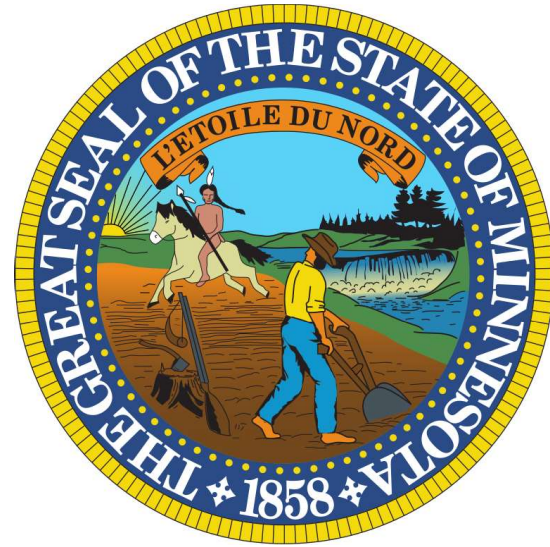
1. Scrolls were written on either sheets of papyrus or the skins of parchment that were sewn together. It would be smooth on one side and more rough on the other.





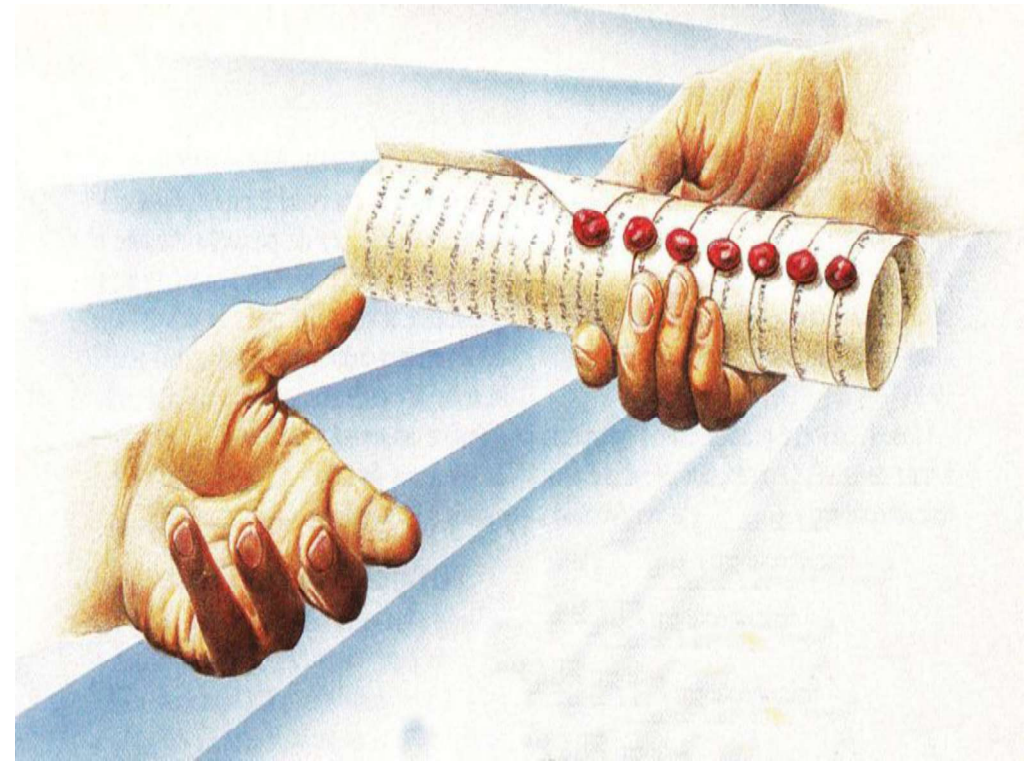
A scroll with seals.

1. Scrolls would be written on either sheets of papyrus or the skins of parchment that were sewn together. It would be smooth on one side and more rough on the other.
2. Scrolls with seals were used for all kinds of official documents: marriage-contracts, rental and lease agreements, release of slaves, contract-bills, bonds, real estate transactions and last will and testaments.
3. Seals were used to seal sections of the document. In general, the more seals, the greater the importance of the document.



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4. As each seal was opened a section of the document could be read.
5. Each section of the document would usually require a signature of a witness and then it would be sealed.
6. A seven seal document would indicate a last will and testament and would involve the transfer of the title deed of a piece of property. Roman law required 7 seals on a will.
7. A typical will would contain a description of the person seeking title to the property, a description of the property itself, and a history of the property.



Eph 2:1,2

- 1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,
- 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

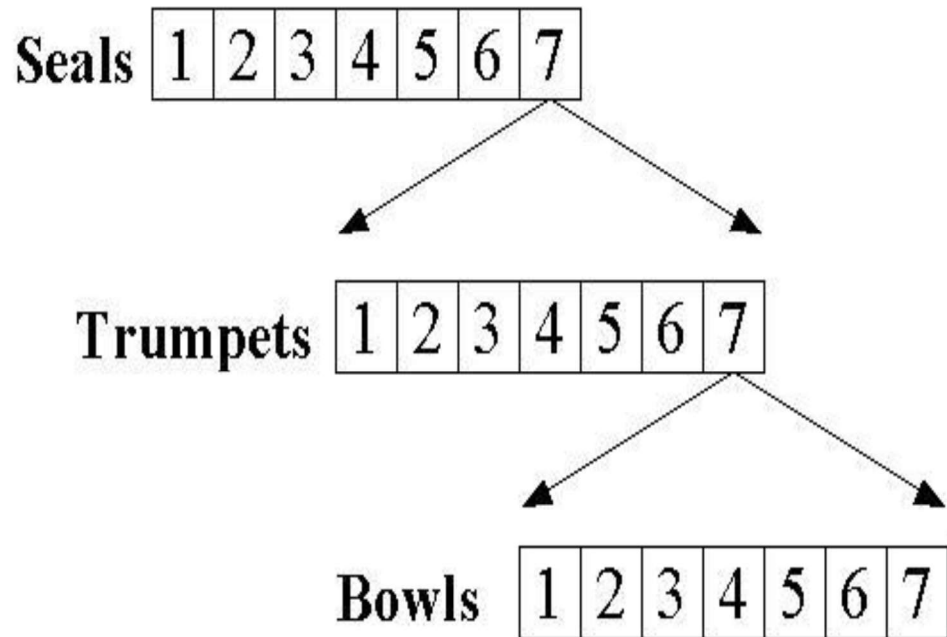
2 Cor 4:3,4

- 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,
- 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Luke 4:5-8

- 5 And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.
- 6 And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.
- 7 "Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours."
- 8 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"

8. So here in Rev. 5:1 God is reclaiming the earth that was usurped by Satan from God and man. The scroll will contain a descriptive detail, not of God nor the earth and universe, but rather the means God will execute to take back, to reclaim the title to the earth. The seven-sealed scroll will contain prophecies detailing the judgments necessary to bring rebellious man to his knees, defeat Satan's kingdom, restore the kingdom of God under the visible authority of God, and to reestablish man as God had originally intended before the fall.



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“strong angel”

- Gabriel = strength of God

“proclaiming” κηρυσσω – to herald (public crier), to shout, to announce loudly.

“loud” – μεγας – megas. mega – gigantic, huge.

The angel wants his voice to penetrate every corner of the universe.

“worthy” – αξιος - axios – having weight

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3. "no one under the earth"

Many have tried to conquer the world and get title to the earth -

- Nebuchadnezzar boasted of how cleverly he had built the great city of Babylon. But his empire soon fell apart.
- Alexander the Great thought he had accomplished everything, and at the age of 32 wept because he had no more worlds to conquer. But a few months later he drank himself to death and his empire too was gone.
- Julius Caesar led the legions of Rome across the face of Europe trying to establish a world in which Roman peace would be prevalent. But it, too, fell ultimately to the assault of barbarians from the North.
- Charlemagne in France tried to do the same thing.
- So did Napoleon and Hitler in our own day. Yet all failed.

**So who is able? Who can lock up Satan? Who can halt demon activity? Who can destroy sinners? Who can obliterate sin? Who can reverse the curse - the curse on animals, the curse on plants, the curse even on the human body and mind? Who can do it? Who has the power and therefore who is able?

1. "no one in heaven"

- Michael was there. He doesn't speak.
- Gabriel was there. He doesn't speak.
- Billions of angels. They don't speak.
- Millions of Old Testament saints are there including Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Elijah, Elisha, Moses, David, Job, Ezekiel, Daniel. None of them speak.
- Millions of New Testament saints are there, the Apostles are there, the great missionaries of all of history of the church are there, the great saints, the godly are there, the Reformers – Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, William Tyndale, John Wycliffe. None of them speak. Nobody says anything.

2. "no one on the earth"

- Presidents, Prime Ministers, Kings, Queens, world leaders, congressmen, military leaders, scientists, doctors, businessmen. No one speaks.

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"Weep" = κλαίω

"greatly" = πολυς

"to wail, to sob"

Luke 19:41

41 When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it,

Luke 22:61-62

61 The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times."

62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

John therefore comes to the realization that if no one is qualified to take the scroll and execute it, then –

- the curse on man remains.
- there is no hope.
- everything will remain as it is . . . forever.

How would you react?

What would you say to John if you were there?

"John's tears represent the tears of all God's people through all the centuries. Those tears of the Apostle John are the tears of Adam and Eve, driven out of the Garden of Eden, as they bowed over the first grave, as they watered the dust of the ground with their tears over the silent, still form of their son, Abel. Those are the tears of the children of Israel in bondage as they cried unto God in their affliction and slavery. They are the tears of God's elect through the centuries as they cried unto heaven. They are the sobs and tears that have been wrung from the heart and soul of God's people as they looked on their silent dead, as they stand beside their open graves, as they experience in the trials and sufferings of life, heartaches and disappointments indescribable. Such is the curse that sin has laid upon God's beautiful creation; and this is the damnation of the hand of him who holds it, that usurper, that intruder, that alien, that stranger, that dragon, that serpent, that Satan-devil. 'And I wept audibly,' for the failure to find a Redeemer meant that this earth in its curse is consigned forever to death. It meant that death, sin, damnation and hell should reign forever and ever and the sovereignty of God's earth should remain forever in the hands of Satan"

- W. A. Criswell



**John W. Peterson
1921-2006**

Of Swedish lineage, Peterson lost his father at age four, and came to Christ age 12. He displayed a musical gift early, writing his first song while a senior in high school. In World II, he served in the Army Air Corps, flying the Himalayan supply route to China. After the war, he attended the Moody Bible Institute and the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, Illinois (graduated 1953). In 1954, he went to work for the Singspiration Music Company in Montrose, Pennsylvania; when Zondervan Publishing House bought Singspiration in 1963, Peterson moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he served as president and editor-in-chief for over a decade. Later in life, Peterson served on the board of Gospel Films, Inc., Muskegon, Michigan; and, after moving to Scottsdale, Arizona, co-founded Good Life Productions and served on the board of Family Life Radio Network in Tucson, Arizona. He was admitted to the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1986. John had a major influence on evangelical Christian music in the 1950s through the 1970s. He wrote over 1000 songs, and 35 cantatas.

Jesus Is Coming Again

1. Marvelous message we bring,
Glorious carol we sing,
Wonderful word of the King,
Jesus is coming again!

Chorus

*Coming again, Coming again,
May be morning, may be noon,
May be evening and may be soon!
Coming again, Coming again;
O what a wonderful day it will be -
Jesus is coming again!*

2. Forest and flower exclaim,
Mountain and meadow the same,
All earth and heaven proclaim,
Jesus is coming again!

Chorus

3. Standing before Him at last,
Trial and trouble all past,
Crowns at His feet we will cast,
Jesus is coming again!

Chorus