


THE SEVEN SEALS

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INTRODUCTION

There is among prophetic scholars a well known understanding of the “70 weeks” of Daniel 9 which reliably conducts us to the Palm Sunday presentation of Christ as Israel’s Messiah. Christ’s atoning death fulfilled the first part of Daniel’s prophecy. The Temple of Herod was founded in 14BC –the 62nd week- and Christ presented Himself as Messiah in 32AD - the 69th week in which He died or was “cut off” (Working from Artaxerxes’ original Decree of 445BC to rebuild the Jewish temple).

The prophecy lapses there and the final week or seven years is found in Revelation 4-19 which events are described by Daniel with uncanny precision. He writes “The end will come like a flood-war will continue to the end and desolations have been decreed”[Dan.9.26] This leads to “bringing in righteousness sealing the vision & prophecy and anointing the Most Holy Place”. During the prophetic interim the church is established and grows among the nations and a guide to its progress is to be found in the narrative of the “seven Asia Minor churches” of Revelation 1-3. The features depict seven stages of development of the Church-the Penultimate one being *Philadelphia*-the Reformed and evangelizing church. The church of today evidences a *Laodicean* or politico-religious character and nowhere is this more evident than in the Russian Orthodox Church led by A/B Kyrill.

THE FIRST SEAL (REVELATION 6 1-2)

FEATURES TO BE NOTED

When our Lord opened “one” or the first of the seven seals of the written scroll of the “last seven” He was solving a difficulty and opening up the truth. The Aramaic root of “opening” **PATHAH** is as that of “displaying truth”.

First, note that *the earliest created being—God’s primal being—uttered a cry of anguish and displeasure and that in a voice like thunder—so frightening—John tells us in the Aramaic original that he “heard” the shout.*

Second, note that *a white horse and its rider “went out” (Aramaic root NEPHAQ ‘out to war’)*. It cannot be without significance that the catastrophes or “wars determined” in this short period begin with this “white horse rider” not that Russia—the leading protagonist of the Armageddon in Ezekiel 37-38 has mounted by its national emblem a flag emblazoned with a Rider on a white horse”. To align the bible with today’s televised news Vladimir Putin presents seated against the background of this very emblem when he makes presentations on the current Ukraine situation.

Third, note that Aramaic scripture reads *“to him had been given a bow” QESHTA* which word indicates a war tool usually active from an emplaced position as a bowman must stand very still. It is also significant that the bow shoots arrows or missiles and that these cover considerable distance. The “cruise missile” is as the reader will know now the standard weapon of choice with which Russia wars to great effect.

Fourth, note that a crown belonged to him. The crown denotes authority. The Aramaic term **KLILA** also signifies a “star” and often it is associated in Aramaic with either Venus or Mars. In this instance “War Star” is appropriate. Present day Russian Federation is not monarchic but it has long been distinguished by the “red star” of the Soviet socialist republic so this emblem is for that basic reason very apposite.

Fifth, observe that the rider had ambition in warfare. He went out in war and the Aramaic adds “He gave victory, he was conquering and he was determined or minded to win”. In Aramaic there are three words **ZKAY ZKA & D’Ne’ ZKHA**. The first denotes a Babylonian harshness and the “Z” used in the Aramaic for “**victory**” will not be lost on the reader for it is painted on every tank in the battle-line of Russian armour.

Who needs to say more? Will there be in time yet future be a fuller fulfillment? One cannot answer that. Have we before us at this time a full fulfillment? It would seem extensive and covers all the bases. Should the above observations with their current connection to Russia be the reality of where we are in history the “breaking of this seal” is about the most significant guidance we have as to how near we are to Christ’s final coming and we are as a corollary nearer still to the great “meeting in the air” of believers from the heavens and the earth below.

THE SECOND SEAL (REVELATION 6.3-4)

And when He opened the second seal I heard the beast belonging to the second (seal) say “Come”

- (a) And a red horse went out to war. This warhorse presents in the colour of the “Red army” and in the general context of the build up to the Last war in Ezekiel Russia is the lead protagonist and at the vanguard stoutly backed by “red” China.
- (b) And it was given or “surrendered” to Him **YAHAV** to take peace **NESAB** (by force) from the earth. From this it would appear that the “red arm(ies)” finds the way open and exploits the unopposed pathway to war using brute force.
- (c) “To take **peace** from the earth” intimates a universal or world-wide war theatre. “Peace” **SHALOMA** includes health safety welfare and quietness of life. This seal starkly states that the 3rd world war leading to the confrontation at Megiddo and the Lord’s interposition is under way. China’s intervention is affirmed Rev.9.14 &16.12
- (d) “And that one should kill another as animals are slaughtered”. This warfare is hand to hand warfare from the start.
- (e) “And a **great** sword was laid upon or given him. The Aramaic **RABATHA** speaks of a foremost weapon as the High Priest is the highest progressed priest. This means “an advanced weapon”.
- (f) “A great sword” **HARABA** The term has two quite different meanings (a) a sword and (b) “a means of desolating”. This indicates that the Russian protagonist is armed with a mighty weapon that can render civilized life desolate. There is every reason to believe that the “desolator” has arrived and that the “abomination that causes desolation” mentioned by Daniel is connected to Russia when for a short time she musters in Jerusalem. The term in Daniel suggests that

Russia will have used the Nuclear option before she fights in Megiddo if this analysis is anything to go by.

THE THIRD SEAL (REVELATION 6.5-6)

When He opened the third seal I heard the living creature belonging to the third (seal) saying or “pleading a case for the defence”. One begins to understand that when the living creature says “Come” he is addressing John and his readers in the prophetic vein. God’s people are to see the real life and catastrophic implications of ROSH in her latter-day war pose as Ezekiel calls the leading nation of the end-times.

- (a) “Behold a **black** horse” The Aramaic **AUCHMA** is the term (i) for sorrow and grief –hence the black drapes of mourners. But it is also (ii) the colour of people and objects. Both applications are apt for with war comes deprivation and food shortage is an early penalty of war. However such shortages as this prolonged and widespread war will bring affect the poor calamitously. The “black peoples” of Africa who depend most on the wheat fields and barley crops of Ukraine and Russia will take a terrible hit.
- (b) And he who sat on him had scales in his hand. And he was actively weighing **MASHTHA**
- (c) And I heard a voice from among the living creatures – their **BITH** shrine or school which said “A two quart measure of wheat for a day’s wages and three quart measure of barley for a day’s wages”. The first was a soldier’s daily ration and presumably the second would feed a poor family but no other foodstuffs could be bought on a living wage. This spells a stage of poverty where obtaining one food element is all that is possible.

(d) There is no quibble about “oil” and “wine”. The word **TAHAR** means “intrigue” or “struggle” for food. It seems to mean “don’t try to struggle”-there is no point. Items like that are off the menu. A time of deep austerity and sheer poverty is at hand. Oil for perfume or even lamps and wine to cheer the heart are not within reach even at a struggle. It is of deep relevance that Ukraine and Russia are among the world’s leading exporters of wheat and barley and here their prices become astronomical. The case for the current war as a precursor and specific trigger of global inflationary pressure and food shortage begins to look copper bottomed.

THE FOURTH SEAL (REVELATION 6.7-8)

1.And when he opened the fourth seal a living creature called out “Come” and I saw a yellowish green **YURQA** horse(coloured like a lizard) and his name-that of him who sat on it “Death” and Sheol was clinging **NAQIPH** to him.

2. And absolute authority **SULTANA** was given him over a **quarter of the earth** to kill with sword starvation and death and carnivores [**HAREBNA KEPHNA MUTHA HIOTHA**]. It has to be noted that this “quarter of the earth” was enduring sustained loss-this “sultanship” was embedded

This seal tells us that death walks the earth after the wars of Seals 1-2. The picture is gruesome-the skeleton on the horse had the shadow of the soul in hell gripping him. This is a picture of the desperate and irreversible loss and hopelessness of souls doomed and bodies lacerated and devoid of flesh. It is the ghastly aftermath of war.

THE FIFTH SEAL (REVELATION 6.9-11)

This seal gives us the other side of the coin-the picture of saints and martyrs of the era for in the last age of the church we are entered a time of concentrated and explicit persecution.

1. I saw when He opened the fifth seal “I saw belonging to underneath (i.e. “earth below”) from the altar (which was before the throne of God(9.13) the souls who had been killed because of the word of God and their testimony of *Jesus* (Aramaic –not “the Lamb”) that lived on in them and was their very life. The naming of our Lord brings attention to His suffering.
2. And they cried with a great voice saying “till what end” or “so far as” “of what time” or “How long”
ADMAL’AMATI “O Lord holy and real or reliable do you not judge and vindicate as a kinsman or detective or by inquiry *TABA* our blood upon the peoples or nations of the earth?”
3. And there was given to every single one of them-to them all and to each a robe *ASTALE* –really a “stole” or garment of shining splendour. The stole was a matron’s dress-one circumspect and faithful to her husband. It was made of fine wool and granted protective powers to the wearer so that violation of the person was attended by severest penalty. *Thus the “stole” would mean that Christ was taking the most severe view of his Church’s persecution-even of every single saint on earth.*
4. It was commanded *AMAR* that they should rest till the “right moment” If the text said “season to season” it

would mean “a year” but that is not said, rather the word **ZEBAN** is added-which means “ransom” and doubles up as **ZEBAN NISAN** the time of Passover.

5. The reference to the killing of their close companions **KANATHA** and brothers is bearable when like our Lord’s “wait” on the cross –however excruciating –it made sense that the time of redemption of the body was so close and it greatly comforted the appealing saints.

THE SIXTH SEAL (REVELATION 6.12 7.17)

The most complex seal of all develops for the reader an intense print out of the world shattering events that fill the space of the little time until the bodily redemption of saints referred to in 7 13-17

To summarise the events we have the following:-

- 1 Solar system signs
- 2 A split in the heavens with islands and mountains convulsing
- 3 Eight groups (including children) hide in caves and rock clefts aware of the coming wrath of God.
- 4 Angelic control of the wind so that storms cease
- 5 The salvation of 144,000 Jews-as God prepared Israel for the tribulation Phase 2
- 6 The innumerable host before the throne-the raptured church now comforted personally by our Lord and under His eternal heavenly leading.

SOLAR SIGNS

1 There was an earthquake and the sun became exactly like sackcloth of (horse) hair. In Turkey I have experienced a simulation whilst in a horsehair tent at midday. The gloom is that of a dark tent **AOCAM** “obscure”. The moon was like a ball of blood. These signs our Lord promised and Joel also prophesied before the Lord’s coming.

2 The stars of heaven fell over the earth as when a fig tree shaken by a violent wind **ASHINATHA** casts its fruit.

3 And the heavens were parted **PARASH** and like scrolls rolled up **CIRCU**. The effect is as in John 1.32 and prophesied in John 1.51(cf Mark 1.10 which may portend the return of the Lord. Does the “tearing open” of heaven at our Lord’s baptism provide a matching reference to the re-opening of the heavens as the beginning of the work of the Spirit and redemption and its completion in the Rapture are taken in parallel.

4 And every island and all hills were moved or shaken “at once”. There is no attempt here to re-organise the geography of the world –alter its mountain ranges and re-site its islands. The words **MIN DOKTHAHON** in Aramaic simply mean “at one time” or “simultaneously” –there are exact parallel uses of the Aramaic in Eusebius ‘Manifestation of our Lord’ and in Clement’s ‘*Recognitions*’. *The Greek text lacks the refinement of the Aramaic.* The Quake is a worldwide shake which is not localized to country or continent or hemisphere-it is worldwide as the event of the “redemption of the bodies of saints” is a worldwide event.

5 Kings and haughty princes or chiefs **RORBANA** and leading captains of thousands-i.e. **generals**-and the rich and **strong armies** and every servant and **children** and people of freedom hid them in rocks and caves of the mountains. And they were saying to the mountains and rocks “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of the **faces** (**APOHI** when used in

Plural form its usage is singular) of the Lamb”. The Aramaic may also be expressed “From the faces of the Lamb” because the fear and present fact of the judgment would be at this time conscious phobias of the wicked-especially commanders of armies and armies themselves.

The reasoning goes “Because the great day of their wrath or provoking to anger **RAGAZ** has come and who can stand? The question is re- appearing before the Lord & resurrection!

6 **We enter another new vision** under the seals which now shows the work of angels in keeping the earth unusually quiet-in the context of the latter day call to Israel to follow Christ-the Rapture would be more suitably related to the “split heavens” setting in the previous vision. This is one part of the Lord’s response to the heavenly saints. Here the four angels at North South East & West-the four winds –are mightily holding the winds so that neither earth or sea nor even a single tree should be shaken so it would lose fruit. This is another part of our Lord’s response to the cry of heavenly saints. Another angel from the east cries to the four angels not to “harm”**TAHAR** “to be at strife” or “dismay” earth and sea or trees till we seal the servants of God between their eyes.

7 **We enter another new vision** at 7.9 where there are **innumerable multitudes in heaven**. “Generations” “communities” or assemblies **CANOSH**, “language groups” **QIMIM** standing in their risen glory and they are wearing those white stoles that speak of modesty and declare the Lord protected them and they have palms in their hands because in His name they were victorious-this is a group joined with but far and away outnumbering those of 6.9. They shouted “Redemption to our Lord and to the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb” The Aramaic is fundamental here as it states the Trinitarian truth of the New Testament.

All the angels were now around the throne and the elders fell before it as they worshipped with the words “Amen glory & blessing wisdom and *the listening to pleas for grace or provision of favour* **QABAL** and honour and power and strength are our God to all eternity Amen. *At the heart of this worship is the fact that Grace won through-saved more souls -reached the Jewish people and completed the glorious reaping work of grace in the world.*

8 Now at 7.13 comes the point where one of the elders responded to John’s curiosity asking “Who are these wearing white stoles like modest protected Roman matrons of the first century? The elder also asked where they came from? John responds “Sir, you know”.

9 These are they who have come out of great calamity siege or straitness **AOLZANA** and have purified their “stoles” in the blood of the Lamb. The stole was a sign of great modesty and weaving of cloth by the dutiful Roman matron and yet all the earthly godliness is deepened by the blood and so these are sanctified servants of the Lord, The text goes on to show that the Lamb is among them in glory and that neither hunger nor thirst nor heat of the sun will any more trouble and best of all the Lamb will blot our wipe away and erase every tear from their eyes and lead them by beautiful fountains. This is a poem which finishes the 6th Seal

The Lamb who rules history from His throne
Leads His raptured flock without earthborne sigh
By gleaming streams He guides His own
With tender touch He wipes each languid eye

THE SEVENTH SEAL (REVELATION 8.1-6)

And when He opened the seventh seal there was “stillness” in heaven for exactly half an hour. There was no discourse –

there were no commands-there was no praise-there were no spoken prayers- living creatures, archangels, all the angels who had been involved in the rapture-the elders and the saints. How could it be possible? What was the reason?

There was action-seven angels were standing before God and they were given seven trumpets.

And another messenger angel came and stood over the altar and a censor of gold was given him and much incense –with the prayers of all the holy ones upon that altar before the throne. Smoke of the incense went up at the hand of the angel with the prayers of the holy ones-the Just Lord beyond and above that altar solemnly affirms “Vengeance is mine I will repay” [Deut. 32.35, Psa. 94.1, Hebrews 10.30].

The angel took the censer and filled it with altar fire and cast it on earth. This is the wrath or vengeance which was anticipated-the beginning of the second phase of Tribulation-the 3 1/2 years-and the seven angels with whom were seven trumpets prepared to sound. Thus the silence of heaven much like the silence on Armistice day is broken by the sounding of reveille –the first war trumpet harbinger of the Armageddon-meantime the saints go marching on in Glory and the Lamb whose bridal feast of joy and love proceeds in glory prepares for the coming on earth of that great day of joy and love when no-one shall need to say to his brother “Know the Lord” and when the knowledge of God shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

***MARAN-ATHA
EVEN SO COME LORD JESUS***