

## On Or Off the Mercy Seat?

The revelation of the Seven Seals is one of the key understandings that separate Message Believers from others. Understanding the seals does not make anyone superior, it's all a matter of maturity. An old man is not worth less than a baby. Each life is equal in the sight of God. But the old man knows and understands far more than the baby and, because of that, has far more responsibility.

The Seven Seals of Revelation 5-8 are strong secrets, some of which are holding closed the Lambs book of Life. Those first four seals are secret powers that for nearly two thousand years have held back God's redemption of His saints. That includes those who have lived for Christ and died thought history as well as those that are alive today.

The whole plan of God is illustrated in Adam. Adam's wife was within him. God ensured that hidden within Adam were attributes that only a wife has were separated from him. To do this He had to put Adam to sleep, open his side and take out that which would be expressed as Eve.

When Eve fell in Eden Adam didn't walk away, he became one with his bride. Marriage is that sexual act when two people become one. Now, as the two were once again one person through marriage, if God brought judgement on Eve it would also have to fall on Adam. You see, Adam's love was so strong that he was willing to accept death to be with his wife.

And that is what God has done and is doing. He, the Holy Spirit, lived in a second Adam. That man was put to sleep on the Cross and His side was opened so that His Bride, Mrs Jesus Christ could become a reality.

But that church fell! The first Christian church, born in the Upper Room in Jerusalem. But Jesus still loves His bride. So Jesus is now becoming one with His church. He is placing His seed in her. And the original seed is the Word of God. Those who accept the Word of God become one with Christ, married to Him. They will be taken to the marriage supper of the Lamb while judgement falls on all who have rejected or ignored the call of Jesus.

Who accepts God's Word is written in the Lambs book of Life but those Seals are keeping those identities secret and, unless they are revealed, unless those seals are broken, all is lost.



We know from Revelation 5 that only someone worthy can redeem that book and break those seals. We also know that the Lion of the Tribe of Judah has overcome and is worthy. This is the Messiah, yet He is shown, not as a lion, but as a lamb that has been slain.

The symbology is rich. The Messiah is to come three times, once as the Lamb slain for the sins of the world, once in secret to catch away His Bride and once in judgment to destroy all that is wicked and false. He will then reign on earth for a thousand years.

This is the time of the secret coming. The time when Jesus doesn't come in a physical body but as He really is, the thoughts of God expressed, the Word.

The Word of God is Jesus and the Word of God comes to a prophet. A true prophet is not one who prophesies but one ordained from before birth to bring God's message. (Jeremiah 1 v5). A true prophet is God's mouthpiece. He is like a microphone on a public address system. The microphone can say nothing of significance on its own, it needs a living being, separate from the microphone, to speak into it. Under God's inspiration the prophet speaks God's Word and the Spoken Word is Jesus Christ.

Now the prophet is a normal man. He may, like the prophet Nathan say the wrong thing to King David. He can speak as a man with a man's thoughts, but when he says, "Thus saith the Lord" that is God using him.

It is for that reason that God uses a genuine predestinated prophet. The other four members of the five fold ministry all use part of man's intelligence and knowledge as they operate their gift and calling. But a major prophet, when he is operated by God, does not. He is just a vessel that God can use as if he were a microphone.

In Revelation 10 the mighty angel comes down. In verse 7 of that chapter the angel, or messenger to the Laodicean Church Age, reveals the mystery of God. The

heavenly angel comes down to the earthly angel to reveal the mystery of God. And one part of the mystery of God is what those seals binding the Lamb's book of life are. Those seals have bound the people of God for nearly two thousand years. Once it is revealed what those seals are the book can be opened, God's people can be set free.

For Seven Church Ages man's version of God's church has restricted God's people, has persecuted the Jews and ignored God's judgement. Now in this last age God is calling His people out of man made systems by grace. He is calling them into an individual and personal walk with Jesus Christ. He is separating the tares from the wheat,. And He is thereby preparing the world for Judgement.

The Lamb of God is the only one worthy to open those seals, but Jesus, as the mighty angel of Revelation 10 v1, came down to reveal them to the angel of Revelation 10 v7, the messenger to the Laodicean Church Age.

And here (at last) is the issue. The Throne that the Lamb came from is the Mercy Seat. If the Lamb leaves the Mercy Seat then the offering for sin is gone. The bloody lamb that is grace, is forgiveness and is the offering, has, apparently, left the seat. That seat then becomes the Judgement Seat of God because the mercy has gone.

The prophet William Branham, who is also the messenger to the Laodicean church age, felt led to preach on the seals over a one week period. He didn't know what those seals were. As the moment for the first service approached he still didn't know so He decided he would look up what other Christian leaders had taught and preach that. That was when the mighty angel came down and revealed one seal each day. Branham confirmed the revelation by pointing out that, unknown to all, those seals are already written in Matthew 24. God revealed what those 7 seals are in 1963.

For many people this meant that the Lamb had left the mercy seat. This caused much concern. We all, on a daily basis, need mercy. So was Jesus off the mercy seat?

What happened in 1963 was the spoken word revelation. It was not the Word made flesh, it was not the complete fulfilment. Just as Isaiah had prophesied the

coming Christ so it is with this scripture. Isaiah wrote, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given ...." The Jewish leaders knew and understood that this was the Messiah. They could put other scriptures with this one and say with confidence that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem. But until Jesus was actually born in Bethlehem it was just speculation.

And that is what has happened with the Seals today. The revelation of the seals has created much discussion, and speculation. But it is just that, speculation. As when the Word became flesh then the fulfilment did away with what they knew in part. So it is with the Revelation of the Seven Seals. It reveals the truth about them but they are not all complete yet.

So what is the fulfilment of the Lamb coming off the throne, opening the seals and by doing so changing the mercy seat into the judgement seat?

When the Lamb comes to take the book He is taking a people for Himself. The names written in the book are not just ink on paper but are real live people. Some are in heaven now, some are still alive on earth. Full complete redemption happens when, as Thessalonians 4 explains, the dead in Christ arise and we which are alive are changed from mortality to immortality. We are then caught up to be with the Lord in the air.

That is the fulfilment of Revelation 5. That is when revelation becomes reality. That is when the Lamb actually leaves the throne and takes out of the world all that are His. And when He does that it makes the throne the Judgement seat ushering in the great and dreadful Day of the Lord, the Lord's Day, or millennial reign of Christ. The Rapture is when the Lamb come off the throne and breaks the seals.

The wise virgins have oil in their vessels, in other words, they have the Holy Spirit within themselves. They are sealed with the seventh seal, God Himself. He is in them. They have the Spirit, the oil for their lamps within themselves. But the foolish virgins, although they are just as pure, just as good and clean as the wise have no oil in themselves, no indwelling Holy Spirit. They have let their light go out and to light their way they need to "buy" some more oil, or, put another way, buy a fresh anointing. They miss the wedding supper and like the Jews under the fifth seal must now make the final sacrifice and die for their testimony.

The wise virgins are sealed unto the day of Redemption. They are those that are alive now are baptised with the Holy Spirit, sealed. What they now face is Adoption, then finally Redemption of the body which is the Rapture. Our bodies are redeemed, joined with our theophanies to become one and become eternal.

The first four seals revealed the Devil's plan to take over the church through men's desire for power, authority and greed. This was the Nicolaitane spirit. "Nico" means to conquer and control while "laitane" refers to the laity. Man wanted to control the congregation, he wanted to run the church by making the ministry a class above the congregation.

God's original plan was, of course, to run the church by all members being led by the Holy Spirit, each operating their own gift and calling for the benefit of the others. All are brothers and sisters, each equal in God's sight. What stopped that happening was the first four seals.

The antichrist spirit came looking like Christ on a white horse. Then he made war on the true believers riding the red horse. He then caused a famine of understanding, and even charged for spiritual food during the dark ages as the black horse rider. Now, in a mixture of all three powers or horses, he rides again on the pale horse and, for the first time, the rider's name is given. It is Death. The first four seals are man's church, the Nicolaitane spirit, that has held down the true church for nearly 2,000 years. That's why Revelation 18 v4 calls out for us to come out of her, the false church, and why Jesus is outside the Laodicean Church knocking so that all individuals who open their hearts to Him will have Jesus Himself living, eating and drinking in them. Jesus tells his secrets to those who do open that door just as any bridegroom would tell his bride his plans, dreams and aspirations.

Those two verses of Revelation, chapter 3 v20 and chapter 18 v4 are being acted out now. The Lamb has come forth calling out a people for His name. That Lamb is the Word of God and the prophet brought the Word, or Jesus, to us. If we accept the Word the prophet brought then we accept the Christ of today. If we reject that Word we reject Jesus. It is a life or death situation.

We have the spoken Word of the opening of Seals, but that must become a reality. The taking of the book has been spoken but it has to be manifest, it has to be-

come flesh. And that is still to come. So the Lamb has not yet left the Mercy Seat.

The time of Judgment has also been spoken but it too hasn't yet become flesh. It will do so immediately the Rapture is underway. When the Bride goes the foolish virgins are left. The Bride, that is all the true church, will already be gathered into the barn when judgement strikes; sitting at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

In short, Jesus did not leave the throne to break the seals in 1963, He only revealed those seals then. But, He will make it a reality in the Rapture. That is when He leaves the throne to take all that make up Mrs Jesus Christ to be with Him eternally. And then it is judgement for everyone left behind..

*Richard Oliver 2014*