



SAVED TO SERVE

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THE SEVEN SEALS - THE SIXTH SEAL, PART 2

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will continue studying the opening of the sixth seal found in the book of Revelation, and identify what is God's seal, and the experience needed to be sealed.
2. Let us read Revelation 7:1-3. What are the four angels holding back? _____
3. What do the winds represent? Job 1:19; Daniel 7:2-8; Jeremiah 25:32, 33 (Also see quotation below).

"If such scenes as this are to come, such tremendous judgments on a guilty world, where will be the refuge for God's people? How will they be sheltered until the indignation be overpast? John sees the elements of nature—earthquake, tempest, and political strife—represented as being held by four angels. These winds are under control until God gives the word to let them go. There is the safety of God's church. The angels of God do His bidding, holding back the winds of the earth, that the winds should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree, until the servants of God should be sealed in their foreheads. The mighty angel is seen ascending from the east (or sunrise). This mightiest of angels has in his hand the seal of the living God, or of Him who alone can give life, who can inscribe upon the foreheads the mark or inscription, to whom shall be granted immortality, eternal life. It is the voice of this highest angel that had authority to command the four angels to keep in check the four winds until this work was performed, and until he should give the summons to let them loose." {TM 444.3}

"When He leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent. God's long-suffering has ended. The world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and trampled upon His law. The wicked have passed the boundary of their probation; the Spirit of God, persistently resisted, has been at last withdrawn. Unsheltered by divine grace, they have no protection from the wicked one. Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old." {GC 614.1}

4. Who is seen ascending from the east, and what does he have? Revelation 7:2

5. Based on our previous study, why has Jesus not returned to the earth yet? Revelation 7:2, 3

6. What is the seal of God? Answer: The Seventh-day Sabbath. To confirm the this point, let us study the following scriptures.
7. How many components does a seal have? Esther 3:12; Esther 8:8; 1 Kings 21:8

8. Where is God's seal found? Isaiah 8:16 _____
9. Which of God's Ten Commandments contain the seal of God (God's name, God's title, God's territory)? Exodus 20:8-11

"The Lord commands by the same prophet: "Bind up the testimony, seal the law among My disciples." Isaiah 8:16. The seal of God's law is found in the fourth commandment. This only, of all the ten, brings to view both the name and the title of the Lawgiver. It declares Him to be the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and thus shows His claim to reverence and worship above all others. Aside from this precept, there is nothing in the Decalogue to show by whose authority the law is given. When the Sabbath was changed by the papal power, the seal was taken from the law. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to restore it by exalting the Sabbath of the fourth commandment to its rightful position as the Creator's memorial and the sign of His authority." {GC 452.1}

10. According to Revelation 7:1-3, who is proclaiming the seal of God? _____
11. Note: Angels represents messengers in scripture. See Galatians 4:14 and Acts 6:15

12. Which movement did Jesus raise up shortly after 1833, when the stars fell from heaven (Revelation 6:12), to receive and to proclaim the seal of God? Answer: The Seventh-day Adventist movement

13. What significant truth is connected with the seal of God? Revelation 14:6, 7; and Daniel 8:14; Daniel 9:24-27.

14. Note: Most of the present denominations were established before 1833 and not one of them honor and teach the seventh-day Sabbath in connection with the Investigative Judgment in the Heavenly Sanctuary. There are few other denominations that were established after 1833, yet they do not honor and teach the seventh-day Sabbath in connection with the Investigative Judgment in the Heavenly Sanctuary. Therefore, they cannot be the true messengers proclaiming God's seal.

15. Who seals us, and what experience is connected with receiving God's seal? Ephesians 4:30-32; 2 Timothy 2:19

16. Upon whom and where is the seal of God placed? Revelation 7:3, 4

17. Who are the 144,000 that will be sealed? Are these literal Jews? Galatians 3:7, 29; Romans 2:28, 29

18. What does Jesus desire to place in our hearts and minds, so that we will be in a covenant with Him? Hebrews 10:16-22

19. How long is the sealing time period? John 9:4; Romans 9:27, 28 _____

"The sealing time is very short, and will soon be over. Now is the time, while the four angels are holding the four winds, to make our calling and election sure." {Mar 242.2}

20. When God's people are finally settled into the truth and sealed, do they choose to leave the truth and go back into sin? Daniel 6:17, 8; Esther 8:8

"Seal Is a Settling Into Truth—Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads—it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved—just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already; the judgments of God are now upon the land, to give us warning, that we may know what is coming (Manuscript 173, 1902)." {4BC 1161.6}

21. What words will Jesus speak from heaven once His people are sealed? Revelation 22:11, 12

22. What is the work of preparation in order to be sealed by God? Ezekiel 9:4

"Who are standing in the counsel of God at this time? Is it those who virtually excuse wrongs among the professed people of God and who murmur in their hearts, if not openly, against those who would reprove sin? Is it those who take their stand against them and sympathize with those who commit wrong? No, indeed! Unless they repent, and leave the work of Satan in oppressing those who have the burden of the work and in holding up the hands of sinners in Zion, they will never receive the mark of God's sealing approval. They will fall in the general destruction of the wicked, represented by the work of the five men bearing slaughter weapons. Mark this point with care: Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those "that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done" in the church. Their love for purity and the honor and glory of God is such, and they have so clear a view of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, that they are represented as being in agony, even sighing and crying. Read the ninth chapter of Ezekiel." {3T 267.1}

23. Note: As we close, meditate on each quotation below.

"The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God." {5T 211.1}

"Not all who profess to keep the Sabbath will be sealed. There are many even among those who teach the truth to others who will not receive the seal of God in their foreheads. They had the light of truth, they knew their Master's will, they understood every point of our faith, but they had not corresponding works. These who were so familiar with prophecy and the treasures of divine wisdom should have acted their faith. They should have commanded their households after them, that by a well-ordered family they might present to the world the influence of the truth upon the human heart." {5T 213.2}

"Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost." {5T 214.2}