

THE TRUTH

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Lesson 17 - The Truth About God's Seal

The British army bulletins of 1918 tell of a certain Colonel Elkington, who was degraded and dismissed from the army for supposed cowardice. However, he enlisted in the French Foreign Legion and whenever the men of the legion went into action, Colonel was foremost in daring deeds of bravery. He was soon decorated by the French government, after which his real name was revealed. The British government upon learning of this called the Colonel back, restored to him position, titles and affirmed his appointment with the king's own seal of approval. God wants to put his special seal upon His people, although Satan is determined to put his mark on everyone. This lesson may have some surprises for you, but it will also make you thankful for a merciful God who has so long warned of what is coming in these last days.

THE SEVEN SEALS

The seven seals of the Book of Revelation have been interpreted by Bible scholars and commentators marking the work, trials and triumphs of Christianity since it's opening, extending down to the coming of Christ. We have no trouble locating the time of the opening of the 6th seal.

1. What event marked the opening of the sixth seal? [Revelation 6:12]

- A great _____
- The darkening of the _____ and the _____ appearing as blood
- The falling of the _____

NOTE: These events took place in the exact order. The Lisbon, Portugal earthquake, possibly the greatest ever to be recorded by man happened on November 1, 1755. Lisbon had approximately 150,000 inhabitants and nearly 100,000 lost their lives in that terrible earthquake which was felt over three-quarters of the earth. The Dark Day followed on May 19, 1970 and has never been explained. Then fifty-three years later, the great meteoric shower of the falling of the stars occurred on November 13, 1833. This event marked the final opening of the 6th seal.

2. In what condition would the world be in during the days of the 6th seal? [Revelation 7:1]

Ans. In a temporary _____ condition.

NOTE: "Winds" in the Bible symbolize:

- _____
- _____
- _____ [Daniel 7:2; Jeremiah 25:32]

The four winds, held by four angels standing in the four quarters of the earth, must denote all the elements of strife and commotion that exist in the world. John sees the elements of nature, earthquakes, tempests and political strife represented as being held by four angels.

“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.” **[Great Controversy, 614]**

3. Why have they been restrained? [Revelation 7:3; 2 Timothy 2:19] Ans. Until _____ have been _____.

The sealing work is not a localized event but a global event. Remember that Omnipotence has servants everywhere. **[Spurgeon]**

4. Where does God desire to put His Seal? [Revelation 7:3] Ans. In their _____

NOTE: The seal of God is not a literal mark. The seal of God on the forehead doesn't mean that some literal mark will actually be stamped upon a person's forehead.

5. In Biblical language, what is a seal used for? [1 King 21:8] Ans. A seal is used to render _____ or _____ any enactments or laws.

NOTE: A Seal is used give validity to a document. Each nation has its official seal of state, and that seal is a sign of authority and power.

6. What is God's seal usually connected with? [Isaiah 8:16] Ans. _____

The Seal is found in God's Ten Commandments. Every seal must have these three qualities if it is to be of any value.

1st. The _____

2nd. The _____

3rd. The _____ or _____

The Seal of the United States would have the name of the President, Head of Government, his title as President, and his territory, the United States of America.

7. Since the seal is associated with the law of God, which one of these Commandments contains the seal? [Exodus 20:4] Ans. The _____ Commandment

NOTE: The fourth commandment is the only of the Commandment, which contains the three requisites of a seal. It reveals the name of the Law Giver, which is the Lord thy God; His official title Maker or Creator; and His dominion, the heavens and the earth. Since the Sabbath commandment contains these essential features of a seal, we are justified in concluding that herein is found the seal of God.

8. What four words are used in the Bible interchangeably or synonymously?

- _____ [Genesis 17:11]
- _____ [Romans 4:11]
- _____ [Ezekiel 9:4]
- _____ [Revelation 7:2]

In John Wycliffe's translation of the Bible in 1380, and in the Douay or Catholic version of the Bible in 1609, in place of saying, "having the seal of the living God," it reads, "having the sign of the living God."

God clearly states that He gave the Sabbath as a sign of His power to create and sanctify. It is His seal, or mark of authority. The words "seal," "sign," "mark," and "token" are used interchangeably throughout the Bible.

NOTE: Four times in the Holy Scriptures God calls the _____ His _____:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

WARNING!

In order for this _____ to be _____, it must be linked with _____ and His other Biblical revealed _____ in the last days.

THE MARK: PROTECTION IN THE LAST DAYS [Ezekiel 8 & 9]

- a. _____ of _____ in the entry. [Ezekiel 8:5-6]

NOTE: The image of jealousy may have had some image devoted to "Baal," "Molech" or "Astrate." This setting up of a rival god in the place dedicated to Yahweh, provoked Him to anger.

- b. Creeping things, abominable beasts worshiped _____ by seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel. [Ezekiel 8:7-12]

NOTE: It is very likely that these images portrayed on the wall were the objects of Egyptian adoration: the ox, the ape, the dog, the crocodile, the ibis, the scarabaeus or beetle, and various other things. It appears that the Sanhedrin or great Jewish council privately worshiped these. Which consisted of seventy or seventy-two persons, six chosen out of every tribe, as representatives of the people. The images portrayed upon the wall, were the same as ancient idols on the walls of the tombs of the kings and nobles of Egypt.

c. Women weeping for _____ [Ezekiel 8:13-15]

The youthful Tammuz (also known as Adonis, meaning "lord" in classical mythology) met an untimely death at the tusk of a wild boar. Here legend overtakes history altogether. Some accounts say that after three days Tammuz miraculously resurrected himself; others say that the grief-stricken Ishtar journeyed far into the netherworld to find him. After many days she succeeded, but during her absence the passion of love ceased to operate and all of life on earth languished in mourning. By all accounts, when the lamenting was over, Tammuz was firmly ensconced as the new god of the sun, and his renown eventually exceeded even Nimrod's.

Every year following Tammuz' tragic death and presumed ascension to the sun, the forty days preceding Ishtar's festival were set aside for fasting and self-affliction to commemorate his suffering and death. (It was this practice, "weeping for Tammuz," that God called an abomination in Ezekiel 8:13, 14.)

At the end of this period of mourning the people would waken early on the first day of the week and travel to the highest hills near their homes. There they would present their offerings of wine, meat, and incense and prostrate themselves before the rising sun, exclaiming "Our lord is risen!

Then would commence the festivities of Ishtar, queen of heaven and goddess of fertility. In preparation for this high celebration, the people would make small cakes, inscribing them with a cross (a pagan fertility symbol), for baking in the sun and eating as part of their ritual. [Jeremiah 7:17-19] The day would conclude in orgiastic revelry of a most debasing sort, and often included human sacrifices.

d. 25 men who worshipped the _____ [Ezekiel 8:16-17]

NOTE: This was the last great abomination practiced by Gods enlightened people. The worshipping of the sun signified they had abandoned the seventh day Sabbath and had adopted another day of worship, the first day of the week.

THE DESTRUCTION

9. Who did the men with the slaughter weapon target in Ezekiel's day and who was not targeted? [Ezekiel 9:1-7] Ans. a. Those _____ the _____ b. Those _____ the _____

10. What role does the Seal of God play in the final destruction of the world? [Psalms 91:1-10] Ans. It _____ them from the _____

The book of Revelation tells us that, in the last days, there will again be a battle between Christians regarding how and when to worship. Soon everyone will be identified either by the seal of God or the mark of the beast. However, in order for the seal of God to be valid, it must be linked with Jesus Christ and His other Biblical revealed truths in the last days.