

Intro: The issue of time is different in eternity as compared to our present environment.

We tend to view heaven as an eternal continuation of the conditions of earth.

Such is not the case. Eternity is always in the NOW.

Also, with regard to the seven seals:

They cover the entire seven weeks/years of the Tribulation period. (Daniel's 70 week prophecy)

Dan. 9:24-27

The first four seals cover the initial 3 ½ weeks, the period of tribulation where God allows evil to go unchecked.

Intro:

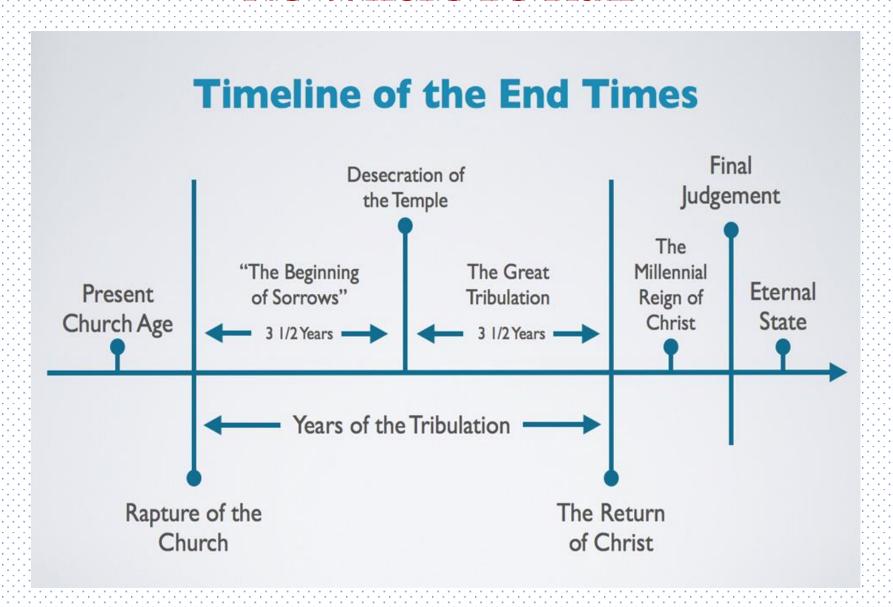
Seal #5 bridges the gap between the first half and the second half known as The Great Tribulation.

Seals #6 & 7 complete the second half of the seven year period and details God's judgments and wrath.

Remember, the tribulation period can't begin until the man of Lawlessness is revealed. 2 Thess. 2:3

And the second half of the seven year period begins when the Abomination of Desolation takes place.

Matt. 24:15



Seal #5

Persons:

The "force" of this seal is not a tangible judgment, but is the prayers of the martyred saints.

These saints are the first fruits of those martyred during the tribulation period.

They were slain for the word of God and for the testimony they had borne. Rev. 1:9; 2 Tim. 3:12; Matt. 24:9

Seal #5

The Prayer:

It was an "imprecatory" prayer for vengeance such as Ps. 109. (To imprecate means to pray evil against, or to invoke a curse upon another).

This prayer for vengeance is appropriate as these saints are not in the period of Grace, but are now in the period of judgment and wrath.

The question, "How long O Lord..." is not one of personal vendetta. The issue isn't <u>whether</u> they will be judged, but <u>when</u>.

Seal #6

Cosmic Upheaval:

This seal reflects the purposed judgments and wrath of God.

Evil has always had its limits. 2 Thess. 2:7-8. The first four seals depict God allowing the evil of men to go unrestrained.

In spite of the judgments and evil, man still maintains a hardened heart toward God.

Matt. 24:37-39.

Seal #6

Cosmic Upheaval:

Not only can we not hide from the wrath of God, His wrath will be poured out upon ALL unbelieving Mankind, irrespective of wealth or position.

While it's good news for those of us who have done business with Jesus, Heb. 10:31 applies to the rest.