

The Judgments - Seals, Trumpets, Vials (plagues and woes)

Revelation 6-10:7 & 15:5-16:21

Many ask, "[How do the seals, trumpets, and vials relate to 70AD?](#)" Let's look at these.

The seal judgments begin in chapter 6. Verse 2 begins with the theme we find in chapter 19:11-21 which provides a summary of the Revelation which begins with the Lamb (the rider of the white horse) making war and ends with the lamb being victorious in that war. According to the summary in 19 the war ends with the destruction of "the beast and the false prophet" (19:20). This "beast" is equivalent to the whore of chapter 17 et al. and the false prophet is the religious leadership of the whore. We find more about this "two horned" beast in Rev 13:11ff.

The riders of the three colored horses (seal judgments 2-5) depict the result of the war: Removal of peace (6:4), hunger, starvation and pestilence (6:5-6), and death and burial (6:7-8). Given all the relevant facts in Revelation this "war" waged by the Lamb of God and those with Him (Rev 17:12-18 & 19:17-19 is the war that destroys the whore of Revelation 17 et al. Thus, the seal judgments are directly related to the judgment and destruction of the whore of Rev 17, et al.

Please permit me to digress for a moment here to point out that Rev 17:14 & 19:19 are seriously misunderstood by most students of Scripture. Rev 17:14 should read: "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome **them** for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful." (Revelation 17:14)

Most interpreters (commentators) on this passage understand the "them" to be a reference to the armies of the ten horns; as if the Lamb was fighting against the "beast and the 10 horns who are identified in verses 11-13. However, I am convinced that this is not what John is saying. **The context of all of chapter 17 is "the judgment and destruction of the Whore (17:1).** According to John the "beast" of verse 11 empowers the 10 horns of verse 12, who then "give their power and strength unto the Beast" (v 13) "these (the beast and 10 horns) then make war with (not against) the Lamb to overcome and destroy the Whore as the result of judgment, as the greater context (17:1, 16-18) clearly demonstrates.

This misunderstanding of the context has caused the translators to not recognize that the "them" in verse 14 is also a reference to the Whore city and her people whose judgment and destruction (17:2, Cf. 16:17) is the subject of this entire chapter.

A similar problem is found in 19:19 which should read: "And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war with (not against as in AV and others) Him who sat on the horse and with (not against as in AV and others) His army (Revelation 19:19).

This verse is a summary of 17:11-14, 16-18 and carries the identical thought; which is that the "beast" and the "10 horns (kings of the earth)" join forces with each other and then become the avenging force of the Lamb (rider of the white horse) to bring about the destruction of the Whore/beast and her people.

The Greek lexeme in question in 19:19 is "meta," a primary preposition which must be translated according to the greater context of the passage in which it is used. This Greek preposition is used twice in 17:14 and is correctly translated "with" in the AV each time. However, when many translators reached 19:19 they switch horses midstream and twice translate "meta" as "against" contrary to its usage in 17:14 and in the over all context of 17 and 19. The overall context of both passages clearly requires that "meta" be translated "with" in all four places, as 17:14 and 19:19 are parallel passages saying the same things about the same entities. These entities, of course are: 1) The Whore/beast = Jerusalem/Judaea; 2) the "beast" = Vespasian/Titus; 3) the "ten horns/kings of the earth" = the kings of the 10 provinces of the Roman Empire that sent armies to assist the Romans under Titus, upon Vespasian's orders, to end the war against the Jews even if it meant the complete destruction Jerusalem/Judaea.

Thus, the seal judgments conclude with the 70 AD destruction of Jerusalem: "...the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of His wrath (against the Whore/beast) has come, and who is able to stand?" (Revelation 6:16b-17)

The trumpet judgments which begin in Rev 8 are all contained in the seventh seal judgment; thus are referencing the same ultimate end - i.e. the destruction of the Whore/beast and simply provide more details (from a different perspective) about how this will come about.

The seven last plagues (15:1) or the vial judgments are contained in the seventh trumpet judgment. Therefore, these judgments reference the same destruction of the Whore/beast as the trumpet and seal judgments which preceded them.

Taken as a whole these three sets of judgments (seals, trumpets, & vials or plagues) equate to the beginning, the middle and the finale of the war to destroy Jerusalem the great Whore/beast of Revelation. Thus, there is a clear and powerful correlation to 70 AD.

