

Scene Two: Seven Seals

Supreme Headquarters

Throne Room Scene

If you've ever played the board game Risk or seen a military control room (where troops are arranged on a table and battles are planned), you may have a good picture in your mind for this scene. This is where it all goes down. The Dwelling Place. Right in the midst is a great throne. The One who sits on it has a glorious and powerful appearance about Him. A rainbow reminds us that He is faithful; a covenant keeping God. The Lord God sits on the throne. He's issuing the commands. He sees what's going on. He's in control.

Take note of the crystal sea before the throne. (Exodus 30:17-21, 2 Chronicles 4:1-5)

Twenty-Four Thrones

Around His throne are an additional twenty-four thrones seating twenty-four elders. Who are these and what is their significance? Elders are the spiritual leaders in any specific location. Those who tend and oversee the flock and, in a sense, representatives of the assembly. Always in plurality, as we see here. Yet here, they are a representation of the people of God. **Ephesians 2:6** tells us that "*God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.*" Where has He seated us? On thrones. In His messages to the last three churches addressed, He promises three things – reserved seating on a **throne**, victory **crowns**, and **white garments**. These elders have three distinct characteristics – they are seated on a **throne**, they wear **crowns**, and **white garments**. 24 are present and the significance is twofold. In the Old Testament there were 24 courses of priesthood. All of God's people have now been made priests through Christ (**1 Peter 2:1-10**). Twelve patriarchs from the Old Testament and twelve apostles from the New Testament makes 24. The servants of God.

Four Living Creatures

Before you get too excited about these creatures, look at **Ezekiel 1:4-12, 26-28** and **Ezekiel 10:14-15** then get really excited. These creatures are cherubim. High-ranking angels. They are set to guard the Tree of Life with a flaming sword in the Garden. On the Ark of the Covenant. In the Holy of Holies. If there's a great task to be accomplished – you better believe these will be appointed. What is their grand duty here? To give *glory* and *honor* and *thanks* to the Lord. They are always in the business of glorifying God, serving God, and always found near to Him.

A Scroll with Seven Seals

One is Worthy

There is a single scroll. Filled with writing front and back. But it is sealed with seven seals – God’s scroll, God’s seals. **NO ONE** is found *anywhere* who can loose the seals. Not even to look at it. Until the **Lion** prevails and the **Lamb** is slain. This *had* to be fulfilled. They sing a *new song*. Why is He worthy? Because He was slain.

The seals are ripped off and reveal that which was formerly unknown – until *all* is revealed.

Four Horsemen

Psalm 45:3-6 - Gird your sword upon your side, O mighty one;
 clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.
In your majesty ride forth victoriously
 in behalf of truth, humility and righteousness;
 let your right hand display awesome deeds.
Let your sharp arrows pierce the hearts of the king's enemies;
 let the nations fall beneath your feet.
Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
 a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

The first is the Word of God, the Gospel of Christ. The word here for conqueror is the same word for those who overcome and He who triumphs. On the heels of the Gospel comes Persecution – the fiery red horse. The rider’s sword is the knife of sacrifice. Next comes Economic Hardship, followed by Death and Hades.

Coming Judgement

The martyrs cry out and the earth is shaken. The Day is at hand!

The Sealed

Time-Out!

Wait. Everything is put on hold. Before *anything else* happens, God's people must be sealed. This brings to mind the Passover in Egypt where God's people marked their doors with the blood of a lamb, and the Spirit passed over. They would not be judged. Does God not know who His people are? Does He need to place a mark on us? This is for us. Not a physical mark, but a mark that we carry with us nevertheless. That we may know surely that God is with us.

A Great Multitude

The redeemed! Those who washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Marked men. In a good way. The Scriptures go to great lengths to assure us of this. Twelve tribes with twelve thousand sealed. All of God's people. Of all nations tribes, peoples, and tongues with white robes and branches of palm. All of God's people.

Silence

The final seal is opened. *Silence* in heaven for **half an hour**. The calm before the storm. The Day approacheth.