

**Revelation 1d - Charts**

**The Seven Seals**

Our study of the seven seals looks at the prophetic details that are revealed as each of the seven seals on the scroll that Christ received is opened (Revelation 5: 1). As Jesus reads the scroll, He does all things that are required by law. He sends the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to write the laws into our hearts and He sends the curses as the church collapses into disobedience.

And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them. (Deuteronomy 17: 19)

Pentecost		1	2	3	4	5	6				7
Holy Spirit 	Blessing	Curse 1	Curse 2	Curse 3 and 4	Curse 5 (The Wrath of God)				Blessing		
	White Horse	Red Horse	Black Horse	Pale Horse	Martyrs	Signs				Silence	
	Early Church 31-100	Roman Persecution 100-313	Apostasy 313-538	Papal Persecution 538-1517	Martyrs Wait 1517-1755	Earthquake 1755	Dark Day 1780	Stars 1833	1844	Sky Splits	1844- Second Coming
<b>The Sealing</b>											

**The Four Creatures**

		Creature	Seal	Symbols	Curse	Period
1	Lion	<b>The Four Horsemen</b>	White horse	Crown, bow	Blessings	31-100 Early church
2	Calf (Ox)		Red horse	War	1. No peace	100-313 Persecution
3	Face of a Man		Black horse	Scales, wheat, barley. Oil and wine not hurt.	2. Famine	313-538 Apostasy
4	Flying Eagle		Pale horse	Wild beasts, sword, famine, pestilence	3. Wild beasts 4. War, famine, disease	538-1517 Dark ages
5	These last judgments are not sent by the creatures. They come from God himself.	<b>The Wrath of God</b>	Souls under the altar ask for justice	White robes	The fifth curse, which is the final wrath of God. It is sent as an answer to the prayers of the saints.	1517-1798 Reformation and Martyrdom
6			Day of wrath. Earthquake, dark sun, blood moon, stars fall and sky splits			1798-1844
7			Silence in heaven for half hour			1844-End of time
<p>We will note that a Creature is associated with each of the first four seals. Revelation 4: 6-8 tells us that these four living creatures were around the throne. Remember the living creatures around God's chariot throne in Ezekiel's visions. (Ezekiel Chapters 1 and 10):</p>				<p>A color is associated with the horses seen in each of the first four seals. Joel 2: 1-4, Zechariah 1: 8-10 and Zechariah 6: 1-3 describe horses which bring judgment from God.</p>		

## Signs on Earth

### The Great Lisbon Earthquake

November 1, 1755 at 9:40 a.m. a magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck Lisbon Portugal, leveling the city. It affected an area of approximately four million square miles and was felt as far away as France and North Africa. Fire swept through the city for the next three days. It is estimated that 60,000 people were killed, 10,000 to 20,000 in Lisbon alone. The resulting tsunamis killed approximately 10,000 in Morocco.

Most of Lisbon's population of 250,000 was at church for All Saints' Day when the first shock struck at 9:40 am on November 1. It was followed by an even more powerful tremor which sent buildings toppling down on the terrified populace. Huge waves crashed over the quays, drowning thousands and causing widespread damage. Fire rampaged through the ruins of the city for 3 days. The same earthquake and associated tsunamis also caused much destruction and loss of life further afield - approximately 10,000 died in Morocco.

It extended to the greater part of Europe, Africa, and America. It was felt in Greenland, in the West Indies, in the island of Madeira, in Norway and Sweden, Great Britain and Ireland. It pervaded an extent of not less than four million square miles. In Africa the shock was almost as severe as in Europe. A great part of Algiers was destroyed; and a short distance from Morocco, a village containing eight or ten thousand inhabitants was swallowed up. A vast wave swept over the coast of Spain and Africa engulfing cities and causing great destruction. It was in Spain and Portugal that the shock manifested its extreme violence. At Cadiz the inflowing wave was said to be sixty feet high.

Mountains, "some of the largest in Portugal, were impetuously shaken, as it were, from their very foundations, and some of them opened at their summits, which were split and rent in a wonderful manner, huge masses of them being thrown down into the adjacent valleys. Flames are related to have issued from these mountains." Sir Charles Lyell, Principles of Geology, page 495.

At Lisbon "a sound of thunder was heard underground, and immediately afterwards a violent shock threw down the greater part of that city. In the course of about six minutes sixty thousand persons perished. The sea first retired, and laid the bar dry; it then rolled in, rising fifty feet or more above its ordinary level."

"Among other extraordinary events related to have occurred at Lisbon during the catastrophe, was the subsidence of a new quay, built entirely of marble, at an immense expense. A great concourse of people had collected there for safety, as a spot where they might be beyond the reach of falling ruins; but suddenly the quay sank down with all the people on it, and not one of the dead bodies ever floated to the surface." Sir Charles Lyell, Principles of Geology, page 495.

"The shock" of the earthquake "was instantly followed by the fall of every church and convent, almost all the large public buildings, and more than one fourth of the houses. In about two hours after the shock, fires broke out in different quarters, and raged with such violence for the space of nearly three days, that the city was completely desolated. The earthquake happened on a holyday, when the churches and convents were full of people, very few of whom escaped." Encyclopedia Americana, article "Lisbon," note (1831 edition).

"The terror of the people was beyond description. Nobody wept; it was beyond tears. They ran hither and thither, delirious with horror and astonishment, beating their faces and breasts, crying, 'Misericordia! the

world's at an end!' Mothers forgot their children, and ran about loaded with crucified images. Unfortunately, many ran to the churches for protection; but in vain was the sacrament exposed; in vain did the poor creatures embrace the altars; images, priests, and people were buried in one common ruin." It has been estimated that ninety thousand persons lost their lives on that fatal day.

## **Astronomical Signs**

### **May 19, 1780 Dark Day**

The dark day of May 19, 1780 was the most mysterious and as yet still unexplained phenomenon of its kind.

It was a most unaccountable darkening of the whole visible heavens and atmosphere in New England. R. M. Devens, *Our First Century*, page 89.

An eyewitness living in Massachusetts described the event as follows:

In the morning the sun rose clear, but was soon overcast. The clouds became lowery, and from them, black and ominous, as they soon appeared, lightning flashed, thunder rolled, and a little rain fell. Toward nine o'clock, the clouds became thinner, and assumed a brassy or coppery appearance, and earth, rocks, trees, buildings, water, and persons were changed by this strange, unearthly light. A few minutes later, a heavy black cloud spread over the entire sky except a narrow rim at the horizon, and it was as dark as it usually is at nine o'clock on a summer evening. . . . Fear, anxiety, and awe gradually filled the minds of the people. Women stood at the door, looking out upon the dark landscape; men returned from their labor in the fields; the carpenter left his tools, the blacksmith his forge, the tradesman his counter. Schools were dismissed, and tremblingly the children fled homeward.

Travelers put up at the nearest farmhouse. 'What is coming?' queried every lip and heart. It seemed as if a hurricane was about to dash across the land, or as if it was the day of the consummation of all things. Candles were used; and hearth fires shone as brightly as on a moonless evening in autumn. . . . Fowls retired to their roosts and went to sleep, cattle gathered at the pasture bars and lowed, frogs peeped, birds sang their evening songs, and bats flew about. But the human knew that night had not come. . . .

Dr. Nathanael Whittaker, pastor of the Tabernacle church in Salem, held religious services in the meeting-house, and preached a sermon in which he maintained that the darkness was supernatural. Congregations came together in many other places. The texts for the extemporaneous sermons were invariably those that seemed to indicate that the darkness was consonant with Scriptural prophecy. . . . The darkness was most dense shortly after eleven o'clock." *The Essex Antiquarian*, April, 1899, Volume 3, Number 4, Pages 53, 54. In most parts of the country it was so great in the daytime, that the people could not tell the hour by either watch or clock, nor dine, nor manage their domestic business, without the light of candles. . . .

The extent of this darkness was extraordinary. It was observed as far east as Falmouth. To the westward it reached to the farthest part of Connecticut, and to Albany. To the southward, it was observed along the seacoasts; and to the north as far as the American settlements extend."--William Gordon, *History of the*

Rise, Progress, and Establishment of the Independence of the U.S.A., Volume 3, page 57. The intense darkness of the day was succeeded, an hour or two before evening, by a partially clear sky, and the sun appeared, though it was still obscured by the black, heavy mist.

After sundown, the clouds came again overhead, and it grew dark very fast. Nor was the darkness of the night less uncommon and terrifying than that of the day; notwithstanding there was almost a full moon, no object was discernible but by the help of some artificial light, which, when seen from the neighboring houses and other places at a distance, appeared through a kind of Egyptian darkness which seemed almost impervious to the rays. Isaiah Thomas, Massachusetts Spy; or, American Oracle of Liberty, Volume 10, Number 472 (May 25, 1780).

**Said an eyewitness of the scene:**

I could not help conceiving at the time, that if every luminous body in the universe had been shrouded in impenetrable shades, or struck out of existence, the darkness could not have been more complete. Letter by Dr. Samuel Tenney, of Exeter, New Hampshire, December, 1785 (in Massachusetts Historical Society Collections, 1792, 1st series, Volume 1, page. 97). Though at nine o'clock that night the moon rose to the full, it had not the least effect to dispel the deathlike shadows. After midnight the darkness disappeared, and the moon, when first visible, had the appearance of blood.

May 19, 1780, stands in history as "The Dark Day." Since the time of Moses no period of darkness of equal density, extent, and duration, has ever been recorded. The description of this event, as given by eyewitnesses, echoes the prophet Joel, twenty-five hundred years previous to their fulfillment:

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come. (Joel 2:31)

**The stars fall**

**1833 Leonid Meteor Shower**

The great meteor storm of 1833 is said to have kick-started the modern study of meteors. At the storm's peak, between 2 a.m. and dawn on November 12 and 13, roughly 100,000 meteors per hour rained from the night sky. There was a constant succession of fireballs, resembling rockets, radiating in all directions from a point in the heavens. It led scientists to research past storms and may have been responsible for a wave of religious revivals, started by viewers convinced they had experienced the precursor to Armageddon.

**Summary -The Seven Churches**

#	Name	Period	Represents	Key Feature	Praise	Rebuke	Jesus	Reward
1	<b>Ephesus</b>	31-100 AD - Second Century	The early Apostolic Church	<b>Evangelism.</b> Lost First Love. False Apostles.	Persevered. Opposed false apostles and the Nicolaitans.	In their zeal they have lost their first love - evangelism	Seven stars and seven lamps (light)	Eats from the tree of life
2	<b>Smyrna</b>	100-313 AD Third - Fourth Century	Pagan Roman persecutions - around time of Diocletian.	<b>Martyrs.</b> Persecution and Apostasy from without.	Rich in faith. Martyrs, faithful until death.	None	Resurrected. Was dead and alive	Eternal life
3	<b>Pergamos</b>	313-538 AD Fourth - Fifth Century	Church of the Apostasy around the time of Constantine the Great	<b>Apostasy.</b> Persecution and Apostasy from within.	Praises those who are faithful during apostasy.	Nicolaitan apostasy. Many fell into immorality and idolatry.	Sharp two-edged sword of the word of God	Hidden manna, white stone with a new name
4	<b>Thyatira</b>	538 - 1517 AD beginning of reformation in 1517 by Luther nailing his 95 page thesis	Early Medieval Church against Apostate Roman Church of the Middle Ages	<b>Persecution.</b> Church During The 1260 Years	The good works, faith and love and the patient endurance	Jezebel. Refuses to repent and tolerates paganism.	Eyes like fire and feet burnished	Authority over the nations. Morning star.
5	<b>Sardis</b>	1517-1798 AD Sixteenth Century End	Reformers able to detect truth from dogmas and doctrines of men.	<b>Reformation.</b> The reformation continues with Martin Luther, Tyndale and others but later slumber crept in in trusting in men	A few in Sardis have not soiled their garments - have remained righteous	Has the name of being alive - but is dead. Her works are unfinished	Seven spirits, seven stars. (Light and the Holy Spirit of truth)	White clothes, name in the book of life, Christ represents them by name before God and angels
6	<b>Philadelphia</b>	1798-844 AD	Millerite Movement. The Christians of the Advent movement that depended on God	<b>Revelation (Shut and Open Door).</b> The Loving Church - open door to the Heavenly Sanctuary. The Closing ministry of the Holy Place to the ministration of The Most Holy Place	Have kept Christ's Word and refuse to deny His name	None	Holy, true, key of David, opens and shuts	Permanent pillar in the temple. Has the name of God and the New Jerusalem written on them.
7	<b>Laodicea</b>	1844-2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming	Self Righteous church who no longer walk in submission to Jesus	<b>Judgment, Witnesses.</b> Means "judging the people"	None	Believe they are strong and rich, but they are lukewarm and poor. Not "On fire"	True witness, beginning of creation and the Amen (end). Knocking at the door	Sits on God's throne