

#### **4: Jesus revealed to Israel. 6:1- 8:5.**

Israel rejected Jesus as her Mashiach because her self-developed Judaism saw no need for a Redeemer since it preached a religion of self-redemption. It had forgotten that the Lord himself must redeem her out of the “house of slavery” before she can even keep the law (Ex. 20:2). And, while the Lord God had delivered her from the earthly slavery of Egypt, only her Mashiach was appointed to deliver her from a spiritual slavery to sin (Jn. 8:34-36). Sinai witnesses that the Law could not change Israel’s state of spiritual death, inherited from Adam in the beginning (Gen. 2:17), for even with the Law, the people still “trembled” with fear in their naked flesh, uncovered of spiritual life (Ex. 20:18).

Content in her self-redemption, Israel rejected Jesus as her Mashiach because she could rely on messiahs of her own making—her Jewish life, her Jewish rabbis and *baal shem tovs*, her riches and her political maneuvering. So, before Jesus Mashiach reveals himself to Israel, he judges and uncovers as false and worthless all of Israel’s false messiahs. These “birth pains” (Mt. 24: ) leading up to her fateful encounter with Jesus when Israel realizes that Jesus alone could always and only be her true Mashiach, for he alone is the Son of David and the Son of God. As the Mashiach, the Lion and Lamb, Jesus holds the Father’s “scroll” unfolding the future Kingdom. Each of the seven seals moves Israel down a path of redemption that ends with her full reconciliation with Jesus as her Mashiach (Rev. 6:1).

With the first four seals, Jesus Mashiach reveals His jealous anger against Israel’s unfaithfulness, **(1) Judging the False Messiahs** in living life without him. The first seal unleashes the Antichrist, riding on a “white horse” as the political victor who embodies all the false messiahs whose power Israel has trusted (6:2). As the Antichrist will show, every false messiah is simply a Satan-controlled puppet seeking Israel’s downfall, for Satan secretly hates Israel because he hates her God (12:17). With the second and third seals, Jesus Mashiach judges the false refuge Israel has sought apart by her own hands. Israel is deprived of peace, as bloodshed and violence spread throughout the world. And, her refuge in earthly riches tumbles as economic turmoil depletes monetary value (6:3,5). As worldly shelters fall, Israel can only hope in the one promised to her who is faithful and true. Finally, Israel has celebrated her isolated life, “L’ chaim,” exalting the Jewish life and its earthly festivals, customs, and traditions as her true treasure. But, as the spirit of Death sifts through a quarter of the earth’s population, Israel soon realizes that Jewish life is part of a passing world, if it is not anchored in the eternal life of the Mashiach.

With her false messiahs stripped away, Israel then hears but resists the **(2) Just and Faithful Testimony** of Jesus Mashiach. As Jesus breaks the fifth seal, a new generation of martyrs arises to testify of Jesus as Israel’s rightful Mashiach, for some Jews have turned to Jesus following the Church’s evacuation. Looking into the future, Jesus had instructed these Jewish witnesses, saying “When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for... you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes” (Matt. 10:23). So, with the sixth seal, Jesus Mashiach reveals himself to Israel to save her from annihilation (Zech. 12:10). Looking upon her Mashiach, all Israel is saved (6:12).

Redeemed as a nation, Israel now appoints 144,000 apostles to serve her Mashiach (7:4). Now, as the Lamb opens the seventh seal, the Holy Ones of Israel offer their prayers to the God of Israel in His Temple (8:3), commencing 3.5 years of **(3) Jewish Fervent Witness** as a nation of prophets as the light of God’s salvation to a world over-run by Satan (11:3).

#### **4.1. Jesus Revealed as Lamb of God to Israel: 6:1-8**

- Revelation (v.1)

#### **4.2. Jesus Revealed as Lamb Slain to Israel and Nations: 6:9-17.**

- Revelation (v.1)

#### **4.3. Jesus Revealed as Shepherding Lamb through Israel to Nations: 7:1-8:5.**

- Revelation (v.1)