

SEAL 2



The **machaira**, a short sword or dagger used by assassins rather than soldiers, was a symbol of violence or dissension that destroys peace. It was specifically worn by the Praetorian Guard and the emperor, showing that they were there to cause laws to be obeyed on pain of death!



**Emperors
of the
2nd Seal**

Commodus 180-192
Pertinax 193
Didius Julianus 193
Septimus Severus 193-211
Geta 209-211

A collection of Roman coins and a machaira dagger. The coins are arranged in a vertical line, and the dagger is positioned to the left of the coins. The background is divided into horizontal bands of color: pink, light blue, light green, light yellow, and light grey.

Commodus (AD180-192) - A cruel tyrant that filled Rome with blood. He was a glutton and a drunkard, who was strangled to death after a failed attempt at poisoning.

Pertinax (AD193) - A "virtuous pagan" who tried to right all the evil of Commodus' reign. The Praetorian Guard did not appreciate what he was trying to do, so they assassinated him after a reign of 3 months.

Didius Julianus (AD 193) - An ambitious senator who won rule over Rome by winning a public auction. When faced with military challenges from Septimus Severus, the Praetorian Guard took off his head.

Septimus Severus (AD 193-211) - Assuming the throne after Julianus, he established himself through civil war and much bloodshed of the senators and nobles of Rome. He severely persecuted the believers.

Geta (AD 209-211) - Geta reigned jointly with his father and brother, Caracalla. The two brothers were always in contention with one another. Geta died in his mother's arms when killed by Caracalla.

WHO - A group of select soldiers chosen to be body guards of the emperor. They enjoyed double the pay of a regular soldier and many other privileges. Upon retiring, they received a gift of land and 5,000 denarii (13 years salary). Under Severus they numbered 50,000.

WHEN - Created by Caesar Augustus in BC27 as a force to protect his dominion.

WHERE - Emperor Tiberius made the Praetorian Guard a permanent camp outside the walls of Rome. Being guards of the city and palace, they soon became involved in politics and had the senate, treasury, and emperor in their hands.

2nd Seal - AD 180 - 211

4 And there went out another horse that was **red**: and power was given to **him that sat** thereon to **take peace from the earth**, and that they should **kill one another**: and there was given unto him a great **sword**.

red = bloodshed and war (Isa. 63:2-3)

him that sat = the praetorian guard, a privileged class of soldiers who installed and assassinated emperors

take peace from the earth = 2000 people per day died in Rome from murder, famine, & pestilence due to poor leadership

kill one another = intense slaughter during this time period

sword = Gk: "machaira: a large knife, short sword, or dagger" an assassin's weapon, worn by the Praetorian Guard

