

The Book Of Revelation - Chapter Six

CHAPTER SIX

THE FIRST SEAL

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. **2** And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

THE SECOND SEAL

3 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. **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.

THE THIRD SEAL

5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. **6** And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and [see] thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

THE FOURTH SEAL

7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. **8** And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

THE FIFTH SEAL

9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: **10** And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? **11** And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they [were], should be fulfilled.

THE SIXTH SEAL

12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood: **13** And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. **14** And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. **15** And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; **16** And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: **17** For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

- seals indicate judgement held back as long as possible
- start of 7-year Tribulation (Dan. 9:27) - covers Rev. 6-19
- first 3.5 years - Rev. 6-9 / middle part of Tribulation - Rev. 10-14 / last 3.5 years - Rev. 15-19
- similar to Zechariah's vision of four chariots patrolling the earth (Zech. 6:1-7) indicating God's activity or judgement
- "Come and see" = "come" (ie: come forth)

THE WHITE HORSE - ANTICHRIST

- "white horse" - a false Christ accepted by the world
- "bow" (without arrows) - peace and disarmament
- "crown" - "stephanos" (victor's crown) in 6:2, not "diadema" (kingly crown) worn by Christ in 19:12
- world dictator begins his career as a PEACEMAKER

THE RED HORSE - WAR

- Antichrist soon exchanges his empty bow for a sword!
- red associated with terror and death - wanton bloodshed
- these things have happened throughout history, but will reach their height during the Tribulation period

THE BLACK HORSE - FAMINE

- black = famine (Jer. 14:1-2, Lam. 5:10) - the result of war
- "penny" ("denarius") = labourer's daily wage (Matt. 20:2) - ordinarily bought over eight times as much!
- "measure" = individual daily requirement of food
- "scales" = rationing / "oil and wine" = luxury items
- rich will still have plenty; Antichrist will control economy!

THE PALE HORSE - DEATH

- "pale" = "yellow green" (hue of sick and dying tissue)
- death claims the body, Hell (Hades) claims the soul; but Christ has authority over them both! (Rev. 1:18)
- fourth part of earth - 1/4 population or geographical area
- sword, hunger, death = war, famine, plague
- beasts - terror of man removed (reversal of Genesis 9:2)

THE FIFTH SEAL - PERSECUTION

- in OT, blood (representing life) poured out at base of altar
- anyone responding to the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM in the Tribulation will be martyred for their loyalty to God
- they are praying for vindication of God and righteousness
- "white robes" = purity and victory
- "rest yet for a little season" - God delays judgement to allow evil-doers to repent, even though righteous suffer
- "their fellowservants also" - others yet to be martyred!
- God's justice is stirred, but so is His mercy!

THE SIXTH SEAL - GREAT EARTHQUAKE

- God's displeasure at the martyrdom of the righteous
- earthquake so great it moves mountains and islands
- sun blackens in a dramatic type of eclipse
- moon appears blood-red because of atmospheric disturbances (either divine or man-made)
- meteor shower ("shooting stars") described visually
- stormclouds rolling swiftly could look like a "scroll"
- mankind prays to NATURE for salvation! (new age)

- FINAL QUESTION: "Who shall be able to stand?"
- answer is given in chapter seven (a parenthetical chapter)
- seventh seal judgement continues at Revelation 8:1