

## Chapter 6

7 seals – Watershed moment - Great Tribulation Begins! It opens with the 4 horseman of the Apocalypse – John is recording thing on earth (much like he is watching it on TV). No mention has been made of the church since Chapter 3. Give us a picture of the 7 years of Tribulation.

Opening of the Seals is orderly, gradual, logical and systematic. Jesus describes the 4 horseman in:

### Matthew 24:3-8

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

WHITE HORSE - Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ, [a]' and will deceive many.

RED HORSE – You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

BLACK HORSE - There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. (War and Famine is followed by pestilence) - PALE GREEN. All these are the beginning of birth pains.

**Rev. 6:1-2 - Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals;[a] and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.**

First Seal – White Horse – Anti Christ makes himself in peace (Bow no arrow) - Satan is always mascara ding as an angel of light. Peace is temporary and counterfeit.

Some see this as Christ referenced in Psalm 45 and Rev 19 in the end on a white horse. However, this is not Christ. Let's look at his second coming is clearly described in Revelation 19:11-16.

**Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had[e] a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**

Satan never plays fair. He comes in white with a crown. He comes to steal, kill and destroy. Satan comes masquerading as an angel of light, and now that the Holy Spirit is not restraining evil, he impersonates the Lord himself.

**What is more dangerous an obvious evil person or one who deceives looking as pure clean trustworthy?** He is going to be so smooth that (without discernment from the Holy Spirit) you would probably let your kids sleep over at his house!

**Rev. 6:3-4 - When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.**

Second Seal is shown as the Red Horse, Fiery Red representing War (Real World War III or beyond).

The danger here is to try to put the future prophecy in the past to explain it already happened. There are a thousand different interpretations for each of the seals, trumpets and the bowls; however, if you just follow the book of Revelation in the order the Lord gave it then you know that is the future. For instance, Revelation 5:13 has not happened yet, or did all of creation including the fish and turtles sing out to Jesus and we missed it?

**Do you think the enemy is using this popular historical interpretation view of the Great Tribulation to steal people's hope today? What are you going to do in light of this?**

**Rev. 6:5-6 - When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."**

The third seal is black (Jer 4:28) which speaks of speaks of mourning (Malachi 3:14) and famine (Lam 4:8) which always follows war. The wheat and barley here speak that there will only be enough for a soldier – not his family. The oil speaks to luxury and beauty aids and the wine to the rich. They will still have plenty.

**Why do you think God allowed for the judgment to come on the necessities, but not the luxuries?**

In America, this is hard to relate to given that even our homeless generally have cell phones. The picture here is clear though. The rich and those in power will be fine. In fact, they will still live it up, but for the rest only the soldier will be given regular food rations.

**Rev. 6:7-8 - When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.**

The fourth seal is Death represented by Pale Green which speaks of pestilence and disease. There are many possible interpretations, but one maybe Germ warfare.

**Why did the Lord limits this to ¼ of the earth?** Jesus is clearly showing restraint and grace, so that all have an opportunity to believe in Him and be saved. No one is sent to Hell, but many freely choose by denying their Lord and Savior. As C.S. Lewis put it in one of his famous quotes: *There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, "Thy Will be done," and those to whom God says, "All right, then, have it your way."*

**Rev. 6: 9-11 - When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.**

The fifth seal is the prayer of the martyred remnant. This is those slain the tribulation and possibly all saints slain. The White Robe speaks righteous of Christ – Speaks of rest and peace. The Tribulation saints are to be included with the Old Testament saints in round two of the first resurrection.

Resurrection explained: The first resurrection and the second resurrection are described in Revelation chapter 20. Don't be deceived. The first resurrection is speaking to the resurrection of all of God's people. It is not a single event in one point in time. The chosen people (Israel) are separated from the church which has the promise of the rapture (Rev. 3:10). Jesus was the first to be resurrected per scripture "first fruits" but the apostles well knew that Enoch, Elijah, Lazarus and others were resurrected prior to Jesus. The second resurrection, however, stands in contrast as an event which is a single point in time. The second resurrection is specific for the dead (2<sup>nd</sup> death Rev. 20:14) those who never accepted the Lord and will stand in judgment at the White Throne.

**Rev. 6:12-13 - *I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.***

The sixth seal seems to be a transition and this likely marks the beginning of the last 3.5 years of the Great Tribulation. This is described as a Great Earthquake. When you consider that over the last 4,000 year, more than 13 million people have died in earthquakes<sup>3</sup>, how large of an earth do you think this is?

**Rev. 6:14 - *Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.***

Sometimes in Revelation you just need to take what it say literally. This same scene is described in Nah1:5 and again in chapter 20, verse Rev 20:11.

**Rev. 6:15-17 - *And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"***

Wrath of the Lamb – Paradox – a proposition that seems contrary to perceived opinion. The Lord is almost always depicted as a Lamb. Lamb denotes meekness, harmless, humble, and gentle not fear!

- We have all seen "Beware of Dog" signs, but have you have seen "Beware of Lamb" sign?

Wrath & Lamb go together like fire and water. Or do they, Jesus is a paradox - both in His parables and when He cleared the Temple with whips and cursed the fig tree.

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<sup>3</sup> Professor R. A. Daley, in his book *Our Mobile Earth*.