

# Lesson 12

## The Seal Judgments

### Revelation 6

Invite the Holy Spirit to teach and speak to you through the Word of God as you meditate on Revelation 6 every day this week.

As you read through the verses presented this week, look for a special verse to make your memory verse for the week. We will share our verses at the end of our discussion time.

1. What was a new or interesting thought from last week's lesson?

*“Do homage to the Son, lest He become angry, and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!”*

*Psalm 2:12*

In the book of Revelation there are three series of judgments that are released on the earth: the seven seals in Revelation 6:1-17, 8:1, the seven trumpets in Revelation 8:2-9:21, 11:14-19 and the seven bowls in Revelation 16:1-21. These judgments are given in their chronological order. Like birth pangs, they increase in their intensity and the time between each judgment grows increasingly shorter. The first four judgments of each series are grouped together, the next two are grouped together and the final ones stand alone. The Lord has laid out the order of these judgments so that we can know the sequence of His plan, know the final ending and be prepared.

Believers who are alive during the days of Revelation will have a key role to play through their prayers. As we shall see, a united praying world-wide church will move “heaven” to release the judgments upon the earth. These judgments will have several effects. They will ultimately result in the complete defeat of the Antichrist and his followers ushering in the millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on the earth. The judgments will also create such a world crisis that thousands upon thousands of people will turn to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. They will bring a backlash of persecution against the Church that will purify, unite and mature her.

2. In Revelation 6:1 who initiates the seal judgments? Why do you think this is important for us to know?

3. Our tendency may be to fall into fear, confusion or even to be offended by God for initiating or even allowing these terrible judgments. In Matthew 11 the disciples of John the Baptist came to visit Jesus. John had been thrown into prison and would soon be beheaded by Herod. What did Jesus say in Matthew 11:11?
  
4. John the Baptist's disciples did not know that John was about to be beheaded, but Jesus did. What do you think Jesus meant by what he said in Matthew 11:6? How do you think these words could also apply to our understanding of the judgments we learn about in Revelation?
  
5. As Jesus gives the signs to watch that will signal His return, what does He say in Matthew 24:10? (Note: "fall away" or "turn away" may be translated *offended*)
  
6. Describe what John sees in Revelation 6:2.
  
7. Compare this rider of a white horse in Revelation 6:2 with the one in Revelation 19:11-16.

Most Bible commentators understand the rider in Revelation 6 to be the Antichrist who is a counterfeit of the real Lord Jesus Christ of Revelation 19. (See the glossary for a detailed description of the Antichrist.)

8. What is one of the strategies of the devil according to II Corinthians 11:14?

The white horse symbolizes speed, strength and righteousness. The Antichrist will initially seem to be "good." He will come on the scene suddenly.

9. What does Daniel 11:21 tell us about the Antichrist?

10. Where will the Antichrist receive the right to govern? See Romans 13:1.

He carries a bow but there is no arrow. This may symbolize that he comes with the threat of war but initially acts without shedding blood.

11. In Revelation 6:2 what does the rider of the white horse do, and what is his plan?

12. Again, notice who breaks the second seal to initiate this judgment according to Revelation 6:3? See also Revelation 6:5, 7, 9 and 12. Discuss why we need to know this.

13. Describe the second seal in Revelation 6:4. See also I Thessalonians 5:3.

14. Fiery red and a great sword may symbolize worldwide bloodshed. Read Daniel 11:40-42 and discuss.

15. Describe the third seal as it is broken in Revelation 6:5-6.

The black horse may picture mourning, sadness, and sorrow. The pair of scales may symbolize the worldwide economy, which will affect a world famine.

16. Describe the fourth seal as it is broken in Revelation 6:7-8. The word for *pale* or *ashen* is literally a sickly yellow-green color.

17. Describe the fifth seal in Revelation 6:9-11.

In the Tabernacle that Moses was instructed to build by God, there were two altars, the bronze altar that represents the cross of Christ and the golden altar of incense that represents the prayers of believers.

Read about this second altar in Exodus 37:25-29.

18. Discuss why these martyrs were slain in Revelation 6:9.

19. Daniel 7:21-27 may be a parallel passage. Read it and discuss.

20. Discuss Genesis 4:8-10 and Romans 12:19 in the context of the fifth seal.

There is a huge shift that occurs at this point in Revelation. From now on the judgments will not be what man does against man, but will be supernatural judgments. Believers will be motivated to pray which move on the heart of God to act.

The word that is translated *earthquake* in Revelation 6:12 is *shaking*. This may be MORE than an earthquake! The Greek word for star is aster. This may refer to asteroids, meteorites or other heavenly bodies, probably not what we call a star.

21. Describe the sixth seal in Revelation 6:12-14 with Haggai 2:6-7, Joel 2:28-32, Luke 21:25-26 and Matthew 24:29.

22. How will many people on the earth respond to the opening of the sixth seal in Revelation 6:15-17? See also Isaiah 2:12-21.

23. Why will the wrath of God be poured out according to Romans 1:18-23?

24. Who alone is able to make us stand in the presence of the Lord according to Jude 24-25?

25. How does Jesus sum up this period of time in Matthew 24:5-8; 21-22?

26. Share the memory verse that you found through this week's study and why you chose it.

27. From your meditation this week on Revelation 6, what do you want to remember?

## Lecture Notes: