

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

CHAPTER 6

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Welcome back to our study of the Book of Revelation. We recommend that you begin by reading Revelation Chapter 6. *(Note: All Scriptures are KJV unless otherwise noted.)*

THE OPENING OF THE SEALS

All the action of the Tribulation in the Book of Revelation begins in Chapter 6. God Almighty, the Ancient of Days, has placed the authority of the universe squarely in the hands of our Kinsman Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Our great and sovereign Lord takes the forfeited inheritance out of the hands of the devil: the usurper, the interloper, the intruder, the squatter. Jesus, our Kinsman Redeemer, now places His hands on the book (scroll), especially the seven seals. These seven seals are about to be removed.

The opening of the first seal is the beginning of Jesus Christ's ascent to His throne as King over all creation. When each seal is removed, activity begins to happen on Earth. This will lead to the establishment of the Kingdom of God on Earth.

In Revelation Chapters 4 and 5, John was in Heaven. There were mind-blowing scenes, sounds, and worship. In Revelation Chapter 6, John begins to see God's wrath on the earth.

John's focus now shifts to Earth for the breaking of the seven seals on the scroll. The opening of the first seal marks the beginning of the Tribulation.

FOUR SEALS UNLEASH FOUR HORSEMEN

The first four seals unleash the four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. They are defined by their color:

- Seal 1: Rider on a white horse
- Seal 2: Rider on a red horse
- Seal 3: Rider on a black horse
- Seal 4: Rider on a pale green horse

We will look at each of these in more detail.

FIRST SEAL - RIDER ON A WHITE HORSE

1 "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."

Revelation 6:1-2

When the first seal is opened, one of the living creatures tells John to come and see. John sees a lone rider on a white charger bent on conquest. This is the first view of the coming world dictator, the Antichrist.

3 *“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*
4 *Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”*

6 *“And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. **7** For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. **8** And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.”*

II Thessalonians 2:3-4, 6-8

The sudden disappearance of literally tens of millions of people at the Rapture has put planet Earth in a cauldron of chaos. Nations are in perplexity. Economies are collapsing. Governments are helpless to govern. This white horse rider is the world’s first glimpse of the man of sin. He will claim to have solutions and answers to the world’s chaos.

The Rider on This White Horse Is Not Jesus.

It would be strange for Jesus to be the one opening the seals and also be the rider on the white horse depicted in Chapter 6. This rider is a dark prince on a white horse.

A crown was given to the rider, not a diadem.

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.”*

Revelation 6:2

Here, the Greek word for “crown” is “stephanos,” but Jesus’ crown is a “diadem,” the Greek word “diadéma.” He is wearing it in Revelation Chapter 19.

12 *“His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.”*

Revelation 19:12

The rider in Revelation Chapter 6 has a bow, not a sword.

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.”*

Revelation 6:2

The rider has a bow but no arrows.

The imagery here is a bloodless victory. This leader gains his success through peaceful negotiations. He brings what the world wants more than anything: temporary peace.

In Revelation 19, Jesus has a sword coming from His mouth, not a bow.

15 “And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations:”

Revelation 19:15

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse have an essential likeness to each other.

The next three horsemen that follow the white horse are evil powers of tragedy and destruction. It does not make sense that Christ would ride with three evil horsemen.

SECOND SEAL - RED HORSE

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.”

Revelation 6:3-4

The Second Living Creature Tells John to Come and See.

John sees a red horse. Power was given to the rider on this horse to take peace from the earth. The red horse rider is war, international strife, and civil upheaval. The red horse rider swiftly shortens the promised peace of the first rider on the white horse.

This rider takes away peace. He bathes the earth in blood. The whole world descends into a stage of civil breakdown.

THIRD SEAL - BLACK HORSE

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 (a denarius), and three measures of barley for a penny (a denarius); and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.”

Revelation 6:5-6

The next rider is on a black horse. The war of the red horse rider will quickly result in famine and poverty. Famine almost always follows war.

During the Tribulation, the purchasing power of a denarius will buy a measure of wheat or three measures of barley. A denarius was considered equal to a day’s wage. A measure of grain was slightly less than a modern-day quart, basically enough food for one person for one day. In other words, the world will suffer hyperinflation.

Food prices will skyrocket so high that it will take everything a healthy person can work for in one day to buy enough food for himself, a day's wage for a loaf of bread with nothing left for anyone else. Worldwide famine will reduce the earth's inhabitants to the barest of necessities.

People will turn to cheaper food with almost no nutritional value. The world will writhe in the stabbing pains of hunger. The global economy will collapse. Food shortages will set the stage for the Antichrist to move closer into position to seize power and total control.

FOURTH SEAL - PALE GREEN HORSE

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."

Revelation 6:7-8

The word "pale" is the Greek word "chlóros." It means greenish or pale green. "Chlóros" is the root of the English word chlorophyll, a green pigment in plants.

This is a picture of a rider like the Grim Reaper moving across the earth. Death swallows the body. Hades swallows the soul. One-fourth of the world's population will be lost in the rampage.

Wild Animals Will Kill

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."

Revelation 6:8

"Beast" is the Greek word "thérion." It is a wild animal, a wild beast.

Wild animals will become more ferocious because of hunger and the defenselessness of the population. God will use them to terrorize and destroy.

FIFTH SEAL – MARTYRDOM

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.

Revelation 6:9-11

The fifth seal is the seal of the martyrdom of believers on Earth during the Tribulation. After the Rapture, many will come to the Lord and suffer great persecution and death. These martyrs are praying for vindication and retribution.

In the Tribulation, the enemies of God will go about willfully murdering anyone who comes to Christ. There will be no lawyers to represent Christians. There will be lawlessness. The martyrdom of those who get saved during the Tribulation allows further darkness and corruption to overrun the earth unchecked. God will pour out His wrath on the murderers.

SIXTH SEAL - CATASTROPHIC & CATAclySMIC EVENTS

*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."*

Revelation 6:12-14

The opening of this seal unleashes utter devastation. These catastrophic and devastating cataclysms are being unleashed by the hand of Christ as He opens this seal. The devastation produces sheer panic on Earth as all people, rich and poor, great and small, cry out in dread and hide like frightened animals in the caves and crevices of the earth. They run from God. It is a time of great devastation! This is the wrath of the Lamb.

*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?"*

Revelation 6:16-17

SEVENTH SEAL - SILENCE IN HEAVEN & THE BEGINNING OF THE SEVENTH TRUMPET JUDGMENTS

After the seventh seal is opened, the seven Trumpets of Judgment begin. The last words of Revelation Chapter 6 were,

17 "For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

Revelation 6:17

Chapter 7 is between the sixth and seventh seals. The seventh seal is not opened until Chapter 8:

1 “And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.”

Revelation 8:1

A strange thing happens in Revelation 8:1. At the opening of the seventh seal, there is silence in Heaven for about 1/2 hour. After this, the seven trumpet judgments begin.

2 “And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.”

6 “And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.”

Revelation 8:2, 6

Seven trumpet judgments follow the opening of the seventh seal. Then, seven vial (bowl) judgments follow. There are 21 judgments:

- 7 Seals (*Revelation 6:1-17, 8:1-5*)
- 7 Trumpets (*Revelation 8:6-9:21, 11:15-19*)
- 7 Vials/Bowls (*Revelation 16:1-21*)

The Tribulation is intensifying!

PARALLELS BETWEEN JESUS’ TEACHINGS IN MATTHEW 24 AND THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Notice carefully what Jesus taught His disciples while He was on the earth about what happens as He unseals the scroll in the Book of Revelation. Jesus now brings to pass in the Tribulation the signs that He mentioned before His Second Coming.

False Christs

5 “For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.”

Matthew 24:5

White Horse Rider - The Antichrist

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.”

Revelation 6:2

Wars and Rumors of Wars

6 “And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom...”

Matthew 24:6-7

Red Horse Rider - War

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.”

Revelation 6:4

Famine

7 “...and there shall be famines, and pestilences...”

Matthew 24:7

Black Horse Rider - Famine

5 “...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.’”

Revelation 6:5-6

Plagues & Pestilences

7 “...and there shall be famines, and pestilences...”

Matthew 24:7

Pale Green Horse Rider - Death

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.”

Revelation 6:8

Persecution and Martyrdom

9 “Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake. 10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.”

Matthew 24:9-10

Martyrs

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 fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.”

Revelation 6:9-11

Natural Terrors - Earthquakes & Great Cosmic Signs

7 “...and there shall be... earthquakes, in divers places.”

Matthew 24:7

29 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:”

Matthew 24:29

Natural Terrors - Earthquakes & Great Cosmic Signs in the Book of Revelation

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.”

Revelation 6:12-14

Worldwide Preaching of the Gospel

14 “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

Matthew 24:14

The Ministry of the 144,000

1 “And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. **2** And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, **3** Saying, ‘Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.’ **4** And I

heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”

Revelation 7:1-4

A POSITIVE NOTE

I want to end on a positive note. I know that talking about the wrath of God and the Tribulation can be heavy, but I want to remind everyone of two important things. First, we are going to be caught up in Heaven at the Rapture and be safe during the Tribulation. Then, in the Tribulation, God is redeeming the earth. He is getting it ready for His Millennial Reign.

DISPENSATIONS

God has introduced dispensations of time. Time will not go on indefinitely. Every dispensation has a stopwatch on it.

Before God made mankind, everything was eternity past. Only mankind has a divine time clock associated with it, and it's called dispensations. Time is only associated with mankind and their reign on the earth. When man's time is up, eternity future begins, and time will be no more.

A dispensation is a time of stewardship and administration. It is a probationary period that has a distinct beginning and end.

There are seven dispensations in human history between the eternal past and the eternal future. These dispensations have to do with man's stewardship of the earth. They are as follows:

1. Innocence

From the creation of man to the fall of man and his expulsion from the Garden of Eden

2. Conscience

From the fall of man and his expulsion from Eden to the Flood

3. Human Government

From the Flood to the call of Abraham

4. Promise

From the call of Abraham to the Exodus of Israel under Moses

5. Law

From the Exodus of Israel to John the Baptist preaching the Kingdom of God and the First Coming of Jesus Christ

6. Grace - The Church Age

From the birth of the Church at Pentecost to our present time - We are in this dispensation, the Church Age, which has lasted very close to 2,000 years.

After the 21 judgments during the Tribulation (7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, and 7 Bowls), we come back to Earth with Jesus in Revelation Chapter 19. The Battle of Armageddon will be finished. The Antichrist and False Prophet will be thrown into the Lake of Fire. Satan will be chained in the bottomless pit. The final dispensation will begin. This final dispensation is the dispensation of...

7. Divine Government - The Millennium

This seventh dispensation ranges from the Second Coming of Christ to the last rebellion of Satan. This is the Millennial Reign of Christ.

“Millennium” in Latin literally translates to “thousand years” - “Mille,” meaning “thousand,” and “annum,” meaning “year.”

We will rule and reign with Christ during the Millennium.

The Bible speaks constantly of Earth being our home. Let’s look at a small cluster of Scriptures about God’s people and the earth.

9 *“For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.”*

11 *“But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.”*

Psalm 37:9, 11

5 *“Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.”*

Matthew 5:5

29 *“The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.”*

Psalm 37:29

We are to inherit the earth. After the Tribulation, we will rule and reign with Jesus on Earth. It will be an Earth worth inheriting. There will be no traces of the curse.

AFTER THE MILLENNIUM

The Great White Throne Judgment

The Great White Throne Judgment is when and where Jesus judges all unbelievers.

11 “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Revelation 20:11-15

There is a New Heaven and New Earth.

1 “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.”

Revelation 21:1

The New Jerusalem Comes Down to the New Earth.

2 “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.’”

Revelation 21:2-3

I want to point out that the Throne of God will be in the New Jerusalem, not the Third Heaven.

1 “And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him.”

Revelation 22:1-3

Let’s look back at **Revelation 21:4-6 and 9-11**.

4 “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ And he said unto me, ‘Write: for these words are true and faithful.’”

6 And he said unto me, 'It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.'"

9 "And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, 'Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.' **10** And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, **11** Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;"

Now, let's read about the size of the New Jerusalem. It is about a 1,500-mile cube.

15 "And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. **16** And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. **17** And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. **18** And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. **19** And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones..."

21 "And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. **22** And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. **23** And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. **24** And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. **25** And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. **26** And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. **27** And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

Revelation 21:15-19, 21-27

The New Jerusalem has twelve gates named after the twelve tribes of the children of Israel.

12 "And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:"

Revelation 21:12

Look at this: The Gates have the names of the sons of Jacob. They were so hateful to their brother Joseph; they were conniving. They conspired against their brother and had no respect for their father. They lied and deceived him, yet these gates have their names on them.

Remember: We serve a merciful God! If God named the gates in the New Jerusalem after these men who were sinners, why would you question His mercy in forgiving you?

God knows our frame.

14 "For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust."

Psalm 103:14

At the Fall of Man, everything got messed up. God knows all about our weaknesses, and He does not expect more from us than what He knows we can do. This is where grace comes in. Yes, we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us, but we are still in our mortal bodies. This is why Christ came: not only to save us but also to redeem our bodies.

Look at who the foundations of the New Jerusalem are named after.

14 "And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."

Revelation 21:14

Jesus knew Peter would deny him, yet Peter, as one of the apostles, will have a foundation named after him in the New Jerusalem. Jesus knew that once Peter was saved and had his new body at the Resurrection, he would no longer be hindered by the flesh: He could rule and reign with Jesus one day.

God won't let go of us if we don't let go of Him!