

Up here in the Northwoods, you can tell when the weather is about to turn. Nature itself warns you that a change is coming. **God is in control**

Verses three through six describe change, the second seal, and the third seal judgments

Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, Come and see Revelation 6:1 NKJV

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 Revelation 6:2 NKJV

When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." Revelation 6:3 NKJV

This verse marks the opening of the **second seal** in John's vision

Each seal reveals a new stage of God's **just-judgment** during the end times

When Jesus Christ opens this second seal, John hears the second living creature, one of the four surrounding God's throne, **Revelation 4:6-8**, and the next rider appears

The key emphasis here is **Christ's sovereign authority**

What it means that God is Sovereign

When we say God is **sovereign**, we mean that He has **absolute authority, power, and control** over all creation

Nothing happens outside of His will, knowledge, or permission

He reigns as King – **The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all Psalm 103:19 NKJV**

He works all things according to His plan and reminds us that He works all things according to the counsel of His will **Ephesians 1:11 NKJV, Romans 8:28 NKJV**

He rules over kings and nations – **Daniel 4:35 declares that "He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth" "No one can restrain His hand" Daniel 4:35 NKJV**

God's sovereignty does not mean that **people are androids** or that sin doesn't exist, but it does mean that **nothing can derail His ultimate plan and purpose**

On the back of a **tapestry**, threads look tangled and chaotic. But when you turn it over, a beautiful picture is revealed

In life, we may only see the “backside” of events, and we miss what God is weaving into His perfect design

When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come and see.” Revelation 6:3 NKJV

It is Jesus, the Lamb, who opens the seals, nothing happens apart from His permission

The phrase “Come and see” invites John, **and by extension**, us, to witness what God reveals

This call is not just about observing future prophecy but also about being **spiritually alert** and discerning what God is doing in history

For me, this means several things...

Trust in Christ’s Authority - The world often feels chaotic, wars, division, and unrest

Our confidence should rest not in our **elected officials** or leaders but in Christ who holds the scroll of God’s plan

Stay Spiritually Watchful - The second living creature calls, “Come and see.”

As Christ followers, we are called to *watch*, to be awake spiritually, discerning the times, and ready for Christ’s return, Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming Matthew 24:42 NKJV

Live with Eternal Perspective - invest in eternal things, our faith, God’s Word, and the souls of people

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 Revelation 6:4 NKJV

Seal 2 – War --- The **second horseman**, the rider on the red horse

While the “**white horse**” in **Verse 2** represented **deceitful conquest**, the fiery red horse **represents war, violence, and bloodshed**. The color Red is symbolic of blood and destruction

It was granted – The rider has no power of his own. **He is permitted by God** to carry out his role. Trust in God’s sovereign control

To take peace from the earth – Peace is not **merely disrupted**; it is **deliberately removed**. This speaks of a world filled with strife, hostility, hatred, evil, and evil conflict

To take peace from the earth shows us that when Christ allows peace to be taken

The world in the future will taste the bitterness of its own violence, and we are reminded that true peace is found only in the Prince of Peace - Jesus

That people should kill one another – Not only organized war, but also civil unrest, violence between neighbors, and widespread hatred and evil are in view

There was given to him a great sword – The sword symbolizes authority to bring war and death perhaps on a global scale

This second rider takes this “pseudo-peace” that was won by the **first rider**

The rider on the red horse is given a “**great machaira**”, which is a symbol of **widespread violence, bloodshed, and civil strife**

Christ’s “**sword**” (romphaia) (SP Rom-Phia) in **Revelation 19** is symbolic of **His Word and judgment**, powerful and decisive

Grace, we need to recognize the fragility of earthly peace - True peace is not found in treaties, governments, or human promises. *History shows us how quickly peace can dissolve*

As Christians, our hope must rest in Christ alone, the One who gives peace that surpasses understanding

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God Philippians 4:6 NKJV

and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus Philippians 4:7 NKJV

Be peacemakers - Jesus said, **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God** Matthew 5:9 NKJV

So, while the world tears itself apart, believers are called to reflect Christ by promoting peace wherever we **work, play, study, and shop**

Anchor your heart in God’s sovereignty - these events are **not random**

God is in control of history, and **nothing happens outside of His will**

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. Revelation 6:5 NKJV

Seal 3 – Famine ---- For the **third** time, a living creature challenges John to examine another unusual event

The word “**behold**” indicates that John was to take special note of a man riding a black horse with scales in his hand

The black horse – In Scripture, black is often associated with mourning, famine, and hardship
Our skin is hot as an oven, because of the fever of famine Lamentations 5:10 NKJV

Here, it pictures scarcity/famine and suffering

The third living creature’s call, “Come and see” – Just as with the other seals, and by extension

We, the readers, are invited to **pay attention and understand** what God is revealing about the coming judgment

Had a pair of scales in his hand – Scales symbolize measurement and rationing

In biblical times, scales were used to weigh grain or food. Their use here suggests that food will become scarce and must be measured carefully

This horseman shows that after a pseudo-peace conquest **white horse** and war **red horse**, comes famine **black horse**

War often devastates crops, disrupts trade, and results in hunger; this progression fits both history and prophecy

Recognize how fragile worldly provision is - The rider on the black horse reminds us that food, money, and material resources can vanish quickly

Our ultimate trust cannot be in wealth, but in God who provides daily bread **Matthew 6:11**

Live with gratitude and contentment - In times of plenty, it is easy to forget God as our provider.

Be prepared to share with others - Scripture repeatedly calls God’s people to generosity, especially in times of need **2 Corinthians 9:7-8**

Anchor our hope in Christ, not circumstances - the **Bread of Life John 6:35**

Practically speaking, it teaches us to trust God as our provider, **live with gratitude and contentment, and share generously**

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”

Revelation 6:6 NKJV

Verse 6 continues the vision of the **third seal**, the black horse and its rider holding scales

The rider represents **famine and scarcity**. Here, John hears a voice giving the details of how severe this famine will be

A quart of wheat for a denarius – A denarius was the typical daily wage for a laborer **Matthew 20:2**

A quart of wheat would be just enough food to sustain one person for a day. This means that during this famine, an entire day’s wages would barely feed one person

Three quarts of barley for a denarius – Barley was a cheaper, coarser grain, often considered food for the poor or for animals

Even that would be costly, showing how desperate conditions will be

Do not harm the oil and the wine – Oil and wine, staples in the ancient world, are strangely left untouched. This suggests **a limited famine**, that not everything is destroyed

Most commentators interpret this as God setting boundaries: judgment is real, but it is still under His control.

Others see it as a picture of inequality, luxury goods may remain available, but basic necessities will be scarce for the poor

It also shows that even in judgment, God sets limits. The famine is devastating but not total

See the limits of earthly security - Wealth, wages, and possessions can vanish quickly in times of crisis. This verse reminds us to put our trust not in money or material goods but in the Lord, who provides our daily bread **Matthew 6:11**

Be wise with resources - The careful weighing of food with scales shows how valuable and fragile resources can become. As Christians, we are called to steward well what God provides—using it wisely, avoiding waste, and planning for times of need.

Show compassion in times of scarcity - Famine and hardship often hit the vulnerable hardest. Believers should be ready to help others when resources are tight. Sharing our bread with the hungry **Isaiah 58:7** is a powerful witness of Christ's love.

Rest in God's sovereignty - Even in famine, God sets the boundaries: "**Do not harm the oil and the wine.**" Nothing escapes His control. When the world feels unstable, we can trust that the Lord holds both the trial and its limits in His hands.

Revelation 6:6 shows the severity of famine during the third seal—basic food will be costly, yet God still sets limits.

It also teaches us to trust in God rather than wealth, use our resources wisely, show compassion to others, and rest in His sovereignty even when the world seems unstable

The Seven Seals

Seal 1 – False peace, **Seal 2** – War, **Seal 3** – Famine, **Seal 4** – Death, **Seal 5** – Martyrdom, **Seal 6** – Cosmic upheaval, **Seal 7** – Silence before greater judgment

Through it all, the unshakable truth is this: **the Lamb opens every seal. He is in control of history, judgment, and redemption**

Always Only Jesus.....