

02/18/2026

The Book of Revelation (5)

6:1-8:5

Wednesday Night
Bible Study

Tonight's Plan

Recap

Content of 6:1–8:5

Meaning of 6:1–8:5

Application of 6:1–8:5

Recap

Recap

1. **The people of Revelation**
2. **The purpose of Revelation**
3. **The structure of Revelation**



Adapted from Fig. 11.2 in *God's Kingdom through God's Covenants*, 2015, by Gentry & Wellum

Danielic allusion (literary hinge in 1:1) 1:1-8 Introduction

Danielic allusion (literary hinge in 1:19-20a)

1:9-3:22 Church imperfect in the world

I

Danielic allusion (literary hinge in 4:1)

4:1-8:1 Seven seals

II

8:2-11:19 Seven trumpets

III

12:1-14:20 Deeper conflict

IV

15:1-16:21 Seven bowls

V

17:1-21:8 Final judgment of evil enemies

17:1-19:21 Babylon, beast 20:1-10 Satan

20:11-15 Unbelievers 21:1-8 Overcomers

21:9-22:5 Church perfect in glory

Danielic allusion (literary hinge in 22:6) 22:6-21 Conclusion

The Content

Content

Six Seals (6:1-17)

1. White horse (6:1-2)
2. Red horse (6:3-4)
3. Black horse (6:5-6)
4. Pale horse (6:7-8)
5. Saints Petition (6:9-11)
6. Cosmic judgment (6:12-17)

The 144,000 (7:1-8)

Great multitude (7:9-17)

Seventh seal (8:1-5)

The Meaning of 6:1-8:5

The Meaning of Revelation 6:1-8:5 Proposed:

A vision of the church age wherein God sovereignly uses societal hardship and suffering to both 1) strengthen/refine his NC people, the church and 2) judge the wicked. God's people especially experience such hardships in the form of persecution, but God seals them so they will be strengthened, rather than lost. This passage/vision culminates in the end of history when God's people enjoy their eternal reward - communion with God, and God brings final judgment on the wicked persecutors, the people of the world.

The Meaning of Revelation 6:1-8:5 Defended:
A vision of the church age

The Meaning of Revelation 6:1-8:5 Defended:

wherein God sovereignly uses
societal hardship and suffering

The Four Horsemen

1. **White: war/conquest**
2. **Red: killing/persecution**
3. **Black: famine**
4. **Pale: death in general**

OT Context: Zechariah 1:8-11 ESV

“I saw in the night, and behold, a man riding on a red horse! He was standing among the myrtle trees in the glen, and behind him were red, sorrel, and white horses. Then I said, ‘What are these, my lord?’ The angel who talked with me said to me, ‘I will show you what they are.’ So the man who was standing among the myrtle trees answered, ‘These are they whom the LORD has sent to patrol the earth.’ And they answered the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtle trees, and said, ‘We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth remains at rest.’

OT Context: Zechariah 6:1-8 ESV

Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four chariots came out from between two mountains. And the mountains were mountains of bronze. The first chariot had red horses, the second black horses, the third white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses—all of them strong. Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, “What are these, my lord?” And the angel answered and said to me, “These are going out to the four winds of heaven, after presenting themselves before the Lord of all the earth.

OT Context: Zechariah 6:1-8 ESV

The chariot with the black horses goes toward the north country, the white ones go after them, and the dappled ones go toward the south country.” When the strong horses came out, they were impatient to go and patrol the earth. And he said, “Go, patrol the earth.” So they patrolled the earth. Then he cried to me, “Behold, those who go toward the north country have set my Spirit at rest in the north country.”

The Meaning of Revelation 6:1-8:5 Defended:

wherein God sovereignly uses
societal hardship and suffering to his NC people, the church

- 1) strengthen/refine

Ezekiel 14:21-23 ESV

“For thus says the Lord GOD: How much more when I send upon Jerusalem my four disastrous acts of judgment, sword, famine, wild beasts, and pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast! But behold, some survivors will be left in it, sons and daughters who will be brought out; behold, when they come out to you, and you see their ways and their deeds, you will be consoled for the disaster that I have brought upon Jerusalem, for all that I have brought upon it. They will console you, when you see their ways and their deeds, and you shall know that I have not done without cause all that I have done in it, declares the Lord GOD.”

James 1:2-4 ESV

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

The Meaning of Revelation 6:1-8:5 Defended:

wherein God sovereignly uses
societal hardship and suffering to

2) judge the wicked.

The Meaning of Revelation 6:1-8:5 Defended:

God's
people especially experience such hardships in the form of
persecution,

The Meaning of Revelation 6:1-8:5 Defended:

but God seals them so they will be strengthened, rather than lost.

The Sealing of the saints

1. **The 144,000**
 - a. His true church during the ‘in-between’

The Sealing of the saints

1. **The 144,000**
 - a. His true church during the ‘in-between’
2. **The seal**
 - a. Protection from losing faith

The Meaning of Revelation 6:1-8:5 Defended:

This passage/vision
culminates in the end of history

Recapitulation

The Meaning of Revelation 6:1-8:5 Defended:

when God's people enjoy
their eternal reward - communion with God,

The eternal reward of the saints

1. Global scale

The eternal reward of the saints

1. Global scale
2. The great tribulation

The eternal reward of the saints

1. Global scale
2. The great tribulation
3. The eternal state

The Meaning of Revelation 6:1-8:5 Defended:

and God brings
final judgment on the wicked persecutors, the people of the
world.

The final judgment

1. 6:12-17; The dissolution of the cosmos
2. 8:1-5; silence and the prayers of the saints

Application

1. God's sovereignty and comfort
2. The four horsemen today
3. God's judgment
4. The power of prayer
5. The sealing of the saints
6. The great multitude