

REVELATION

VISIONS OF VICTORY

JOSH FRANKLIN, PHD

The Coming Judgments¹

Revelation 6:1–17 (NKJV) – Bible passage [my explanatory notes]

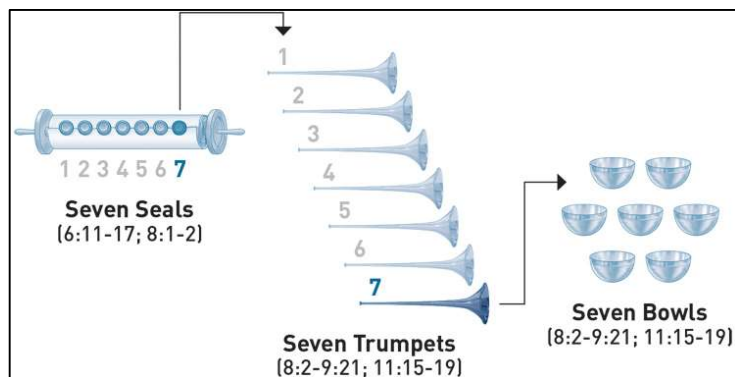
Six Scenes of Judgment:

1. Deceptive Peace (Rev. 6:1-2) – The white horse conquers the nations without force.

¹ Now I saw when the Lamb [Jesus] opened **one of the seals**; and I heard one of the four living creatures [Rev. 4:6–8; 5:6, 8, 11] saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.”

² And I looked, and behold, a white horse [symbolizes victory].

He [the Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:3-4) – NOT Jesus (Rev. 19:11)] who sat on it had a bow [he holds a bow but no arrow – this denotes he will be intimidating, but he will conquer by diplomacy rather than war.]; and a crown [Gk. Stephanos – a victor’s crown] was given to him [suggests the world’s inhabitants make the antichrist the world leader and submit], and he went out conquering and to conquer. [bloodless conquest, false peace and security]



- This begins The Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21 says, “For then there will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.”) There is a parallel between the events in this chapter with Jesus’ Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24). Also, read Daniel 9:24-27 and 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3.

2. Destructive Pain (Rev. 6:3-4) – The red horse brings violence and war.

³ When He opened the **second seal**, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come and see.”

⁴ Another horse, fiery red, [suggests bloodshed, killing with the sword] went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill [literally “slaughter” (war imagery)] one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

- In Matthew 24:6-7, Jesus says, “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.”

3. Devastating Poverty (Rev. 6:5-6) – Famine follows the black horse.

⁵ When He opened the **third seal**, I heard the third living creature say, “Come and see.” So I looked, and behold, a black horse [black depicts famine in the Bible (see Jeremiah 4:28 and Lamentations 4:8-9). This suggests lament and sorrow]

¹ Chart is from Charles Swindoll, Revelation, *Living Insights NT Commentary* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2014), 111–112. The seals describe how sinful man has ruined this world. The trumpets show how Satan is going to rule this world, and the bowls show how God is going to rescue this world.

because of extreme deprivation and famine], and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand [the scarcity of food will have to be measured out – like in a communist society].

⁶ 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 poor ate barley, while the wealthy ate wheat for the most part. A “denarius” was the average days’ wage for a laborer. A quart of wheat was enough food for one person for a day, and three quarts of barley were barely enough for a small family (there were few small families except among the wealthy in the ancient world). Therefore a man’s entire earnings were barely enough to feed himself, let alone his family, and all the other costs like home or incidentals could not be met. **These were famine prices, about ten to twelve times the going rate according to ancient records.**²
- “oil and the wine” Although the point could be that these foods will not be affected by the famine, a more straightforward meaning is that bare staples—oil was used in the preparation of bread, and wine was considered necessary for cooking and purifying water—suddenly will become luxuries that have to be carefully protected.³

4. Deadly Plague (Rev. 6:7-8) – Death and Hades follow the pale horse.

⁷ When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come and see.”

⁸ So I looked, and behold, a pale horse [“ashen” – the Greek word *chlōros* indicates “yellowish green” which depicts sickness and death]. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades [the place of the dead] 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 [Either literal animals governments symbolized as “beasts.”].

- Today, we have 8.2 billion people on the earth. Christians will leave during the Rapture of the church. Depending on who remains at the time of the Great Tribulation, 1/4th of the world’s population will die from these calamities.

5. Desperate Prayer (Rev. 6:9-11) – The martyrs cry out for justice.

⁹ 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. [These are people who are saved and have been martyred during the Tribulation]

¹⁰ 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?”

¹¹ 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. [They will be given: 1) A Covering; 2) A White Robe; 3) Rest; 4) Retribution; and 5) A Reward.⁴]

6. Displayed Panic (Rev. 6:12-17) – The world trembles at God’s judgment.

¹² 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.

¹³ 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. [Meteors will fall to the ground and hit as hard, unripe things.⁵]

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

¹⁵ 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,

¹⁶ 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! [It seems evident from these verses that the world will know that this is a judgment from the Lord Jesus Christ, for they refer to Him as “the Lamb.”⁶]

¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

² Osborne, Grant R.. *Revelation* (Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament) (p. 423). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

³ John MacArthur Jr., ed., *The MacArthur Study Bible*, (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 2000.

⁴ Adapted from David Jeremiah, *Agents of the Apocalypse* (Carol Stream, Ill: Tyndale, 2014), 47-49.

⁵ Tim LaHaye, *Revelation Unveiled* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010), 147.

⁶ LaHaye, 147.