

Revelation 5:9-10

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Revelation 5:11

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

Then I looked....

- John sees all these incredible scenes played out before him.
- He also hears the voice of many angels. An uncountable number of angels!
- But notice even though it is an uncountable number there voice is as one!

I heard the voice....

- The word voice is in singular form here! There is unison in what they are saying. They are united in praise saying, *"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"* (V12)
- The praise continues from all of heaven in verses 13-14 and gives us a beautiful glimpse of how much Jesus is worthy of our praise!
- Moving now to chapter 6 we are about to see Jesus open the seals and the purification process will begin. Here in chapter 6 the scene shifts from the beauty of heaven to the judgement on earth.
- The scroll that Jesus held in chapter 5 is about to be opened in chapter 6 and it is not a pretty picture. Let's talk about the things about to happen.

- Each of the scroll's 7 seals represent a divine judgement that will be poured out on the earth. The judgements encompass the entire period of the tribulation and end with the return of Christ.
- Seals 1-6 are opened in chapter 6 and the opening of the 7th seal begins in chapter 8 and this seal is a multiplying of judgement because with the opening of the 7th seal comes the 7 trumpet judgements we will see in chapters 8-11.
- Once the scrolls have been opened and the judgement of the scrolls is finished God's judgement upon sin and iniquity on earth will be complete. In other words the cleansing of the earth is finished.
- Satan is bound and the millennial kingdom of Christ is established on earth.
- Now that we have a picture of what is coming let's discuss the seals.

Revelation 6:1-2

I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!" 2 I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

- The 1st 4 seals involve horses and riders. The imagery of a horse is one of conquest and strength. Notice also these 4 living creatures that we talked about in Revelation 4 are involved.
- These 4 living creatures call the horsemen into action. they are doing the bidding of God which means God is in control here as he brings judgement on the unbelieving world according to his time table.
- So one of the living creatures calls the first horse. A white horse with a rider wearing a crown and carrying a bow.
- At first glance you might think that this horse and rider as Jesus bringing judgement but there are some problems with this line of thinking.
- First of all, we do see Jesus riding a horse in Revelation 19:11-16 but the horse and rider of Revelation 6 does not match the Revelation 19 horse and rider description.

Revelation 19:11-16

11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." [a] He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords.

- Some of the differences between the riders are:
 - Rev 6 rider has a bow - Rev 19 rider has a sword
 - Rev 6 rider was given his crown - Rev 19 rider owned his
 - Rev 6 crown is a Stephanos or victorious crown
 - Rev 19 crowns are diadems or royal crowns of a king.
 - Rev 6 rider can only conquer what God allows him to conquer
 - Rev 19 rider is the ultimate conqueror
- So what is this judgment in Rev 6? It is the judgment of deception that brings a false peace.
- After the church is raptured the antichrist appears on the scene to bring a false sense of calm and peace to a chaotic world. He will speak of bringing peace but his ultimate goal is destruction. He will not conquer the people through military force here but through deception.
- Remember this rider does carry a bow but he has no arrows. Through his deception many people will come to follow him.

Romans 6:16

16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

- All of this is a part of the judgement. This interpretation is in keeping with what other scriptures tell us.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

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- This white horse looks good, but its not. It resembles Jesus and peace, but it brings chaos and destruction.

Revelation 6:3-4

3 When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" 4 Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other. To him was given a large sword.

- The 2nd horse and rider takes peace away. This peace thru deception doesn't last. Notice that this rider had to be given the power to do this. This speaks to everything being under God's control. The fiery red horse and rider and sword are all symbols of war and blood.
- The word for sword here is the same word used for a short stabbing sword. This means that the word large here that describes this sword is not speaking of it's size but of its significance.
- The red horse and rider not only speaks of nation against nation but also people against people and even neighbor against neighbor.
- The fighters ambush in the night while people sleep. They kill in the day and everyone will live in fear for their life. There will be murder and bloodshed everywhere.
- The idea here is that the entire earth is bathed in blood. Those who now seek for a world without Christianity would do good to see the picture of what that earth looks like here.

Revelation 6:5

When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "Two pounds^[a] of wheat for a day's wages,^[b] and six pounds^[c] of barley for a day's wages,^[d] and do not damage the oil and the wine!"

- The 3rd horse and rider is black. This does not sound good. Black is the color of famine. Famine is a natural consequence of war. People will use food or the lack of it as a weapon. Also there are other places in scripture where famines were used as a judgement on the people.
 - Leviticus 26:26
 - Deuteronomy 32:24
 - 2 Kings 8:1
- Sadly the famine here in Revelation will be the most devastating of all. This rider is also carrying a pair of scales which pictures the rationing of food.
- Each person is allotted only so much. A days wages won't be enough for 1 person to buy enough food for themselves for a day. All food will have to be protected and rationed with the greatest care just to stay alive.
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Revelation 6:7

When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!"

- the 4th seal represents the pale horse. Some translate this to say ashen horse. Nevertheless, it is a sickly, pale, yellow, greenish color. We are told that this horse and rider are death and that Hades is close behind.
- Hades is the place of the dead and is sometimes translated grave. The picture here is that the grave is not satisfied. No matter how many die, the grave keeps calling for more.
- In this judgement death is not just caused by war, famine, and disease, but also by wild beasts.
- We must not forget the seriousness and full effect that sin had by marring all of God's creation. It will be as if the animal kingdom is taking revenge on rebellious sinful mankind.
- Thankfully the church will not experience this on earth because we will be heaven.
- Let's pray