

Revelation 6 **“So it begins”**

A. Chapters 6 – 19 cover what is referred to as the “tribulation period”

1. Also known as
 - a. Time of Jacob’s trouble – Jeremiah 30:6-7
 - b. 70th week of Daniel
2. This encompasses a period of 7 years
3. Two-fold purpose for this
 - a. God will pour out His wrath on a Christ rejecting, wicked world
 - 1) Has happened before – Genesis 6
 - b. God will complete His work with the nation of Israel

B. Two views on the breaking of the 7 seals

1. The events of the first 6 seals happen in the first 3 ½ years
 - a. The 7th seal happens in the second 3 ½ years
 - 1) The 7th seal brings forth the 7 trumpet judgments
 - 2) The 7 trumpet judgments bring forth the 7 bowl judgments
2. The breaking of the 7 seals provides the big picture
 - a. The 7 trumpets judgment and 7 bowl judgments, along with the other information given
 - 1) provide further details

C. First seal is broken (vs. 1-2)

1. The antichrist makes a covenant of peace with Israel that will be 7 years in length.

Matthew 24:4–5 (ESV) And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. **5** For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray.

Daniel 9:24 (NLT) — 24 “A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place.

Daniel 9:26–27 (ESV) And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. **27** And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”

Ezekiel 39:9–10 (NLT) “Then the people in the towns of Israel will go out and pick up your small and large shields, bows and arrows, javelins and spears, and they will use them for fuel. There will be enough to last them seven years! **10** They won’t need to cut wood from the fields or forests, for these weapons will give them all the fuel they need. They will plunder those who planned to plunder them, and they will rob those who planned to rob them, says the Sovereign LORD.

2. Based on Daniel 9:27, there will be a temple
 - a. Red heifers shipped to Israel in Sept. 2022
3. Fair to say the tribulation period begins with peace

D. Second seal is broken (vs. 3-4)

Matthew 24:6–7 (ESV) And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. **7** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

1. Red horse represents war
2. The 70th week of Daniel will end with the battle of Armageddon
 - a. But there will be wars through these 7 years

E. Third seal is broken (vs. 5-6)

Revelation 6:6 (NLT) And I heard a voice from among the four living beings say, “A loaf of wheat bread or three loaves of barley will cost a day’s pay. And don’t waste the olive oil and wine.”

1. Black horse represents famine and disease
2. The world will experience various plagues
3. One commentator

First-century readers would have interpreted this amount as twelve to fifteen times what they were used to paying

4. This reference to a loaf of bread is likely to indicate people will struggle to meet their basic needs.
 - a. Food will be hard to come by
 - b. Defaulting on loans of all kinds will likely happen
5. The oil and wine is likely used to refer to those who won't have the financial struggles the vast majority will have

F. Fourth seal is broken (vs. 7-8)

1. Pale horse represents death
2. ¼ of the world's population (2 billion people) will die from war, famine and disease

G. Fifth seal is broken (vs. 9-11)

1. death of those who are saved
 - a. The mark of the beast will come in the 2nd half of the tribulation period
 - b. Those who don't receive the mark will be beheaded for their faith
2. It's not just the difficulty of living during this time – famines, war, etc..
 - a. But you will likely have to die for your faith

H. Six seal is broken (vs. 12-17)

1. Great earthquake happens

Revelation 16:18 (ESV) And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake.

Revelation 16:20 (ESV) And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found.

2. Sun will become black and the moon like blood
 - a. Possibly some form of eclipse?
 - b. Possibly debris and ash released into the air
3. Rather than acknowledging the truth of Jesus, people would rather hide