



**Four Horses
The Seal Judgements Begin
Revelation 6:1-8**

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We are with John in heaven and have just completed the loudest worship service ever. It was so amazing that every knee bowed ,and every tounge confessed, everywhere all at once, and worshipped Jesus.



Revelation 5:13

“And I heard every created thing which is in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, or on the sea, and all the things in them, saying, “To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be the blessing, the honor, the glory, and the dominion forever and ever.”” (NASB 2020)

The worship service is over for now and it is all about the business of the King as He begins the process to take possession of what He purchased on the cross. Jesus Christ does so by beginning to open the title deed for the planet, one seal at a time.

Each seal has actions and activity associated with it, and we will be introduced to events taking place on earth as each seal is broken.

Yes, this is the last part of the outline we saw earlier in Revelation 1:19. These are now “...the things which will take place after these things.” (Revelation 1:19b, NASB 2020) The introduction to Revelation is over.

Jesus is beginning to exercise His ownership privileges by opening the title deed and the terms and conditions are those things which John will report on. Each seal move us closer to the final takeover of the planet by the King.

The end vision the Father has always had is Eden on earth and His living among men, but for that to happen, there are some things which must take place first.

There are seven seals on this scroll, and with the opening of the seventh seal begins the playing of seven trumpets no one wants to ever hear.

We will discover that prior to the seventh trumpet playing, that we are 3 ½ years into the Tribulation and when the seventh trumpet sounds, begins the pouring out of seven bowls of judgment. There is a pattern of 4, 2 and 1 with each of these groups. Seals, trumpets and bowls.

The first four judgements are followed by two more that turn things up a notch or two, followed by an interlude and then the seventh judgment.

There are a lot of assumptions about the seal judgments and the timing of them, but the scriptures do not tell how long the period of time is for the seals to be completed.

Why this time of judgement? Why the Tribulation? One reason is to once and for all end wickedness, sin and those who engage in it.

Isaiah 13:9

“Look, the day of the LORD is coming— cruel, with fury and burning anger— to make the earth a desolation and to destroy its sinners.” (CSB)

To bring global revival and we will see that in Revelation 7 and fulfilled there as well. That is why there will be 144,000 Jewish evangelists (Revelation 7:4-17).

The third purpose is in Daniel.

Daniel 12:7

“The man dressed in linen who was above the water of the river raised his right and left hands toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times and a half, and that it will be when the power of the holy people is no longer being shattered that all these things will end.” (CJB)



God intends for His people, the Jews, to repent as one and return to Him. “The rebels among the Jewish people will be purged out by this judgment. Only then will the whole new nation, a regenerate nation, be allowed to enter the Promised Land under King Messiah.” (Fruchtenbaum 2003, 179)

The events that will be reported on by John are ones which take place after the pretribulational rapture of the church. We have already seen that the church is in heaven.

Do some of these seal judgments take place prior to the signing of the seven-year long treaty between Israel and the anti-Christ? We do not know, and the first seal seems to potentially support that idea.

The usurpers and their followers, that would be Satan and those fallen members of the unseen realm and those men and women here on earth who are in alignment with them, must be removed. Just as took place in the book of Joshua in order for Israel to take the land, the squatters had to be removed, now begins the long-awaited process for the King to do the same.

For those of you who want to dig a little deeper into all of what we are going to see in the seals, let me encourage you to read through Matthew 24 and what you will see is the seal judgements exactly parallel to what Jesus says to the disciples, and in order as well.

Revelation 6:1–2

“Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, “Come!” I looked, and behold, a white horse, and the one who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.” (NASB 2020)

John sees Jesus break the first seal, and as it is broken, he hears one of the seraphim around the throne make a command. The command is to come, but it is not directed towards John but rather to someone else we are about to see.

In comes a white horse and a rider on the horse. This is not Christ. There are those who say that it is, but it is not.

As this rider arrives on the scene, what is the world situation post rapture and days, months or even years after that event has taken place?

Christ has already returned for His church and as we left, the Holy Spirit, the restrainer (2 Thessalonians 2:7), went with us.

For the immediate past, there has been a total economic collapse because of the rapture.

Now there is an oil glut as the consumers are gone.

Now there is a temporary food surplus as those who would consume it are gone. Temporary because of a seal yet to be opened, but there will also be no one in many cases, to bring in the harvest.

Short term, there would have been air crashes and auto accidents as suddenly there are missing flight crews and drivers, but now the hospitals are missing staff too as doctors and nurses are not available to be recalled to work, just as many in law enforcement are also missing.

And when the rapture took place, all the children below the age of accountability left as well. And the entire planet has been trying to figure out what has just happened.



In comes “the lie” that many will believe per 2 Thessalonians 2:11. The Greek in the verse is very clear, those who remain after the rapture will believe “the lie.” The word in the Greek is singular and is preceded with what is translated as the article “the.”

What is “the lie.” That aliens did this? Possible, that is a trope in the world of alien abductions. That antichrist is God. Possible as well.

So called “aliens make predictions of an imminent period of global chaos and destruction. They say that a certain number of humans...will be “rescued” from the planet in order to continue the species, either on another planet or back on Earth after the destruction is over. Many abductees report they don’t believe their alien captors and foresee instead a much more sinister use of the “rescued” humans.” (Ruffino and Jordan 2010, Kindle Locations 577-580)

Jesus personally warned us what this period would look like just before the rider on the white horse shows up.

Mark 13:22

“There will appear false Messiahs and false prophets performing **signs and wonders for the purpose, if possible, of misleading the chosen.**” (CJB)

Into all of this arrives this symbol of a rider on a white horse. This is the only seal where the seraph who speaks, sounds like thunder.

As John watches, he sees the rider who comes in on the white horse has a bow, but no arrows. Who is this rider and why a white horse.

“In Scripture, horses are generally mentioned in connection with the concept of strength, warfare, and conquest (Isa. 30:16; 31:1; Job 39:19–25; Ps. 76:5–6; Prov. 21:31; Rev. 9:7; 19:11), and horsemen are often associated with an omen of the end. White is the color of light (cf. Matt. 17:2), the color of the heavenly world, and the “eschatological color.” In the Apocalypse, however, the color is normally used to portray righteousness. This same idea may also be implied here. Such an understanding may seem strange and even raise the question, How can the idea of righteousness be applied to this rider if he is the Antichrist? The answer is that it can if he is merely an imitation of righteousness, a counterfeit of the true.” (Wong 1996, 223)

The rider is not Jesus, but an imposter, the anti-Christ. We are going to see all kinds of counterfeits and imposters being foisted by Satan onto the world here in Revelation.

John intends this figure to be a demonic parody of Christ, just as the beast in chapter 12 is presented as a parody of the Lamb. (Fee 2011, 93)

This rider on a white horse has a bow, no arrows, was given a crown (stephanos) which means “crown, sign of distinction, royal crown, reward, sign of distinction.” We are not told who gives him his crown but the crown Jesus has is a royal crown (diadem). (Lust, Eynikel and Hauspie 2003)

We are also told that this rider is one who went out to conquer and is conquering. But about the bow. The word is toxon and this is the only place in the New Testament that this word shows up.

It is better to take the absence of arrows from the description as a symbol of bloodless victory. The bow indicates that war is threatened, but never actually occurs because victory is accomplished through peaceful means (Scott; Walvoord). Worldwide peace is the condition at the end of the first-seal period, because one of the results of the second seal is to take that peace away (cf. 6:4). (Thomas 1992, 423)



The bow is also a tool used for launching missiles. This individual will threaten war and has the launchers to show the capability to conduct warfare is there, but they conquer with a false peace.

The rider on the white horse, who is carrying a bow only, implies that this ruler will be armed to the teeth with the most modern weaponry of his day. He has the military capability to take down anyone who stands opposed to him, and he can do so without having to rely on a massive mobilization of troops. The rider of this horse has the most modern WMD's, nuclear, biological, chemical, space based, artificial intelligence empowered drones and genetic based weapons, available to him. He will conquer from a position of power.

Revelation 6:3–4

“When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come!” And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that people would kill one another; and a large sword was given to him.” (NASB 2020)

As the white horse leaves the audience chamber of heaven, headed to perform the actions required, “conquering and to conquer,” Jesus breaks the next seal. We will now move from phony peace to the gloves coming off. At some point, phony diplomacy will, as it always does, fail.

A different seraph now speaks out, and once again, the command to come. This command is to another horse and rider. This time the horse is red. The word used is πυρρός (pyrros). It means “fiery red, red (as fire).” (Friberg, Friberg and Miller 2000, 340)

With the command arrives another horse, this time red, and a rider on it as well. This rider is given three things by God.

Revelation 6:4b

“...it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that people would kill one another; and a large sword was given to him.” (NASB 2020)

The phony peace is done, now it is war. Evil is now being allowed to do what it is good at doing, death. “The “large sword” is the symbol of Roman rule—the ius gladii, “law of the sword.”” (Osborne 2016, 125)

We have seen phony peace here before, only recently.

During WWII, right after the invasion and defeat of Poland by Germany, nothing happened. The German army went from Blitzkrieg to Sitzkrieg.

For 8 months, nothing, other than the French, at a low level, invading the Saar region of Germany, took place. That all came to a rather sudden end in May 1940 resulting in the fall of France and the near fall of Great Britain as well.

The picture we see here is the same. As the anti-Christ begins to takeover, it will be peaceful at first. He has the weapons but does not use them. But thanks to Daniel, we know it ends.

Daniel 7:8

““While I was considering the horns, suddenly another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. And suddenly in this horn there were eyes like the eyes of a human and a mouth that was speaking arrogantly.” (CSB)

The color of the horse is indeed important. The word used by John comes from another root word.



πῦρ-pyr- “of earthly fire, as an important element in creation, testing precious metals for purity kindle a fire burn something (up) with fire, fire is used in a flame of fire, of a Christian worker who has built poorly in the congregation it is said he will be saved as if through (the) fire, i.e. like a person who must pass through a wall of fire to escape from a burning house, of fire that is heavenly in origin and nature” (Arndt, et al. 2000, 898)

This color and this word brings with it a whole world of other ideas connected to it.

In the main, fire is in the NT a metaphorical term for the divine wrath and a means of divine judgment in the final act and in eternal hell-fire. But it also denotes the glory of heavenly light along the lines of the apocalyptic tradition. It thus covers both aspects of the eschatological denouement, whether in hell on the one side or heaven on the other. (Lang 1964-, 947)

The word pyros is translated as red all throughout the LXX. Fiery red would be an appropriate translation of this word.

Red would remind Jewish readers of the trade that took place between Jacob and his brother Esau, it was also used of the red heifer which was to be without blemish and the ashes of which were used for purification (Numbers 19).

A fiery red horse would bring those ideas together with the idea that a horse is normally used as a mobile weapon of war.

We have the antichrist on the white horse with false peace followed by ideas of false sanctification/purification which means no peace.

We also have the word used in Revelation 12:3 of the “great red dragon.”

In Revelation, just as we see red pointing to a removal of peace, we see the dragon having the same characteristics.

With the second seal, peace is removed from the planet. All those weapon systems we hoped and prayed no one would ever use, are now being used. Think global thermonuclear war, biological war as well as chemical warfare and who knows what other WMD are in play.

The removal of peace from the earth is not just the end of peace on the planet, but also is talking about civil war and people killing each other because they can. We read that people would kill one another, in the Greek, this would read “and that one another they would slaughter.”

The sense of the word in Revelation 6:4 shows us that with this rider who has been granted the removal of peace from the earth, as a direct result of this, men would slaughter each and because of the usage of this same word in Revelation 6:9, this also has a much darker tone, the ritual slaughter of tribulation believers.

What is the one religious group today that practices a type of ritual slaughter as part of their law? Isis made use of this method of murder.

The verb slaughter (σφάζω) is a stronger word than just kill. It is used for beheading people (II Kings 10:7 LXX). That may be the actual method of execution here (Rev. 20:4). (Custer 2004, 77)

We have a global false peace, which once it is stripped away, the evil of the world system begins to vent on those who it deems to be outsiders to their wants and desires. That would be Tribulation saints.



Once the Holy Spirit is removed and the remaining apostate name in only Christians finally are able to create Chrislam, we can easily see how ritualized murder could take place.

So far, we see this in verse 4, the rider on the red horse has been given authority from God to remove peace from the earth, the peace is global and involves every quadrant of life.

Family peace is gone, religious peace is gone, military peace is gone, internal governmental peace is gone.

Systematized execution in the name of religion is taking place and, in such numbers, that the Holy Spirit has John use the same word used for the ritual slaughter which took place in the Temple.

The holocaust, communist purges, inquisitions will all pale in the light of what this actually portends.

The rider has been given permission to remove peace from the world, ritual slaughter is the order of the day, and the large sword was given to him. Whole nations are disappearing in a massive world war utilizing modern weaponry the results of which will be addressed by the next two horses.

State supported religious persecution is now the order of the day.

Coupled with what we already learned with first rider, the weaponry is modern and can be used to reach out and touch someone without having to get your hands dirty, the sword reference though now says the gloves are off and not only are the modern weapons coming into play but so are the vast weapons and numbers of conventional troops as well, the sword is "seen as a symbol for a specific period of dreadful bloodshed." (Thomas 1992, 429)

False peace had morphed into global warfare and with the next two seals, we begin to see the impact of these bad decisions made by mankind in their lust for power.

One of the ideas we see in the Tribulation is that with the restrainer removed, we discover just how wicked the heart of man is. The first time this was revealed was in Genesis.

Genesis 6:13

"Then God said to Noah, "I have decided to put an end to every creature, for the earth is filled with wickedness because of them; therefore I am going to destroy them along with the earth." (CSB)

On that occasion, God used Noah as a means of saving His creation and of saving mankind as they were placed into the Ark and then supernaturally protected by Him from judgment.

His church is with Him in heaven. Once again, judgment is coming to the planet and part of that is allowing man to do what he wants to. Yes, given to their own devices, man would really destroy this planet and all on it. Jesus said so.

Matthew 24:22

"Unless those days were cut short, no one would be saved. But those days will be cut short because of the elect." (CSB)

Revelation 6:5–6

"When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come!" I looked, and behold, a black horse, and the one who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine.'" (NASB 2020)



Now a third seraph, upon John witnessing Jesus break the third seal, makes the command heard twice already. Come.

Now John reports to us that he sees a black horse and a rider also on the horse.

A black horse is the same as would be used for a funeral procession. But the rider is carrying a tool for business transactions, a scale.

With global war comes death and with WMDs being used, also comes a complete disruption of all supply chains as well as everything we would expect from the deployment and usage of nuclear devices globally. Death is rampant for all who remained after the rapture. For those who survive the immediate impacts of this war, now comes the realization that some of the areas that now glow in the dark will no longer produce food of any kind.

We are now seeing the natural results of warfare, but this was global and as a result, the impacts are also global.

Add to this the stress already being seen in agriculture due to the pre-tribulation rapture followed with the systematic slaughter of Tribulation believers and without war, a serious problem was already developing.

The seraph gave the command to come, but there were instructions to be given to the rider as well regarding how extensive the famine is to be. Those do not come from the seraph.

From the throne itself comes a voice saying the famine is to be extensive, but not total and complete. Some food will be available, but the impact will be on supply and demand. Low supply and high demand equals price increases, significant ones.

A denarius is a days wages in Rome and could buy around 16 quarts of food normally, but here, it is barely enough food for a day for a single person. Barley was less expensive, but not as nutritious.

But when we see the command to leave the wine and oil alone, we are left with the impression that this is a famine that will not affect the rich but will impact everyone else. "So the command 'not to harm' allows the economic imbalance that exists to have its full effect in creating uncertainty about food supply and a greater vulnerability to the effects of war and conflict." (Paul 2018, 146)

God has used famine as a means of judgment in the past, but this will be the most severe in the history of the planet. Because the voice comes from the throne, we know this judgment comes from God.

The scales in the hand of the rider tells us that rationing will be a common thing as a result of the war and the impacts from the war.

Now we come to the fourth horse. The overall impact of unrestrained modern warfare on a global basis is something that some globalists have longed for, a major depopulation of the planet.

Revelation 6:7–8

"When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come!" I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and the one who sat on it had the name Death, and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, and famine, and plague, and by the wild animals of the earth." (NASB 2020)

As John sees Jesus break the fourth seal, the last seraph speaks and it is the same command we have heard the three previous times, "come."



John knows the drill by now so as he watches, he sees a fourth horse enter. He also sees that the rider has a name, and someone else, Hades, is also with this team.

The word giving us the color of this horse is χλωρός (chlōros). We see that translated in the NASB as ashen. But the word means “yellowish-green, (light) green of plants...pale, greenish gray (cp. the relatively paler appearance of the dorsal side of a leaf compared to its ventral side) as the color of a person in sickness contrasted with appearance in health.” We get our word chlorine from this word. (Arndt, et al. 2000, 1085)

The color of this horse, pale green, is the same color of decomposing flesh. This horse looks cadaverous. Think night of the living dead.

The usage of the term death, in Greek, “the death,” and Hades points specifically to unbelievers, for the believing tribulation saint, who we will see shortly, they do not go to Sheol but are at home with the Lord. The Old Testament saints are not in Sheol either, when Christ rose from the dead, He emptied it.

Revelation 1:17–18

“When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.” (NASB 2020)

Death speaks of the body, the physical body we all have. For the unbeliever, many believe that when the body stops functioning, we call it death, that they simply cease to exist. Not hardly. You see, there is the real you, the spirit, and Jesus also references that He has control over where that goes as well.

Since the resurrection when Jesus emptied out paradise and took all the Old Testament believers to heaven with Him, Sheol is no longer in the mix for believers. When a believer dies, they go direct to be with Jesus. Jesus is at the right hand of the Father in heaven, so it is pretty clear where the believers go.

But those who are not believers, they go to a holding cell called Sheol to await the Great White Throne Judgement.

Death is on the horse, Sheol is following, and we are not told if Sheol is walking or riding.

The picture being painted for us is clear, those who do not know the Lord face judgement.

What is the global impact of this horse? We see it in verse 8, “Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, and famine, and plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.”

A quarter of the post-rapture population of the planet. Being real conservative about this, what is the size we are talking about? Probably around 5.6 billion people.

What we have just learned in verse 8 is that the outcome of war, famine and death will result in the death of 1.4 billion people. This far exceeds the estimated total number deaths caused by war in all recorded history.

The sword referenced here is not the same sword in the second seal. This is a ῥομφαία (rhomphaia) – “a large and broad sword’ used by non-Greek-speaking peoples.” (Arndt, et al. 2000, 907)

By using this term, John is talking about a violent indiscriminate death for millions such as would occur with the usage of WMDs. Connected with the usage of such weapons comes famine and disease. Normal



stuff usually connected with warfare. But wild animals of the earth? Not all of them are large and four legged. Some can only be seen with a microscope.

God's judgments are directed at the unsaved, but the unsaved strike out at both the saved and other unsaved people. (Rosscup 2008, 2751)

We are going to stop with the fourth horse and will pick up next time.

What we are beginning to see is that the Day of the Lord, the Tribulation is a part of that, is not something you want to be here and endure. The odds are not in your favor for survival and if you believe you can live safely as a believer during the Tribulation, think again.

This is why Paul was so insistent.

2 Corinthians 6:2

"For he says: At an acceptable time I listened to you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. See, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation!" (CSB)

If you do not know Jesus, if you have not believed in His work on the cross for you yet, today is the time to do so.

Romans 3:21–24

"But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins." (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."" (NLT)

ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.



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