

The Seal Judgments

Revelation 6:1-17

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**BIG BEND
BIBLE
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Review: Rev 5, Worthy is the lamb

- Jesus is our unique kinsman-redeemer
- Since the redeemed are kings and priests we need to act like it... start representing God
- God's promises for our glorious future with Him are a blessing
- All will eventually praise God; it is good to be an early adopter of giving Him praise

Revelation 6:1-2; First Seal: The Conqueror

Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." ² And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

What does the opening of the first seal reveal?
A leader on a white horse (Antichrist)

What do horses represent?
A symbol of military power, authority

Why white?
The Antichrist will appear as a good guy

Why a bow with no arrows?
Has the threat of military power but does not intend to use it (the ultimate good guy). Geek = toxon, the root word for toxin... see the Deep Dive, "Antichrist's Bow" (7/6/2025).

What does the crown represent?
He has been given authority to rule (ultimately by God)

What does it tell us that he will go out conquering?
He consolidates power worldwide...
he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue (Daniel 11:21)

- Note: "by intrigue" means by flattery, slipperiness, fine promises and smoothness
- Deception & diplomatic trickery will catapult him to power

- Dictators operate without public accountability because wickedness cannot stand the light of scrutiny
- Democracy doesn't insure benign leaders (Hitler & Islam)

Revelation 6:3-4; Second Seal: Conflict on Earth

³ When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." ⁴ Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

Why a red horse?
The color of blood; war results in shed blood

What will this red horse do?
Take peace from the earth... people will think war is the solution to their problems

How will peace be taken from the earth?
People kill one another... this is a common pattern of God's judgment

What is this great sword that is given to the rider on the red horse?
Efficient killing weapons (nuclear?)

Revelation 6:5-6; Third Seal: Scarcity on Earth

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, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. 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."

Why a black horse?
Black is the absence of light; scarcity of necessities

What do the scales represent?
Judgment on the value of things

What will the Tribulation economy be like?

Denarius: Roman silver coin, the daily wage for an unskilled laborer and common soldier

- Inflation makes a day's work required for a Day's sustenance (talk about living paycheck to paycheck)

What is the significance of the distinction between the wheat versus the barley?

It reflects the difference between the well-off vs. the poor. To get ahead, the well-off will have to live like the poor.

Why isn't the oil and wine harmed?

The oil & wine represent luxuries that will not be touched by inflation.

- The demand is for basic necessities which will be scarce

Rev 6:7-8; Fourth Seal: Widespread Death on Earth

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. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades 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.

Why was the Greek word "chloros" translated as "pale" instead of, "green" here?

Probably because horses generally are not green.

What might green tell us?

A key to the religion inspiring the killing

- Green is a symbolically, significant color for Islam... Mohamed described as the color of paradise.
- Green is the most common color used in the flags of Islamic nations.

Why is the rider called Death?

The name of the rider describes what he brings

What is Hades?

The place of the dead which follows Death

What power is given to this rider called Death?

God allows him authority to kill a fourth of the population of earth: $8B \times 0.25 = 2B$

What is the significance of the killing by sword?

- It has been a long tradition within Islam to execute their criminals with the sword, even in these modern times.
- Muslims' favorite way to kill infidels is to behead them with a sword.

- Swords are on many Islamic flags.

Rev 20:4 - And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands.

...a lot of Tribulation martyrs will be beheaded... any guess on how? (probably not by the guillotine)

How else will Death kill people?

- **Kill with hunger:** Many dysfunctional nations use famine as a tactic to kill their political enemies
- **Kill with death (redundant?):** Blue Letter Bible Greek Lexicon: metaphorical; "the misery of the soul arising from sin, which begins on earth but lasts and increases after the death of the body in hell" (spiritual death)
- **Beasts of the earth:** Maybe something we are yet to see... biological agents, the poor man's Weapon of Mass Destruction

Rev 6:9-11; Fifth Seal: The Cry of the Martyrs

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. 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.

What follows the fourth horse of the apocalypse?

The fifth seal: Tribulation Martyrs slain for their testimony of God are most likely victims of the onslaught of the green Islamic horse.

What is the significance of there being Tribulation martyrs?

- There is God's grace even in the midst of His pouring out His wrath
- New believers must put their faith on the line

Why are the martyrs slain?

- For the Word of God – standing for the truth of the Bible
- Testimony – their telling how they came to know that Jesus Christ is their Savior

What is the appeal of the martyrs to the Lord?

How long will it be until He brings justice to the earth?

What is represented by the white robe that was given to each of the martyrs?

They will be clothed in the righteousness of Christ, His assurance that they are secure now and justice will be done.

How long would the martyrs have to wait for justice?

- A little while
- Until the full number of martyrs are completed (God knows who will die for Him and how many will be saved)

Revelation 6:12-17; Sixth Seal: Cosmic Disturbances

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

What does the opening of the sixth seal bring?

A great earthquake

Matthew 24:7 - *For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and, earthquakes in various places*

sun became black, moon became like blood

- something obscures, the sun and moon
- could be supernatural or could be nuclear winter stars of heaven fall:
- nuclear warheads re-entering atmosphere... a lot of them all at once (as shaken by a might/ wind)

Is there any significance to the reference to a fig tree?

Perhaps Israel is involved (recall Parable of the Fig Tree)
The Ezekiel 38-39 War involves Israel taken by surprise

What might the sky receding like a scroll represent?

A mushroom cloud

How big an earthquake is it?

So big that *every mountain and island was moved out of its place*

How do people of the earth respond?

They hide underground (in bomb shelters?)

They will appeal to the earth and/or their fortifications for their protection (idolatry)

Who hid themselves in the earth?

kings: governmental leaders

great: corporate leaders

rich: wealthy

commanders: military leaders

mighty: warriors

slave: workers

free: bosses (...so, pretty much everyone)

Did they have a correct grasp of why they were being afflicted?

Yes, they know it is God who allowed this disaster to come upon the earth

- They even blame the Lamb — acknowledging that Jesus Christ was in power and know He is coming back (...and thus prophecy is being fulfilled)

So with this correct grasp of reality, why aren't they saved?

Despite their affliction, they had no intention of yielding to Christ... they did not know Him and thought they could be saved by hiding from Him

What is this great day of Christ's wrath?

Jesus was returning to establish His Kingdom; the earth transitioning from Rule of Man to Rule of God
...this is a scary proposition for those who have rejected Jesus Christ as their Savior

Do the people of earth at this time have any hope?

They realized that it was too late for them; they were doomed; the Bible prophecies are true and they failed to accept Jesus when they had the opportunity.

- Their only hope was that the doctrine of purgatory might be true ...their suffering might deliver them (but this is not supported in Scripture)
- They hoped that God would see it their way, change His mind for them and show them mercy

There were no-doubt some who actually called out to God and were saved but most did not...

Matthew 7:13-14 - Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Who is able to stand the Great Day of God's wrath?"

No one... it is better to be on God's side, not man's

What is the message for us today?

Repent before it is too late... the time is coming when it will be too late.

What applications should we take from John's vision of the Lamb taking the scroll?

- The seal judgments begin the Tribulation and will result in 25% of the population dying (One in Four)
- The stage is being set for the seal judgments so we are very close to the Tribulation
- The Tribulation will be characterized by a great revival, most will become martyrs.