

The Book Of The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter Six

The Seven Seals

Focus Verse: **Revelation 6:17**

“For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”

I. Introduction - The Beginning of the Tribulation

- A. We are about to begin studying Chapters 6-19 which match what is called “_____” (Dan 9:20-27), and “_____” (Jer 30:7), and “_____” (1 Thes 1:10).
- B. There no longer is any mention of ANY *church* until chapter 20. The emphasis is on the *Jews* from here on out.
- C. The judgment that is about to begin is loosed upon this world in conjunction with the release of seven “seals.” These “seals” are binding the book that Jesus took out of the Father’s hand in 5:7. Remember, John is watching all this unfold from the vantage point of heaven, outside of time.
- D. **What the Tribulation is** (Matt 24:21; Daniel 9:20-27; Jeremiah 30:7).
 1. The time of the Tribulation is the “seventieth week” of Daniel’s prophecy (Dan 9:20-27). Where one year figures for each day of the first 69 weeks listed made for 483 years from the time that the decree to rebuild the city of Jerusalem to the Jew’s final rejection of Christ when He was crucified. Each Jewish year consists NOT of 365 ¼ days, but rather only 360 days. When Jesus was crucified, the timing stopped, leaving the remaining week (7 years) yet in the future. This last week of the seventy weeks will be the worst seven years in history (Matt 24:21): The antichrist will be enthroned, Christians will be gone, and before it all ends, over half of the population of this world will be destroyed
 2. *The Six Purposes of the Seventieth Week* (Daniel 9:24)
 - a. To finish the transgression (Rom 11:26,27), referring to the rejection of God as King in Israel.
 - b. To make an end of sins (Rev 20:1-3). This will be the time of most gross sins, just before it is rendered powerless!
 - c. To make reconciliation for iniquity (Zech 12:10). God and His people will once again be reconciled (will be born again in a day, Isa 66:8).
 - d. To bring in everlasting righteousness (Hab 2:14). The result of destroying sin will be that everlasting righteousness will cover the earth.
 - e. To seal up the vision and prophecy. Once Jesus returns to this earth at the end of the Tribulation, there will be no further need for visions and prophecies.
 - f. To anoint the Most Holy. To make Jesus Christ literally and physically King of this planet, reigning in Jerusalem!
 3. *The Events of the Tribulation*
 - a. The regathering of Israel (Jer 23:7,8).
 - b. The revealing of the antichrist (2 Thes 2:3,8). He is referred to as, “that man of sin,” “son of perdition,” and “that wicked.”
 - c. The rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem (2 Thes 2:4).
 - d. The world-wide requirement of idol worship (2 Thes 2:4; Rev 13:14,15).
 - e. The recruitment of a satanic army for the antichrist for Armageddon (Rev 9:16)
 - f. The regeneration of the remnant (the Jews will be saved, Rev 7).
 - g. The return of the Saviour (Rev 19), occurring right at the end of the Tribulation!

II. Lesson - The Seven Seals (6:1-17)

A. The Four Horsemen (6:1-8)

1. First Seal Released (6:1,2; Matt 24:4,5) - A _____ horse, and a male rider

- a. We first encounter “thunder” (a storm is brewing), then springs forth a man riding furiously on a white horse! Thunder is usually associated with a voice, as in Acts 9 where the only one to whom the voice is directed can understand it. The white horse looks like it is someone good coming, and not bad (or so it seems).
- b. This rider is given a bow (no arrows), a crown, and goes forth to _____ the world.
- c. Can we identify this man?
 - 1) Evidently he is a KING (note the crown)
 - 2) Evidently he CONQUERS with an unloaded weapon - He conquers with diplomacy instead of strength. This is exactly what the world desires, peaceful resolutions to all conflicts!
 - 3) Evidently he rides a WHITE horse as if to be one of the “good guys”
 - 4) Looks a lot like Christ doesn't it? But wait a minute, see 2 Cor 11:14. Compare with Rev 19:11-16 and note what follows this mysterious conqueror – _____!



2. Second Seal Released (6:3,4; Matt 24:6,7) - A _____ horse, and a male rider

- a. This rider is given power to “take away peace from the earth”, and to cause people to “KILL ONE ANOTHER”
- b. He is given a *great* _____. Notice how that what seems to start out for peace in this world will always end up in war, war, and more war (1 Thes 5:3)! This war here is World War III.
- c. This horseman brings BLOODSHED (note the “red” horse)

3. Third Seal Released (6:5,6; Matt 24:7) - A _____ horse, and a male rider

- a. This rider is given a pair of balances to measure out “food” for the people of the earth
- b. What follows is food-rationing due to a FAMINE.
- c. A penny was a day's wage (Matt 20:1,2). These people will have to work an entire day just to be able to buy a loaf of bread. In this famine, there will be no bread, yet lots of oil and wine!

4. Forth Seal Released (6:7,8; Matt 24:7,8) - A _____ horse, and a male rider

- a. This rider has a definite name: **DEATH** (Heb 2:14)
- b. What immediately follows this rider: **HELL**, NOT Heaven!!! Death comes to claim the bodies of men, and Hell follows to claim their souls (Isa 5:14)!
- c. This rider is given power to kill off 1/4 of the earth using swords (war), hunger (famine), death, and the beasts of the field (they will turn on humans). This is the same as in Ezek 14:21.

SUMMARY: The Jews made a covenant with this rider in Isa 28:15. Now... the question is: was the first rider Jesus Christ? Of course NOT! Note how “all hell breaks loose” as soon as this rider appears on this planet. Yet, the majority of all seminaries and even Southern Baptists teach that the first rider is Jesus Christ!!! If he is, then who needs Jesus if all He does is bring Death, and ultimately HELL!? Some commentators say that this is the Gospel. Well, if it is, look at the fruit! So, evidently there is one man who is so much like Jesus Christ, that even educated Christians will not be able to tell him, and the real Saviour apart. We are dealing with the coming of the Anti-Christ!

Remember,

- Jesus has a bride (Rev 21) the New Jerusalem, and Satan has a bride (Rev 17) Babylon
- Jesus says “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12), and Satan is called “an angel of light” (2 Cor 11:14)
- Jesus is King of kings (Rev 19:16), Satan is also a king (Job 41:34), of the “children of pride”
- Jesus is the “Prince of Peace” (Isa 9:6), Satan is called the “prince of this world” (John 14:30)
- Jesus is called “God” (John 20:28), Satan is the “god of this world” (2 Cor 4:4)
- Jesus is called a “Lion” (Rev 5:5), Satan is also called a “lion” (1 Pet 5:8)

Introducing... his majesty... the Antichrist!

Therefore, we have *clearly* just entered the time of the Tribulation.

PRINCIPLE: All those riding on white horses, proclaiming PEACE, are not good guys!

5. Some Notes on this antichrist:

- a. The moment of his appearance (2 Thes 2:6-8). Right after the rapture of the church.
- b. The manner of his appearance (2 Thes 2:9-11). Satanic signs and lying wonders will back up the antichrist’s claim to authority in this world.
- c. The message of his appearance (2 Thes 2:4). The antichrist comes to set himself up as God (Cf Isa 14:12-15)! Those who do not like the message of the Bible will readily accept the message of the antichrist!

B. The Souls of _____ - The Wrath of This World Against the Tribulation Saints (6:9-11)

1. This is the Fifth Seal (See also Matt 24:9-13).
2. Notice the Altar - Again, part of the “true tabernacle” in heaven as we discussed in chapters 4 and 5. The altar was used for sacrifice in the Old Testament. Here, the picture is of a multitude of people who have been slaughtered in the rebuilt Jewish Temple in Jerusalem during the Tribulation, and are around the Altar in Heaven waiting for revenge!!!
3. We now come across multitudes of “souls” (no bodies)
 - a. Souls therefore have voices, memories, and a shape that can wear a white robe.
 - 1) These souls are without their “bodies” which are back on the earth (Cf Luke 16 for the rich man in hell). Hence, if you threw a sheet over them, they would look like “ghosts” (very interesting). A “soul” is the emotions, and eternal part of a human.
 - b. How did these people die? Rev 20:4 They were _____
 - c. Why were they killed? Same reason why John was in exile (see 1:9)
 - 1) For the _____ of God!
 - 2) For the _____ which they held!
 - d. This was the wrath of this world against God’s people!
 - e. QUESTION: Do you have a testimony like them that would be worth dying for?
4. These souls requested one thing: Revenge! And boy was it about to take place! God said “Vengeance is mine, I will repay...” (Rom 12:19), and He will!

C. The _____ of Sorrows - The Wrath of the Lamb (6:12-17)

1. Up to this point, the devil has had control, but now, the Lamb is mad, and His wrath is turned loose on this old world! (Cf Matt 24:29; Luke 21:25; Mark 13:24-26; Joel 2)
2. This is the Sixth Seal Revealed (See also Matt 24:29,30).
3. A great earthquake - like never before!
4. Every mountain and island is moved out of place (6:14)
5. The sun became black - darkness upon the face of the earth - maybe due to volcanic ash?
6. The moon became blood
7. Stars fall from heaven - producing great craters

- a. The heaven (universe) is split from side to side. Very interesting statement since this takes place in chapter 19 with Jesus Christ coming back, implying that we were just escorted through the Tribulation.
 - b. The idea is this: that the Book of the Revelation is not a chronology of events, but rather will contain several accounts of the Tribulation (the second advent) in series just as we have several accounts of the first advent of Jesus Christ in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).
8. Every man, woman, and child runs and attempts to hide knowing Who is behind these events, but they have no desire to repent and turn to the Lamb for mercy, but instead, turn to the “rocks”.

III. Conclusion - Next Chapter: Chapter 7 & The 144,000 Jews

- A. Satan moves in and brings about a false peace in preparation for some REAL war! Be careful, because there are at least THREE more world wars ahead!
- B. The Lamb will however direct His wrath against this world as well! You see, this world has turned against its only Saviour, and to a false Saviour not really realizing what it was getting into!
- C. Some Questions:
 1. What introduces the beginning of the Tribulation (what sound)? _____
 2. List the colours of the four horses in sequence: _____.
 3. Whom do all the major commentators think the rider of the white horse is? _____
 4. Define “soul” _____
 5. List the four basic things in 6:12-17 that take place in the Tribulation:
 - a. _____ 2) _____
 - b. _____ 4) _____
 6. The Book of Revelation is going to take the reader through the Tribulation how many times? _____
- D. Note how that THIS PART of the Tribulation is called the “great day of His wrath,” and that it “is come” (Rev 6:16,17), not that it is at the END of the Tribulation! Compare this with 1 Thes 1:10.