



The Book of Revelation - Session #19 The Four Horsemen

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Revelation Chapter 6

*As we continue to go through the book of Revelation, we want to get a picture that this book lets us know that **God is in complete control of the future:***

John 5:1 “I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.”

Chapter 5 begins by drawing our attention to a book, and many Scholars agree that John's audience of this time would have known this scroll was a deed of ownership.

One thing we need to remember as we go through this book, it was written with the people of John's time in mind.

If you cannot get an understanding of anything else, get an understanding of chapters 1-5.

Revelation 5:2-3 Then I saw a strong angel Proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?”

It must be a man who opens the book/scroll, to take ownership of the earth because in **Psalms 115:16 ...But the earth He has given to the children of men.**

Here we see that Jesus Christ has the qualifications to open the seals. **5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed (Qualified) to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."**

Jesus (the Lion of the tribe of Judah) qualified to open the scroll, by becoming the sacrificial Lamb that took away the sins of the earth.

Revelation Chapter 6

In this chapter we see Jesus Christ breaking open the seals of the scroll one by one.

Remember this scroll is in the hand of Jesus and everything is under His control. Nothing happens here on the earth and in Heaven that is not in the control of His hand.

I believe that for the most part that the book of Revelation is written in chronological order. The breaking of the first 6 seals is Jesus's chastisement for those on the earth that would not repent during the dispensation of grace and long-suffering of God.



I believe the opening of these six seals is Christ driving man down back to him. Those that He had called but has not responded positively to his calling. So, they can escape the wrath of God and the wrath of satan that is to come.

This is what Jesus told the church of the Laodiceans, **Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent.**

The chastisement of Jesus is not Him doing bad things to us. It is Him allowing people to reap a fuller measure of what they have sown.

Jeremiah 2:17-19, Galatians 6:7 and Numbers 32:23.

This is what I believe is happening in the first 6 seals. God is allowing a greater penalty for sin to manifest on the earth, not for destruction, but to wake people up for salvation.

We will see as we walk through the book of revelation, no matter how bad things get some still will not repent.

We need to understand that the bible gives very clear requirement about going in the rapture before the tribulation period.

First Seal: The Conqueror

6:1 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."

John is told to “come and see” what is happening on the earth after the rapture.

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.

John sees a person riding a “white horse” which is the anti-christ portraying to be a savior for the world.

He will come in establishing many ways that seem right but will ultimately lead to destruction.

The world is offering so many ways today that they claim will offer peace and the solution to life’s problems. From A.I., to mind altering drugs, to religion.

I believe satan through the antichrist will be able to put it all together and offer mankind what seems to be a complete package without Jesus Christ as the only way. This will deceive many.

Matthew 24:3-5 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" 4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.



At first, I believe, what he will use to conquer will be through deceit. Making people think he is for them when his goal really is to destroy as many lives as he can.

Let's look at some of the characteristics of the antichrist mention in **Daniel 8:23-25 (NLT)** "**At the end of their rule, when their sin is at its height, a fierce king, a master of intrigue, will rise to power. 24 He will become very strong, but not by his own power.**

Satan will be the one who is empowering the antichrist.

According to the Bible, this seven-year period called the Tribulation will be basically divided into two halves. In the first half, Antichrist appears to be the great benefactor and protector and friend of Israel, (Remember most of prophecy is centered around Israel)

but in the middle of that seven-year period he will turn against the people of Israel and begin desolating it severely and that's why Jesus called the second half "the great tribulation," the likes of which has never been since the beginning of the world or ever will be again.

Daniel 8:24...He will cause a shocking amount of destruction and succeed in everything he does. He will destroy powerful leaders and devastate the holy people.

There will be saved people here on the earth when the Antichrist is in control.

25 He will be a master of deception and will become arrogant; he will destroy many without warning. He will even take on the Prince of princes in battle, but he will be broken, though not by human power.

He will be so arrogant that he will even try to fight Jesus Christ. But Jesus will defeat him by the supernatural power of His strength, the Word of God.

Second Seal: Conflict on Earth

So, we see the first seal is opened and the antichrist promises to the world, peace. But it is a false peace because it did not include Jesus Christ who is the prince of peace.

So, what happens next is war!

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.

The red horse symbolizes bloodshed and war. The rider of this horse removes "peace from the earth." Jesus said in **Matthew 24:6 & 10** **And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.**

Wars and revolutions, in which people turn on one another. The result is anarchy, riots, and civil war.



1 Thessalonians 5:3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. *There is going to be no escape from the effects of war at this time.*

It seems that the war of this time will have an effect on everyone on the earth either directly or indirectly.

There is going to be a higher level of hate that people will have towards one another.

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."

A black horse follows. This symbolizes the harshness of the results of war, a shortage of food. Particularly among the middle class and poor.

Black is the color of frightfulness, mourning and death.

This third horseman carries in his hand a pair of scales that symbolize his work. These scales in the hand of the horseman are not the kind used by *Weight Watchers*, but rather is the kind of used to measure out grain. Balancing scales.

This implies that food will have to be rationed with care. As is a general rule, scarcity and famine follow war.

The devastation of war, infrastructure, and probably the contamination of farmland, will lead to a worldwide shortage of food.

"A quart of wheat for a denarius"= for a full day's work. *This may not be actually wheat, but remember, revelation has written symbols and terminology that they could understand in Johns Day.*

"Oil and wine": equivalent, in our culture, to expensive toiletries, beauty aids and liquor. The Luxuries of Life.

Even though there will be famine amongst the majority of the people left here on the earth. There will still be rich people who are enjoying the physical resources of luxury. We see evidence of this in verse 15 of this chapter. For it speaks of the rich wanting the rocks to hide them as well.

This is more than famine alone. It describes global rationing and controls by higher the rich and globalist.

The Coming World Leader will control the economy (**Rev 13:17**).

There will not only be a rationing of food, but the Bible talks about in the end times there will be a rationing or a scarcity of the Word of God as well.

Amos 8:11"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the Lord."



Remember, no word on faith. No faith, No supernatural move, or miracles of God on the behalf of the people.

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.

The Lamb broke the fourth seal, and the fourth living creature called the fourth horseman out.

John next saw an ashen horse the color of a human corpse.

The word for pale is the Greek word "Chloros", pale, ghastly green; word from which we get chlorine. In Leviticus, it is the color of leprosy.

And death was riding this horse and Hades followed it. Don't just look at this as symbolic language. Death is really a Spirit and Hades/Hell has characteristics.

Two personages or beings. Death claims the body; Hades claims the soul. John saw these enemies going forth to claim their prey, armed with the weapons of the sword, hunger, pestilence (death) and wild beasts. [Some of the most dangerous "beasts" are microscopic...]

Exodus 12:23-24 For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.

Both will be thrown in the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

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.

The power that will be given to them is not from Satan, but from our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. He is the one who has the scroll in His hand and is opening the seals.

Death and Hades will take advantage of the results of the first three rides to fulfill their assignments.

Attacks by wild animals will also contribute to the death rate.

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. We see the souls of those who have died during to opening of the first four seals who did not give in to pressure of the antichrist. They kept the faith and were killed for it.

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?"

So, we see here these first sixth seals are not the wrath of God, for the vengeance of God doesn't occur until the other saints have been gathered in the Heaven. That is why the soul under the altar are crying out to God for Him to judge and avenge them. And God will but not now.

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.

We need to understand the those who really believe and stand for Jesus both in name and lifestyle will be killed once the antichrist comes on the scene.

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?"

Jesus will radically alter His creation.

In **6:12-17**, the scene shifts back to earth as Jesus opens the sixth seal.

In 6:12-14, John tells us that the earth will be affected by six cosmic catastrophes.

In these three verses, God shakes the universe like a rag doll. As a result, the entire world will know that there is a God. They will also know that he is doing all He can to turn people back to Him even to the point that He will altar His creation.

The first catastrophe that Jesus brings is a “great earthquake” that will rock the whole world. In 6:14, John writes, “**every mountain and island were moved out of their places.**”

This is frightening! Then the sun will become “**black as sackcloth made of hair.**”



“Sackcloth” was a very rough cloth made from the hair of a black goat and worn in times of mourning and despair.

The blackening or darkening of the sun as a sign, speaks of God’s judgment is about to come and the withdrawal of His longsuffering.

Not only will the sun become black, but John also tells us **“the whole moon became like blood.”** As a sign, this speaks of the loss of life. *How eerie this all will be, to look up at night and see a blood-red moon.*

John also says that the stars will be affected. *The word “star” (aster) is used of any heavenly body seen at night (i.e., stars, planets, asteroids, meteors, etc.). These are not stars as we often use the word, which are huge and often dwarf the earth in size. These are likely meteorites, which are small by comparison to the earth.*

In **6:14**, the sky will appear to split and roll back in two opposite directions. The universe will seem to be coming apart. Apparently, the opening of the sky will give earth-dwellers a window-like look into heaven another dimension, where they see the Lord God and the Lamb.

Apparently, this lasts for at least one full revolution of the earth, so all the world sees this.

In **6:15**, John provides seven classes of society to stress the universal scope of this event. He then tells us that they **hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and the wrath of the Lamb for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?.**

These verses are truly tragic. In the midst of unbelievable suffering, mankind does not pray to God for protection from the wrath of Jesus.

Instead, they cry out to the rocks and the mountains. The inhabitants of the earth will recognize for the first time the source of their trouble, yet they still refuse to respond to God’s wrath. God’s wrath is one of His eternal attributes, the perfect complement to His love. The wrath of God is His necessary and just response to evil.

Psalms 7:11-13 1 God is a just judge, And God is angry with the Wicked every day. 12 If he does not turn back, He will sharpen His sword; He bends His bow and makes it ready. 13 He also prepares for Himself Instruments of death; He makes His arrows into fiery shafts.

Remember this is just the opening of the seals. The trumpets and the bowl judgements are yet to come, which will be of greater intensity.