

# Revelation

(A Chapter-by-Chapter Overview of God's Picture Book)

## Lesson #7: Revelation 6:1-17

### Review

#### General Background

- The book of Revelation was written to provide comfort to those suffering because of Christ.
- The message of Revelation is unveiled in a series of vivid images.
- Often language and images from Old Testament prophecies are utilized to get the message across.

#### Review of Chapters 1-3

- Jesus, pictured in a glorified form and standing among seven golden lampstands representing the church, has John write down messages to be delivered to seven churches in Asia Minor.

#### Review of Chapters 4-5

- While "in the Spirit," John has a vision of a great throne room where God is seated.
- God holds in his right hand a scroll, sealed with seven seals, which no one in creation is worthy to open.
- A Lamb, representing Christ, is seen standing at the center of the throne and taking the scroll from the One seated there.
- The Lamb's location (at the center of the throne) and action (taking the scroll) indicate that he is equal with God.
- All of creation responds in praise as it is declared that the Lamb is worthy to open the scroll.
- The actions of the Lamb and reaction of all creation lead the reader to ask, "What is in that scroll?"

### Revelation 6 - The Message of the Sealed Book

#### Four Horses and Their Riders (Seals #1-4)

##### Seal #1—The White Horse (Revelation 6:1-2)

Come (come and see) – repeated by the four creatures.

The imagery of these four horses is similar to Zechariah 6:1-4.

To understand the meaning it is important to look at all four of these horses and riders together as one picture.

Color: White

Objects: Bow—warrior; Crown—victorious

Action: Rode out bent on conquest

##### Seal #2—The Red Horse (Revelation 6:3-4)

Color: Red

Objects: Great Sword

Actions: Take peace from the earth and kill

Seal #3—The Black Horse (Revelation 6:5-6)

Color: Black

Object: Balance

Action: Economic disruption

This is a bleak picture of economic despair and famine is being painted here.

Seal #4—The Pale Horse (Revelation 6:7-8)

Color: Pale (yellowish green)

Objects: Companion "Hades" (abode of the dead)

Actions: Bringing death in multiple ways

"one fourth" - Focus on the quality of this number rather than the quantity. This percentage symbolizes the devastating, disruptive entrance of death into the human experience.

Looking at the Four Horses Together

From the perspective of God's people...

...the wicked seem to \_\_\_\_\_ (white horse)

...war and bloodshed continually bring \_\_\_\_\_ to the people of God (red horse).

...following the Lord sometimes results in being \_\_\_\_\_ of physical necessities (black horse).

...the difficulties of life can oftentimes result in \_\_\_\_\_ (pale horse).

Slain Saints Under the Altar (Seal #5) – Revelation 6:9-11

"souls under the altar" – The altar is not a geographical place but emphasizes their relationship with God.

"how long" — This is not a complaint, but simply a cry for assurance.

"inhabitants of the earth" - in contrast to the souls *under the altar*

2 Thessalonians 1:4-10

"white robes" - associated with God.

"wait a little longer" - stay the course.

A Scene of End Things Brought by God's Wrath (Seal #6) - Revelation 6:12-17

These images in these verses are similar to some other passages in the Bible.

Matthew 24:29 (Jesus quotes from Isaiah 13 & 34); 2 Peter 3:10

"great earthquake" - The very foundation of the earth starts breaking up.

"sun" - The source of all light is gone.

"moon & stars" - The moon is dying and the stars are too.

"heavens rolled up" - The whole canopy of the heavens in this present universe

"kings of the earth" - same as the 'inhabitants of the earth' in verse 10

"great day" - much like the phrase 'the day of the Lord' is often used in prophecy.