

“6 SEALS – THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE”

Seal 1: THE WHITE HORSE - Deceptive Leader

“² I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.” (Rev. 6:2)

The breaking of the first seal leads to a rider on **a white horse** being seen on earth. A white horse you say? Well, that sounds good doesn't it? I mean, in those old Westerns the good guy was often on a white horse ... wasn't he? And, more to the point ... we know that Jesus rides on a white horse when he returns in (Rev. 19:11) ... **So this is Jesus now, right? Nope!**

We've just seen that Jesus is in heaven opening these seals which unleash these different riders. This rider is different to Jesus ... but he certainly tries to look like Him!

This rider on a white horse has a bow ... instead of a two-edged sword that Jesus has (Rev. 19:15). This rider was given a crown by others ... whereas, Jesus has always been the King! This rider's crown is a '*stéphanos*' crown ... which was a crown of victory in games or military valor. **Whereas, Jesus wears many diadems - which is the crown of royalty!** (Rev. 19:12)

This rider is not Christ but the Antichrist. And yet he comes, initially at least ... as a Messiah type figure. The Bible tells us that Satan is able to masquerade as an angel of light ... *and his boy, the Antichrist, will do the same!*

He will be the man with a plan. With the chaos and uncertainty left after the rapture of the Church, he will step forward to provide answers and take control. Though he sets out to conquer ... initially it will be through peaceful and political means. He is seen with a bow but no arrows ... indicating military strength if needed, but not warfare. In fact, it is not until the second seal is broken ... that peace is taken from the earth!

So at this stage, (1 Thess. 5:3) is being fulfilled where, after the shock of the rapture, this man provides leadership and answers. He will also make a 7 Year Covenant between Israel and her neighbors, finally bring peace to that area.

Overall the world will breathe a collective sigh of relief, saying '*Oh... Peace and safety!*' without knowing that destruction is close at hand. The fact that he is given a crown ...

also indicates that he will be accepted by the people. He will be the people's champion, a man much loved - initially at least!

Seal 2: THE RED HORSE - War

“³ When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, ‘Come!’ ⁴ Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword.” (Rev. 6:3-4) NIV

With the breaking of the second seal **a fiery red horse** is seen ... and its rider is given power to take peace from the earth. Well, that didn't take long. **I guess the world's honeymoon period with the Antichrist is already over!** Nearly every political leader gets in offering peace and prosperity... and then the opposite happens.

And while this coming world leader will come speaking peace, inwardly scripture tells us that ... he worships 'the god of fortresses' (Dan. 11:38). **That is, he will use all the money and means necessary to gain military superiority.** But his power will not just be through military strength. Daniel tells us that, he will succeed through the help of **'a foreign god'** (Dan. 11:39). **In other words, his power will come from Satanic influence.**

Men Slay One Another

Our passage also says that men will **slay each other** at the breaking of the second seal. Jesus spoke of **'wars and rumors of wars'** as one of the signs of His coming ... and also spoke of there being **'nation against nation'**. This latter phrase is more literally 'ethnic group against ethnic group'. One of the key signs of satanic activity in our day is the division and hatred that different groups have for one another. This is by design, not helped by politicians and the media fanning the flames using the divisions for their own gain. Whether it is black versus white, young versus old, right versus left, liberal versus conservative!

We live in a day of great division and increasing hatred. Behind it all of course is the one who first perfected the 'divide and conquer' tactic ... getting 1/3 of the angels to follow him and betray God. So, if it is like this today, imagine what it will be like when He who restrains lawlessness steps aside!

Seal 3: The BLACK HORSE - Famine

“⁵ When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, ‘Come!’ I looked, and therebefore me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, ‘A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!’” (Rev. 6:5-6) NIV

As the third seal is broken **the black horse** comes with a rider holding a pair of scales. The weighing of food seen in the scales in the rider's hand, **indicates a scarcity of food**. **The wars from the second seal will lead to great food shortages and famine.** You will no doubt remember that Jesus spoke of ... *famine as being one of the birth pangs leading to His return* (Matt. 24:7). The Bible Knowledge Commentary states:

“A day’s wages” refers to a silver coin ... the Roman denarius, worth about 15 cents, which was the normal wage for a worker for an entire day. So, this passage is saying ... **that in that food shortage an entire day’s work would be required to buy either a quart of wheat or three quarts of barley.** If one bought wheat, it would only be enough for one good meal; if he bought barley, it would be enough for three good meals but nothing would be left for buying oil or wine. Famine is the inevitable aftermath of war. This will be a major cause of death in the Great Tribulation. The black color of the horse speaks of famine and death.”

So, a days wages would be enough for one good meal! Imagine that. And what about your family? That the oil and wine are not damaged means that the wealthy elites of society will still have their luxuries even in the midst of famine. They have the means to escape these harsh conditions that most will struggle to survive through. But if you think that the elite are escaping once again ... both rich and poor will be directly affected in the 6th seal as we shall see later!

Seal 4 - THE PALE-GREEN HORSE - Death

“⁷ When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, ‘Come!’ ⁸ I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.” (Rev. 6:7-8) NIV

With the last horsemen standing for famine, what do you think would follow that? The fourth and last horseman comes riding on **a pale horse. This is a pale or sickly green color indicating death from a number of sources.**

- The Greek word from which the English word **chlorophyll** ... comes describes the pale, ashen-green, pallor characteristic of the decomposition of a corpse. God grants this horseman the authority to bring death to twenty-five percent (25%) of the world's population.

Did you get that? One fourth of the earth will die through this rider ... by either sword, famine, plague or wild beasts. None of those options sound great. **One fourth of the earth's population is currently over 2 billion people!**

Now we have already seen the sword (*intense, direct, and pervasive violence*) and famine (*global food crisis, economic collapse, hyperinflation, or acute food insecurity*) in previous seals ... ***But here, plague/pestilence, and wild beasts are introduced!***

If there is a worldwide famine ... then this obviously affects the animal kingdom as well causing them to seek food from other sources. Like, human sources! Pestilence comes from the Latin "*pestis*" meaning: "***contagious, disease, plague***" ... and should be familiar to most on this planet now.

Amongst many others, history has seen ... the black death bubonic plague, various influenzas, Ebola and something that you may have heard of called Covid19! On top of that ... we are told that antibiotics have been over used, causing various super bugs that are now resistant to most antibiotics.

- A headline this week had the UN saying ... "Antibiotic-Resistant Bugs Will Kill As Many As Cancer By 2050." *Hmmm... that's if we get that far!*

So those are the events surrounding the riding of the four horsemen. But a new aspect of the tribulation is seen next ... in the 5th seal.

Seal 5 – THE MARTYRS

“⁹ When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. ¹⁰ They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until You judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” ¹¹ Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.” (Rev. 6:9-11) NIV

Seal 5 gives us a snapshot of the martyrdom of believers during the Tribulation. We shall see these in more detail in Revelation 7 ... but for now they are seen in heaven, under the altar. The altar in scripture was used for sacrifices and offerings to God ... so it is not surprising to see these martyrs there. They gave their lives for their faith in Lord, maintaining their testimony to the end and heaven acknowledges their sacrifice.

Now what is it that they ask? They want to know, how long it will be before their blood is avenged? The Antichrist and his system has led to their martyrdom. How long before the Lord judges fully and makes all things well? We know from the book of Daniel ... that the Antichrist will be given authority over believers for 3 1/2 years during the second half of the Tribulation. (Dan. 7:21-25)

You will note that this period continues until *the Ancient of Days* comes and passes judgment in favor of the saints. That is what the martyred saints in heaven are asking... ***“How long oh Lord?”*** At that point the saints will take possession of the kingdom!

The Revelation 6 - Mathew 24 Connection

Now before moving to the 6th seal let me just point out ... that there is a connection between the judgements of Revelation 6 and Jesus' list of signs leading up to His second coming. *What have we seen so far?*

First Seal - rider on white horse (deception). The first sign Jesus gave was deception: (Matt. 24:4-5) Jesus answered: *“Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.”*

Second Seal - rider on red horse (war). The second sign Jesus gave was war: (Matt. 24:6) *“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.”*

Third Seal - rider on black horse (famine). The third sign Jesus gave was famine & earthquakes: (Matt. 24:7) ... *“And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.”*

Fourth Seal - rider on pale green horse (sword, famine, plague). In this same verse (Matt. 24:7), Jesus also mentions plague/pestilence.

Fifth Seal - martyrdom of believers. Jesus next spoke of the martyrs. (Matt. 24:9-10) *“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.”*

All of these are steps leading to the all-important **6th Seal** at the end of the tribulation. And, not surprisingly ... this seal was spoken about by Jesus as well.

NEXT ... “Seal 6 & 7 – Final Judgment Before Christ Coming”