

## REVELATION Chapter 6

*Teacher: John M. Brown, Olive Hill Church of Christ, Sunday Bible Class, August 2014*

***In Chapters 4 and 5, we saw a picture of God as reigning Creator and Christ as the Redeeming Lamb of God, worthy to open the sealed book. Now in this chapter, the seals begin to be opened, to show what would come in the struggle between the Lamb and the persecuting powers:***

### **I. FIRST SEAL: WHITE HORSE!** Christ Conquering, 6:1-2

- A. The worthy Lamb opens one of the seals: John saw the vision of the white horse.
  - 1. “Horse”: not a beast of burden in the Bible, but a noble beast of war, used by soldiers and royalty (see Genesis 49:17; 1 Kings 4:26; 10:26, 29; Esther 6:8; Job 39:19-25).
  - 2. The rider had a bow (a means of overcoming enemies, see Psalm 45:4-6; Hosea 2:18).
  - 3. He had the “victor’s crown.”
- B. He went forth conquering and to conquer (literally, “*Overcome*” – see 3:21; 5:5; John 16:33).

### **II. SECOND SEAL: RED HORSE!** Bloodshed & War, 6:3-4

- A. This horse is red: ***bloodshed / war*** (see Zechariah 1:7-11; 6:1-8).
- B. The rider has power to take peace from the earth.
  - 1. This indicates that men on earth would kill one another - bloodshed.
  - 2. The rider has a great sword (see Leviticus 26:24-25)

### **III. THIRD SEAL: BLACK HORSE!** Economic Hardship & Famine, 6:5-6

- A. Black Horse: ***doom, despair, gloom, mourning*** (see Joel 2:6; Nahum 2:10; Jeremiah 8:21)
- B. The rider has a pair of balances in his hand.
  - 1. To measure food: shortage, scarcity, famine.
  - 2. “Hurt not the oil and the wine” – medicinal (see Isaiah 1:6; Mark 6:13; Luke 10:34):  
*God alleviation of suffering!*

### **IV. FOURTH SEAL: PALE HORSE!** Death, 6:7-8

- A. “Pale”: ***“yellow-green”; sickness, death.***
- B. The rider’s name was DEATH, and HELL (“Hades”) followed him.
  - 1. He would have power to kill with **sword** (war), **hunger** (famine), **death** (disease), and **beasts** (devouring).
  - 2. But his power would have limitation: *1/4 of the earth.*
  - 3. Compare Matthew 10:28 with Revelation 11:7-9 and Ezekiel 14:21-23 (God’s four sore judgments).
  - 4. Note that the “end of time” is not in view here, because at the end, Hades shall be destroyed (Revelation 20:14).

## V. FIFTH SEAL: SOULS SLAIN CRYING FOR VINDICATION, 6:9-11

### A. “Souls slain...”

1. “Souls”: “life” (see Genesis 2:17; Leviticus 17:11).
2. “altar”: before the throne of God (see Revelation 8:4 & Hebrews 13:10).

### B. These are martyrs: killed for the Word of God and their testimony.

1. They cry for vindication: “*How long...?*” (see Luke 18:7-8; Romans 12:19).
2. They are victorious: white robes are given them (9:7; 13:7).
3. They are told to rest: others will follow.

Note: *these are “under the altar,” but shall be elevated the thrones (chapter 20), which shows the ultimate victory of the cause for which they died: the triumph of the Lamb!*

### C. This fifth seal is PERSECUTION and MARTYRDOM.

## VI. SIXTH SEAL: Announcement of Judgment, 6:12-17

### A. God’s Judgment is coming against the ungodly: the **WRATH OF THE LAMB!**

1. **Earthquake**: symbol of great national upheaval (Isaiah 29:5-6; Haggai 2:6, 21-22; Joel 2:1-11; 3:14-15; Nahum 1:5; Matthew 24:29).
2. **Sun black**: mourning resulting from a sad state of affairs (Isaiah 13:10; 24:21-23; Jeremiah 15:9; Ezekiel 32:4-8; Joel 2:1-11; 3:14-15; Amos 8:9).
3. **Moon as blood**: a dark, gloomy occasion (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:17-21).
4. **Stars of heaven fell to earth**: this figure is used in the Bible to describe notable leaders falling (Daniel 8:10; Matthew 24:29).
5. **The heaven departed as a scroll**: God’s enemies attacked, destroyed (Isaiah 34:1-5).
6. **Every mountain and island moved**: God’s enemies stirred, agitated, shaken (Isaiah 41:15; 59:18; 64:1-4; Ezekiel 26:15-18; Amos 4:1; Micah 1:1-4; Revelation 16:20).

### B. Those judged by God’s wrath include kings, great men, rich men, chief captains, mighty men, bondmen, free men: *the judgment of God against the ungodly!*

1. They will hide in dens, rocks, seek destruction: *they don’t want to face the judgment coming from God’s throne!* (compare Isaiah 2:10-22; Hosea 10:8; Luke 23:28-30).
2. None can escape the wrath of the Lamb! (see Nahum 1:5-6)

<p><b>CONCLUSION:</b> <i>We have here an awesome, terrible, powerful picture of God’s retributive judgment against the oppressors of His people (persecutors of God’s people). In the midst of God’s wrath, what will become of His people? The answer will follow in chapter 7!</i></p>
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