

## Revelation Notes Chapter 6

<sup>1</sup>”And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.”

Remember that Only Christ was worthy and had the right to break the seals that were upon the scroll. Herein is the Lamb who opens the first seal.

Robbins suggests that the opening of the seals represents God’s “divine judgment” upon rebellious humanity. P. 101 MacArthur concurs, as do most Bible scholars.

One of the living Creatures invites John to “come and see.”

The command “come” is directed toward the horseman, not John. Immediately upon the summons, the horseman bursts forth. The judgment comes upon humanity.

<sup>2</sup>And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

“A white horse”. Horses often represent power and conquest in the Bible. White here represents victory. But who was the rider on the white horse? Christ, Anti-Christ or an evil force?

Some Bible scholars argue that it is Christ but here are the problems with that position:

1. Christ is the one who opened the sealed scroll. He cannot be both the rider of the white horse and open the scroll simultaneously.
2. Christ wears a royal crown (diademas), not a stephanos. (19:12).
3. Christ carries a sword, not a bow. (19:15)
4. Christ returns at the end of the Tribulation period, not at its beginning.

“And he went forth conquering and to conquer.”

Notice there are no arrows mentioned in this vision. Thus, it would appear that this horseman represents a false world peace, which will be shattered by the second horseman.

The first three and one-half years of the Tribulation period will be peaceful. There will be a false peace brokered by the Anti-Christ. Israel will enjoy the benefit of a false sense of security until the unleashing of the Red Horseman. When Rider on the Red Horse comes forth the covenant of peace with Israel will be broken. (Daniel 9:27). In the

middle of the week (Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week) the Anti-Christ will reveal his true colors. He will put an end to sacrifice and grain offerings. (MacArthur, p. 178)

<sup>3</sup>And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. <sup>4</sup>And there went out another horse *that was* red: and *power* was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

The Second seal is broken and immediately the Red horse comes forth

“To take peace from the earth, and they shall kill one another.”

Earth will be plunged into total chaos. Wars, murder and violence will be cataclysmic in nature. Nations will rise against nations. Assassinations, murders and such will be rampant throughout the world.

Daniel 8:24-25 – The power of the Anti-Christ.

Daniel 11:21 – How the Anti-Christ will come into power.

Daniel 12:11 – The duration of the global war. (3-1/2 years). The war will last until the setting up of the Millennial Reign of Christ upon the earth at the end of the second 3-1/2 years of the tribulation.

The “great sword” represents war among humanity on a global scale.

<sup>5</sup>And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

The third seal being broken unleashes the black horse.

“And I beheld...” John was so astounded by the gruesome sight of the black horse and its rider.

“Pair of scales...” This is a definite picture of rationing that will be utilized during this time of tribulation.

**Black represents famine.** Famine will be a natural by-product of global war. This famine will be the greatest famine of all human history. The entire world will be effected by it.

<sup>6</sup>And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, a measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and *see* thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

“And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts...”

The voice was obviously the voice of God since the four living creatures surround him. (Cherubim).

“A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny...”

A measure = approx. 1 quart. A quart of wheat is barely enough to sustain one person.

“A penny” = denarius=one days wages. Thus food will be so scarce and expensive that it will cost the wages of a full day just to buy one quart of wheat or three quarts of barley.

The oil and wine were food staples in the Middle East. They were not luxuries but it would appear the sense here is that they will be too expensive to buy.

<sup>7</sup>And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. <sup>8</sup>And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

The Fourth Horseman is riding upon a pale horse.

*(Chloros-Grk.) =a sickly pale green or greenish-yellow. It is where we get the English word Chlorophyll and chlorine.*

**This horse represents death.** Note that the rider is given a name; Death. The rider also had an inseparable companion, namely, Hades.

“Power was given over the fourth part of the earth...”

As of May 25, 2015, the world population is more than 7.3 billion people. Can you imagine one-fourth dying suddenly? That would equal 1 billion 825 million people. If they died in a 24 hour period, 76 million, 41 thousand, 666.7 people would die per hour.

The four horsemen of the apocalypse will culminate in unparalleled global disaster.

“In the midst of our concern about these judgments, we must never forget that God is absolutely just and fair in punishing evil. Wickedness deserves to be judged. . . The fact that God allows the future judgments to take place indicates that in the present time, He is actively holding back the wickedness of humanity. When the dam of His gracious restraint is broken, disaster pours forth like a flood.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>9</sup>And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: <sup>10</sup>And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? <sup>11</sup>And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they *were*, should be fulfilled.

The opening of the Fifth seal shifts our attention back to heaven.

“I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain...”

During the Tribulation period there will be people who become Christians. They will be persecuted severely however and many will be martyred for their faith and testimony.

MacArthur argues that persecution of Christians will start during first portion of the Tribulation and escalate during the last half. Matthew 24:9

“And they cried with a loud voice...”

The saints were praying for God to avenge their death and suffering. Cf. Psalms 94:1-5).

“And white robes were given unto every one of them...” These robes symbolize God’s reward for their faithfulness. “In the first-century Jewish mind-set, white robes symbolized the glorious state of the rewarded saints in the future kingdom.” (Swindoll, p. 113).

They were told to “rest for a little season”, which represented that God would soon be acting upon their prayers but not yet.

God’s timetable is always the best one. He informed these martyrs that there would be more of his people slain. Thus, when all this was accomplished (fulfilled) then He would respond to their prayers.

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<sup>1</sup> Charles R. Swindoll, *Swindoll’s New Testament Insights: Insights on Revelation*, (Zondervan, Grand Rapids: 2011, 111).

<sup>12</sup>And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

The opening of the sixth seal unleashes cataclysmic events in the universe. (Cf. Matt 24:29, Luke 21:11).

- There will be a great earthquake. (This includes the shaking of the heavens).
- The sun became black as sackcloth (Cf. Joel 2:31)
- The moon became as blood. (Isa. 13:10)

<sup>13</sup>And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. <sup>14</sup>And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Further devastation to the earth and universe will occur as a result of this shaking, Namely,

- Stars will fall from heaven and strike the earth. The Greek word for stars is *Asteres*. It is unlikely that actual stars will hit the earth since the earth would be incinerated long before the impact. The word *Asteres* can describe stars, but also any other celestial body of matter, such as, asteroids, comets, meteors, etc.
- The earth's atmosphere will be adversely effected by the strange phenomenon of the appearing to split in half and be rolled up like a scroll. (Cf. Isa. 34:4)
- "Every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

<sup>15</sup>And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; <sup>16</sup>And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: <sup>17</sup>For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

The obvious cataclysmic events will strike terror into the hearts of all unbelievers who are alive during that time. **Notice that all classes of people are included.**

Those who have hated God, persecuted his people, and indulged their passions are now turned into cowards, as they cry out for the rocks and mountains to fall on them.

Note their consternation. They do not want to have to acknowledge that they have been wrong. They are forced to look upon him that sits on the throne (God) and experience the wrath of the Lamb (Christ). These people are unwilling to repent even in the face of these calamities.

This is what is known as the "Day of the Lord" in Isa., Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Zephaniah and Malachi.

“Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by Him” (Nahum 1:6, NKJV).

Respectfully,

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