

STUDYING THE BOOK OF REVELATION
THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST (13)

REVELATION 6
The Seals

REVELATION 6:1-8

KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)



The First Seal
Four Horsemen

6 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.

2 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.

The Second Seal

3 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

4 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 Third Seal

5 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.

6 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.

The Fourth Seal

7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

8 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.

More on Studying Revelation

The Seals Rev. 6:1-8:1

THE FIRST SEAL FOUR HORSEMEN

End-time events begin with the opening of a scroll locked with seven seals. Jesus alone can open these seals. The opening of the first four seals brings four angels riding horses; these are commonly referred to as the “*four horsemen of the apocalypse.*” People on earth cannot see these angels or their horses.

As the Lamb opens each of the seals, one of the living creatures gives the command, “*Come!*” A horse and rider go forth, apparently on earth. Actions in heaven are determining events on earth. The series recalls similar groups of four horsemen or chariots sent throughout the earth according to *Zechariah 1:8-11 and 6:1-7*. The first horse is white, with a rider carrying a bow and wearing a crown riding out as a conqueror bent on conquest (v. 2).



6:1 The First Seal: The Spirit of **CONQUEST** comes into the world arena. This angel brings the desire for world domination. This Spirit works to establish a one-world government with the Antichrist in command. This Spirit approves of efforts to establish a single, worldwide monetary, banking, and business system to place global economic power under the authority of Antichrist.

6:3-4 The Second Seal: The Spirit of **WAR** is the second angel entering the world scene. War is a common response to the aggression that accompanies a spirit of conquest—as seen coming from the first seal. This angel rides a red horse, with red symbolizing bloodshed.

6:5-6 The Third Seal: The Spirit of **FAMINE** causes a catastrophic food shortage. Wheat and barley are basic food requirements; people are paying their entire salary to feed themselves.

6:7-8 The Fourth Seal: The Spirit of **DEATH**, with authority to kill ... over a fourth of the earth comes forward. This fourth angel is “Death.” This angel rides a pale horse—the color attributed to a person near death. “*Hades*” is the unseen world of the dead. This place had two separate abodes, a place where God’s people lived and another area for condemned persons. Jesus called the area of Hades where believers dwelt “Abraham’s side.” (*Luke 16:22; AKA “Abraham’s Bosom”*) That Hades was following close behind Death meant that following death, people

travel to the unseen world. In other words people die (*Death*), and then immediately travel to the unseen world (*Hades*).

Many people will die because of plague or pestilence, a possible reference to disease-causing microorganisms, which are increasingly resistant to antibiotic treatment. This also could be a reference to biological warfare. To kill by wild beasts is reminiscent of the days when the Roman Empire fed Christians to the lions. However, the application here points to soldiers on the battlefield. Ezekiel foresaw wild animals feasting on human flesh.

Son of Man, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Call out to every kind of bird and all the wild animals: Assemble and come together from all around to the sacrifice I am preparing for you, the great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel. There you will eat flesh and drink blood. You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth as if they were rams and lambs, goats and bulls. (*Ezekiel 39:17-18*)... **to be cont'd.**



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