



The Opening of the Seven Seals Revelation 6

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The Opening of the seven seals

- In Chapter six we see the opening of the first six seals
- The seventh seal is opened in chapter eight
- Chapter seven is an interlude between the opening of the sixth and seventh seal.

The Opening of the seven seals

- Note that the words that are written on the scroll are not revealed to us
- What we see, with John, is the event that takes place as a result of the opening of each seal
- This marks the beginning of the seven years tribulation period
- The kinsman redeemer begins to reclaim the lost inheritance of mankind

The First Seal – Vs 1-2

- The first event: The first horseman of the four horsemen of the apocalypse
 - The judgement of God has begun
- Horses – see Job 39:19-25; Zech 1:7-11; 6:1-7
- A white horse comes forth
- The rider holds a bow – a symbol of military power
 - See Jer 51:56; Hos 1:4-5; Ps 46:9

The First Seal – Vs 1-2

- The Roman surrender to the Parthians in AD 62
 - The rider of the white horse is one to be feared
- The Crown – the rider wears a crown
 - This is the victor's crown of the games; a wreath, not the crown that Christ wears – the diadem.
 - See Rev 19:11-16
 - Jesus weilds a sword, not a bow

The Second Seal – Vs 3-4

- The red horse comes forth
- He is given power to take peace from the earth
 - This is different than war. It is the internal strife within nations between individual people.
 - See Isa 19:2; Zech 14:13
- AD 61 – the rebellion of Britain against Rome
- AD 68-9, Rome was ruled by four different emperors

The Second Seal – Vs 3-4

- There was much civil rest in Rome.
- A large sword
 - This is the Roman short sword used for in-close fighting; the gladiator sword

The Third Seal – Vs 5-6

- The black horse comes forth
- In his hand are a pair of scales
 - Symbolic of famine/scarcity of food
 - See Lev 26:23-26
- Note! The oil and the wine continue to be abundant, they are not affected
- Question: How can this be?

The Third Seal – Vs 5-6

- The olive tree and the grape vine were more deeply rooted than the grain crops and could therefore withstand a mild drought.
- NOTE: A day's wages would normally buy 8-16 measures of wheat and 3-4 times as much barley. Now, a day's wage only buys enough wheat for 1 person and barley for 3-4.

The Fourth Seal – Vs 7-8

- A pale horse comes forth
 - The death horse (pale as death)
- The rider is death/pestilence
- Hades, or the underworld followed close behind
- Death would come through sword, famine, plague, and wild beasts
- Only $\frac{1}{4}$ of the people of the earth would die

The Fourth Seal – Vs 7-8

- Only $\frac{1}{4}$ of the people would die
 - See Ez 14:12-23; Lev 26:21-33
 - These have always been ways that God has brought judgement upon the earth.

The Fifth Seal – Vs 9-11

- The opening of this seal has a different result from the previous four
- No voice from one of the living creatures, rather the corporate voice of those who had been slain because of their faith and faithfulness to God.
- No devastation upon the earth but a reward for those in heaven

The Fifth Seal – Vs 9-11

- The bronze altar – sacrifices unto God
 - See Romans 12:1; 2 Tim 4:6; 1 Peter 2:4-5
- The martyrs ask Jesus “how long until they see His justice?”
- Jesus answers that He has a time already set – in His timing and His way – there were still others that had yet to be martyred

The Sixth Seal – Vs 12-17

- A number of signs appear on the earth
 - A great earthquake, sun turns black, moon turns red, heavens and the earth are altered. Cosmic disturbances
- This is an apocalyptic description of the end of the world. Not necessarily to be taken literally, but to be taken as pointing to God's interactions with the world to bring it to a close. God will step into the world in a significant and noticeable way.

The Sixth Seal – Vs 12-17

- Earthquakes are a regular feature of Divine visitation – Ex 19:18; Isa 2:19; Hag 2:6; Amos 8:8. Also Joel 2:28-32, quoted in Acts 2:17-21.
- Upon the death of Jesus, there was an earthquake – Matt 27:50-51

The Sixth Seal – Vs 12-17

- The Darkening of the sun and moon
 - See Amos 8:9; Isa 13:10; Joel 2:31
- Falling of stars – Isa 34:4
- Folding up of the heavens- Isa 34:4; Ps 102:25-26
- Moving of hills and islands – Jer 4:24; Nah 1:5
- This is all contained in Matt 24.

The Sixth Seal – Vs 12-17

- What sinners dread most is not death, but the revealed presence of God – the revelation of God! See Isa 2:10,19,21
- Adam and Eve hid from God – Gen 3:8

The Sixth Seal – Vs 12-17

- Sinful people hide from the wrath of the Lamb.
 - There is a new phrase, “wrath of the gentle lamb”
- Now the resurrected lamb who is the triumphant lamb of God!

Conclusion/Summary

- Once again we see that Jesus is the central figure in the Revelation/Apocalypse
- The details are brief, Jesus is central.
- All creation is subject to Jesus; either His wrath or His reward.
- The response will be one of fear/hiding or rejoicing/praising