

# Tribulation: The Seal Judgements– Revelation Chapters 6-7

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## Review from Last Week:

- God is seated on his throne in majesty and surrounded by four living beings
- We are shown a scroll, and only one person in the entire universe is found worthy to break its seals and open the scroll.
- What does the scroll appear to represent?
  - The title deed to the earth, indeed, the entire universe!
- What kind of document is it?
  - A legal document! It gives the holder the rights to the world.
- What does the scroll contain?
  - A description of how Jesus will claim back what is rightfully his!
- Now the Lamb is about to open the seals one-by-one and we will see what's inside

QUESTION: Who did their homework? Did you listen to the sermon?

QUESTION: What are some of the reasons world leaders want a New World Order?

- Equity, redistribution of wealth, with the elites controlling the flow of money
- Currency control, elimination of cash, all transactions tracked, no one “off-grid”
- Environmental control, using “climate change” to influence people’s behavior
- Global taxation, no company can move to a country with lower taxes
- Global crisis response. The Covid pandemic was a “pre-test” of this
- Open migration free of borders, no national identity
- Elimination of “unsanctioned” religion
- No nations and religious homogeneity, so no more wars, “world peace” would result

QUESTION: Why is a one-world-government and rule a bad idea?

- Because man is ultimately sinful and there would be no checks or balances!
- God’s plan is to establish HIS one-world government on earth, a theocracy!

## First a few words about what we are looking at in these chapters:

- Tonight, we’re going to see *six* of the seven seals opened.
- The opening of these seals represents *an outline* of consecutive future events.
  - These future events come in more details throughout the rest of Revelation
  - These events can be seen as *epochs* during which certain characteristics prevail on earth.
- According to Daniel, Mathew, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, the Antichrist comes to power at the start of the tribulation, promising peace and safety.
- The first six seals are in chap 6, and they parallel Jesus’ “Olivet Discourse” in Mat 24:4-37

## What are the judgments of the Seven Seals?

|----- The Beginning of Birth Pangs -----|----- The Great Tribulation -----|

|-----First three and a half years of Tribulation-----|-----Second three and a half years-----|

First                      Second                      Third                      Fourth                      Fifth                      Sixth                      Seventh

- |                        |                                      |  |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. <b>First Seal:</b>  | Antichrist, False Peace – Mat 24:4-5 | <u>White horse</u> , a world leader bringing unity     |
| 2. <b>Second Seal:</b> | Worldwide War – Mat 24:6-7           | <u>Red Horse</u> , the false peace fails, bringing war |
| 3. <b>Third Seal:</b>  | Famine-Mat 24:7                      | <u>Black horse</u> , worldwide food shortages          |
| 4. <b>Fourth Seal:</b> | Death-Mat 24:7                       | <u>Pale horse</u> , a fourth of the people are killed  |
| 5. <b>Fifth Seal:</b>  | The martyrs cry out-Mat 24:9         | Divine judgment proclaimed on the evil ones            |
| 6. <b>Sixth Seal:</b>  | Earthquake and darkness-Mat 24:29    | Rulers hide underground in fear of Christ              |

- a. Now, **a pause in judgment** while 144,000 Jewish evangelists are “sealed” on their foreheads for protection, Rev 7

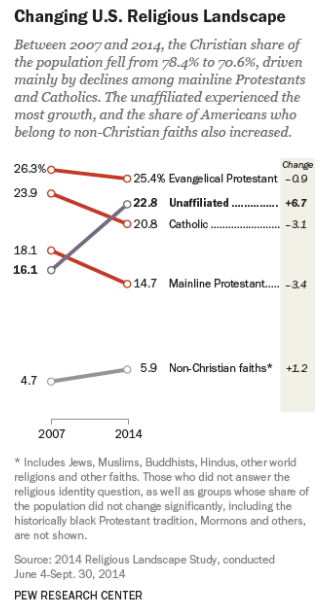
7. **Seventh Seal** Trumpet/Bowl judgments-Mat 24:37 Cataclysmic Events, earth is essentially ransacked.

## CHAPTER 6 – Six Seals Are Opened

***Rev 6:1-2, Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, “Come[<sup>a</sup>].” <sup>2</sup> I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.***

- QUESTION: What does it usually mean when someone rides in on a white horse?
  - What horse does a knight in shining armor ride? A white horse.
  - What horse did the Lone Ranger ride? A white Stallion. He always saves the day!
    - *The Legend of the White Stallion is an ancient story that has been passed down through generations. According to the legend, if one were to (against all odds) find and ride this mythical creature, they would be granted great power and success. In some re-tellings, the white stallion is believed to be **a symbol of freedom, courage, strength, and purity - as well as a sign of hope in times of difficulty.** This legend has been a part of human history for centuries and the white horse has been featured in mythology, folklore and literature around the world. From the Celtic legend of the white stallion to the Native American story of White Horse, this creature has become a powerful symbol and has inspired large bodies of work. -Maria Mariott Photography*
- A white horse
  - Horses represent power, authority.
  - This is someone riding in victory or triumph, “a sign of hope in times of difficulty.”
  - This imagery represents a period of time in the future. When is that time?
  - Daniel says a ruler will come and make a peace treaty for seven years, but break it after 3 ½ years
    - *Dan 9:27a, he will make a firm covenant with the many (the Jews) for one week, but in the middle of the week (a week of years) he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering*
  - Jesus said many will come claiming to be the Christ, misleading many
    - *Mat 24:5, For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the [a]Christ,’ and will mislead many.*
  - Paul told the Thessalonians that people will be saying “Peace and Safety”, and be deceived

- *1 Thes 5:1-3, Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord [o]will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then [p]destruction [q]will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.*
- *2 Thes 2:3, Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the [d]apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction*
  - QUESTION: What is apostasy?
    - Studies conducted by the Barna Group and USA Today found that nearly 75% of Christian young people fall away from the faith and leave the church after high school. Sept 19, 2023
    - "Forty million Americans have stopped attending church in the past 25 years. That's something like 12 percent of the population, and it represents the largest concentrated change in church attendance in American history." *The Misunderstood Reason Millions of Americans Stopped Going to Church*, The Atlantic, July 29, 2023
    - Mainstream evangelicals dropped out because they moved (22%) or services were inconvenient (16%) but also because they did not feel much love in church (12%). *Exvangelicals* in this study left because they did not fit in (23%), because they did not feel much love in the congregation (18%), because of negative experiences with evangelicals (15%) and because they no longer believed (14%). *The Great Dechurching looks at why people are leaving churches*, Washington Post, Sept 15, 2023
    - The Christian share of the U.S. population is declining, while the number of U.S. adults who do not identify with any organized religion is growing, according to an extensive new survey by the Pew Research Center. (Pew Research May 12, 2015)



- he who sat on it had a bow
  - What's a bow used for? What's missing? Arrows!
    - This is someone with political power, but who doesn't engage militarily.
  - This cannot be Christ. Christ is never pictured with a bow, but rather a sword.

- a crown was given to him
  - The Greek word for crown here is “stephanos” which is not a kingly crown, but a crown given as a crown of victory in games, or for military valor. It is presented as an award.
  - QUESTION: Does Jesus wear a crown? Yes, many!
    - *Rev 19:11-13, And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.*
    - Diadems (Gr diadema), a crown signifying royalty
- he went out conquering and to conquer
  - The sense here is that the rider conquered perhaps through diplomacy, promising peace, and gained much power as those who are convinced (deceived) join with him.
- This Rider on the White horse represents a false Christ (the Antichrist) who arises to world power by promising worldwide peace, perhaps after many other false Christs have already appeared.

***Rev 6:3-4, When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come[b].” 4 And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that men would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.***

- a red horse
  - Red for war and blood, which follows a time of initial false peace
- it was granted to take peace from the earth
  - This emphasizes that there is peace for a time and that it is taken away
  - *Mat 24:6-7a, You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.*
- that men would slay one another
  - This seems to be more than just killing in war, but an increase in murder, because...
- a great sword was given to him
  - sword, Gr. machaira, a dagger, not a long sword used in war, but for assassination

***Rev 6:5-6, When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, “Come[c].” I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, “A [d]quart of wheat for a [e]denarius, and three [f]quarts of barley for a [g]denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine.”***

- A black horse
  - The meaning is not readily apparent without the verses that follow
- pair of scales in his hand
  - Something is being measured out, rationed
- a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying
  - QUESTION: Who is saying this? Who is at the center of the four living creatures?
- “A quart of wheat for a denarius”
  - A quart of wheat is considered to be enough to feed one person per day.
  - A denarius is a day’s wage.
  - Today’s average daily wage is about \$220

- The idea here is that you would have to work for a whole day just to eat that day
- This is severe famine
  - *Mat 24:7b-8, in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. 8 But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.*

***Rev 6:7-8, When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come[h]." 8 I looked, and behold, an [i]ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with [j]pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.***

- an ashen horse
  - ashen is a sickly pale green color, the color of a decomposing body
- Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth
  - To kill with the sword, war and murder
    - *Mat 24:9, "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. 10 At that time many will [d]fall away and will [e]betray one another and hate one another.*
    - See also Luke 21:8-28
  - To kill with famine, lack of food will kill many
  - To kill with pestilence, a disease, plague or other disaster of some kind
  - To kill with the "wild beasts" of the earth. Untamed creatures.
    - As the infrastructure breaks down, and food is scarce, animals penetrate cities
    - One of the historically deadliest creatures on earth? Rats.
  - Earth has 8 billion people, so 2 billion people will die after this fourth seal is opened.

***Rev 6:9-11, When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; 10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O [k]Lord, holy and true, [l]will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.***

- I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God
  - These seem to be those who were martyred through persecutions during the tribulation
- How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood
  - They are crying out for justice, which is coming, they just have to wait a bit longer
  - Notice souls, they do not yet have bodies, even though they were provided with robes, presumably so John could see them.
- there was given to each of them a white robe
  - Gr: **Stole**, a robe reaching to the feet, worn by kings, priests and people of rank
    - This type of robe is given to the redeemed saints throughout Revelation
  - Throughout the gospels, Most wore a **himation** a regular mid-length over garment
  - But the Scribes and Pharisees wore stole for "show", and drew the criticism of Jesus for it
- they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, why?
  - Until the rest of the martyrs come in... we will see even more martyrs in 7:9

**Rev 6:12-17, I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. 14 The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the [m]commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; 16 and they \*said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the [n]presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"**

- Signs and catastrophic events on earth and in the heavens
  - *Mat 24:29, "But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from [r]the sky, and the powers of [s]the heavens will be shaken.*
- A great earthquake
  - Gr. "mega". This is unlike any earthquake the earth has ever experienced.
- The sun became black
  - Perhaps due to ash from tectonic and volcanic activity
- the whole moon became like blood
  - "blood moon" is caused by a lunar eclipse, but it's probably more than this
- the stars of the sky fell to the earth
  - Comets, meteors
- The sky was split apart like a scroll
  - Some kind of rift in heaven, like an old scroll that breaks when you roll/unroll it
  - *Isa 40:22, It is He who [a]sits above the [b]circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.*
- every mountain and island were moved out of their places
  - Unprecedented continental "drift". The earth is reeling.
  - *Isa 34:2-4, For the Lord's indignation is against all the nations, And His wrath against all their armies; He has [b]utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to slaughter. 3 So their slain will be thrown out, And their corpses [c]will give off their stench, And the mountains will [d]be drenched with their blood. 4 And all the host of heaven will [e]wear away, And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All their hosts will also wither away As a leaf withers from the vine, Or as one withers from the fig tree.*
- Fall on us and hide us from the [n]presence of Him who sits on the throne
  - The unrighteous inhabitants of the earth now know that God is involved here and they want nothing to do with Him. Until now it was like life was normal!
    - *Mat 24:37-41, For [a]the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not [b]understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. 40 Then there will be two men in the field; one [c]will be taken and one [d]will be left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the [e]mill; one [f]will be taken and one [g]will be left. – Note this taking is in the context of judgement, not the Rapture!*
  - **Who is able to stand?** Chapter 7 will answer this question.

**So, it becomes clear that the tribulation events unleashed by the seals in Chapter 6** begin with the introduction of world peace obtained through diplomacy and great deception. God allows for this.

- This is a false peace which soon descends into outright war.
- The protagonist of this false peace is Antichrist.
- We will learn much more about the Antichrist (also known as the Beast) in subsequent lessons
- I want to take a moment here to bring up a bit more information about him from Daniel.
  - The Antichrist is the “little horn” in Daniel 7:8, a man who comes seemingly out of nowhere, arises on the political scene and basically takes over, solidifying a one-world government.
  - He is a mere man, empowered by Satan
  - He forms part of the “unholy trinity”: Satan, the AntiChrist, and the False Prophet
  - He appears to have died and is resurrected in Rev 13:3
  - *Dan 7:25 (NLT), He will defy the Most High and oppress the holy people of the Most High. He will try to change their sacred festivals and laws, and they will be placed under his control for a time, times, and half a time.*
    - He speaks against God
    - He persecutes the saints of God
    - He attempts to make changes to Jewish calendars and feast dates
    - He will remain in power for about 3 ½ years
  - *Dan 9:27 (NLT), The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven,[a] but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him.”*
    - He signs a treaty with Israel allowing them to resume their sacrificial system and then breaks the agreement after 3 ½ years.
    - At that time he desecrates the Jewish temple with idolatry, probably with a talking idol of himself which he forces people to worship (Rev 13:15).
  - *Dan 11:36-37, “Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done. 37 He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all.*
    - He does whatever he wants
    - He makes himself a god
    - He will prosper in all he does until God’s wrath is completed
    - No desire for women. The Hebrew is ambiguous, but he is probably unmarried, a homosexual, or completely disinterested in women.

## **Chapter 7 the Sealing of the 144,000**

- An Interlude between the sixth and Seventh Seals

***Rev 7:1-3, After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.”***

**4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:**

**5 from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, 6 from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, 7 from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, 8 from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.**

- After this, John sees the scene changes from judgement of the ungodly to protection for the godly.
  - The implication is the angels are holding back winds that would otherwise be unleashed on earth.
- until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.
  - This is God's seal for these saints, as opposed to the "mark of the Beast", the Antichrist's seal.
  - Rev 14:1 identifies the seal,
    - *Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads*
- 12,000 from each tribe, electively chosen by God, He knows which Jews are in which tribe!

**Rev 7:9-12, After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; 10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying,**

**"Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying,**

**"Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen."**

- This is a new vision, because John says "after these things". He sees something new, different
- QUESTION: Who are these people? Where are they? Saints (see next verse), before the throne.
- QUESTION: what are they wearing? a **Stole**.
- QUESTION: what are they doing? Worshipping!

**Rev 7:13-17, Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" 14 I [a]said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His [b]temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. 16 They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun [c]beat down on them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the [d]water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."**



- These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation
  - Gr: erchomai is in the “middle voice”, rather than a “passive voice”
    - indicating a *process* of coming out in which they are involved
    - rather than a sudden event such as the Rapture which is out of their control
    - Some refer to this verse to place the rapture near the end of the tribulation
  - These are martyred saints whose souls were under the altar in 6:9 (plus many more since)
    - They “lived into it, were redeemed during it, and came out over time through death”
- Please note that the blood of Jesus has a “cleansing and whitening” property about it.
  - How can blood, which is typically red, cleanse robes (think about it)
  - Spread his tabernacle over them
    - Loving relief from the torment they have experienced during the Tribulation