



Session 14 | Revelation 6:1-8 | The Four Horsemen

THE SEALS | AN OVERVIEW

Compare the seals with Matthew 24, as follows,

1. First seal (vv. 1-2), Matthew 24:4-5
2. Second, third, and fourth seals (vv. 3-8), Matthew 24:6-7
3. Fifth seal (vv. 9-11), Matthew 24:8-28
4. Sixth seal (vv. 12-17), Matthew 24:29-30
5. Sealing of the 144,000 (Rev 7:1-8), Matthew 24:31

THE LENGTH AND TIMING OF THE TRIBULATION

- Without doubt, the length of the “Day of Jacob’s Trouble” is seven years.
 - Revelation 13:5 – the Antichrist has a discernable reign of 42 months.
 - Numerous Biblical indicators break these 42 months into two halves of 1,260 days.
- Almost without exception, the 42 months is considered to begin with the breaking of the first seal in Revelation 6:1-2.
- The first discernable indication the world will have of the verifiable identification of the Antichrist is the confirmation of a covenant with Israel. Daniel 9:26-27.
- This confirmation of the covenant is the event that starts the prophetic time-clock once again.
- There is nothing Biblically that requires the confirmation of the covenant to begin with the appearance of the Antichrist in the first seal (Revelation 6:1-2).

THE FOUR HORSES OF THE APOCALYPSE

THE WHITE HORSE | VV. 1-2

- In Revelation 1:2, we are told John wrote both *word* and *sight*. Here we begin to see why both were needed.
- The Greek word *phoneo* is the “noise” or “sound,” often translated “voice” but not implying anything verbal, therefore *noise* is a better translation. Our English word *phonics* is “the science of sound.” *Telephone* is “far away sound.”

- The word *bow* is *toxon*, from which we get *toxic*, a word that developed due to the practice of putting poison on an arrow and shooting it from a bow to the enemy. This is unequivocally a weaponry word, verified in the fact that the rider goes forth "conquering, and to conquer."
- This is *stephanos*, the "victor's crown," which is a *perishable wreath*. The *diadema* is the royal crown, and is not used here.
- At this point, the rider begins his journey *conquering*, but has yet more to conquer.
- By assumption and inductive study, we believe this rider to be the Antichrist.

THE FIERY RED HORSE | VV. 3-4

- The rider of this horse "takes peace" from the earth (that is, brings war).
- Verse 4 could be translated, "and in order that they would slay one another, also a great sword was given to him."
- The identity of this horseman is veiled. Is it also the Antichrist? Is it the false prophet? Is it simply the personification of warfare?
- The *result* and not the *identity of a person* is what is most important.

THE BLACK HORSE | VV. 5-6

- The rider of the black horse has *scales* in his hands. In other passages, this word is translated *yoke*, and would also be a fitting translation here.
- The voice - Only the Critical Text makes this "as a voice" rather than "a voice."
- Where is the voice coming from? "In the midst" not "in the center," which sounds as if the voice was coming from the living creatures, which is possible but not verifiable.
- The price of wheat and barley has skyrocketed to exorbitant levels, indicating severe famine.
- There is a clear *prohibition* from harming the oil and wine.
 - Perhaps because oil and wine are used in worship, or perhaps because oil and wine are of the rich, who may be protected at this point.
 - There is no interpretive grid in scripture, so no definitive answer can be given.

THE PALE HORSE | VV. 7-8

- Come - Only the first four seals have the voice of the Living Creatures and the instruction, "Come!" This is a *very slight* indication that the first four seals are the *allowance* or *permission* for activity on earth, while what follows is the *direct work and will of God*.
- *Ashen* or *pale* is the Greek *chloros*, from which we get *chlorine*, *Clorox*, and *chloroform*.
- After this seal is broken, one-fourth of the earth is dead.