

## Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #13 | Revelation 6:1-11 | Opening the Book, Part 2

In sermon #12 we gave an overview of the first six seals, dealing mostly with chronology. In this sermon, we will look more at the seals.

### Revelation 6:1-8 | The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

- The first four seals are **the beginning of sorrows** (from Mat. 24:7). They happen after the rapture and before the “tribulation proper” begins.
- The first horseman (seal #1): The White Horse.
  - The rider had **a bow** – likely a reference to war. The word used is τόξον [toxon], from which we get *toxic*.
  - **A crown was given unto him** – thus, he did not have a crown prior to this point. Assuming this horseman to be the release of the Antichrist, this disqualifies the Pope, the Roman Empire, or any current world leader.
  - With his new crown, **he went forth conquering and to conquer**. That is, his work of worldwide dominion was just beginning.
- The second horseman (seal #2): The Red Horse.
  - This second horseman is one of judgement. His role is **to take peace from the earth**. This power was **given to him** from Heaven.
  - It appears that the Antichrist has consolidated power and created a peaceful one-world order, but this does not last for long. In judgement, God sends the second horseman.
- The third horseman (seal #3): The Black Horse.
  - This is another horseman of judgment. To this one was given **a pair of balances in his hand**.
  - The word translated **pair of balances** is ζυγός [zugos], which is also *yoke*, as in **a yoke of bondage** in Galatians 5:1.
  - In Matthew 24, Jesus describes famine coming after war. Also, there are a number of places in which *black* is associated with famine (Lam. 4:4-8, Jer. 14:1-4). In light of this it seems best to understand this as a seal of judgement from God, the judgement being famine.
- The fourth horseman (seal #4): The Pale Horse.
  - The word **pale** is χλωρός [chloros], from which we get *Clorox*.

- **Death and Hell** (Death and *hades*, or “death and the grave”) are personified. The judgement of God is that one-fourth of the population of the earth dies.

### Revelation 6:9-11 | The Fifth Seal

- The first four seals are effectively a unit, described as four horsemen, one after another. It could be interpreted (using other passages) that the aim of the first horseman was the eradication of the Jewish people. If this is the case, he **went forth conquering** the Jews.
- If the first four seals are a “war against the Saints” then the fifth seal is “the results of the war.”
- When this seal was broken, John saw the martyrs of the wars, famines, pestilences, etc., of the first four horsemen. They were **under the altar**, sacrificed themselves due to the **word of God, and for the testimony which they held**.
- Their cry was for *vengeance* by the Lord. Here a very unique word for Lord is used: δεσπότης [despotas], from which we get *despot*. The martyrs are crying for the day in which Jesus Christ will be the *sole Sovereign*.
- They were told to rest **for a little season** – a season in which they would be like the widow of Luke 18:3-5.
- The martyrs are given a **white robe**, likely a symbol of reward. Compare Revelation 3:4.

### Concluding Remarks

- If civil liberties are removed by governments when 1% of the population dies, imagine what happens when 25% of the population dies. “We aint seen nothin yet!”
- One of the reasons to denounce evil with clarity is because we know that the post-rapture world is going to be a world in confusion, with no moral clarity. It is important that Christians be the voice of moral clarity for the pre-tribulational society.
- Because all of this takes place after the tribulation, Christians do not need to be “spooked” by every war, pestilence, famine, etc., thinking they have reached the end times. Eschatology must be interpreted in the *whole*, not in a particular part.
- Even though the things *of* this chapter are reserved for after the rapture, the things *in* this chapter are not unique to the future. Christians should prepare for the inevitable decline of a Judeo-Christian worldview, and the dangers that brings upon the earth.