

13 - THE OPENING OF THE SEALS (REVELATION 6:1-17)

I. The First Seal (Revelation 6:1-2)

A. The Seal is Opened (Revelation 6:1)

- The Lamb is the only one to open the seals.

B. The White Horse (Revelation 6:2)

Biblical Note: The Four Riders of the Apocalypse

The first four seals on the scroll are four riders on horses. These riders are commonly known as the four riders of the apocalypse. The first rider on a white horse represents the Antichrist. The second rider on a red horse is war. The third rider on a black horse is famine and economic collapse. The fourth rider on a pale horse is death and Hades followed close behind him.

- The conqueror mentioned here is the future world ruler.

II. The Second Seal (Revelation 6:3-4)

A. The Seal is Opened (Revelation 6:3)

B. The Red Horse (Revelation 6:4)

- The rider here represents war as he takes peace from the earth.

III. The Third Seal (Revelation 6:5-6)

A. The Seal is Opened (Revelation 6:5a)

B. The Black Horse (Revelation 6:5b-6)

- The rider represents famine and economic collapse.
- It will take an entire day's wages to pay for a meal.

IV. The Fourth Seal (Revelation 6:7-8)

A. The Seal is Opened (Revelation 6:7)

B. The Pale Horse (Revelation 6:8)

- The rider represents death.
- Hell is the rider's companion.

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Biblical Note: Hades (Hell)

The word "Hades" is the Greek word for the realm of the dead. It refers to Hell or a place of torment. It is the New Testament word for the Hebrew word "Sheol" that is used in the Old Testament describing the place of the dead. It is not the final punishment of the wicked.

See: Matthew 11:23; 16:18; Luke 10:15, 16:23; Acts 2:27,31; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Revelation 1:18; 6:8; 20:13,14.

- They were given the power to kill a fourth of the world's population.

V. The Fifth Seal (Revelation 6:9-11)

A. John's Vision of the Martyrs (Revelation 6:9)

- John sees the souls of Christian martyrs.

B. The Martyrs' Cry (Revelation 6:10)

- The martyrs ask God to avenge their deaths on the wicked.

C. The Call to Rest (Revelation 6:11)

- They are told to wait until the number of martyrs is completed.

VI. The Sixth Seal (Revelation 6:12-17)

A. Great Natural Disasters (Revelation 6:12-14)

1. The Great Earthquake (Revelation 6:12a)

- There will be a great earthquake.

2. The Transformation of the Heavens (Revelation 6:12b-14a)

- The heavens are changed as the sun, moon and stars are affected.

3. The Landscape Shifts (Revelation 6:14a)

- The great earthquake causes both mountains and islands to shift.

B. The Reaction of the World (Revelation 6:15-17)

1. Men Try to Hide Themselves (Revelation 6:15)

- People of all walks of life try to hide themselves from the calamity.

2. Their Proclamation (Revelation 6:16-17)

- The people call out for death rather than to face the wrath of God.