

Opening the Seals

Revelation 6

REVIEW

- The “Book with 7 Seals”: God’s plan for the future (including the 7-year Tribulation and events leading up to the Millennial Kingdom)
- The Lamb is Worthy to open the book because of His victory at the cross.
- Jesus Christ has not only redeemed mankind, but He also will reverse the curse on this earth!

PURPOSES OF THE TRIBULATION

1. To bring national Israel to repentance

“And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce.” (Jeremiah 3:8)

2. To usher in Christ’s Millennial Kingdom

“Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, *in* the place, O LORD, *which* hast made thou for thee to dwell in, *in* the Sanctuary, O Lord, *which* thy hands have established. The LORD shall reign for ever and ever.” (Exodus 15:17–18)

THE FIRST FOUR SEALS: FOUR HORSES & ONE RIDER

I. The White Horse: Conquest

“And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.” (Revelation 6:1–2)

- **The antichrist wins the world through diplomacy (“a bow,” but no arrows)**

“And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.” (Daniel 11:21)

- **The antichrist makes a peace treaty with Israel**

“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.” (Daniel 9:27)

NOTES

II. The Red Horse – Warfare against the Jews

“And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse *that was red*: and *power* was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.” (Revelation 6:3–4)

➔ At the midpoint of the Tribulation, the antichrist changes his strategy from diplomacy to warfare.

- The antichrist breaks his treaty with Israel

“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.” (1 Thessalonians 5:3)

- The antichrist desecrates the temple — “abomination of desolations”

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- The antichrist himself as God.

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.” (2 Thessalonians 2:3–4)

- The antichrist launches full-scale offensive warfare against the Jews prompting them to flee for their lives.

“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.” (Matthew 24:15–22)

➔ The next two horses symbolize the resulting destruction and devastation that come on the earth as a result of antichrist’s policies. In fulfillment of His promise to Abraham, God will not tolerate antichrist’s treatment of Israel.

“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee.” (Genesis 12:3)

III. The Black Horse: Famine

“And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.” (Revelation 6:5–6)

- The pair of balances represent buying and selling.
 - 1 measure = 1 quart
 - 1 penny = a day’s wage
- Many people will die because of food shortage; they will not be able to afford the price of food.
- *“Hurt not the oil and wine”* — the rich will still be able to survive because they have the means to buy at a high price

IV. The Pale Horse: Death

“And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.” (Revelation 6:8)

- One fourth of the world’s population will die.
 - By what means?**
 - With sword
 - With famine
 - With death
 - With the beasts of the earth
- Due to food shortage, Wild beasts will become carnivorous to an extreme, attacking humans.

Conclusion

- ➔ All this death and carnage is because of AntiChrist’s policy of oppressing Israel. God will not tolerate it.
- ➔ The Tribulation is intended to bring Israel to national repentance and usher in the Millennial Kingdom.
 - Israel will be restored as Jehovah’s wife
 - “and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.” (Isaiah 62:5)
 - Israel will be established in their land.
 - “Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this I and assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.” (Jer. 32:41)
 - Ultimately, not just Israel, but faithful believers will join with Christ to rule together in His Millennial Kingdom.
 - “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.” (Revelation 11:15)