

Session Seventeen: Revelation 6:1-17 “The Broken Seals”

I) Introduction

- A) After seeing the stability, security and holiness of God in **Revelation 4** and the only worthy (qualified) One (Jesus Christ) to both cleanse the planet of evil and redeem the righteous from **Revelation 5**, we are ready to continue in the storyline of God’s eschatological drama in **Revelation 6**.
- B) In week 4 I covered the 4 parts of the Revelation **(1)** Revelation 1 **(2)** Revelation 2-3 **(3)** Revelation 4-5 **(4)** Revelation 6-22. But in the fourth part (Revelation 6-22) there are also 2 groups of 5 sections (5 Chronological sections and 5 Parenthetical sections). **Revelation 6** is the first Chronological/Storyline section within the fourth part (Revelation 6-22).

II) Overview Of The Seven Seals

- A) The seven seals are **LITERAL** (not symbolic), **FUTURE** (their greatest fulfillment is yet ahead), **PROGRESSIVE** (increasing in intensity) and their **NUMBERED** (released in numeric order).
- B) Both the taking of the scroll (**Revelation 5:7**) and the breaking of the seven seals (**Revelation 6:1-17;8:1**) are prophetic. I don’t believe they have happened in fullness yet.
- 1) **Revelation 11:15** *“Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.”*
 - 2) **Revelation 14:8** *“And another angel followed, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”*
 1. **Revelation 22:19** *“...and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy...”*
- C) All Seven seals are broken by Jesus, the Lamb of God (**Revelation 5:5; 6:1,3,5,7,9,12;8:1**). The purpose of all 7 seals is to release judgment on the kingdom of darkness to hinder the Antichrist’s empire from spreading evil and from persecuting the saints, while causing unbelievers to cry out for salvation.
- D) God’s judgment is not directed at the saints. His judgments are an answer to both the prayers of the saints (**Revelation 5:8;8:3-5**) and the increasing wickedness in the nations (**Revelation 13:7**). The Church is standing in the Moses position, releasing the great tribulation on an end-time Pharaoh through global worship, prayer and Gospel service (1st & 2nd Commandments).
- 1) **1st Thessalonians 5:9** *“God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through...Jesus.”*
 - 2) **1st John 4:17** *“Love has been perfected among us in this; that we may have boldness in the day of judgment...”*

III) The Breaking Of The Six Seals (Revelation 6:1-17)

A) **Revelation 6:1-2** *"Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a loud voice like thunder, come and see. And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer."*

- 1) Jesus, the only qualified One (**Revelation 5:5-7**) who possess the scroll of God (title deed) now begins to break the seals, loosing the judgments of God upon the earth.
- 2) The judgments of God breaking in upon the earth are directly related to the prayers of the saints over the past 2,000 years (**Matthew 6:9-13; Revelation 5:8;8:3-5;22:17,20**). It's also critical that we see it's Jesus (a Lamb), not the devil or humans that's loosing the judgments of God in the earth.
- 3) Prior to **Revelation 6** we have received 5 full chapters (**Revelation 1-5**) unveiling the nature of the Triune God. We have seen His glory (**Rev. 1**), His commitment to the Church (**Rev. 2-3**) the security of His throne (**Rev. 4**) and the only qualified Human (Jesus Christ) to drive evil off the planet and fully redeem both righteous humans and His physical creation (**Rev.5**).
- 4) **The 1st Seal** speaks of the antichrist, not of Jesus Christ.
 - (a) The word *antichrist* has a dual meaning. Firstly, it means to be opposed to or in conflict with. Secondly, it means an imitation of or a pseudo Christ.
 2. **The white horse** = This is a counterfeit white stallion representing deceptive political aggression. It's in contrast to Jesus' white horse in truthful political aggression (**Revelation. 19:11-12**).
 3. **The arrowless bow** = This arrowless bow speaks of bloodless victories as he emerges onto the world stage through smooth words and great flattery. He's moving through the nations bringing peace through threats of war and punishment (**Daniel 11:21; Habakkuk 2:5; 1st Thessalonians 5:3; 2nd Thessalonians 2:9-10**).
 - (a) They are political advancements through charisma, diplomacy and unity among the nations.
 4. **The crown** = The crown speaks of authority, power and his position given to him by both God, his father the devil and by humans throughout the earth, empowering him to go forth conquering (**Revelation 13:1,2**).

B) **Revelation 6:3-4** *"When He (the Lamb) opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, come and see. Another horse, fiery red went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, that people should kill one another and there was given to him a great sword."*

- 1) This removal of peace from the earth is not the removal of the Holy Spirit (rapture). This removal of peace from the earth is God taking the restraint off the human heart and allowing man to pursue the deep, sinful passions of his heart.
- 2) **The 2nd Seal** speaks of world war.

1. **The fiery red horse** = Speaks of world war and great bloodshed (**Daniel 8:24-25; Revelation 13:7;17:1,6**).
 - (a) The peace and political safety of the white horse will eventually give way to the reality of the red horse.
 2. **The sword** = Speaks of war, death, destruction and global conflict that will come about through a real sword (military conquest).
- C) **Revelation 6:5-6** *"When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, Come and see. So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."*
- 1) **The 3rd Seal** speaks of famine and economic crisis which always follow war.
 1. **The black horse** = This black horse represents sorrow, sadness, scarcity, starved flesh and mourning.
 2. **The pair of scales** = This speaks of global economic crisis as scales were what calculated the weight of money in ancient times (**Hosea 12:7**).
 3. **The quart of wheat for a denarius and three quarts of barley for a denarius** = This speaks of famine due to economic crisis.
 - (a) A denarius was a silver coin worth about 16 cents which was equivalent to a day's work. Wheat/grain were the staple food of the ancient world and barley was the food of the lower class.
 - (b) A quart of wheat was the average daily consumption of one man. This means that men will be working for food and nothing else.
 4. **The oil and the wine** = Oil and wine were possessed by the upper class as a luxury enjoyed by the wealthy few, not the needy majority. It speaks of class wars and ensuing civil unrest and strife (**Revelation 18**).
- D) **Revelation 6:7-8** *"When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, come and see. So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth."*
- 1) Through this seal we see that physical death will be released upon the earth as a result of the past 3 progressive judgments (It's only the beginning).
 1. **1st Seal** = Political aggression **2nd Seal** = world war **3rd Seal** = Economic crisis and famine **4th Seal** = Physical death.
 - 2) **The 4th Seal** speaks of physical death and separation from God eternally in the lake of fire.
 1. **The pale horse whose name is death** = This pale/green horse represents the bloodless color of a deceased human. Death will reach a level in the final generation that the earth has never seen, nor will it ever see again.

2. **Death and Hades following** = Although physical death will increase in the days ahead, death itself isn't the worst thing; the fact that hell follows behind it is what's most tragic.
 - (a) That word Hades in the Greek speaks of the grave, or hell; the holding place of the unrighteous dead until they are resurrected and sentenced into the lake of fire eternally (**Daniel 12:1-2; Revelation 20:11-15**).
3. **Over a fourth of the earth** = Population growth suggests that by 2025 there will be 8 billion people on the earth. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 8 billion is 2 billion. $3\frac{1}{2}$ years = 1,278 days. 2 billion divided by 1,278 (days) = 1,564,945. This means that 1,564,945 people would die every day for 1,278 days ($3\frac{1}{2}$ years).
 - (a) **Matthew 24:21** *"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no nor ever shall be."*
 - (b) **Revelation 13:7** *"It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation."*
4. **Killed with sword, hunger, death and beasts** = The **SWORD** speaks of death by humans. **HUNGER** speaks of death by starvation or famine (3rd seal). **DEATH** is translated either as pestilence or disease. And many diseases globally are carried by **ANIMALS** and with the increase in physical death, sickness will run ramped through animals.
 - E) **Revelation 6:9-11** *"When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, how long O Lord, Holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth? Then a white robe was given to them and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed."*
 - 1) The greatest hour of martyrdom within the body of Christ is yet ahead of us. Martyrdom isn't the primary subject of the Revelation but it's clearly a part of it.
 - 2) The shed blood of the saints will fuel the global prayer movement and stir up Jesus' zeal towards the demonic trinity (Satan, antichrist, false prophet) and the harlot Babylon.
 1. **Revelation 19:2** *"For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her."*
 - 3) Upon death for the believer, we don't receive the fullness of our consummation until our bodies are resurrected at we stand before Christ at the judgment seat. Until the physical resurrection of our bodies, we are in the presence of the Lord, in rest, but still awaiting the fullness of our salvation.
 - 4) We must reconcile a Savior who stands by, consenting to the death of His beloved ones. We need less fellowship with the God of western culture and more understanding of the God of the scriptures. Physical suffering, sacrifice, overcoming and martyrdom are realities we must gain revelation of in order to overcome in the days ahead.

F) **Revelation 6:12-17** *"I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops it's late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it's rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*

- 1) The sixth seal, which is a global, geophysical upheaval is a direct result of the prayers of the martyrs from the fifth seal. God is answering their prayers by deconstructing the antichrist's throne and the operating base of Babylon.
- 2) The specific signs listed in **Joel 2, Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, 1st & 2nd Thessalonians** give us confidence that when we see these things taking place we will know we are in that hour without any doubts.
- 3) The Day of the Lord is the great equalizer as it will put all of humanity on the same playing field before a Holy God.
 1. **The kings** (Presidents), **great men** (World leaders), **rich men** (Financial leaders), **commanders** (Military leaders) **mighty men** (Civil leaders), **slaves** (Lower class) and **free men** (Working class) will all be touched by Him who sits upon the throne.
- 4) This coming storm will leave nobody excluded, but on the contrary it will include everybody.
- 5) The Day of the Lord is always both and, not either or. It's called the great and terrible Day of the Lord because it holds both positives and negatives at the same time (**Song of Songs 4:16; Joel 2:11**). It's also not a 24 hour day, it's a season or a period of time.