

REVELATION

THE HOPE OF JESUS REVEALED

Part 8: The First 6 Seals

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God's holiness demands both worship and judgment.

Before we jump into Revelation 6:

1. Only Jesus is worthy to open the seven seals of this scroll.
2. The seven seals and scroll are like the earth's title deed.
3. The Four Horsemen are symbolic of sin.

Unleashed sin has a self-defeating nature.

The outcome of sin is always destruction.

The First Seal

I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest. – Revelation 6:1-2

The antichrist is a false representation of Jesus.

White Horse Rider (*possible antichrist*)

White horse
Bow, but not arrows (peace)
Victor's crown
Bent on conquest

Jesus Christ (*Revelation 19*)

White horse
Double-edged sword
Many kingly crowns
Reigns over all

Parallel in Matthew 24:4-5

"Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many."

Here's what matters: Know the actual Christ.

The Second Seal

When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword. – Revelation 6:3-4

The Third Seal

When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!" - Revelation 6:5-6

The Fourth Seal

When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth. - Revelation 6:7-8

The Fifth Seal

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed. - Revelation 6:9-10

Key Point: The followers of God are victorious.

The Sixth Seal

I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the 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 their wrath has come, and who can stand?" - Revelation 6:12-17

Application

Our hope is found because God is in control.

Quit sinning.

Jesus is calling you to live for him... right now!

Small Group Questions

- 1) Revelation 6 starts the more difficult section of Revelation. Read the entire chapter again. What stands out to you?
- 2) With the first four seals, God is allowing destruction to come on the earth. What's your gut reaction to that?
- 3) In the fifth seal, Christians who were killed for their faithfulness are crying out to be avenged. Read that passage again. Why do you think they are asking God to respond?
- 4) What do you think about the justice of God? How does this passage influence your thinking?
- 5) Does it comfort you that God is in control when all the end times are unleashed?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?