



I. The Introduction to Chapter 6

- We have been looking at the scene of heaven in the past two chapters.
 - Chapter 4 we saw **the throne** and the general setup in heaven
 - Chapter 5 we saw the **scroll** – the will of God for humanity and the future redemption of the world – along with **The Lamb** who is the only worthy party to open and carry out the works of the scrolls in the future.
- This worship in Chapter 4 and 5 are **preparations** for the judgements that will follow from chapter 6 – 19.
 - The heavenly scene depicting the holiness of God leads to the justice of God being manifested in judgements of sin.
- The horse imagery parallels Zechariah 1:7 – 17
- The calamities parallels Jesus' statements in Matt. 24

II. The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (1 – 8)

Verse 1

I watched (horao)
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!” (not to John but to the rider on the horse)

Verse 2

I looked, (horao)
and there before me was
a white horse.
Its rider

- 1) held a bow,
- 2) and he was given a crown, (stephanos)

The crown means he was given some dominion
and he rode out as a conqueror
bent on conquest.

This first horse represents war and military power.
The suffering begins with military conquest.
This is NOT Jesus – he rides the white horse in Rev. 19.



Verse 3

When the Lamb opened
the second seal,
I heard the second living creature
say “come!”

Verse 4

Then another horse came out,
a fiery red one. (pyrros = fire or flame)
Its rider was given power
to take peace (bringing terror and stealing peace)
from the earth
and to make men slay each other.

This horse represents fear, chaos, and terror. People respond by killing each other and self-protection.

To him was given a large sword.



Verse 5

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.

This horse represents famine, starvation, and oppression



Verse 6

Then I heard

what sounded like a voice
among the four living creatures,
saying,

“A quart of wheat for a day's wages,
three quarts of barley for a day's wages,
do not damage the oil and the wine!”

A days wages was usually one Denari

This cost is approximately twelve times normal rates!

When things get difficult the cost of living food rises!

The last sentence – points to the words of the rich – they oppress

Verse 7

When the Lamb opened
the fourth seal.

I heard the voice of the
fourth living creature
say “Come!”



Verse 8

I looked

and there before me
was a pale horse!

Its rider was named

Death

and Hades was following close behind him.

This horse represents the death of masses of people and hades their damnation following close behind.

They were given power
over a fourth of the earth to kill

- 1) by the sword
- 2) famine and
- 3) plague and
- 4) by wild beast of the earth

It appears from this statement that the restraint that the angels normally have was removed. What do we not even know that was held back by the angels of God?

III. The Fifth and Sixth Seal (9 – 17)

Verse 9

When he opened the fifth seal,
I saw

under the altar

Under is not a less position – it is the foundation position.

the souls of those who

had been slain

because of the word of God

and the testimony they maintained

The fifth seal represent the outcry on the earth of those who are saved as the wave of death comes across the land. The Martyrs to will cry out to God.

Verse 10

They called out in a loud voice,
“How long,

This is classic question of the faithful. Read Psalm 13

- 1) Sovereign Lord (despotes = absolute owner)
- 2) Holy and
- 3) True

until you judge (krino = to separate)
the inhabitants of the earth
and avenge our blood?”

Where is your justice God?

Verse 11

Then each of them

was given a white robe

and was told to wait (anapuaos = rest) a little longer

until the number

of their fellow servants

and brothers

who were to be killed

as they had been

is completed.

It appears that God knows the exact number of Martyrs that will die before the time is completed.

Verse 12

I watched as he opened the sixth seal.

- 1) There was a great earthquake
- 2) The sun turned black
like sackcloth made with goat hair
- 3) The moon turned blood red.



Verse 13

- 4) The stars in the sky fell to earth
as late figs drop from a fig tree
when shaken by a strong wind

Verse 14

- 5) The sky receded like a scroll rolling up
- 6) and every mountain and island moved from its place

Verse 15

Then the

- 1) kings of the earth
- 2) the princes,
- 3) the generals,
- 4) the rich
- 5) the mighty
- 6) and every slave
- 7) and every free man
hid in caves
and among rocks
of the mountains.

The Seven-fold
picture of all
humanity

Verse 16

They called to the mountains
and the rocks

“Fall on us
and hide us

- 1) from the face of him
who sits on the throne
- 2) and from the wrath of the Lamb!

The realization of who is doing this and the pride to refuse to submit to him! Christ calls all men to repentance!

Verse 17

For the

great day of their wrath has come,

and who can stand?

The end of the tribulation is the opening of the seventh seal. The horrors of the seven seals is almost complete.

This chapter gives us a general overview of the types of suffering that will come upon those in the Great Tribulation. Each seal ramps up the destruction and pain of this time. **Truly, who can stand?**

Prayer Concerns: