



## The Book of Revelation: Week 12

### Chapter 6:

### The Opening of the Seals

**Media & Notes at:**

[www.htchurch.com/revelation](http://www.htchurch.com/revelation)

**Video also available at:**

[www.htchurch.tv](http://www.htchurch.tv)

### Review

- In Chapters 4 and 5 we saw the Father exalted as the Creator, and the Son exalted as the Redeemer. Jesus is worthy to take and open the Scroll of God!
- The scroll is sealed with seven seals. As Jesus opens the seven seals of that scroll, the plan of God begins to unfold. God ultimately destroys all resistance to the holy and just government of Jesus Christ.
- In Chapter 6, Jesus begins to open the seals. Every time He opens one of the seals, we see the plan of God advancing as something is released on the earth.

### The Last Seven Years of This Age

- Nearly all of the action in Revelation takes place within a 7-year period that culminates with the actual and literal return of Jesus Christ to the earth.

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- How do we know that there will be such a time period, lasting for seven years?  
(See *Things To Come*, Session #4, for an in-depth discussion.)
  - Daniel was shown that a certain number of years were going to be appointed to Israel, and then the plan of salvation would be finished.
  - After 70 sets of seven years, then God’s plan would be completed.
  - Daniel 9 speaks of "seventy weeks." These are weeks of *years*.
  - Jesus was crucified after 69 of those weeks. There still remains one more 7-year time period left, which we call that the *70th Week of Daniel*.
- That time is often called the *Tribulation*. Jesus spoke about *great tribulation*, but the Great Tribulation only begins in the middle of those seven years.
- We see many references in Daniel and Revelation to the second half, which is the time of the Antichrist’s reign. In Revelation we see this period referenced as 1260 days, or 42 months. At the end of that time, Jesus will return!

## **The Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls**

Every time Jesus opens one of the seals, the plan of God is advanced. God may not directly judge through the seals, but He allows His plan to be advanced as Mankind and the Devil commit evil. Many believe the seals are opened at the start of the final seven years. We will see, in consecutive order, that there are 7 seals, 7 trumpets, and 7 bowls.

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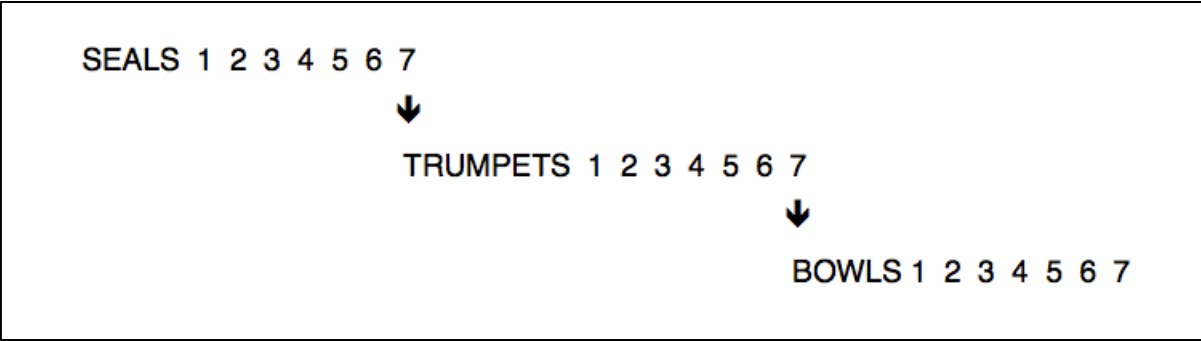
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- The seals are mostly God allowing evil in His permissive Will. The Bible says: *Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee... (Psalms 76:10a KJV)* The seals are t  
cataclysmic. Once they open, things will shift dramatically.
- Jesus said it will be the beginning of sorrows.
- The seals are opened in order, but in God’s mercy, Seal # 7 is not an event per  
se; it is actually a container which contains the Seven Trumpets. The trumpets  
are powerful judgments which also, as the name implies, serve as a warning.
- Similarly, the Seventh Trumpet is not so much of an event in and of itself, but it is  
another container. When the seventh trumpet is sounded, seven angels will then  
come forth and pour out seven bowls which contain the wrath of God.
- The bowls do represent the fullness of God’s *eschatological wrath*. The Earth has  
only seen such an outpouring of wrath once before, at Noah’s Flood.

*10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will  
pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the  
earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. (See 2 Peter 3:10-12 NKJV)*

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## Justice And Waiting

- All these judgments will be God's just reward on a world that has turned away from Him completely and rebelled against everything that is good. Men will one day regret being so flip about the judgments of God poured out. Many will curse God rather than repent. They are already cursing Him now!
- God's purpose is not vindictive; it is, as always, loving and redemptive. He is eliminate everything that exalts itself against Him and His Messiah.

## The Four Horsemen

- The first four seals are different from the others. They represent the unleashing of man's wickedness. Each of the first four is represented by a horse and a rider. Each horse is a different color, representing something particular, and it has a rider. The rider is the person or thing which is being released in the Earth.

## Revelation 6

**1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." 2 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.**

- The first thing to notice is that the timing of all these events is in the control of Jesus, the Lamb. In each of these first four seals, it is one of the *zoa* (living creatures) who tells John to come and see what is happening.

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- John is summoned to look and as he does, he see the first horse. It is a white horse, and there is a man seated on it. This represents the coming of the Antichrist, and his being made known to the world.
- First, he has a bow. Perhaps he deceives people through diplomacy.
- Then, a crown is given to him. The crown is the *stephanos* crown.
- Jesus rides a white horse in Rev. 9, but here Antichrist is seeking to replace Him!

**3 When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come and see.” 4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.**

- Red is a color of alarm, and bloodshed and war. And we are told very plainly that this rider takes peace from the Earth.

**5 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. 6 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.”**

- There massive famines. The denarius was about a day’s wages, so this is saying is that it will take an entire day’s pay just to have bread.

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**7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come and see.” 8 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.**

- This horse is actually green (*chloros*). The end result of this seal and all four seals is the death of a fourth of the world.

**9 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 for the testimony which they held. 10 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?” 11 Then a white robe was given to each of 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.**

- This may show us the Great Tribulation. Halfway through the seven years, Antichrist will become fully empowered by Satan and he will in a great rage.
- These have confessed Jesus Christ, instead of Antichrist. They want to see God’s perfect Kingdom of justice come onto the Earth.

**12 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. 13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. 14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.**

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Isaiah 24:18b-23 seems indicate a change in the Earth or our position in the heavens:  
*18b ...the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth are shaken.  
19 The earth is violently broken, the earth is split open, the earth is shaken exceedingly.  
20 The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall totter like a hut; its  
transgression shall be heavy upon it, and it will fall, and not rise again. 21 It shall come  
to pass in that day that the LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones, and on  
the earth the kings of the earth. 22 They will be gathered together, as prisoners are  
gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison; after many days they will be  
punished. 23 Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the LORD of  
hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously.*

**15 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, 16 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! 17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”**

- Notice that the people actually know what is happening and who is causing it.
- These cosmic signs show that the wrath of God is about to be poured out.

## **The Day of the Lord**

*17 And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. 18 And the idols he shall utterly abolish. 19 And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. (Isaiah 2:17-19 KJV)*

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- Isaiah, Ezekiel, Joel, Amos, and Zephaniah all talk about these signs and about darkness. Jesus mentioned the same thing in Matthew 24. It will completely focus people's attention on the coming wrath of God!

### **Correspondence Between the Seals and Matthew 24?**

Matthew 24:5	False Christs	Seal 1	White Horse; conqueror
Matthew 24:6	Wars and rumors	Seal 2	Red horse; war
Matthew 24:7	Famines	Seal 3	Black horse; famine
Matthew 24:7	Pestilence	Seal 4	Green horse; death
Matthew 24:9	Persecution	Seal 5	Martyrdom
Matthew 24:29	Cosmic signs	Seal 6	Cosmic signs

***Question: How Do We Respond To This Word?***

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