

COMMENTARY

Revelation Chapter 6:

[This chapter begins to mark the place where there is a lot of varying opinions. These disagreements come when people try to pinpoint what each of the symbols represents. If you will look at the Old Testament prophecies of this type, the people were not told what the symbols represented; but only understood after the fact when God revealed it to them. That being the case, that will be the way we will view the remainder of Revelation. These events will transpire, how, where and when, we do not know, but they will take place and we need to learn the lesson that God is trying to tell us here.]

The scroll that had been given to the Lamb was sealed with seven seals. As each seal is broken, an event transpires and this chapter begins these events. When these events transpire is debateable (God has not said) but there is a point that God is making. Let us now look at each of the 6 seals mentioned in this chapter.

The first seal is opened and a rider on a white horse appears. This rider has a bow and a crown and will set out to conquer. We are not told who the rider is supposed to be. All of the plagues cause distress for mankind, so this would seem to say that the one going forth to conquer is going to result in the loss of human lives as the riders pursues his course. NOTHING CAN PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING. God has already determined it to be, and it will be!

The second seal is opened and another horse comes out with a rider upon it. The horse is red in color and the rider is given power to take peace from the earth. This obviously means that there will be wars and that lives will be lost. This is part of God's purpose and there is no politician or invention that can prevent it.

The third seal brings forth a 3rd horse and rider. This horse is black in color and its rider holds a pair of scales which would be used to measure. We find that the result of this seal is that food will be in short supply and people will not be able to buy the food that they need. THIS IS PART OF GOD'S PLAN AND NOTHING CAN PREVENT IT!!

The fourth seal brings forth a pale horse and its rider was named Death and Hades was following close behind. Death and Hades are given power over a 1/4 of the world to kill. Death will come by sword, famine, plague and by the wild beasts of the earth. NOTHING CAN PREVENT DEATH FROM COMING! PEOPLE ARE GOING TO DIE BY WAR, STARVATION, DISASTERS, AND THROUGH ANIMALS. THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN STOP THIS FROM TAKING PLACE!

The fifth seal does not reveal a horse and rider. It reveals souls who had been martyred because of their faith in Jesus Christ and our heavenly Father. These ask, "How long will you wait before you punish those who persecuted us?" The reply comes that they are to wait for there are more that have yet to die for their faith. In the meantime, these are given a white robe to wear. NOTHING CAN PREVENT PERSECUTION AND CHRISTIANS LOSING THEIR LIVES BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH. THIS IS PART OF WHAT MUST TAKE PLACE.

The sixth seal brings signs in the heavens showing a terrible disaster. Men will try to hide in that day because they realize that the wrath of God is coming and that there is nothing that they can do about it. THESE SIGNS ARE SURE AND WILL TAKE PLACE.

The message is clear that God is going to destroy the earth and punish man. Man has no power to prevent this from happening. We as Christians need to realize that when these things are happening; GOD IS IN CONTROL!

STUDY GUIDE

Revelation Chapter 7:

The beginning of chapter 7 shows that there are angels who have been given authority to harm the land and the sea. Before they do, however, God's people are sealed by the angels. How they are marked is anyone's guess, but the fact remains that God's people will be designated and known to God.

144,000 are numbered from all the tribes of Israel. There is speculation on whether this is an exact number or given to show the vastness. These are from the tribes of Israel. Of these Israelite tribes mentioned, Dan & Ephraim have been left out whereas Joseph was included.

John then sees a multitude of people before the throne and in front of the Lamb. This multitude is so numerous that nobody can count them. They come from all nations, tribes, peoples and languages. They represent Christians and clearly show that there are believers from all parts of the world and that eternal life is not just for one group of people. This also shows that the suggestion by some that only 144,000 will be saved, is anti-scriptural! One could count that many people, but God says here, through John, that the multitude is numberless!

The multitude praises God and Jesus Christ (the Lamb). They are joined in praise as the angels around the throne and the elders and 4 living creatures bow down and worship and praise God also.

Those of the multitude are dressed in white and are carrying palm branches. These are ones who have endured the tribulation (persecution) and have accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. They are now going to serve God; they will never hunger, thirst, be hot and God will protect them, lead them, and wipe away all tears from their eyes.

The message of hope in this chapter follows the message of destruction and punishment in the previous chapter. HOW MUCH BETTER OFF WILL CHRISTIANS BE AS WE WILL KNOW GOD IS IN CHARGE AND THAT THE BAD TIMES WILL COME TO AN END AND WE SHALL BE REWARDED FOR OUR FAITHFULNESS!!

STUDY GUIDE

Revelation Chapter 6:

1. What happened when the first seal was broken?
2. What happened when the second seal was opened?
3. What happened when the third seal was opened?
4. What happened when the fourth seal was opened?
5. What did John see under the altar after the fifth seal was opened?
6. What was given to these individuals?
7. What were these individuals told to wait for?
8. What happened to the heavens and the earth when the sixth seal was opened?
9. What was the response of mankind at the opening of the sixth seal?
10. What statement and question did mankind call out?

ONUS:

1. What are the reasons that mankind dies according to the first 5 seals?
2. Do you think that these events have already begun or do you think they are in the future yet? Explain.
3. Explain how you feel about the fifth seal.
4. Do you think seal six is in reference to the end of the world? Explain.

STUDY GUIDE

Revelation Chapter 7:

1. What were the four angels doing that John saw?
2. What did the angel from the east say to them?
3. How many were sealed from the tribes of Israel?
4. After those were sealed, what did John see standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb?
5. What were these wearing and what were they saying?
6. What was the response of the angels, elders and 4 living creatures?
7. What did these 3 groups say?
8. Where did those in white robes come from?
9. What will the ones in white do?
10. What will God and the Lamb do for them?
11. What will the ones in white never face again?

BONUS:

1. Are the 144,000 the only ones who will be saved, in your opinion? Explain.
2. Who do you think the multitude is in verse 9?
3. What do the promises of verses 15-17 mean to you?