

The Lamb Breaks Six Seals

Study 6. Revelation 6¹

A. The First Seal. 6:1-2

1. Who broke the first seal?
2. Whom did John hear speak with a thunderous voice?
3. What did he say?
4. What did John see? A rider on a _____ horse.
5. What weapon did he carry?
6. What was given to him? A _____.
7. What does it imply?
8. What did he set out to do?
9. Who, most likely, does the rider on the white horse symbolize?
10. How will he conquer? (Is it of any significance that no arrows are mentioned?)²

¹ Revelation 6 most likely begins the time predicted as “The Seventieth Week” in Daniel 9:27, a time period of seven years. This period will begin with a seven-year peace treaty brokered by a man of rising acclaim, notoriety, and political savvy who bursts upon the scene of world politics. This peace treaty will guarantee Israel security and international legitimacy. It will apparently permit the Jewish people to build their own temple. At the same time, it will presumably mollify in the short term the so-called Palestinian and pan-Arab interests in the Middle East. This treaty seems to usher in an era of world peace. In my view the broker of the treaty is the rider on the white horse (Rev. 6:1-2). With the breaking of the second seal (and the world ruler’s breaking of his treaty with Israel at the mid-point of the treaty – Dan. 9:27), peace flees from the earth. There is a remarkable similarity between Rev. 6:3-4 and Matt. 24:6-7 (war); Rev. 6:5-6 and Matt. 24:7 (famine); Rev. 6:7-8 and Matt. 24:7-9 (death); Rev. 6:9-11 and Matt. 24:9-10; 16-22 (martyrdom); Rev. 6:12-14 and Matt. 24:29 (terrifying celestial disturbances); and between Rev. 6:15-17 and Matt. 24:32 – 25:26 (Divine judgment). (See J. Dwight Pentecost, *Things to Come*, pp. 280-82). This seven-year period is also known popularly as the “Tribulation.” For further information on the Tribulation, see <http://www.wordexplain.com/glossaryt.html#Tribulation>

² The rider on the white horse probably represents a future world ruler who will rise to power through publicity “hype” and diplomatic persuasion with the veiled threat of military means, but without needing to resort to such in the beginning. He probably represents the future False Messiah, spoken of as the “little horn” arising out of the fourth beast in Dan. 7:7-8; in Dan. 9:26-27 as “the prince who is to come”; as, simply, “the king” in Dan. 11:36-45; in 2 Thess. 2:3 as “the man of lawlessness”; in 2 Thess. 2:8 as “that lawless one”; in 1 John 2:18 as “that antichrist”; in Rev. 13:1-10 as “the beast coming up out of the sea”; and in Rev. 19:19-20; Rev. 20:10 as, simply, “the beast.”

B. The Second Seal. 6:3-4

1. Who broke the second seal?
2. Who spoke?
3. What did he say?
4. What did John see? A rider on a _____ horse.
5. What was granted to him to take away from the earth?
6. What would result from that? Men would _____ one another.
7. What was given to this rider?
8. What is the most likely meaning of the breaking of the second seal?

C. The Third Seal. 6:5-6

1. Who broke the third seal?
2. Who spoke?
3. What did he say?
4. What did John see? A rider on a _____ horse.
5. What was the rider holding?
6. John heard a voice. What was the location of the voice he heard?
7. The voice made a pronouncement about four commodities. What did he say?
 - a. "A quart of _____ for a _____." ³
 - b. "Three quarts of _____ for a _____." ⁴
 - c. "Do not damage the _____" ⁵
 - d. "and the _____."

³ A denarius amounted to a day's wage. Apparently the time will come when an entire day's wage will be consumed in buying enough wheat for one person for one day.

⁴ Barley instead of wheat was given to Roman soldiers as a punishment. (Adam Clarke, *Commentary on the New Testament*)

⁵ Oil and wine: The sense seems to be that the people of that day will be well-advised to use these last two commodities sparingly because of their scarcity due to famine conditions.

8. What seems to be the most likely result of the breaking of the third seal?

D. The Fourth Seal. 6:7-8

1. Who broke the fourth seal?
2. Who issued the invitation for John to come?
3. What did John see? A rider on a(n) _____ horse.
4. What was the name of the rider?
5. Who was following with him?
6. Authority was given them (presumably by God) to kill what fraction of the earth's population? _____ (If this were to take place today, how many people would lose their lives? At present there are nearly 7 billion people on earth.)
7. By what means would Death and Hades kill people?
 - a. By _____
 - b. By _____
 - c. By _____
 - d. By _____
8. What seems to be the most likely result of the breaking of the fourth seal?

E. The Fifth Seal. 6:9-11

1. Who broke the fifth seal? 6:9
2. What did John see underneath the altar? ⁶ The souls of those who had been _____.⁷

⁶ This altar would most likely be the altar up in the temple in heaven. (Remember that John had been transported up to heaven in the Spirit – Rev. 4:1-2.)

⁷ 6:9 – slain: There will evidently be a great number of people who change their mind about Jesus and start believing in Him during the Tribulation period. But evidently a huge percentage of them will be put to death for failing to cooperate with the world government and worship the False Messiah (Rev. 13:4, 8, 15).

3. Why had they been killed?
 - a. Because of _____
 - b. Because of _____
4. These people were evidently in great psychological anguish. Why?
6:10
5. What was given to them? 6:11
6. They were told they should _____ for a little while longer.
7. On what were they forced to wait?
8. If you were to give a one-word description of this seal, what would it be? _____

F. The Sixth Seal. 6:12-17

1. Who broke the sixth seal?
2. Some terrifying events took place in nature. What happened?
 - a. There was a great _____. 6:12
 - b. What happened to the sun?
 - c. What happened to the moon?
 - d. What happened to the stars? 6:13
 - e. What happened to the sky? 6:14
 - f. What happened to every mountain and island?
3. If you used one word to describe peoples' reactions to these events on the earth and out in the cosmos, what would it be?
4. A number of groups of people reacted hysterically to these events. Who were they? 6:15
 - a. The _____ of the earth
 - b. The _____ men
 - c. The military _____

- d. The _____
 - e. The _____
 - f. Every _____
 - g. Every _____ man
5. What did they all do? They _____ themselves in the _____ and among the _____ of the _____.
 6. What did they say to the rocks and mountains? “_____ on us and _____ us from the _____ of Him who sits on the _____, and from the _____ of the _____; 6:16
 7. “for the great _____ of their _____ has come, and who is able to _____?” 6:17

G. Reflection.

1. One day, every one of these stunning events will break forth upon our world and universe. What is your own personal reaction to the events of this chapter?
2. We have witnessed, in the last several years, some catastrophic events in our world and in our nation. I am thinking of Hurricane Katrina that hit New Orleans, and the tsunami that hit the northeastern coast of Japan. How do you think the events of chapter six will compare with those two catastrophes?
3. There are some people who think of God only as a God of love. How will these events change their mind?
4. The people of the world will come face to face with the fierce wrath of God and the Lamb. They won't even think of attributing it to a series of chance occurrences. Why will God and Jesus be so angry?
5. What do you think will be the overwhelming response of people on earth toward God and Jesus at this time?
6. What is your own personal response to God and Jesus right now?

Study 6. The Lamb Breaks Six Seals
Revelation 6:1-17

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

Published Online September, 2011 by WordExplain.com

Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

Bible quotations and Bible Study questions are based upon the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation. (www.Lockman.org)