

Revelation chap. 6

Seals opened

1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. 2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. 3 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. 4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword. 5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine. 7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. 8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth. 9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were 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, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. 12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens 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 that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

In the previous chapter we identified the sealed book as the book of Daniel and the scene in heaven as a future point in time when the grand unsealing takes place. We know from our studies in Daniel that the book is not unsealed until the time of the end which takes place during the reign of the 4th dreadful beast or the iron kingdom and the ten horns. It is important to note that the seals are not time specific because the sixth seal pertains to the 2nd coming and we know that all the seals will be opened prior to that time. So when each seal is opened we are given a glimpse into the book of Daniel that was previously not understood before. Many bible students focus exclusively on the seals and ignore the book itself. For example, if the sealed book is the book of life then the seals should have something to say about the book of life. As we will discover the seals have little if anything to say about the book of life and much to say about Daniel so our identification does have credibility in this regard.

And the Lamb opened one of the seals and there was a noise of thunder and I saw a white horse and he that sat on him had a bow and a crown and he went forth conquering and to conquer. The first four seals all have riders on horseback which go forth to conquer and destroy the earth. In the book of Daniel we also have four metals and four beasts and now here we have four horsemen. These seals are the truest representation yet of these four kings which we previously learned were fallen angels with Satan as the head of gold and the lion and his subordinate angels as the other three. When Joseph interpreted the dream of Pharaoh he said that because it was doubled or repeated the thing was established by God and would shortly come to pass (Gen. 41:32). Here we have a prophecy that is tripled with Satan as the head of gold and the lion and the white horseman and the iron kingdom, the 4th dreadful beast and the pale rider named Death as the same entity as well. Three is a number of completeness in the bible and as we will discover later some of the time prophecies are tripled as well.

Satan the false Christ will come and deceive the whole world into believing he is in fact Christ. Jesus is pictured as riding a white horse in Rev. chapter 19 so Satan will do the same for he ever lives to counterfeit the works of Christ. He is said to have a bow and a crown but this bow is not a weapon. The greek word for bow here is 'toxon' which was a strip of cloth about the head which when combined with the crown gives us the idea that this rider will conquer not by force but by fear and sheer awe of his presence. Also the greek work used for conquer is the same used by Jesus for the overcomers so this rider will be the strong delusion that God has promised for those who hate truth and have pleasure in unrighteousness (2Thess. 2:11,12). The next rider comes on a red horse and he is given power to take peace from the earth and that they should kill one another and he is given a great sword. The red horseman would correspond with the silver king and the bear that had three ribs in its mouth. This fallen angel

will come after Satan and will plunge the world and its inhabitants into war and bloodshed. He will cause nation to rise against nation and we know from the words of Jesus that this will be the beginning of sorrows.

And when he opened the third seal I beheld a black horse and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice from the four beasts say: A measure of wheat for a penny and three measures of barley for a penny and hurt not the oil and the wine. This rider or the bronze angel or the leopard with four wings and four heads will bring famine and starvation to the people of earth. A measure or quart of wheat for a penny in John's day would have been slave wages. This is the natural progression after Satan comes to conquer and global war breaks out - the strong and mighty will take from the weak and poor. The oil and wine are said to be left alone which in ancient times were often reserved for the rich so the idea once again is that the wealthy inhabitants will not suffer as much as the poor. This is the same progression that we see in the Olivet discourse with those that come in the name of Christ and deceive many followed by wars and rumors of wars and nation rising against nation followed by famines and pestilences and death.

And when he opened the fourth seal I beheld a pale horse and his name was Death and Hell or the grave followed with him. And he was given power over the fourth part of the earth to kill with sword and hunger and death and with the beasts of the earth. This angel is the worst of Satan's army with his name simply as Death. After the deception and wars and famines sweep the earth there will be little resistance left and this rider will sweep thru like a plague. He will kill with all the weapons of the previous riders with the added element of the beasts of the earth or wild animals. This will be a terrible time in earth's history with angels, men and ferocious animals all seeking our demise. It is also interesting to note that each rider is introduced by one of the four beasts around the throne which brings in the idea that these riders are beasts themselves just like the four beasts of Daniel chapter 7. And when he opened the fifth seal I saw under the altar the souls of those that were slain for the word of God and the testimony which they held. Many of God's people will be killed during this time of the fourth beast and ten horns. Jesus said they will deliver you up to be afflicted and will kill you and you will be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations and then shall the end come with the abomination of desolation and seven last plagues.

I beheld when he opened the sixth seal there was a great earthquake and the sun became black as sackcloth and the moon appeared as blood. And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth and the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth and the great men and the

rich men and the chief captains and the mighty men and every bondmen and every free man hid themselves in the dens and the rocks of the mountains. And said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us and hide us from the face of him that sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the great day of his wrath is come and who shall be able to stand? The sixth seal is without doubt the second coming so we see that all the seals together span the entire end-time period. The seventh seal is not mentioned until chapter 8 so we will save that one for later. The unsealing of Daniel is a grand and momentous occasion and should fill all of God's children with joy and gladness because the day of the Lord is fast approaching and nigh at hand, even at the doors.