

THE THIRD SEAL (6:5-6).

6:5-6. With the opening of the **third seal** a **black horse** was revealed with a **rider** carrying a **pair of scales in his hand**. At the same time a **voice** was heard from **among the four living creatures saying, A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!** "A day's wages" refers to a silver coin, the Roman denarius, worth about 15 cents, which was the normal wage for a worker for an entire day. So this passage is saying that in that food shortage an entire day's work would be required to buy either a quart of wheat or three quarts of barley. If one bought wheat, it would be enough for one good meal; if he bought barley, it would be enough for three good meals but nothing would be left for buying oil or wine. Famine is the inevitable aftermath of war. This will be a major cause of death in the Great Tribulation. The black color of the horse speaks of famine and death.

THE FOURTH SEAL (6:7-8).

6:7-8. A **pale horse** was introduced when the **fourth seal** was **opened**. "Pale" is literally a pale green (cf. the same word used of vegetation in Mark 6:39; Rev. 8:7; 9:4). John stated that the rider's name was **Death** and that **hades was following close behind him**. Here is the aftermath of war, famine, and death. With war and famine people fall prey to a plague and the wild beasts of the earth. The startling fact is revealed that **a fourth of the earth**, or approximately a billion people by today's population figures, will be killed by these means. It should be obvious that this is not a trivial judgment but a major factor in the Great Tribulation, thus supporting the conclusion that the Great Tribulation has begun. The first four seals may be considered as a unit and a general description of the Great Tribulation as an unprecedented time of trouble (cf. Jer. 30:7; Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21-22).

THE FIFTH SEAL (6:9-11).

6:9. With the opening of the **fifth seal** John had another revelation of heaven itself and his attention was directed to **souls** pictured as **under the altar** and identified as those **who had been slain because of the Word of God and the testimony they had maintained**. (For "under the altar," see Ex. 29:12; Lev. 4:7.) These are obviously martyrs, mentioned in more detail in Revelation 7. This makes it clear that souls will be saved in the Great Tribulation, but many of them will be martyred.

6:10-11. They will cry out to the **Lord**, asking **how long** it will be before He will **avenge** them. In reply **each is given a white robe** and informed that the Tribulation is not over and that others must be martyred before God's judgment on the wicked and deliverance of the righteous occurs at the Second Coming. This passage shows that the time period is the Great Tribulation, but not its end.

Spirits without any substance could not wear robes. The fact that they will be given robes supports the concept that when believers die they are given temporary bodies in heaven which are later replaced by resurrection bodies at the time of resurrection (cf. 20:4).

THE SIXTH SEAL (6:12-17).

6:12-14. As the **sixth seal** opened, John recorded that a **great earthquake** occurred. More dramatic than the earthquake was the transformation of the heavens with the **sun turning black**, the **moon turning blood red**, and **stars falling like late figs from a fig tree**. The heavens appeared **like a scroll** being rolled up. At the same time, due to the earthquake, all the mountains and islands were moved from their places. Here again in the sequence of events, the end had not been reached as there was still another seal. But this was the most dramatic judgment thus far in this time of great distress before the Second Coming.

Many expositors have attempted to see a figurative fulfillment to this prophecy. It is preferable, however, to take this prediction literally. The trumpet and bowl judgments, to be revealed later in Revelation, also include great disturbances in the heavens and on the earth before Christ's second coming.

6:15-17. The practical effect of the judgment was fear in unbelievers from all walks of life. They called on the **mountains and the rocks to fall on them** and to **hide** them from God's **wrath**. Their fear was so great they would rather be killed by a falling mountain than to face the wrath of the **Lamb** and **Their wrath**, referring to the anger of the Triune God. Again this is not a picture of ordinary trouble but the period of greatest distress in world history.

Taken as a whole, chapter 6 is one of the most important and pivotal chapters in the entire book. It describes the first six seals and also introduces the seventh seal which consists of and introduces the seven trumpets and the seven bowls of the wrath of God in chapters 8-9; 16.

The contents of chapter 6 should put to rest the false teachings that God, being a God of love, could not judge a wicked world. It also raises the important question contained in the closing words of verse 17: **Who can stand?** Only those who have availed themselves of the grace of God before the time of judgment will be able to stand when God deals with the earth in this final period of great distress. Those who will be saved in the Great Tribulation are described in the next chapter.

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Pastor David King

Part 2-The Lamb that is Worthy Revelation 5



*But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the **Lion** of the tribe of Judah, the **Root of David**, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a **Lamb** as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.*
Revelation 5:5-7

✚ **The Lamb Alone is Worthy to _____
the fallen of humanity (9-10) _____**

✚ **The Lamb Alone is Worthy to _____
the Throne of David (12, cf. 5-7) _____**

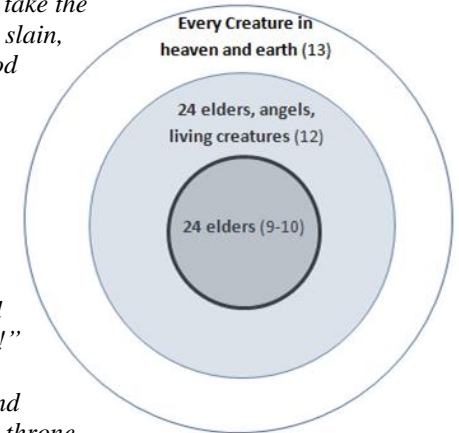
✚ **The Lamb Alone is worthy to _____
the worship of all creation (13) _____**

An Abounding, Crescendo of Praises to the Lamb

Twenty-four elders... "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

Elders, angels, living creatures...
"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

Every Creature... "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"



Preparation for Next Sunday's Message
Part 3-The Seals of Death and Destruction-Revelation 6

Revelation 6 shifts the attention from the glories of heaven and its throne room to the earth that is coming under God's wrath. This time of God's wrath is known as the tribulation period or Daniel's 70th week (Daniel 9:20-27). This week I am going to encourage you to take time to read through Revelation 6 multiple times and to find some other sources to study out this passage more fully.

Monday

Read Revelation 6 and write down 5 observations from the text that you would like to study further:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

Tuesday

Read Daniel 9:20-27.

This passage lays out the prophetic timeline known as Daniel's 70 weeks. Each week of Daniel is a 7 year period and the first 69 weeks of this prophesy were completed at the triumphal entry of Jesus. We now live in a time between the 69th and 70th week of Daniel that is often referred to as the church age or the dispensation of grace. Daniel's 70th week is the 7 year period known as the tribulation period. This period is inaugurated in Daniel 9:27 with the anti-Christ's covenant with Israel. It is the understanding of your pastor and our church's official position that the church is raptured prior to Daniel's 70th week, the tribulation period, and as such we will not have to endure the day of God's wrath that is unfolded in Revelation 6 and following. This position is known as the Pre-tribulational rapture view.

Take time today to praise God for his deliverance from the day of wrath and begin **praying for unsaved** friends and loved ones that need to be delivered from this impending wrath!

Wednesday

Read Revelation 6 and begin trying to find answers your questions from Monday

Go to www.blueletterbible.com or some other good commentary that you may own (I recommend Walvoord and Zuck's Bible Knowledge Commentary). Dr. David Jeremiah also has some great messages on the topic of Revelation that you might want to read. I will also try to post some good sources online for you to check out. Go to www.fellowshipjasper.com and click on the Sermons link and The Apocalypse.

Write your findings below:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

Thursday

There are some who believe that the events prophesied in Revelation 6 have already occurred in the past during the first century of Christianity. This view is known as preterism. **Read Revelation 6** again and **write down observations** from the text that would cause a person to reject this view.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Friday

Read Revelation 6:9-17 and answer the following question:

How can a loving God allow his children to suffer (9-11) and how can a loving God bring his wrath upon the earth (12-17)?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Commentary on Revelation 6
Bible Knowledge Commentary by Walvoord and Zuck

6:1-2. As John **watched** the events after the opening of **the first . . . seal by the Lamb**, he saw a **white horse** with a **rider** holding a **bow**, wearing a victor's **crown** (*stephanos*), and going forth to conquer. Because Christ in His second coming is pictured (19:11) as riding on a white horse, some have taken it that this rider in 6:2 also must refer to Christ, as the white horse is a symbol of victory. Roman generals after a victory in battle would ride a white horse in triumph with their captives following. The chronology, however, is wrong, as Christ returns to the earth **as a conqueror** not at the beginning of the Tribulation but at the end of the Tribulation. Also the riders on the other horses obviously relate to destruction and judgment which precede the second coming of Christ by some period of time.

A better interpretation is that the conqueror mentioned here is the future world ruler, sometimes referred to as Antichrist though Revelation does not use this term. He is probably the same person as the ruler of the people mentioned in Daniel 9:26. This ruler has a bow without an arrow, indicating that the world government which he establishes is accomplished without warfare (see comments on Rev. 13:4). The future world government begins with a time of peace but is soon followed by destruction (1 Thes. 5:3). In general, the seals, trumpets, and bowls of divine wrath signal the terrible judgments of God on the world at the end of the Age, climaxing in the second coming of Christ.

THE SECOND SEAL (6:3-4).

6:3-4. With the breaking of **the second seal** a **red** horse appeared with a **rider** empowered to **take peace from the earth** (cf. "the red dragon," 12:3; the "scarlet beast," 17:3). In contrast with the first rider who has a bow without an arrow this second rider carried a **large sword**. This again was a picture of political power with the rider as the world ruler.