

Revelation— Four Seals are Opened!

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This study: **Revelation 6:1-8**

Matthew 24:3 *What shall be the sign of thy coming?*
2 Thessalonians 2:3 *Let no one deceive you*
John 10:10 *The thief comes to steal & kill & destroy*
Romans 13:11 *time to awake; our salvation is near*
Romans 13:12 *cast off the works of darkness*

The four horses are symbols of events to come—and the sound of their hoofs grows louder every day.

Considering the condition of the world—the spiritual darkness; rampant crime in cities; nations attacking each other, and other such signs, we know that Jesus' return is near.

The computer age and the Internet enables us to obtain information globally; we read of militant Islam causing terrorism anywhere; wars have been fought—along with many other conflicts on-going.

There has been the violent overthrow of governments in Middle East countries; Israel is more hated today than ever; Russia is ready to join Syria and Iran if conflict comes—it is all happening as Scripture predicted thousands of years ago.

Revelation reveals the future and coming judgments—*seven seals; seven trumpets; and seven bowls*. The first four seal judgments are the four horsemen of the apocalypse.

In chapter 5 we saw a seven-sealed scroll in the right hand of God. An elder tells John **AV Revelation 5:5** “Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.”

Jesus begins to break the seals. **AV Revelation 6:1** “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.”

The Tribulation lasts seven years and begins with the Lamb opening the seals. This first rider on a white horse is the Antichrist and contrasts a second Rider on a white horse who is Jesus.

AV Revelation 19:11 “I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.”

The rider on the first white horse then is no doubt the Antichrist—masquerading *as* the Messiah—even wearing a crown, but Jesus is wearing “*many crowns*.”

Revelation 6 gives us a wide-angle view of what will be happening on earth. On the Mount of Olives

AV Matthew 24:3, the disciples had asked Jesus: “When shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”

Jesus replies **AV Matthew 24:4**, “Take heed that no man deceive you. **5** For many shall come in my name.” The Antichrist emerges on the scene—*anti* means *against* but can also mean *instead of* or a *substitute*.

The Antichrist is *against* Christ and is a *substitute for* Christ. The Antichrist has a bow but no arrows; Jesus **Revelation 19:15** has a “*sharp sword*.”

Antichrist *starts* war—Jesus returns to *end*

war; Antichrist *starts* the Great Tribulation—Jesus *ends* the Great Tribulation.

The Antichrist is called the *man of sin; son of perdition; a little horn; the wicked one; John 12:31* “*prince of this world;*” who *makes desolate; and the beast*. The Antichrist is predicted to be charismatic and have a charming personality.

The Antichrist will rise to world power at an economically difficult time. He will accomplish what no president, prime minister, king, or world leader has ever done—bring global economic stability and worldwide peace.

It is what everyone wants—serious solutions to serious global issues facing the world.

The Antichrist will bring peace but draws his power from the devil. **AV Revelation 13:2** “*The dragon gave [the Antichrist] his power, and his seat, and great authority.*”

The *peace* that he brings is a deception and only temporary. It is *through* peace that he deceives—and then he reveals his intentions—being a master of deception.

Bringing peace to the Middle East is something no one has been able to do. He will end global terrorism by brokering a deal with Muslim nations and the state of Israel. He will gain the confidence of the Jewish people by rebuilding their 3rd Temple.

Presently, there is no Jewish Temple as during Jesus' ministry. What is there now is the Dome of the Rock—the holy site of Islamic people.

Scripture indicates that a third Jewish Temple will be rebuilt, however.

The original Temple built by King Solomon was destroyed by Babylon. The second Temple was rebuilt in the time of Ezra—which was later expanded and renovated by King Herod. That Temple was destroyed later by Titus and the Romans in AD 70—and has *not* been rebuilt since.

The character of the Antichrist is revealed—**NKJV Matthew 24:15** “*Therefore when you see the*

'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."

This takes place after the Antichrist rebuilds the Jewish temple.

NKJV 2 Thessalonians 2:3 *"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition;*

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."

Dictators usually take control of governments by acts of kindness and the promise of peace and safety—but after achieving what they want, they reveal their true character.

AV Revelation 6:3 *"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."

Satan is behind all wars and conflict—NIV John 10:10 *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy,"* but Jesus brings *peace* to the earth—while the Antichrist causes peace to be taken from the earth.

A *great sword* is given to the rider of the red horse—the kind used by the Roman military.

The Romans had a formidable army that marched into battle with large shields and long spears. They marched in unison and during any assault they gathered close, so the shields formed a wall.

With *close* combat they used a *short* sword—the kind the rider of the red horse carried.

The Antichrist will show one face to the world and then suddenly show himself to be something else—he *seems* like a friend, but then uses the sword to kill and destroy.

The Tribulation will bring natural disasters—earthquakes, tsunamis, wildfires, and volcanic eruptions; it is a time when military conflicts will be worse than any conflicts seen during two world wars.

It is likely that nuclear arsenals of many nations will be used. World War II alone resulted in approximately two hundred thousand losing their lives when nuclear bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Seven decades have gone by, and now one nuclear submarine has enough explosive power to equal 40 times what was used during World War II.

Estimates are that the world today has twenty-three thousand nuclear weapons. Our focus and our interest must be allowing God to *prepare* us to meet Jesus and to *escape* all that is coming on the world.

The red horse of *war* and *conflict* is followed by the black horse of *famine* and *scarcity*.

AV Revelation 6:5 *"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."

AV Revelation 6:7 *"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."

First a **white** horse brings a false peace, but really bringing conflict; followed by a **red** horse causing war and battles; then followed by a **black** horse representing famine and plagues; with a fourth **pale** horse resulting in death and Hell.

All these troubles must run their course before God establishes His kingdom of righteousness; but even so, with all the Tribulation sorrows and sufferings, God extends opportunity after opportunity for people to turn from their sins, to repent, believe, and to trust Him in faith for the salvation of their soul.

This bleak scenario of Revelation just demonstrates the result of sin, self, and unbelief—it is a reminder to never take sin lightly but to deal seriously with it through genuine repentance and a trusting faith in the Lord Jesus.

NKJV Romans 13:11 *"And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed."*

If there was ever a time when we needed to be spiritually awake, alert, and on-guard to sin, wickedness, and false teaching—to definitely *"cast off the works of darkness,"* it is **now!**

If there was ever a time to repent, to change our attitudes, to be open to spiritual conviction—and to *"put on the armor of light,"* it is **now!**

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