

# Revelation – 101

**8/31/25 – PM**

**Chapters 6**

**The Tribulation Begins / The Arrival of the Anti-Christ**

Review chapters 4-5

- The rapture takes place in 4:1 - “Come up hither” – church no longer mentioned until chapter 22.
  - John sees God’s throne, the four and twenty elders (12 apostles / 12 tribes of Israel) \*most likely. John sees the four beasts (cherubim). These all give glory, honor, and praise to the one on the throne.
  - Chapter 5 - John sees the book / scroll of judgement – the “title deed” to the earth in the hand of him that sat on the throne. He weeps because no one is worthy to open the book – in heaven, on earth, or under the earth.
  - He then sees the Lamb as it had been slain (Jesus) approaching the throne and taking the book from the hand of God. The Holy Spirit is presented also – the entire trinity together in the throne room of Heaven.
  - The Lamb is declared worthy to open the book, and heaven breaks forth in song and in praise of the one who is worthy – “for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.” (5:9). 100,000,000 angels join the chorus, and EVERY creature in heaven, on earth, and under the earth give praise to the one who sat on the throne (a fulfillment of Philippians 2:9-11).
- 

Beginning in Chapter 6, the scene reverts back to the earth. John sees the start of the tribulation period (7 years), the “time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jer. 30:7). Matthew 24:1-22 refers to this period. This is the 70<sup>th</sup> week that is yet to come from

Daniel's prophecy (Daniel 9:20-27). The prophet Joel also gives some description of Revelation chapter 6 in Joel 2:2, 10, 30-31.

- I. **The Seven Seals contain three series of judgments:** the seals, the trumpets, and the vials. The next few chapters include parenthetical sections (commentary about certain events). \*Chronological study of the events is necessary as we will see going forward.
  - a. The seven seals contain the WHOLE judgment, as all of the trumpet and vial judgments are revealed when the 7<sup>th</sup> seal is opened.
    - i. Remember – while there are 3 series of judgments, there is only 1 scroll that the Lamb takes from the throne.
    - ii. Six of the seal judgments are revealed in chapter 6. Chapter 7 is parenthetical (commentary), and the seventh seal is opened in chapter 8.

## II. **The Seals are Opened – The Arrival of the Anti-Christ**

\*The first four seals reveal a rider on a horse. While the horses are different colors (representing different forms of judgment), there is only one rider, because there is only one Anti-Christ. The shade of the horse tells us what is happening under his world-domination during each timeframe.

### a. The First Seal = Peace (Rev. 6:1-2)

- 1. John hears the “noise of thunder”, and one of the four beasts says “come and see”

#### 2. A white horse – white signifies peace (white flag, U.N.)

- the Anti-Christ promises peace for Israel (Daniel 9:27) for one week (7 years).

- He is the counterfeit Christ. Jesus is coming on a white horse in Revelation 19. This man convinces the world that he is the Messiah,

- He has a bow, but no arrows – signifying a bloodless victory of world domination. We will see in coming chapters that the kings of the earth willingly give him

their sovereignty and kingdoms. He deceives the world through his mouth and his miracles (Daniel 7:7-8) (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12)

- a crown “was given to him”. He didn’t win it. A group of nations give it to him when he comes on the scene. He then goes on “conquering and to conquer” until he has the entire world under his control.

b. The Second Seal = War (Rev. 6:3-4)

1. A red horse – signifies bloodshed.

- power was given to him to “take peace” from the earth.
- “they should kill one another”
- “there was given unto him a great sword”

c. The Third Seal = Famine and World Economic Collapse (Rev. 6:5-6)

1. A black horse – signifies famine.

- he holds a pair of balances (scales) in his hand – a picture of buying and selling / commerce
- John hears a voice (unidentified) in the midst of the four beasts saying “a measure of wheat for a penny and three measures of barley for a penny” (Roman denarius, a penny, was payment for one day’s labor). This speaks of extreme inflation and expense. Famine will produce tremendous starvation around the globe.
- “hurt not the oil and the wine” – speaks of the rarity and value of these objects – if you have it, keep it. \*The word “oil” is used for olive oil not petroleum, again referencing the lack of ability to cook / eat.

d. The Fourth Seal = Death and hell (Rev. 6:7-8)

1. John says “behold” in verse 2, “lo” in verse 5, and “behold” in verse 8, indicating that these sights startled him.

2. A pale horse – signifies death

- The Anti-Christ rides the pale horse. Death is personified (capital “D”), and Hell “followed with him”. He’s killing them, and Hell is claiming them.

- 25% (1/4) of the population dies. In today’s numbers that would be 2 billion people.

- They are killed by the sword, by hunger (famine), death (disease, pestilence, biological / chemical warfare?), and beasts of the earth – direct animal attacks, but also possible plagues from rats and fleas – bubonic plague killed an estimated 50 million people.

**\*These first four seals represent the reign of the Anti-Christ. Four horses, but only one rider.**

e. The Fifth Seal reveals the martyred remnant. (Rev. 6:9-11)

1. The scene is now in Heaven, and John witnesses the tribulation saints who have been killed for the gospel and for their testimony. These are people who receive/accept the message of the 144,000 witnesses (Revelation 7), and who are killed by the Anti-Christ for refusing the mark of the beast.

2. He saw their souls (not bodies yet), because they have not been resurrected. This is not the church. We went up in Revelation 4:1.

3. These souls are praying for retribution (vs. 10)

4. They are given white robes and told to be patient until their “fellowservants” (more to be killed during the tribulation) joined them.

f. The Sixth Seal – Chaos on Earth and Signs in the heavens (Rev. 6:12-17)

1. The first four seals take place on the earth, the fifth is a scene under the altar in Heaven, but the sixth is a sign from God himself.

- a great earthquake, the sun blackened, and the moon became “as blood” (vs. 12). This is not beautiful, this is terrifying.
- stars fall to the earth (asteroids / meteors) (vs. 13)
- sky departed as a scroll – vs. 14 (Isaiah 34:4)
- the heavens and the earth begin to feel the wrath of God (Isaiah 13:9-16)
- every class and level of people on the earth are judged. No one escapes. No one can help. Humanity seeks to hide from “the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.” (vs. 15-17)
- the chapter ends with a proclamation and a question: “for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”

**Next week – Chapter 7 – The 144,000 and the Tribulation Saints**