

## Lesson 5 – Revelation 6

### Brief Summary of Revelation 1–5

**Revelation 1 The Introduction:** *Scene: Earth. Time: Past (ca. 95 AD).*

John introduces the book of prophecy with an explanation of the circumstances surrounding the Revelation. John was exiled on the island of Patmos when Jesus sent and communicated the vision of things which must soon take place. John is commanded to write and send the book to the seven churches in Asia.

**Revelation 2-3 Messages to the Angels of the Seven Churches in Asia:**

*Scene: Earth. Time: Present (to original readers in Asia).*

Jesus sends a unique message to each of the seven churches in the western part of the Roman province of Asia: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. The cities are listed in the order of the geographical circuit that the messenger of the book would naturally travel as he delivered the letters.

**Revelation 4–5 Prelude of Praise:**

*Scene: Heaven. Time: Future (Onset of the Great Seven-Year Tribulation which will complete the present age, conclude with Jesus' return, and usher in the Millennium).* Revelation 4-22 records events that will take place in the future. Three consecutive periods of judgment lead to the second return of Jesus Christ: 7 Seals; 7 Trumpets; and, 7 Bowls. A prelude of praise in heaven precedes the onset of each three sets of 7 consecutive judgments. Revelation 4-5 records the initial heavenly prelude of praise that will precede the opening of the 7 Seals of judgment in Revelation 6, ushering in "a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will" (Matt 24:21).

### Introduction to Revelation 6

**Revelation 6 Seven Seal Judgments**

*Scene: Earth. Time: Future (Chronology moves forward.)*

The seven seals contain the judgments of the Great Tribulation, concluding with the return of Jesus. The seventh Seal contains the seven Trumpet judgments, and the seventh Trumpet judgment contains the final seven Bowl judgments. The Trumpet and Bowl judgments are all contained within the seventh Seal, unfolding consecutively through the seven-year Tribulation Period. Through judgment, Jesus becomes King of all the nations.

Revelation 6 records John's vision of the Lamb breaking the first 6 of 7 Seals:

- Seal #1: First Apocalyptic Horseman (White Horse): Conqueror
- Seal #2: Second Apocalyptic Horseman (Red Horse): Removes Peace
- Seal #3: Third Apocalyptic Horseman (Black Horse): Famine
- Seal #4: Fourth Apocalyptic Horseman (Ashen Horse): Death and Hades (over ¼ of earth killed)
- Seal #5: Cries of the Martyrs for Judgment and Vengeance
- Seal #6: Earthquake, Blackened Sun, Blood-like Moon, Falling Stars, Split Sky, Moving Mountains and Islands, Hiding Men, Great Day of Wrath

The seventh seal remains unbroken at the end of Revelation 6. Before the Lamb breaks the seventh seal (Rev 8), the foreheads of 144,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel are sealed.

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### STUDY QUESTIONS

#### Seal #1:

**Rev. 6:1** Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, “Come.” <sup>2</sup> I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

1. **Who breaks open the first seal? (6:1) (D) What are the seven seals? (Rev. 5)**
2. **Who speaks when the first seal is opened? What does it say? (6:1)**
3. **What does John see? What does the rider have? What is given to him? What does he do? (6:2)**
4. **What impresses you about the first seal?**

#### Seal #2

**Rev. 6:3** When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come.” <sup>4</sup> And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that *men* would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.

1. **Who breaks the second seal? (6:3)**
2. **Who speaks when the second seal is opened? What does it say? (6:3)**
3. **What goes out? What authority is given to the rider? What is given to him? (6:4)**
4. **What impresses you about the second seal? (6:4)**

#### Seal #3

**Rev. 6:5** When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, “Come.” I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. <sup>6</sup> And I heard *something* like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine.”

1. **Who breaks the third seal? (6:5)**
2. **Who speaks when the third seal is opened? What does it say? (6:5)**
3. **What does John see? What does the rider have in his hand? What does John hear in the center of the four living creatures? (6:5-6) (D) What is the significance of the announcement?**
4. **What impresses you about the third seal?**

#### Seal #4

**Rev. 6:7** When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come.” <sup>8</sup> I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

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1. Who breaks the fourth seal? (6:7)
2. Who speaks when the fourth seal is opened? What does it say? (6:7)
3. What does John see? What was the name of the rider? Who was following with him? What authority is given to them? How would they perform the killings? (6:8)
4. What impresses you about the fourth seal?

### Seal #5

**Rev. 6:9** When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; **10** and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” **11** And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.

1. Who breaks the fifth seal? (6:9)
2. What does John see? What are two reasons that they were slain? (6:9)
3. What do they cry out? How do they address the Lord? What are they seeking? (6:10)
4. What is given to them? What were they told? How long were they to rest? (6:11)
5. What impresses you about the fifth seal?

### Seal #6

**Rev. 6:12** I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth *made of* hair, and the whole moon became like blood; **13** and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. **14** The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. **15** Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; **16** and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; **17** for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

1. Who breaks the sixth seal? (6:12)
2. What does John see? What are two reasons that they were slain? (6:13-14)
3. Who hides in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains? What do they say (6:15-16)
4. What day has come? What is the final question asked? (It will be answered in Rev. 7)
5. What impresses you about the sixth seal?
6. What do you learn about God in Revelation 6?

Write a prayer response to Revelation 6.