

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Revelation 6:5-8 | Session 11 | Opening of Seals Three and Four | Notes

1.2 THE FIRST VISION ON EARTH (6:1-7:8)

Seal #1 The False Messiah	Matthew 24: 4,5	Revelation 6:1,2
Seal #2 Wars	Matthew 24:6,7	Revelation 6:3,4
Seal #3 Famines	Matthew 24:7	Revelation 6:5,6
Seal #4 Pestilences	Matthew 24:7	Revelation 6:7,8
Seal #5 Martyrdoms	Matthew 24:8-28	Revelation 6:9-11
Seal #6 Signs in Heaven	Matthew 24:29,30	Revelation 6:12-17

1.2.1 THE OPENING OF THE SIX SEALS¹

1.2.2 **THE FIRST SEAL** | THE RIDER ON A **WHITE** HORSE (6:1-2) | **FALSE MESSIAH**
| MATTHEW 24:4,5

1.2.3 **THE SECOND SEAL** | THE RIDER ON THE **RED** HORSE (6:3,4) | **WARS** |
MATTHEW 24:6

The rider on the white horse is not Christ but a false Christ. Jesus Christ will come back at His second coming seated upon a white horse (Revelation 19:11), but similar things are not the same (see notes from session 10). Jesus warned in Matthew 24:4,5, *“Take heed that no man (singular) deceive you. For many (plural) shall come in my name.”* Many are going to claim to be

¹ The seventh seal will be opened in the second vision in Heaven (8:1-6).

the anointed one (Christ), don't be deceived by any of them, including this one who will ride the white horse. If this is the Antichrist, he is not identified as such.

I do not see this as the beginning of the seven-year Tribulation because of the next rider on the **red horse** who will take peace from the earth, Matthew 24:6, via *wars and rumors of wars*, as Jesus told his disciples; *"Be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."*

I believe that the Rapture happens before the Tribulation. It could happen at any moment, which means before, or after the first rider on the white horse or after the second rider on the red horse.

1.2.4 **THE THIRD SEAL** | THE RIDER ON THE **BLACK HORSE** (6:5,6) | **FAMINES** |
MATTHEW 24:7

The next judgment loosed upon the earth is that of **famines**. The Lord mentions these in Matthew 24:7, *"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines..."*

In Matthew 24:8, Jesus states that *all these things in verse 7 are the beginning of sorrows*. The word *beginning* is *arche* in Greek and means *something that commences*. The word *sorrows* is the idea of a woman *travailing in labor pains*. It may be that the Tribulation proper begins here with horse and rider #3. But more on this in our next session.

What are the purposes of the Great Tribulation?

1. To make an end to wickedness and wicked ones. Isaiah 13:9.
2. To bring about worldwide revival. We will see this when we get to chapter 7, so we won't dwell on it now.
3. To scatter (or break) the power of the holy people. Daniel 12:7.

The red horse and rider brought worldwide war; now the Black horse is loosed to bring famine.

John **heard the third** (zoon, or living creature) and saw a **Black horse**. **Black** in Scripture often denotes famine (Lamentations 4:8; Jeremiah 14:1,2). Those who suffer from famine often have dark pigmentation on their face and trunk. A pair of balances was in the hand of the one that sat on the black horse.

We should be reminded that the Lord calls for this **famine**. The Tribulation is judgment from the Lord. In prophecy, God called for famine and drought (Haggai 1:11; 2:16,17). We don't want to spiritualize this famine; we should take it literally as a real famine upon the world.

The **balances in his hand** indicate weights and **measures** for food prices. The word **penny** is the Greek word *denarius*. A denarius would usually buy eight times that amount. During a famine, food is scarce, and money will not stretch as far due to inflation.

For some reason, a prohibition is given, **see thou hurt not the oil and the wine**. In Deuteronomy 11:14, *grain, wine, and oil* are linked together to indicate the idea of having plenty, but with famine, the good old days are gone. We can't give a definitive answer to what is meant by not harming the **oil and wine**.

1.2.5 THE FOURTH SEAL | THE RIDER ON THE PALE HORSE (6:7,8) | PESTILENCES |
MATTHEW 24:7

The **fourth** and final *zoon* or living creature (**beast**) is sent forth, and John **looked and behold a pale horse**, a greenish/ashen color (i.e., Greek, *chloros*). This is the color of death and is explained in that the rider who sat on this horse **was named Death**. What is causing the Death—it is *pestilence or plague, along with earthquakes* Matthew 24:7. We saw in 2020 the worldwide effect of a pandemic and how it can rapidly spread and kill.

And **Hell followed him**. The word **Hell** is *hades*, meaning *the place of the dead*. Wherever **Death** rides, it takes people down into the grave. Hades follows in the train of Death because Death ends in the Grave.²

All who are in the Grave will be raised to life one day. Chapter 20:13 states, *“And death and Hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.”*

In Revelation 1:18, Jesus has *the keys of Hell and Death*, for it is Christ who raises the dead.

A fourth part of the earth (that would be two billion people today; not accounting for those who will have been Raptured before the Tribulation) **was given over to Death and Hell to:**

1. **Kill with the sword.**
2. **Kill with hunger.**
3. **Kill with death.**

² E.W. Bullinger. Revelation. Page 260.

These three, **sword, famine, and pestilence**, are found together in other Scriptures (Jeremiah 14:12; 21:7; 24:10; 44:13; Ezekiel 6:11,12). These three choices were offered to David after he was incited by Satan to take a census of Israel. It is difficult to know completely why this was an offense before the Lord, but it was, and David's choice of punishment was three years of famine, oppression by the sword of his enemies, or pestilence from the Lord. David chose the latter (1 Chronicles 21:12).

But here, a fourth is added:

4. Kill with the wild beasts (Greek: *therion*, not *zoon*).

Wild beasts are another form of **Death**. The beasts consume the wounded and the dying and seize on those who are left defenseless.

Looking back in history, not one of these Seals has yet been opened. There has been no period in history where these four judgments have been operating simultaneously to the extent we see here, "A fourth part of the earth."

These judgments will fail in their purpose to break the stubborn will of the Jewish people. Therefore, the Lord will bring more destruction upon the earth to accomplish His will.

The first four seals have to do with mankind on earth. The next three are concerned with the *saints of the Most High*.