

Covenant Bible Study

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Revelation 6-7

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Revelation 4 and 5 Review

- In this second vision, **Christ** escorts John into heaven.
- We enter into some sort of **court** in heaven, with the thrones representing God's majesty.
- There are no words for John to describe God, he uses **light** and stones reflecting light to describe Him.
- We meet **12 elders** with God in the throne room, but we really do not know who they are.
- In the throne room are seven torches representing the Holy Spirit in all His **fullness**.
- We meet four living creatures who are believed to be **guardian angels**, cherubs.
- The living creatures are full of **eyes**, meaning they do not miss a thing.
- God is holding a **scroll** that must contain an account of the end times.
- The scroll is **sealed** with seven seals.
- Only Christ (the lamb) is **worthy** to open the scroll.
- The throne room and all the earth erupt in to **praise** once Christ is revealed.
- These are all things that John saw and **will** take place (Back to the Future)....

The Lamb

- The Lamb is **Christ**
- Still bearing the marks of having been **slain**
- The seven horns for omnipotence or **power**
- The seven eyes for his omniscience of **infinite knowledge**
- Lion of Judah (From Jacob's blessing – Genesis 49:9)
- The root of David (Isaiah's Prophecy)

Why does Jesus get the scroll?

John 5:21-22

21 "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. 22 "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, NASB

John 5:27

27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. NASB

No one knows the day or the hour

Matthew 24:36

36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. NASB

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2

1 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

Revelation 6

The worship described above – is preparation for the wrath described in chapters 6-19!

Each seal represent a judgment that will be poured out sequentially.

First 4 seals seem to take place during the first half of the tribulation

5th lasts 3 and a half year – the great tribulation

6 and 7th – the great tribulation

First Seal Broken

1 And 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." 2 And 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.

The command "Come" is likely directed at the **horses**.

White Horse: **False** Peace
Notice the Bow, with no arrows

Who is the rider? Christ – Not likely because Christ opens the seal – and he wears a stephanas crown

Crown – given to him

Not the Diadem – one that is passed down, not earned, royalty

This is the Stephanas crown – achieved and earned (crowns that athletes would receive)

Anti Christ – will play the leading role in this – but the other riders are more forces...

Second Seal Broken

3 And when He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come." 4 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 should slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.

Red Horse: **War**
Takes peace from the earth – bloody warfare
Sword given him

Third Seal Broken

5 And when He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come." And I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard as it were 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 harm the oil and the wine."

Black Horse: **Famine**
Scales – weighing the food
Almost as if an announcement is being made in the distance – quart of wheat for a denarius (full days pay)
Full days pay for a loaf of bread – these were all the staples in the mid east
Represents famine and poverty

Fourth Seal Broken

7 And when He broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come." 8 And I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. And 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.

Ashen Horse: **Death**
grayish, yellow, green – the color of a corpse

Homework – read Matthew 24 and find the parallels to the first 4 seal judgements (Olivet Discourse)

Fifth Seal Broken

9 And when He 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, wilt Thou 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, should be completed also.

- Judgement of Persecution and Martyrdom
- The martyrs petition God in verse 10
- God responds with a gift and a spoken word:

Gift: White Robe symbolizing the purity and gift of eternal righteousness that they will enjoy.

Word: An invitation to rest.

John sees a mass of martyrs who had been slain – seemingly praying for vengeance (that romans 12 promises)
Romans 12:19 – do not take revenge - leave room for God's wrath – vengeance is his!

Sixth Seal Broken

12 And 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 And 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 And 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? "

- Judgment of fear and destruction.
- The Reason for Fear (verses 12-14)
This is the great earthquake – the big one!
Sackcloth made of hair – worn by mourners/black wool of sheep. Sun is eclipsed
- The Range and Reaction of Fear (Verse 15-17)
Even the leaders are misplaced
Hiding not from the destruction – but hiding from the wrath of God Himself – Notice God in the plural in vs 17

Seventh Seal Broken...

- The seventh seal will be broken in Chapter 8
- The seventh seal is the introduction of the Seven Trumpet Judgments
- Revelation Chapter 7 is a break for the reader that reminds us of God's grace.

Revelation 8:1

1 And when He broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. NASB

Habakkuk 3:2

2 LORD, I have heard the report about Thee and I fear.
O LORD, revive Thy work in the midst of the years,
In the midst of the years make it known;
In wrath remember mercy.

- Chapter 7 answers the question presented in Revelation 6:17

Revelation 6:17

17 for the great day of their wrath has come; and who is able to stand? "

Revelation 7

1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the **four winds** of the earth, so that no wind should blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

Standing at the four points – holding back the winds (agents of judgment) – holding back the judgement
Earth viewed as flat back then

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the **seal** of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the **bond-servants** of our God on their foreheads."

This seal represents the protection of God – not a judgment – we are sealed with the holy spirit – a protective seal
This seal indicates ownership and protection
Two things “mark” our sealing today – baptism and the deposit of the Holy Spirit
Bond servants - believers

4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from **every tribe of the sons of Israel**: 5 from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, 6 from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, 7 from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, 8 from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.

Verses 1-8: large number of jewish converts 144,000 (jews left on the earth as evangelists)

The 144,000

- The number signifies perfection and completeness. (12 X 12 = 144)
- These are Jews that will be saved. (notice they are specifically from one of each of the 12 tribes)

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; 10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen." 13 And one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?" 14 **And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.** 15 "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne shall spread His tabernacle over them. 16 "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes. "

The Great Multitude

- These are the saved Gentiles (vs 14)

Verses 9-17 John sees a great multitude who come (martyrs in heaven being rewarded for a life well lived)

An Outline of Revelation

Revelation 1:19

19 "Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things.

Chapter One: The Things You Have Seen
Chapters Two and Three: The Things That Are (Seven Churches)
Chapters Four - Twenty Two: The Things That Will Take Place

Prologue

- Promises of Blessing for Reading, Hearing, and Keeping the Words of the Book (*Revelation 1:1-8*)

Things You Have Seen

- Vision of the Glorified Christ (*Revelation 1:9-20*)

Things Which Are

- Christ's Messages to the Seven Churches (*Revelation 2:1 – 3:22*)
 - Ephesus (2:1-7)
 - Smyrna (2:8-11)
 - Pergamum (2:12-17)
 - Thyatira (2:18-29)
 - Sardis (3:1-6)
 - Philadelphia (3:7-13)
 - Laodicea (3:14-22)

Things That Will Take Place

- Vision of Heavenly Throne Room, Where John Witnesses the Worship of God the Father & Jesus Christ (*Revelation 4:1 – 5:14*)
- Vision of Judgments Upon the Earth that Increase in Magnitude While God in His Mercy Continues to Call Humankind to Repentance (*Revelation 6:1 – 18:24*)
 - Judgment of the Seven Seals (6:1 – 8:1)
 - Judgment of the Seven Trumpets (8:2 – 11:19)
 - Vision of the Dragon, Woman, and Beasts (12:1 – 14:20)
 - Judgment of the Seven Bowls (15:1 – 16:21)
 - Judgment of Babylon (17:1 – 18:24)
- Return of Christ and the Battle of Armageddon (*Revelation 19:1-21*)
- Reign of Christ and His Resurrected Saints Over the Earth (*Revelation 20:1-6*)
- Final Destruction of Satan, Evil, and Death (*Revelation 20:7-15*)
- Ultimate Eternal Peace and Perfection (*Revelation 21:1 – 22:5*)

Epilogue

- Final Promises of Blessing for Reading, Hearing, and Keeping the Words of the Book (*Revelation 22:6-21*)