

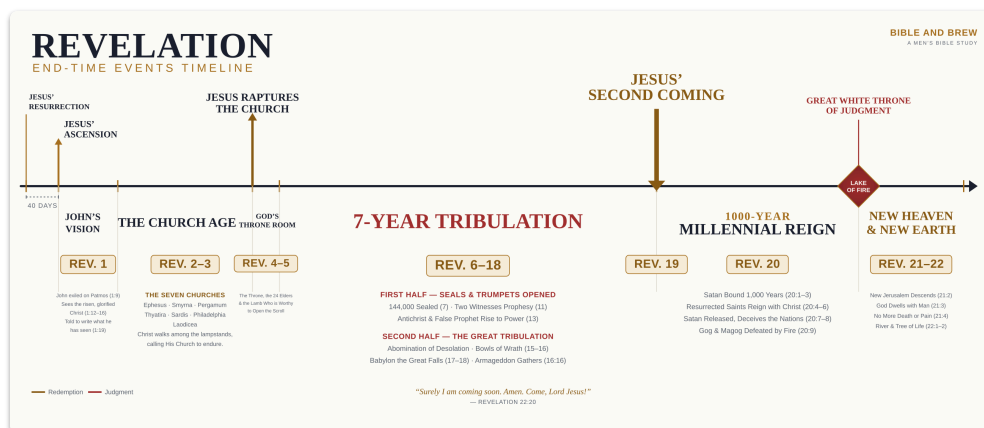
Properties

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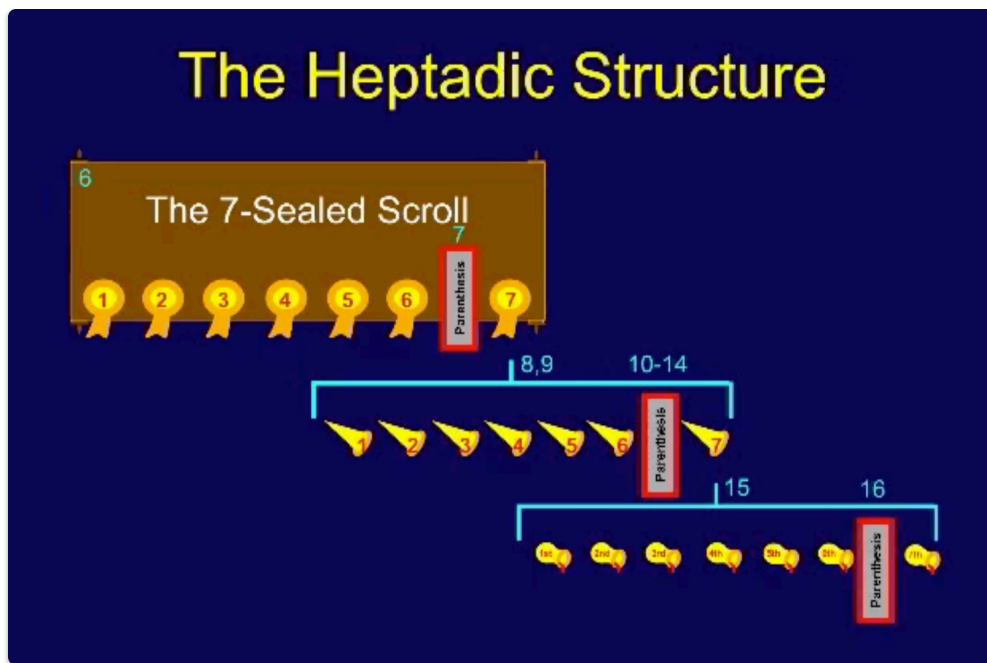
Revelation 6:7-17 — The Seven Seals (Part 2)

Summary of Chapter 6 so far...

Last week discussed where we were on the Revelation summary/sequence of events.



Can someone read Chapter 1:19 -- we didn't discuss this last week, but remember Revelation is the only book in the Bible that gives as a summary of itself. We are in the third part now.



The Seals So Far ...

- Seal One - White Horse
 - Horse is a symbol of judgment
 - What does the White Horse represent? conqueror - v2 he went out conquering
 - He doesn't have authority - crown is not a royal, authoritative more self given.
 - No sword only a bow
 - So no Jesus who is breaking the seals, more a want to be Jesus, attempting to imitate Jesus who will arrive on White horse in chapter 19
 - A sense of deceiving through imitation, so can represent a False Teacher
- Seal Two - Red Horse
 - What does this rider go around doing? Removing peace ...
 - Removing peace causes in fighting and ultimately violence between people as "slaying one another"
 - Contrast of a great sword with a sharp one that Jesus always "carries"
 - Another contract a stealer of peace vs the Prince of Peace
- Seal Three - Black Horse
 - Black is the color related to death, but also to famine (Lamentations 4 and Jeremiah 14)
 - Holding the scales symboling rationing but primary to the lower classes

- As upper class, wealth will not be hit as hard because oil and wine are not rationed.

And so we begin ... let's read Chapter 6:7-17 as we finish out the chapter.

Seal Four — The Pale Horse (Death)

"When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, 'Come!' And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth." (Revelation 6:7-8, ESV)

Explanation: Color Green:

- What color is pale?
- The Greek word for "pale" (*chloros*) describes a sickly, ashen-green color — the color of a corpse or diseased vegetation, which is where we get the word "chlorophyll."
- What's unique about this rider? Name.
- This horseman is named outright: Death, with Hades (the realm/power of the dead) trailing behind, like a grim reaper collecting what Death claims.
- Does the 4 ways to die sound familiar?
 - Let's read Ezekiel 14:21. This is a section of the book that the Lord is speaking and outlining His judgment on Jerusalem. – Covenant judgments against Israel.
 - Those judgments are extended to 1/4 of the earth.
- These judgments can't be contained - not a specify people, mix ... another reason that the church may not be on earth at this time.
- Who described death as the last enemy to be destroyed?
- 1 Cor 15:26 Paul did ...
 - *For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 24Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 25For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*

Cross References:

- Ezekiel 14:21 (the "four disastrous acts of judgment": sword, famine, wild beasts, plague)
- 1 Corinthians 15:26 ("The last enemy to be destroyed is death")
- Revelation 20:14 (Death and Hades ultimately thrown into the lake of fire)

Discussion Questions:

1. Death is called an "enemy" in Scripture, not a natural friend. How does that shape how we should grieve and how we should hope?

Seal Five — The Cry of the Martyrs

"When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, 'O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?' Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been." (Revelation 6:9-11, ESV)

Explanation: Location Shift:

- The scene shifts from earth to heaven, under the altar --- who spoke in the first 4 seals? No living creatures --- talking about heaven.
- What do you remember about the altar?
 - Remember when we studied in Mark Jesus walking to the garden of Gethamene and the route he took would require him to cross over the place the blood from sacrifices from the temple drained in the the kidron brook. Since it was passover, blood would have been flowing and the man who was going to shed his blood for us, was going to step over and or go through the blood of the sacrifices being made.
- Not a foreign concept for the Jews this altar reference (Leviticus 4:7)
- Who are the people talking? These are believers martyred for their faithful witness.
- What tone are their cries? Their cry isn't bitter revenge but a plea for God's justice to be made visible ("how long?" echoes the Psalms of lament).

- What were they given and why?
 - They're given white robes — symbols of purity, vindication, and readiness — and told to wait, because more believers will still be martyred before the full number is reached.
- What does this tell us about suffering for the faith -- it is not outside God's plan or timing; it is known, numbered, and will be answered.

Avenging the Blood of the Saints:

- *for they have shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve* - Rev 16:6
- *I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God's holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.* - Rev 17:6
- *In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth.* - Rev 18:24

Cross References:

- Psalm 13:1-2; Psalm 79:5 ("How long, O Lord?" laments)
- Leviticus 17:11 (blood/life poured out at the altar)
- Matthew 5:10-12 (blessed are those persecuted for righteousness)
- Revelation 7:9-14 (the great multitude, likely connected to "the number... complete")

Discussion Questions:

1. The martyrs' cry is honest — even bold — but not vengeful. How do we hold honest lament and trust in God's justice together?
2. *What does it mean that God has a set "number" in mind, and that our suffering isn't random or wasted in His plan?*

Seal Six — Cosmic Upheaval and Terror

"When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?'" (Revelation 6:12-17, ESV)

Explanation:

- No Come reference, no living creatures again so probably John in heaven looking down and up to describe what he is seeing.
- A ton of cataclysmic references or even apocalyptic language describing the unraveling of the created order itself — echoing Old Testament "Day of the Lord" imagery. v17

"Day of the Lord"

- 20 times in 8 OT prophetic books;
3 times in NT **Acts 2:20 qv. Joel 2:31**
 1 Thess. 5:2;
 2 Pet. 3:10
- "day of God" **2 Pet. 3:12**
- "day of wrath" **Zeph 1: 15**
- "day of the Lord's wrath" **Zeph 1:18**
- "day of darkness" **Joel 2:2;**
 Zeph 1:15

- From the first seal, we have seen a build up and in many cases only a select set of people impacted directly.

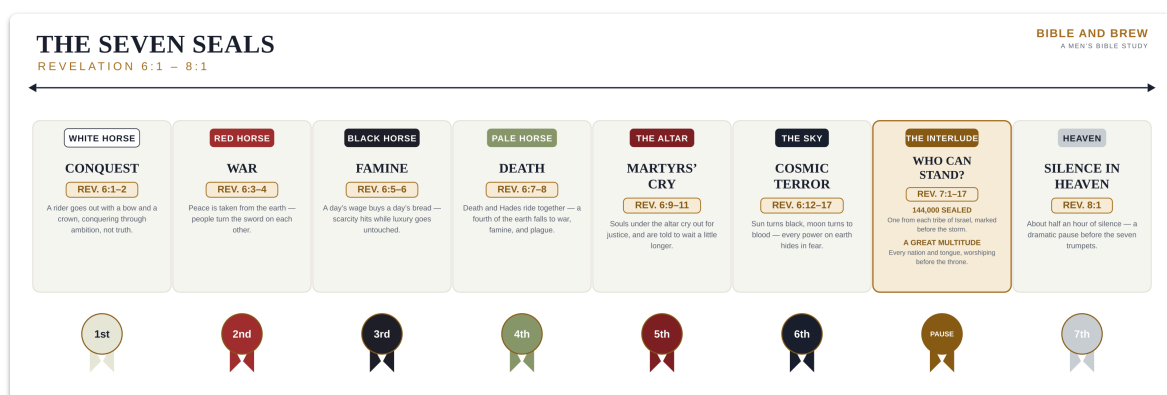
- Here is different ... Every class of person, from kings to slaves, is leveled by terror; no wealth, power, or status offers protection.
- Is there anything interesting in what is happening to these people and who they cry out to?
- Notably, they don't cry out to God for mercy — they cry out to be hidden from Him.
- The chapter's final, haunting question — "who can stand?"
- It will be answered in end of chapter 7...

Cross References:

- Joel 2:30-31 (sun darkened, moon to blood before "the great and awesome day of the Lord")
- Isaiah 34:4 (the sky rolled up like a scroll)
- Hosea 10:8 ("Fall on us" — mountains as false refuge)
- Revelation 7:9-17 (the answer to "who can stand?")

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think people hide from God rather than run to Him, even in the face of undeniable judgment?
2. The chapter ends with a question — "who can stand?" What does it mean to you personally that the answer is found only in the Lamb?



Closing Thought for the Group

Revelation 6 isn't meant to be a puzzle to decode so much as a call to examine where we stand.

The seals reveal a world under real judgment — conquest, war, scarcity, death, martyrdom, and cosmic collapse — and yet through it all, the Lamb remains the one in control, opening each seal Himself.

End on this note: the chapter doesn't end in despair; it ends in a question that the rest of Revelation answers with hope.

Closing Discussion Question: If Jesus is sovereign even over judgment and chaos like this, how should that shape the way we handle fear, current events, or personal hardship?

Group of Signs

	Matthew	Luke	Revelation
• False Christs	24:4-5	21:4	6:1-2
• Wars	24:6	21:9,10	6:3-4
• Famines	24:7a	21:11	6:5-6
• Death	24:7b-8	21:12	6:7-8
• Martyrs	24:9	21:24	6:9-11
• Global upheaval	24:10-13	21:25	6:12-17