

Revelation 6

***“It may be that as each seal is opened, John sees a vision at the throne of what will take place, with the sixth seal an overview of the whole period of divine judgment. By this series of visions, then, John is being made aware of some of the things God will be using in the judgments the follow, judgments that will smash the present world system and bring in Jesus’ millennial kingdom on earth”
– Stanley Horton***

We also need to note that even though these are chronologically and successive, that does not mean that they follow immediately one after the other.

The white horse of conquest may not be followed by the red horse of war or violence immediately. Some see the Antichrist's rise to power and then the red horse as coming in the last three-and-a-half years of the Tribulation.

Verses 1-2

The White Horse – While the other three horses or horsemen are symbolic, this horse has a specific rider. He has a bow, but no arrows and he is given, not inheriting, a crown.

The fact that the horseman has a crown shows his victory is without question.

Verses 1-2

Like many of the things Satan and the Antichrist will do, the white horse seems to be in mockery of Jesus.

The phrase, “was given” is normally said in relation to the Antichrist and his work. Jesus does not need permission. (Revelation 9:1-5, 13:5-7)

Verses 1-2

Daniel 9:24-25 - ²⁴ “Seventy weeks [of years, or 490 years] have been decreed for your people and for your holy city (Jerusalem), to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make atonement (reconciliation) for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness (right-standing with God), to seal up vision and prophecy and prophet, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. ²⁵ So you are to know and understand that from the issuance of the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until [the coming of] the Messiah (the Anointed One), the Prince, there will be seven weeks [of years] and sixty-two weeks [of years]; it will be built again, with [a city] plaza and moat, even in times of trouble.

Verses 1-2

Daniel 9:26-27 - ²⁶ Then after the sixty-two weeks [of years] the Anointed One will be cut off [and denied His Messianic kingdom] and have nothing [and no one to defend Him], and the people of the [other] prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. ²⁷ And he will enter into a binding and irrevocable covenant with the many for one week (seven years), but in the middle of the week he will stop the sacrifice and grain offering [for the remaining three and one-half years]; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until the complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who causes the horror.” (AMP)

Verses 1-2

Anti in the Greek means in place of or instead of. While the Antichrist is against all things Jesus and God, he will make himself to be the true messiah.

Revelation 13:4-8

Verses 3-4

The Red Horse – Red here being the color of blood because of the slaughter that will take place.

³ When He (the Lamb) broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature call out, “Come.” ⁴ And another, a fiery red horse [of bloodshed], came out; and its rider was empowered to take peace from the earth, so that men would slaughter one another; and a great sword [of war and violent death] was given to him. (AMP)

Verses 3-4

This is not just death in war as many presume. This horse and rider do not specifically bring death, but they remove peace; no, this is not semantics.

The Antichrist will wage war – Revelation 6:2

The Greek word for kill, does not simply mean death in battle, but for violence of all kinds.

Verses 3-4

Violence will increase because there is no restraint upon the earth anymore. There is no Church or the Holy Spirit working in and with the Church.

The Man of Peace will bring no peace, only the Prince of Peace can and will do that.

Verses 5-6

The Black Horse – In ancient times black was acquainted with suffering and famine more than death.

Lamentations 5:10 - The famine has blackened our skin as though baked in an oven. (NLT)

Verses 5-6

A measure was a day's ration for an adult. A denarius was about one day's wage.

Stanely Horton puts this about 12x's the normal price at the time.

Notice, the rich will still have oil and wine.

Verses 7-8

The Pale Horse – Pale in the Greek is chloros, where we get chlorophyll. While we see green outside a plant, inside the color is normally a yellow-green and not the bright green we may think of.

Think of the saying “green around the gills”. It is a sickly horse; it is the horse of death.

Verses 7-8

When there is war, death from battle takes place, but then when a land is ravaged by war, famine will follow as well sickness from malnutrition, tainted water or food and lack of medical aid.

Notice, something a little more horrifying, animals we take their place as top of the food chain.

Verses 7-8

The end of all this is that a quarter of the world's population will die.

It is important to note death's companion, Hell or Hades, here it should be emphasized that for those who enter hell or hades, there is no hope of heaven.

As of Tuesday, June 24, 2025, the world's population was at 8.2 billion people and the Christian population is said to be 2.4 billion.

Verses 9-11

The fifth seal breaking takes John's focus off of the things happening on the earth to the things which are happening in Heaven.

There is an altar in heaven. Hebrews 9:23-24

Verses 9-11

Those who have died in Christ, would have been raised during the Rapture as well as the Old Testament saints. This would leave us to believe that those martyrs under the altar are those who refused to worship the Antichrist and took a stand and had faith in Jesus Christ.

Revelation 13:7 - ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Verses 9-11

*Revelation 7:13-14 - ¹³ Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?”
¹⁴ And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So, he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

Verses 9-11

Revelation 20:4 - ⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Verses 9-11

The prayer of the martyrs is not for vengeance, but for justice. 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10, however, justice must wait because more martyrs will still be persecuted on the earth.

¹¹ Then they were each given a white robe; and they were told to rest and wait quietly for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers and sisters who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed. (NLT)

Verses 9-11

Rest – Their toils were ended and the promise of justice was given to them by the Lord.

Revelation 14:13 - ¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”

The white robes, like our white robes, signify their righteousness through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Verses 12-14

The sixth seal has the longest description of any of the seals and many see this seal as an overview of life throughout the tribulation period, especially the last three-and-a-half years.

Isaiah 34:4 - ⁴ All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host shall fall down as the leaf falls from the vine, and as fruit falling from a fig tree.

Verses 12-14

Joel 2:30-31 - ³⁰ “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.

Mark 13:24-25 - ²⁴ “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Verses 12-14

In 1815, Mt. Tambora in Indonesia erupted. The following year, 1816, is known as “The year without a summer”.

Parts of New England and Europe had frosts. Crops failed and prices soared as did famine.

Verses 12-14

The 2004 earthquake in the Indian Ocean that devastated Indonesia was a 9.0 as was said to have the same amount of energy as a million atomic bombs.

The thirty-foot-high waves were said to travel approximately 500 mph.

The Island of Sumatra is said to have been moved 100 feet by the tsunami.

Verses 15-17

Men are afraid. Men call on the mountains to kill them. Men acknowledge that the wrath of God and the Lamb is coming upon them.

Men refuse to repent.

“The wrath of the Lamb” – That is chapters 6-19.