



REVELATION CHAPTER 6

THE FIRST SIX SEALS

The Opening of the Six Seals

Revelation 6

The Opening of the Six Seals

^{NKJ} **Revelation 6:1** Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."

² And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

³ When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."

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⁴ Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that *people* should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

⁵ When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.

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⁶ And I heard a voice in the midst 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."

⁷ When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."

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⁸ So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

⁹ 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 testimony which they held.

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¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they *were*, was completed.

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¹² I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.

¹³ And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

¹⁴ Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

The Opening of the Six Seals

¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,

¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

¹⁷ "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Explanation

Revelation 6:1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."

- The Lamb is the only one worthy to set in motion the events contained in the scroll
- The Lamb (Jesus Christ) then commences breaking the seals which shows the last 7 years of earth's history before Jesus sets up His earthly kingdom (1,000 yrs – Rev. 20:2-5)

Explanation

- The first four seals have features in common: each is preceded by an utterance from one of the four living creatures and followed by the appearance of a colored horse and his rider who has some sort of power over the earth.
- This puts the first four seals into a group that is in some ways distinct from the last three seals.

Come and see...

Revelation 6



FIRST SEAL: PEACEFUL CONQUEST (6:2)

²And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

- This rider rides a white horse, wears a victor's wreath, and carries a bow.
- The bow indicates that war is threatened, but never actually occurs because victory is accomplished through peaceful means .

- It is not Jesus. Rev. 19 teaches us that although Jesus rides a white horse, He wears many crowns, and has a sharp sword issuing from His mouth.
- This rider must be someone resembling the Messiah who deceives people in his conquest.
- Worldwide peace is the condition at the end of the first-seal period, because one of the results of the second seal is to take that peace away (cf. 6:4).
- Without arrows, the bow is not a deadly weapon as the sword under the second seal is.

The Rider Held a Bow



And was GIVEN a Crown





SECOND SEAL: WARFARE AND BLOODSHED (6:3–4)

³When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." ⁴ Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that *people* should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

- This horse and rider brings war, internal strife, and international and civil strife to the world
- The seals are directed against earth-dwellers who are in rebellion against God (cf. 3:10)



THIRD SEAL: WIDESPREAD FAMINE (6:5-6)

⁵ When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So 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 a voice in the midst 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."

- This horse and rider brings famine.
- Careful weighing of food shows it to be in short supply.

- The minimum daily food requirement of barley was three measures because it was cheaper than the better food, wheat. These two foods were basic for the whole population.
- A denarius was the average day's wages for a typical worker.
- The command not to hurt the oil and the wine indicates the famine will be limited and not be as bad as it could be.



FOURTH SEAL: DEATH TO $\frac{1}{4}$ OF POPULATION (6:5-6)

⁷ When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." ⁸ So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

- A conspicuous increase in severity comes with the opening of the fourth seal:
- The ravages of this fourth seal are staggering, but

FOURTH SEAL: DEATH TO $\frac{1}{4}$ OF POPULATION (6:5-6)

- The ravages of this fourth seal are staggering, but limited in comparison with what comes later.



CONQUEST



WAR



SCARCITY



DEATH



FIFTH SEAL: PRAYERS FOR DIVINE VENGEANCE

(6:9-11)

⁹ 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 testimony which they held. ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" ¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they *were*, was completed.

FIFTH SEAL: PRAYERS FOR DIVINE VENGEANCE

(6:9-11)

- These martyrs were killed because they had put their faith in Jesus Christ.
- Romans 12:19 says, “Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance *is* Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.”

SIXTH SEAL: COSMIC DISTURBANCES (6:12-17)

¹² I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. ¹⁴ Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.



“The **sun shall turn to darkness** and the ***moon to blood*** BEFORE the great and terrible Day of the Lord come.” Joel 2:31

“Immediately AFTER the tribulation of those days shall the **sun be darkened**, and **the moon shall not give her light**, and the **stars shall fall from heaven**, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.” Mat. 24:29

¹² And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the **sun became black as sackcloth of hair**, and **the moon became as blood**; ¹³ And **the stars of heaven fell** unto the earth, - Rev. 6:12,13

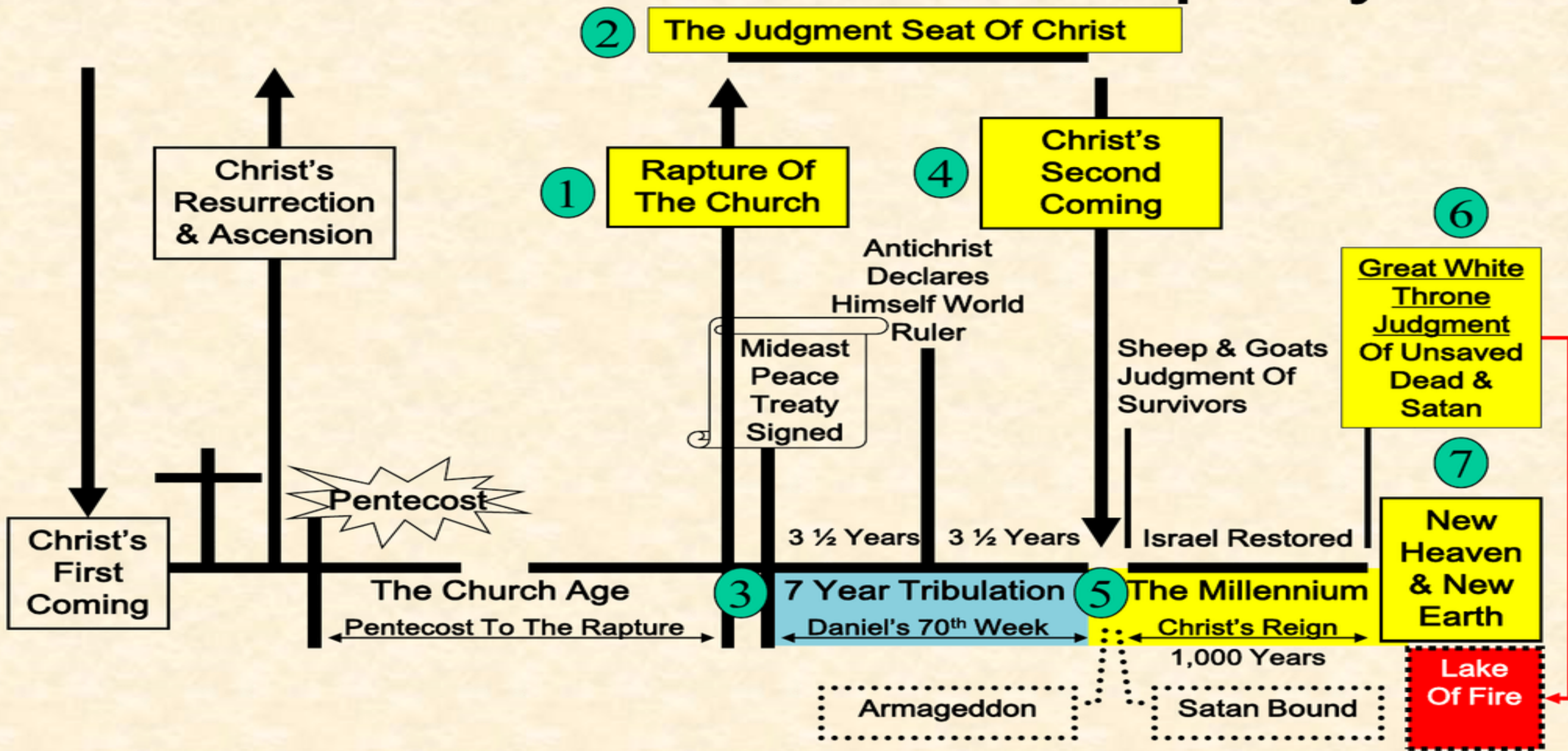
SIXTH SEAL: COSMIC DISTURBANCES (6:12-17)

¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷ "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

SIXTH SEAL: COSMIC DISTURBANCES (6:12-17)

- Paul speaks of Jesus' Second coming in 1 Thessalonians 1:10 "and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus **who delivers us from the wrath to come.**"
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** speaks of the rapture of the Christians. It occurs before the events of Revelation 6.

Order Of Events In Bible Prophecy



7 Seals of Revelation

Deception



Rev. 6:1-2
Matt. 24:4-5

War



Rev. 6:3-4
Matt. 24:6-7

Famine



Rev. 6:5-6
Matt. 24:7

Death



Rev. 6:7-8
Matt. 24:7

Persecution



Rev. 6:9-11
Matt. 24:9-13

Cosmic Signs



Rev. 6:12-17
Matt. 24:29

Silence in Heaven



Rev. 8:1
Matt. 25:31-46

Beginning of birth pains

The Great Tribulation