

decoding

Revelation

Revelation 6

The time of tribulation.

**13 of the 22 chapters in
Revelation focus on the
tribulation either from heaven's
view or the view from earth.**

Seven Seals

The seventh seal is the seven trumpets and when you open this up, the seventh trumpet is the seven bowls of wrath.

Two Big Questions

- 1. Do these seven seals and bowls happen all at the same time or do they happen one after the other?**

Two Big Questions

2. Talking about this great tribulation, this great time of terror that's going to come on the earth, when does the rapture of God's people, the church, take place in all of this?

Three Views of When the Rapture May Occur

Pre-tribulation View – rapture occurs before the tribulation begins

Mid-tribulation View – rapture occurs in the middle of the tribulation.

Post-tribulation View – rapture occurs after the tribulation.

Four Reasons for a Pre-tribulation View

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1. The unexpected nature of the rapture.

2. The fact that we are told in scripture that believers will be protected from God's wrath.

3. As you read through Revelation it just seems that the Christians that are on the earth during tribulation are all people who have been saved during that time.

4. The fact that many people believe that one of the reasons this time of tribulation is going to happen is because the church is taken out of the world.

Two Reasons against a Pre-tribulation View.

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- 2. The fearfulness of believers about this issue.**

The Seven Seals

**The seven seals
starts with four
horses.**

1. The White Horse

I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals and then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, 'Come.' I looked and there before me was a white horse. It's rider held a bow and he was given a crown and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest."

– Revelation 6:1-2

1. The White Horse

Rider on the White Horse – Representation of the conquest of the antichrist.

The Bible says he carries a bow, but it doesn't talk about arrows – an indication of conquering without fighting, of conquering by diplomacy, of conquering by words.

2. The Red Horse

The red horse is a picture of war.

“The Lamb opened the second seal. I heard the second living creature say, ‘Come,’ and then another horse came out, a fiery red one. His rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword.” – Revelation 6:3-4

3. The Black Horse

“The Lamb opened the third seal. I heard a third living creature say, ‘Come,’ and I looked and there was a black horse. It’s rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures saying, ‘A quart of wheat for a day’s wages and three quarts of barley for a day’s wages and do not damage the oil and the wine.’” – Revelation 6:5-6

The black horse is a representation of famine.

4. The Pale Horse

The pale horse is a representation of death.

The word “pale” horse comes from the Greek word chloros, meaning pale green.

“I looked and there before me was a pale horse. Its rider was named Death and Hades was following close behind him.

They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword and famine and plague and by the wild beasts of the earth.” – Revelation 6:7-8

The Fifth Seal

“When He opened the fifth seal I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony that they had maintained. And they called in a loud voice, ‘How long sovereign Lord, holy and true, until You judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?’” – Revelation 6:9-10

The fifth seal is the martyrs asking “How long?”

The Fifth Seal

“Then each of them were given a white robe and they were told to wait a little longer until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they were killed was completed.”

– Revelation 6:11

Who are these Martyrs?

**They are those who've lost
their lives because of their
testimony for Christ.**

What altar are they under?

**The altar of sacrifice or the
altar of incense.**

**Altar of sacrifice –
Jesus Christ**

What altar are they under?

**The altar of sacrifice or the
altar of incense.**

**Altar of incense –
Where prayers were offered.**

The Sixth Seal

“I watched and He opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake and the sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair and the whole moon turned blood red and the stars in the sky fell to earth as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll rolling up and every mountain and island was removed from its place.” – Revelation 6:12-14

Three Types of Signs

1. The Bible says there will always be signs pointing to the end.

“Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in My name claiming I am He. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars don’t be alarmed. Such things must happen but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places and famines. These are the beginning of birth pangs.” – Mark 13:5-8

Three Types of Signs

1. The Bible says there will always be signs pointing to the end.

“We may not see the four horsemen of the apocalypse as yet but we can certainly hear their approaching hoof beats.”

– Billy Graham

Three Types of Signs

1. The Bible says there will always be signs pointing to the end.

**“Don’t let anybody fool you. It doesn’t mean that it’s the great final war but it is an indication that I’m coming again.” – *Jesus*
(*Matthew 24:4-6*)**

Three Types of Signs

2. The second kind of signs are signs that immediately precede the end time events.

“Many will turn away from their faith and they will betray and hate each other. And many false prophets will appear and deceive many people because of the increase of wickedness and the love of most will grow cold.”

– Matthew 24:10-12

Three Types of Signs

3. The final kind of signs are signs accompanying the end time events.

What are some of the signs talked about here?

- ***Stars falling to earth***
- ***Sky rolled back as a scroll***

**If we're not going to be here,
if that's true, why does God need
to tell us these things?**

Two Reasons

- 1. We need to be told these things to empower our witness.***
- 2. He tells us these things to enable our wisdom about this world and what's happening in this world.***

Revelation 6:15-17

“Then the kings of the earth and the princes and the generals and the rich and the mighty and every slave and every freeman hid in caves and among the rocks in the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, ‘Fall on us! And hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the great day of their wrath has come and who can stand?’”

II. View from Heaven

There are three different groups that are talked about here and each of them teach a powerful truth about God.

II. View from Heaven

1. The four angels who are holding the four corners of the earth.

“Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” – Revelation 7:1

II. View from Heaven

2. The 144,000.

Who are they?

***The number that were sealed
are 12,000 from each of the
twelve tribes of Israel.***

Revelation 14:4

They were purchased
from among mankind and
offered as **first-fruits** to
God and the Lamb.

**God's greatest
concern is our
salvation.**

The Bible says that these are sealed which is a sign of ownership and protection.

They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. – Revelation 9:4

Revelation 7:9-10

⁹ After this I looked and there was this great multitude that no one could count from every nation, tribe, people and language standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes. They were holding palm branches in their hand.

¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb.

Revelation 7:11-12

11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures and they fell down on their faces before the throne and they worshipped God

12 saying, 'Amen. Praise and glory, and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength are yours, God, forever and ever.

**What does this multitude of
believers in heaven teach us?**

***They teach us that
God will not fail us.***

Revelation 7:13-14

13 Then one of the elders asked me,
“These in white robes—**who are they,**
and where did they come from?”

14 I answered, **“Sir, you know.”**

**And the elder said, “they are those who
have come out of the great tribulation;
they have washed their robes and made
them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

Revelation 7:15-16

- 15 “Therefore they are before the throne of God. And they serve Him night and day in the Temple and He who sits on the throne will spread His protection over them.***
- 16 Never again will they hunger. Never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them or any scorching heat.”***

Revelation 7:17_a

“The Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd.”

Revelation 7:17_b

“At the end we’re there together before that throne no more pain, no more suffering. He will lead them to springs of living water and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”

The Seventh Seal

7 trumpets judgments...

Coming Next Sunday