

Be Patient -

Christ Is Reclaiming the World from Sin, Satan & Death



"16 And they cried to the mountains and the rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one 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 survive?" Revelation 6:16-17 NLT

- Have you ever asked why some people get away with evil? Will God ever bring justice to the world?

Chapter 6 describes the beginning of the **7-year Tribulation period**. According to the prophetic scriptures, the darkest days of human history are yet to occur. (Dan. 12:1; Matthew 24:21-22 NLT). The Bible reveals that no time in history equals the turmoil, destruction, and display of evil as that of the **Tribulation period**.

The Scroll with 7 Seals

In Revelation 5, The Lamb of God (Christ) takes a scroll that symbolizes the **title deed** to all creation. As each seal is broken and God's judgment is poured out on the earth (Rev. 6, 8), **Jesus reclaims creation from sin and Satan** (see 11:15-16). In simple terms, Satan has had his grip on the title deed of the world, but Christ is the rightful owner (see John 1:3). Christ is prying Satan's fingers loose with each seal (Rev. 6), trumpet (Rev. 8-9) and bowl judgments (Rev. 16).

The Central Lesson:

Be **PATIENT** - Christ is reclaiming the world from sin, Satan, and death.

How Do the Seal Judgments **HELP** Suffering Saints?

The book of Revelation was written about AD 95 during the reign of the Roman emperor Titus Flavius Domitian (duh-mish-ee-n). He demanded "emperor worship," which required acknowledging him as "Lord and God." The refusal of the Jews and Christians to worship him resulted in their persecution and execution. So the answer to the question - "When will God do something about evil in the world?" is - **Be patient as God fulfills His plan for world redemption and reclaims creation from sin, Satan & death.** The call to patience is also seen in Rev. 1:9; 13:10; 14:12.

What Is the **TRIBULATION** Period?

The Tribulation period is a **seven-year period of time characterized by unparalleled turmoil and God's judgment just before the Second Coming of Christ to the earth.** The seven year length of time comes from Daniel's vision of the seventy weeks [or "**seventy sets of seven**" NLT] (Daniel 9:24-27). The Tribulation is the "**...one set of 'seven'...**" [the 70th week] (v.27) when the Antichrist makes a **treaty** with Israel.

The Tribulation Is a Time of **GOD'S** Judgment

Many people misunderstand the nature of the Tribulation period as a time when the devil and the Antichrist are triumphant. However, the Tribulation period is not the triumph of evil but **the triumph of righteousness** through the judgment of God. (see Rev. 6:16-17; 11:15-18; 14:9-11, 18-19; 15:1, 7; 16:1, 17-19; 19:15).

The Four Horseman of the 7 Seal Judgments (Rev. 6)

1

The First Seal—Rider on the White Horse: The **ANTICHRIST** & False Peace (6:1-2).

*"4 As I watched, the Lamb broke the **first** of the seven seals on the scroll. Then I heard one of the four living beings say with a voice like thunder, 'Come!' 2 I looked up and saw a **white horse** standing there. Its rider carried a **bow**, and a **crown** was placed on his head. He rode out to **win many battles** and gain the victory."*

The "**...white horse...**" represents conquest & victory. The "**...bow,...**" but no arrows symbolizes diplomatic victory rather than military might. The "**...crown...**" means that he is successful in his conquest of the world. Eventually the whole earth will follow him. "**He....**" indicates that this is a man. "**...rode out to win many battles...**" indicates that he will continually advance his conquest across the earth.

2

The Second Seal—Rider on the Red Horse: **World WAR** (6:3-4).

*"3 When the Lamb broke the **second seal**, I heard the second living being say, 'Come!' 4 Then another horse appeared, a **red one**. Its rider was given a **mighty sword** and the authority to **take peace** from the earth. And there was **war and slaughter everywhere.**"*

A "**...red...**" horse represents bloodshed, and "**...the authority to take peace from the earth...**" represents war. Bible teachers believe that some of the world nations will revolt against the Antichrist as he conquers the world, but they will be defeated. The Antichrist is given "**...a mighty sword...**" which represents his ultimate victory.

3

The Third Seal—Rider on the Black Horse: **World FAMINE** & Economic Failure (6:5-6).

*"5 When the Lamb broke the third seal, I heard the third living being say, 'Come!' I looked up and saw a **black horse**, and its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice from among the four living beings say, 'A loaf of wheat bread or three loaves of barley will cost a day's pay. And don't waste the olive oil and wine.'"*

A "**...black horse...**" symbolizes a worldwide financial collapse. "**...its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand...**" indicates the scarcity of food which is weighed out as carefully as gold. A simple meal will cost "**...a day's pay...**" (6:6).

4

The Fourth Seal—Rider on the Pale Horse: **Epidemic DISEASE** & Death (6:7-8).

*"7 When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the fourth living being say, 'Come!' 8 I looked up and saw a horse whose color was **pale green**. Its rider was named **Death**, and his companion was the **Grave**. These two were given authority over one-fourth of the earth, to kill with the sword and famine and disease and wild animals."*

A "**...pale green...**" horse represents death on a massive scale, verified by the fact that its rider was named "**...Death,...**" The mention of "**...the Grave...**" (Greek: **hell**) indicates that the massive death will primarily be **unbelievers**. Astonishingly, **one-fourth** of the earth will die from "**...the sword...**" that is war, "**...famine...**" that is starvation, "**...disease...**", and "**...wild animals.**"

Conclusion - Are you struggling with how long God will allow suffering and the wickedness of the world? God's answer is "**a little longer**" (6:11).

Be patient - Christ is reclaiming the world from sin, Satan, and death.

Action Steps: ► Receive Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's Bible study. ► Attend a small group. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.