

Be Patient -

Christ Is Reclaiming the World from Sin, Satan & Death (Part 2)



"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

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 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).

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 - God loves us too much to allow evil to reign and harass us indefinitely.

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 from Revelation 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.

Also, the book of Revelation was to help **God's suffering people stay focused on God**. Revelation shows (1) **God's sovereign rule** over the world and human history. (2) **God's holiness** in that evil must be punished. (3) **God's love and plan of redemption** for the world and lost sinners. He loves us too much to allow evil to reign and harass us indefinitely. He allows evil to run its course for a purpose and for a limited time. Eventually, He will bring it to an end.

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

Many people misunderstand the nature of the Tribulation as a time when the devil and the Antichrist are triumphant. However, it is **the triumph of righteousness** through God's judgment. (Rev. 6:16-17; 11:15-18; 14:9-11, 18-19; 15:1, 7; 16:1, 17-19; 19:15).

The 7 Seal Judgments (Revelation 6)

- 1 The First Seal—Rider on the White Horse: The **ANTICHRIST** & False Peace (6:1-2).**
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).**
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).**
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).**
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...*"
- 5 The Fifth Seal—the Martyred Tribulation Saints: **Religious PERSECUTION** (6:9-11).** Revelation chapter 7:9-17 shows that **large numbers of people will turn to Christ at the beginning of the Tribulation period**. However, they will be **persecuted** and **martyred** for their faith. The fifth seal pictures the souls of those who had been **killed for their faith during the Tribulation period**. They call out to God, asking how long He will wait before He judges the world and avenges their death. They are given **white robes** and told to **be patient**.
- 6 The Sixth Seal—Catastrophe on **EARTH** (6:12-17).** The earth will experience a "*...great earthquake...*" The sun turns "*...black...*" and the moon turns "*...red as blood...*" (6:12). The stars fall to the earth, and the sky is "*...rolled up like a scroll...*" Also, "*...all of the mountains and islands were removed from their places...*" (6:14). There are at least **two ways to interpret** this description: (1) A **catastrophe of nature**, or (2) **all-out nuclear war**. In either case, the world's government and military will perceive all this as **God judging the earth** (6:15).
- 7 The Seventh Seal—Seven **TRUMPET** Judgments (8:1-2).** The seventh seal brings seven angels with trumpets that will bring seven additional horrendous judgments upon the earth.

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** - God loves us too much to allow evil to reign and harass us indefinitely.

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.