

Revelation 6-7

This lesson will answer the following questions:

- How will the Tribulation begin?
 - Who will be the force behind the global changes during the Tribulation?
 - How will the Tribulation impact the earth and its inhabitants?
 - Who will preach the gospel during the Tribulation?
- The church will have been taken up to Heaven at the rapture

REVELATION 6: THE OPENING OF THE SEVEN SEALS

- A broad overview of the Tribulation judgments
- The seven-sealed book is the subject of Revelation 5
- The question: Who is worthy to open the book (5:2)
- Jesus Christ is about to answer unanswered prayers for justice (5:8)
- Jesus is the only one worthy to judge the earth (5:9)

1. THE FIRST SEAL (6:1-2)

- The WHITE HORSE and its rider represent ANTICHRIST
 - Why the white horse? Because Christ will return on a white horse (19:12)
 - Antichrist = pseudo-Christ. He will come in the name of Christ
 - There will be an unparalleled time of world peace
- Notice the description of Antichrist (2)
 - A bow w/ no arrows - He uses diplomacy, not weapons
 - A crown was given to him – given by a global coalition of governments
 - After his coronation – *He went out conquering and to conquer*
- He will promise peace, then promote war
 - Christ brings war that leads to peace
 - Antichrist brings peace that leads to war

I Thessalonians 5:3 – *For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.*

2. THE SECOND SEAL (6:3-4)

- The RED HORSE represents WAR
 - Red is a violent color (Bob Camargo)
 - Red is a symbol of war
- God allows Antichrist to create a world-wide war
 - Described by Jesus as “birth pangs” of God’s wrath (Matthew 24:8)
- There was given to Antichrist a great sword
 - Depicts slaughter of in defeating those who oppose him (Dan 8:24)

3. THE THIRD SEAL (6:5-6)

- The BLACK HORSE represents FAMINE
 - Black is a symbol of mourning
 - One loaf of bread or three quarts of barley (usually fed to animals) will cost a day’s pay
 - Famine follows war
- Famine will be a major cause of death in the Tribulation

4. THE FOURTH SEAL (6:7-8)

- The PALE HORSE represents DEATH
 - Pale = ashen green color of the decomposition of a corpse
- This also represents HADES – place of departed spirits
 - A reminder that death is physical & spiritual
- 1 ¼ of earth’s population will be killed
- The Tribulation will be a time of unprecedented trouble

5. THE FIFTH SEAL (6:9-11)

- This speaks of MARTYRDOM
- People will be slain for the WORD OF GOD & their TESTIMONY
- They are given robes – Apparently souls in Heaven are given temporary bodies until glorified bodies are given at the resurrection

6. THE SIXTH SEAL (6:12-14)

- There will be COSMIC DISTURBANCES
- This is a direct intervention from God, not by man

- **Great earthquake** – all the earth’s faults will begin to fracture simultaneously, resulting in a cataclysmic, global earthquake
- **Sun & Moon darkened** – Accompanying the earthquake will be numerous volcanic eruptions w/ large amounts of ash & debris blown into the earth’s atmosphere, blackening the sun & giving the moon a blood-red hue
Zechariah 14:6-7 – *It shall come to pass in that day that there will be no light; the lights will diminish. It shall be one day which is know to the Lord – neither day, nor night, but at evening time it shall happen that it will be light.*
- **The stars of heaven fell to the earth** – This could refer to a massive asteroid or meteor shower.
- **The sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place** – This will happen just prior to Christ’s return to earth.
- The result will be great fear to those on earth **(15-17)**

CONCLUDE: These judgments are for those who follow Antichrist. “Antichrist” is not mentioned in Revelation. He is the “beast” (Revelation 13). He is “the man of sin” and the “lawless one” (II Thessalonians 2). “Antichrist” is mentioned in I John 2:18). There are many “antichrists” (I John 2:18). John defines antichrist as one “who is a liar” and “denies that Jesus is the Christ...He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son” (I John 2:22).

REVELATION 7: THE 144,000

- This answers the question: Who will preach the Gospel during the Tribulation?
- God will choose 144,000 servants to preach the Gospel
- Four Angels will hold the judgments back until these preachers are sealed (7:1)

WHO ARE THE 144,000?

- They will have the seal of God on their foreheads (7:2)
 - They are not the church. They are not the Jehovah’s witnesses
- They are Jews, 12,000 from each tribe of Israel (7:1:1-4)
- They are sealed for protection as they preach the Gospel in the Tribulation

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- The people saved during the Tribulation. The innumerable people who will be saved during the Tribulation will largely be a result of their preaching (7:9)
- They will win disciples from every nationality, color, language, and tribe (7:9)
- Most of these will be martyred, but God will wipe away their tears (7:17)
- They are described as the “firstfruits of God and the Lamb” (14:4)
- There are 144,000 when they begin the Tribulation. There will be 144,000 when the Tribulation is finished. We will see them before the throne of God one day (14:5).

CONCLUDE: The best way to think of the 144,000 is to think of 144,000 apostle Paul’s sealed for the specific purpose of winning the lost during the most horrific time in history.