

**REVELATION PART FOUR - Chapters 6 to 8****Chapter 6 – The Seven Seals**

In Chapter 5, we saw the whole creation worshipping the Father and the Son (the Lamb). The Lamb had already taken the scroll which described the events depicting the ending of the current world and the inauguration of the beautiful New Heaven and New Earth. The Lamb was getting ready to unseal the scroll.

1. Revelation 6:1. John heard a loud voice when the first seal was opened. The voice said, “Come”. The word “Come” could mean that John was being asked to come forward and see; or it could more likely be commanding the things in the scroll to come out.
2. Revelation 6:2. John saw a white horse. White horse usually symbolises a conqueror coming in. On the horse was a rider who had a bow and a crown. It was a picture of a warrior, somewhat like a conquering king.
3. Revelation 6:3-4. Next, the Lamb opened the second seal and a red horse came out. The colour red symbolises bloodshed. The rider had a great sword and was permitted to ‘take peace from the world’. This bloodshed is the result of the white horse starting a war. All these events were controlled by God.
4. Revelation 6:5-6. Then the Lamb opened the third seal and this time round, a black horse came out. The rider had a pair of scales in his hand. A voice said, “Come and buy barley at such and such a price” which, at that time, was considered very expensive. The black horse signified shortage of food and presence of famine. The end result was chaos and wars.
5. Revelation 6:7-8. Soon, the fourth seal was broken and a pale weak horse came out. The rider was named Death and following him was Hades which referred to graves where lives were being buried. The people were dying from sword, famine and diseases. And so were the wild beasts.
6. These first 4 events of the 4 horses (resulting from the opening of the 4 seals) were sequential. When the conqueror came in white horse to start the war, peace was taken away; there was bloodshed and no one could farm, so there was a shortage of food resulting in famine and death. The rider was given authority to kill one quarter of the Earth’s population. If there were 8 billion people, it would mean that 2 billion would die.
7. These 4 events are not new to us as there have always been wars on Earth. But the scale here would be very different. Even the three world wars were not on this scale. These events are not difficult to understand, it is just that the intensity would be shocking to us.
8. Revelation 6:9-10.
  - a) When the fifth seal was opened, John saw martyrs under the altar of God. Massive numbers of martyr who were all dressed in white asked, “How long more, why are You delaying this judgement and why are there so many being killed?”
  - b) The answer given to them was, “Rest a little while as the number of martyrs is not yet complete.” Martyrdom would only stop when the number is complete.
  - c) God controls martyrdom, and it is not as if God cannot control it, but He is giving Christians the opportunity to be martyrs. We always expect the opposite, thinking that God wants to protect us. However, He allows us to be war heroes who die for our faith, who are martyred while reaching out to the poor, and/or preaching the Gospel to those who are starving etc.
  - d) If we wonder why all these brutal events are happening at the end of the world, it is because God is raising a bunch of heroes for His New Earth.
9. Revelation 6:12-17.

- a) When the sixth seal was opened, there was a massive earthquake which was like never before. Earthquakes are nothing new, neither is martyrdom. But the scale of the earthquake would be very different here.
  - b) In the last days, everything scales up. 2 Timothy 3:2 tells of the signs of the last days when sins such as disobedience to parents, boasting, etc., would all scale up.
  - c) The great earthquake was accompanied by signs we had never seen before. The Sun turned black, the Moon turned red, the stars fell down, and the sky seemed to be removed like a scroll being rolled back which then vanished. Everything in the sky was disappearing, and on Earth, the mountains and islands started to move. It was as if a renovation team was coming in to clear and remove all the old stuff away from an old house.
  - d) The people, which included the kings and mighty men, fled from the wrath of God and the Lamb. They said that it was the great day of the Lamb. After realising that He was the Christ that they had mocked and rejected, they hid in mountains and pleaded with the rocks to fall over them so as to hide them away from the face of Him.
  - e) The chapter ended with, “Who can stand the wrath of the Lamb?”
10. A few things to note are:
- a) The red horse rider was permitted to take peace away from the Earth.
  - b) The pale horse rider was permitted to take a quarter of the world population away.
  - c) But God controls the level of destruction.
  - d) What is depicted above is just the beginning of the destruction of the current world.
  - e) The above events are not complicated to understand except that the intensity would increase significantly compared to what we have seen happening on Earth thus far.

### Chapter 7 – 144,000 Sealed

Chapter 6 showed a huge massive destruction of the world caused by the 4 horsemen. A quarter of the world’s population died and many were injured. The chapter ended with, “Who can stand the wrath of God?” Chapter 7 answers this question.

1. Revelation 7:1. The beginning of Chapter 7 recorded 4 angels standing on the 4 corners of the Earth holding the back the four winds. These were 4 winds of destruction.
2. Revelation 7:2-8.
  - a) Then John saw an angel arising from the east, holding the seal of God in his hand. That angel cried out to the 4 angels who were holding out the 4 winds and told them not to harm the Earth until he had sealed the people of God (servants of God) on their foreheads.
  - b) The number John heard was 144,000. There were 12,000 from each tribe of the Israel, and since there were 12 tribes, hence, the total 144,000 was heard. The number 12 represents God’s people. It meant that the nation of Israel would be sealed and protected.
  - c) There were 12 tribes but Dan was missing because Dan had gone into severe idolatry. Of the 12 Apostles, Judas Iscariot was also removed. Thus while Dan was removed from the Old Testament, Judas was removed from New Testament and was replaced by Matthias.
  - d) One could think that the 10 tribes of Northern Israel had disappeared from the face of the Earth when Assyria came and conquered them in 722 BC. There has

been no mention of the 10 tribes for about 2700 years. To date, we have no idea of their existence and they are being considered by most people to be the “lost tribes”. There is only Judah left, which is why the Israelites are now called Jews. Israel has not been forgotten by God.

3. Revelation 7:9-12.
  - a) John saw another great multitude besides those 144,000.
  - b) The great multitude could not be numbered within the 144,000 as the great multitude were from different culture, language, nationalities etc.
  - c) However, they have certain commonalities. They all wore white clothing and had palm branches in their hands.
  - d) The people were singing, “Salvation belongs to God and to the Lamb”. John saw millions of angels, the 24 elders and 4 living creatures, and they all fell down and worshipped God, crying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might to our God forever and ever! Amen!” It was in response to the people’s singing that “Salvation belongs to God and the Lamb”.
4. Revelation 17:13-17.
  - a) Then an elder came and asked John who those people were. John responded that he did not know. The elder said that they were from the Great Tribulation and had washed themselves white in the blood of Lamb. Those were martyrs who had trusted Christ and had preached during the Great Tribulation period and had died for Christ.
  - b) God is allowing people to be heroes, to die as martyrs, which is the greatest honour a Christian could have. People today sacrificed a lot of their time to be someone great in this world, but there is the highest accolade up there, which is the martyr’s crown, and not a mere President’s scholar here on Earth.
  - c) Though the 144,000 Israelites would be sealed and protected by God, we can expect that there would be many Christians who would be martyred during the Great Tribulation.

### Chapter 8 – The Seventh Seal and the Golden Censer

In the previous chapter, we saw how God sealed and protected 144,000 Israelites. Those martyred in the Great Tribulation were already with God. In this Chapter 8, the seventh seal was opened. When the first 6 seals were opened, horrendous things happened.

1. Revelation 8:1. When the seventh seal was opened, there was complete silence for half an hour, as if time was given to John to catch his breath.
2. The seventh seal opened up another set or series of judgement. The first set of 7 seals opened are called the 7 Seals Judgements. The new series or set are called the 7 Trumpets Judgements. And when the seventh trumpet was opened, it led to another set of judgements called the 7 Bowls Judgements.
3. Three sets of 7 – 7 seals, 7 trumpets and 7 bowls judgements. Is this a linear sequence of events?
  - a) No, they are describing different aspects of the Judgements that would be taking place at the same time.
  - b) The 7 Seals Judgements describes man slaughtering one another, i.e. they were man-made judgements. But in the 7 Trumpets Judgements, they were God-sent judgements.

- c) This means that the 7 Trumpets Judgements is not following the 7 Seals Judgements; but that during the 7 Seals Judgements, the 7 Trumpets judgements is also happening. Thus, while man was slaughtering each other, God would also be doing something via the 7 Trumpets Judgements. This means that God is overlaying judgements over what is already happening on Earth amongst men at war by 'throwing things down from heaven', so to speak.
4. Revelation 8:2-5. Before the 7 angels with the 7 trumpets could blow their trumpets, John saw another angel with an incense burner. That angel offered incense on the altar which rose up to God, and he took some fire from the altar and threw it down onto the Earth. Thunders and lightning happened then. God's presence is often signified by thunders and lightning. This means that God is also involved not just in 'world wars' between men but also God's war against the world.
5. Revelation 8:6-7.
- a) After John heard the first trumpet, he saw hail and fire mixed with blood cast upon the Earth.
- b) Similarly, in Exodus, the same scene happened to Pharaoh except that this would not be just in Egypt alone, but the whole world, and on a massive scale.
- c) With all the horrendous happenings that took place when the sixth seal mentioned earlier was opened, we thought people would repent. But many were just like Pharaoh who refused to repent. All of them took such disasters as natural climate changes. God is dealing with the world the way He dealt with the hardened heart of Pharaoh. Some may acknowledge that it was the wrath of the Lamb, but majority would just keep cursing.
- d) The first trumpet calamity would cause one third of the world's trees and grass to burn up.
6. Revelation 8:8-9. Then when the second trumpet was blown, John saw a great mountain of fire being thrown into the sea (like a super meteorite); and one third of the sea turned into blood, one third of the sea creatures died and one third of the ships were destroyed. While River Nile in Exodus was turned into blood, it was just one river and it was nothing compared to the scale here.
7. Revelation 8:10-11. Then when the third trumpet sounded, a great star (named Wormwood) fell from heaven on one third of the rivers and springs, and the fresh water turned bitter and poisonous. Many people died from drinking the poisonous water.
8. Revelation 8:12. After the fourth trumpet was blown, one third of the Sun, Moon and stars darkened. Lights had been dimmed.

Thus, while the wars were raging between men, all the disasters sent by God were also happening. God has been giving thousands of opportunities for people to acknowledge Him but they still would not. God is not only removing the evil people as they kept hardening their hearts, He is also removing the messed-up world.

1. Today, people talk about Mother Nature but not God the Father. Today's rivers, sea, farmlands are all polluted. This Earth has been run down after years of abuse.
2. God is going to remove the current world like removing a 'termite-eaten' house. It is easier to demolish it completely and build a New Earth.

So, what is going to happen in future as described in Revelation is not difficult to understand as all these similar events had happened before, except on an unimaginable scale. Let us take it at face

value like the way we understood the story of Pharaoh in Exodus. Thus, the book of Revelation is not a big mystery as Satan would like you to believe.

Finally, in Revelation 8:13, John saw an eagle which cried out with a loud voice saying, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on Earth". This means that there will be three more woes (from three more trumpets) coming as we only saw 4 trumpets blown here.