

Revelation 6

The First Seal: Conqueror on a White Horse

Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as *with* a voice of thunder, “Come[α]!” ² I looked, and behold, a white horse, and the one who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

The Second Seal: War

³ When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come[β]!” ⁴ And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that *people* would kill one another; and a large sword was given to him.

The Third Seal: Famine

⁵ When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, “Come[γ]!” I looked, and behold, a black horse, and the one who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ And I heard *something* like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, “A [δ]quart of wheat for a [ε]denarius, and three [ζ]quarts of barley for a [η]denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine.”

The Fourth Seal: Death

⁷ When *the Lamb* broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come[θ]!” ⁸ I looked, and behold, [ι]an ashen horse; and the one who sat on it had the name Death, and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, and famine, and [κ]plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.

The Fifth Seal: Martyrs

⁹ When *the Lamb* broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been killed because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; ¹⁰ and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O [λ]Lord, holy and true, [μ]will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who live on the earth?” ¹¹ And a white robe was given to each of them; and they were told that they were to rest for a little while longer, until *the number of* their fellow servants and their brothers *and sisters* who were to be killed even as they *had been*, was completed also.

The Sixth Seal: Terror

¹² And I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became as black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; ¹³ and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. ¹⁴ The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the eminent people, and the commanders and the wealthy and the strong, and every slave and free person hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; ¹⁶ and they *said to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the [ν]sight of Him 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 stand?”

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's helpful insights

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1. One of the four living creatures set into motion.
2. It is the Lamb that breaks the seal around the book.
3. What does a voice of thunder sound like?
4. What does it mean 'to come'?
5. John looked and saw.
6. John saw a white horse, its rider with a bow, set out to conquer.
7. What was the bow for?
8. Again the second seal is broken and the second living creature says 'come'.
9. John sees a red horse, its rider is instructed to take peace from the earth.
10. He declares that men slay one another with the great sword, there is a mighty conquest.
11. The third seal is broken and the third living creature says 'come'.
12. John sees a black horse, its rider has scales. What does this mean?
13. In the centre of the four living creatures John hears a voice.
14. A declaration of the state of the cost of wheat.
15. And an instruction not to damage the oil and the wine.
16. The fourth seal is broken and the four living creature says 'come'.
17. An ashen horse with a rider on it saying 'death'. Hades is following him.
18. Authority was given to him to act, to destroy a fourth of the earth with the sword, famine, plague and wild beast.
19. The fifth seal is broken, John saw under the altar the souls of the slain.
20. Because of God's word.
21. Because of their testimony.
22. The souls cry out 'how long oh Lord?'
23. As they speak to God they call Him 'holy and true'.
24. The souls want their blood avenged by God.
25. These souls were given white robes to wear, why?
26. They are told to wait as others are still going to join them in their persecution.
27. The sixth seal is broken and there is an earthquake.
28. The sun went black.
29. The moon went blood red.
30. The stars fell to the earth.
31. The sky was split.
32. Mountains and Islands were relocated.
33. Everyone and anyone who was anyone, hid in the caves and the rocks.
34. They said to the mountains 'fall on us'.
35. 'Hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne'.
36. 'And from the wrath of the Lamb'.
37. The declaration is the day of wrath has come and no-one can stand.