

# The Book of Revelation

## Chapter 6

### Introductory Notes

- We begin to see the judgment of God poured out on the Earth as the Tribulation period begins.

### Outline

- The First Seal (False Peace) - vs. 1-2
- The Second Seal (War) - vs. 3-4
- The Third Seal (Famine) - vs. 5-6
- The Fourth Seal (Death)- vs. 7-8
- The Fifth Seal (Martyrdom) - vs. 9-11
- The Sixth Seal (Earthquake and more) - vs. 12-17

### The Tribulation

- The Tribulation is a seven-year period of great judgment on the Earth before the establishment of Christ's Millennial Kingdom.
- It is the *70th Week* in Daniel 9:26-27 and *Day of the Lord* in Zephaniah 1:14-18.
- It is one of the subjects of Christ's Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24.
- The Rapture takes place before this time and the Church does not go through it (Revelation 3:10; I Thessalonians 1:9-10, 5:9)

### Notes

- I am not entirely sure of the timing of these judgments. At least the first five of these Seal judgments may not be tied to a specific event and may be more general in describing the period. I do think these occur, or at least begin their effects, in the first half of the Tribulation.
- These events parallel the descriptions of Matthew 24:4-14.
- The First Seal (False Peace) - vs. 1-2
  - This pictures the rise of the Antichrist
  - He rides a white horse in imitation of Christ in Revelation 19:11
  - He has a bow, but no arrows – possibly refers to threat of force.
  - Crown - victor's crown, not a royal crown.
- The Second Seal (War) - vs. 3-4
  - War still rages despite man's efforts otherwise.
  - Matthew 24:6

- The Third Seal (Famine) - vs. 5-6
  - penny - Roman denarius, the common laborer's wage for a day – Matthew 20:2
  - measure - roughly a quart, enough for one man to eat in a day.
  - Walvoord: "To put it in ordinary language, the situation would be such that one would have to spend a day's wages for a loaf of bread with no money left to buy anything else. The symbolism therefore indicates a time of famine when life will be reduced to the barest necessities; for famine is almost always the aftermath of war."
- The Fourth Seal (Death) - vs. 7-8
  - The current estimated world population is 8 billion, 1/4 of which is 2 billion.
    - Roughly the combined population of China, United States, and Brazil.
    - Roughly the combined population of Africa and Europe.
- The Fifth Seal (Martyrdom) - vs. 9-11
  - The altar speaks of sacrifice, under the altar speaks of blood being poured out - Leviticus 4:7
  - Note that these are not the only martyrs to come from the Tribulation – vs. 11
  - These believers are mercifully martyred and escape what is to come on earth.
- The Sixth Seal (Earthquake and more) - vs. 12-17
  - This is not figurative language. It is poetic descriptions of actual events
  - "great earthquake" - I think the whole planet is shaken. It very likely could be cause of much that follows. See also Mark 13:8.
  - "sun became black as sackcloth" - sackcloth is black goat hair.
    - An eclipse or skies filled with smoke/etc. See also Mark 13:24, Joel 2:10
  - "moon became as blood"
    - as occurs in a lunar eclipse or with debris in the atmosphere. See also Joel 2:31 (but not John Hagee).
  - "stars of heaven fell"
    - Probably a meteor shower of some significance.
    - If figurative (which I doubt) this could be kings falling. See Daniel 8:10.
  - "heaven departed as a scroll"
    - Cataclysmic shift in the atmosphere. See Isaiah 34:4.
  - "mountain and island were moved"
    - Shifting of the earth's surface probably in conjunction with the earthquake.
  - I think that though these types of judgments in the natural world that the earth is being "re-created" in preparation for the Millennial Kingdom.
  - Note in vs. 15 that everyone is affected by these events, and they all sense divine judgment.