

THE 7 SEALS

Revelation 6-7

Chapter 6 begins with Jesus breaking the first seal of the scroll. This releases the Antichrist, to rise to power. The events that unfold devastate the planet, and seem natural initially, but by the 6th seal, the world realises its supernatural origins and cry out to God.

Meanwhile, amidst the chaos, God raises up a group of 144,000 Jewish evangelists as part of His redemptive plan during the Tribulation as described in Chapter 7. It's therefore important to note that the events in Chapter 6 and 7 run concurrently, not consecutively and may overlap as suggested in the timeline below.

REV 6 BREAKING OF THE SEALS

As Jesus breaks the first 4 seals, John sees a horse and rider released with each seal. The 4 horsemen of the Apocalypse are often depicted as powerful mythical characters unleashing destruction on the Earth, however they actually represent one man, the Antichrist, at four stages of his rise to the world stage and his impact on the world.

1 WHITE HORSE

The crown and bow with no arrows suggests a military leader will rise who threatens attack but doesn't have the power yet.



2 RED HORSE

The sword and red horse indicates this leader now begins conquering causing widespread bloodshed in a world war.



3 BLACK HORSE

The scales represent economic collapse, the natural result of war, as food and supplies become scarce.



4 ASHEN HORSE

Death with Hades following. Widespread death will occur with around 2 billion lives lost. Bodies lay unburied.



5 MARTYRDOM



The 5th seal describes the killing of believers during the entire Tribulation period, and therefore occurs as the first 4 seals were opened. Their souls cry out for justice, but they were told to wait until the full number of martyrs has been completed. These believers are identified in Rev 7 below.

WIND STOPPED

While the seals are being broken, four angels stop all wind on the Earth. Without wind to disperse warm air and to distribute rain, many regions near the equator and towards the poles would become uninhabitable, leading to mass migration and famine.

THE 144,000

As the Antichrist rises to power, God raises up 144,000 Jewish men to spread the Gospel and to explain the signs leading to a multitude of people turning to Christ. Most of these Tribulation Christians will then die for their faith in that time; their souls crying out from under the altar as the 5th seal was broken. Later in Chapter 11 we'll learn that the Two Witnesses performing supernatural signs will also operate in this first half of the Tribulation.

The period of Tribulation is fast approaching and Daniel told us that this seven-year period will begin when a man makes a covenant with Israel to permit them to sacrifice in a temple. This implies that Israel will have some form of a holy temple available where sacrifices can be made. A group of Jews have already begun preparations for the rebuilding of the temple on the Temple Mount, but political obstructions are currently preventing them from proceeding.

7 TRUMPETS

There are 3 waves of judgments in the Tribulation period - the seals, trumpets and the bowls. The breaking of the 7th seal doesn't unleash a singular event like the previous seals did. It is the trigger for the commencement of the 7 trumpet judgments which are covered in Chapter 8.

6 SUPERNATURAL DISASTERS

Unimaginable upheaval of nature: earthquakes, mountains and islands moving, sun becoming dark, moon turning red, meteorites. People flee to hide in caves and acknowledge this is God's judgement.



REV 7

