

# The Seals

## The Four Horseman

### Seeing Jesus in Revelation (and Hearing His Voice)



One of the things many people say, including us preachers, is that if you give yourself to Jesus, everything will be okay.

While this statement is true on one level – in terms of eternity, it gives a false sense of what our day to day life as a Christian will be like.

We often make it seem like if you always give your tithe off the top, commit your life to Jesus, and live according to His plan, your life will be one of financial security and minimal problems.

If I have ever given you this impression, please forgive me. While God has promised to take care of us, He has not promised us anything remotely like financial security and minimal problems in this life. He said:

*“Don’t imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword.”*  
([Matthew 10:34](#), NLT)

The Psalmist wrestled with this in [Psalm 73](#) where he wrote:

*... I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness. They seem to live such painless lives; their bodies are so healthy and strong. They don’t have troubles like other people; they’re not plagued with problems like everyone else ...* ([Psalm 73:3-5](#), NLT)

Then after talking about the wicked a bit more, he asks this question:

*Did I keep my heart pure for nothing? Did I keep myself innocent for no reason? I get nothing but trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain.* ([Psalm 73:13-14](#), NLT)

But Jesus doesn’t leave us without hope. There is a better day coming because of Jesus’ victory. He said:

*"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:31-33, NIV)*

We see all of this reflected in the seven seals of Revelation 6 – 8. Today, we will focus on the first five seals, **Revelation 6:1-11**.

*Then I saw the Lamb open one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" I looked, and there was a white horse. Its rider held a bow; a crown was given to him, and he went out as a conqueror in order to conquer.*

*When he opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" Then another horse went out, a fiery red one, and its rider was allowed to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another. And a large sword was given to him.*

*When he opened the 3<sup>rd</sup> seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" And I looked, and there was a black horse. Its rider held a set of scales in his hand. Then I heard something like a voice among the four living creatures say, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, but do not harm the oil and the wine."*

*When he opened the 4<sup>th</sup> seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" And I looked, and there was a pale green horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following after him. They were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill by the sword, by famine, by plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.*

*When he opened the 5<sup>th</sup> seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the word of God and the testimony they had given. They cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, the one who is holy and true, how long until you judge those who live on the earth and avenge our blood?" So they were each given a white robe, and they were told to rest a little while longer until the number would be completed of their fellow servants and their brothers and sisters, who were going to be killed just as they had been. (Revelation 6:1-11, CSB)*

Many commentators will tell us each of these seals represents a period in history from the time of Jesus' ascension up until His second coming. And while this may be the case, there seems to be something deeper going on as well.

The first four seals are grouped together in a way that sets them apart from the last three.

- They are each introduced with a single word by one of the four beasts around God's throne – that word is "Come!"
- And then a horse and a rider come on the scene
- Each horse and rider has a specific purpose or goal – the results are generally not good

Who do these riders represent? And, what are they doing?

To find the answer, we'll begin by looking at the fifth seal – the souls under the altar.

This is symbolic of course – God doesn't have a storage place for souls up in Heaven under an altar somewhere.

These souls have unfinished business – in much the same way that a murder victim has unfinished business.

What exactly is this unfinished business?

*"... How long until you judge those who live on the earth and avenge our blood?"*  
(**Revelation 6:10**, CSB)

They're asking how long before God wraps things up and punishes those responsible for their suffering. How long before justice is served?

So why is this important?

Many commentators will tell us the first seal is the Gospel going out to conquer the world for Jesus. Then the bad stuff that come out in the second, third, and fourth seals is God punishing those who rejected the message of the first seal – the Gospel.

If this was the case; however, God's people would not be asking for justice because God would have been administering it all along. This tells us the bad things happening are not coming from God's hand.

So, what exactly is going on?

We find this interesting statement when the second seal was broken:

*... Another horse went out, a fiery red one, and its rider **was allowed** to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another.* (**Revelation 6:4**, CSB – emphasis provided)

And then this statement when the fourth seal was broken:

*... There was a pale green horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following after him. **They were given authority** over a fourth of the earth, to kill by the sword, by famine, by plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.* (**Revelation 6:8**, CSB – emphasis provided)

God Who didn't make the bad things happen. However, He did give permission for the riders of the horses to make bad things happen.

At least in the case of the second and fourth seals, who is represented by the riders?

It's pretty clear these riders represent Satan and his agents. And they are given permission to do bad things.

Why would God give them this type of permission when He could simply stop the suffering by withholding permission?

We know God doesn't like to see people suffer, He doesn't even take pleasure in the destruction of wicked people (see [Ezekiel 33:11](#)).

He loves us so much He sacrificed His Son to redeem us.

Yet, He still gives Satan permission to bring about chaos, suffering, and death.

Why?

The answer is found in God's *Active Will* versus His *Permissive Will*.

More than anything, God wants you and me – along with every living person – to be with Him for eternity. He is doing everything He can to make the connections needed in our lives to make that happen. This is His *Active Will*. This is what Heaven is obsessed with.

However, He knows that in order to get us there and to make eternity secure and free from sin forever, Satan must be completely defeated here and now. And in order for Satan to be defeated, everyone must see clearly who he is, what he stands for, and what life would be like under his rule.

This can only happen if God gives him permission to freely act. This is God's *Permissive Will*. It's the only way to demonstrate the actual consequences of sin in such a way so it will never rise up again.

All of us are caught in the middle of this battle. This is why we can't seem to get very far in life without bad things happening. It's easy to feel like the souls under the altar and cry out to God "How long do we have to endure this? When will you make things right?"

There is a promise in the fifth seal that's easy to miss.

There's a limit!

We don't know what the limit is or when it will be up, but we'll see as we continue looking at the seals God does bring things to an end. The suffering and death does stop! Remember, we already explored the end of the story.

There will come a time when God will ...

... *Wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.* ([Revelation 21:4](#), CSB)

In the meantime, we must continue to trust God and live our lives day to day following as He leads us.

## Travis

Travis was 17 years old. It was Christmas break of his junior year in Academy when he was diagnosed with a rare form of childhood leukemia.

Travis was a pretty normal 17 year old boy. He was one of our son's good friends and an avid skateboarder. Most of the kids in his class considered him a good friend.

He spent a lot of time at Children's Hospital in Seattle getting treated. As his disease progressed, Travis grew closer to Jesus and developed a deep burden to see his classmates connect with Him as well.

We held two or three anointing services, pleading for his healing. But the disease continued to take its toll.

As his senior year rolled around Travis became weak enough that he need a wheel chair. One could see he was often in pain. He continued growing closer to Jesus and reaching out to his classmates.

He was asked: "Do you ever question why me? Why am I the one that got this and am suffering?"

His answer was quick: "No, why not me? I know Jesus and am ready to meet Him. If through my disease and death others can come to know Jesus, than why not me?"

He died that spring after having an experience that can only be described as a divine encounter with Jesus.

His funeral was very emotional. Many of his classmates gave their lives to Jesus.

Travis' suffering brought him closer to Jesus and, along with his death, brought to many of his friends to Jesus!

## Suffering + Promises

The writer of Hebrews make an interesting observation:

*[Jesus] learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him ... (Hebrews 5:8-9, NIV)*

Even Jesus on this earth was taught and somehow perfected more through His suffering.

Paul writes this:

*So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we are his*

*heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. (Romans 8:15-17, NLT)*

A little later in this same chapter Paul also states:

*And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. (Romans 8:26-28, NLT)*

God is the master of taking the things Satan throws at us intending to destroy us, and making something good come from it.

We certainly saw these things play out in Travis' life.

This life will include a large dose of trouble and suffering – we're in the middle of a war. But, it will end; Jesus will win!

For now, God has promised to walk with us in the trouble. Remember this promise I have shared many times with you:

*"I am the Lord your God. I am holding your hand, so don't be afraid. I am here to help you."*  
(Isaiah 41:10-13, CEV)

Hang on to Jesus as if your life depends on – because it does!

## Assignment

Next Sabbath Pastor Marin will present a message based on **John 10:10**.

- This week spend some time with **John 10:1-18**. Read it through several times, maybe even in a couple different translations.
- What do you find comforting in this passage?
- Is there anything about this passage that makes you uncomfortable? Why do you think that is?
- What causes pain in this world?
- Why do people suffer?
- What does it mean to live life to the fullest?
- What is the most important message you see in this passage?
- How will this affect the way you live your life? Why?

## Notes

Text you find in **this color** is a link to more information. It may take you to the Bible verse in context and/or in several different translations utilizing **BibleGateway.com**. In some cases, it may take you to a website where there is additional information. And, it may take you to a PDF copy of previous sermons in this series.

## Resource Books

**Revelation**, Sigve K. Tonstad, Baker Academic, © 2019. To purchase a paper copy go to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). For an iBook, [click here](#). For a Kindle version, [click here](#). For a Nook Book, [click here](#).

**Revelation of Jesus Christ, Commentary on the Book of Revelation**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Ranko Stefanovic, Andrews University Press, © 2009. To purchase a paper copy go to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). For an iBook, [click here](#). For a Kindle version, [click here](#).

**Revelation, the Fifth Gospel**, Elizabeth Talbot, Pacific Press Publishing Association, © 2014. To purchase a paper copy go to the [ABC](https://www.abc-clc.com) or to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). For an iBook, [click here](#). For a Kindle version, [click here](#). Or, for a Nook Book, [click here](#).

**What We Believe: Prophecies of Revelation for Teens**, Seth Pierce, Pacific Press Publishing Association, © 2013. To purchase a paper copy go to the [ABC](https://www.abc-clc.com) or to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). For an iBook, [click here](#). For a Kindle version, [click here](#). Or, for a Nook Book, [click here](#).

## Previous Messages in this Series (click on the title to download a PDF copy of it)

- Jan. 9, 2021 – *Present* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Jan. 23, 2021 – *Alpha + Omega* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Jan. 30, 2021 – *Available* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Feb. 6, 2021 – *Snapshot* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Feb. 13, 2021 – *Salvation* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Feb. 20, 2021 – *History, Part 1* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Mar. 6, 2021 – *History, Part 2* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)



- Mar. 27, 2021 – *Beginning, Part 1* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Apr. 17, 2021 – *Beginning, Part 2* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Apr. 24, 2021 – *Beginning, Part 3* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- May 1, 2021 – *Thrones* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- July 17, 2021 – *The Lamb* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)

## Scripture References

**Psalm 73 (NLT):** *Truly God is good to Israel, to those whose hearts are pure. <sup>2</sup> But as for me, I almost lost my footing. My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone. <sup>3</sup> For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness. <sup>4</sup> They seem to live such painless lives; their bodies are so healthy and strong. <sup>5</sup> They don't have troubles like other people; they're not plagued with problems like everyone else. <sup>6</sup> They wear pride like a jeweled necklace and clothe themselves with cruelty. <sup>7</sup> These fat cats have everything their hearts could ever wish for!*

*<sup>8</sup> They scoff and speak only evil; in their pride they seek to crush others. <sup>9</sup> They boast against the very heavens, and their words strut throughout the earth. <sup>10</sup> And so the people are dismayed and confused, drinking in all their words. <sup>11</sup> "What does God know?" they ask. "Does the Most High even know what's happening?" <sup>12</sup> Look at these wicked people – enjoying a life of ease while their riches multiply.*

*<sup>13</sup> Did I keep my heart pure for nothing? Did I keep myself innocent for no reason? <sup>14</sup> I get nothing but trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain.*

*<sup>15</sup> If I had really spoken this way to others, I would have been a traitor to your people. <sup>16</sup> So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is! <sup>17</sup> Then I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood the destiny of the wicked. <sup>18</sup> Truly, you put them on a slippery path and send them sliding over the cliff to destruction. <sup>19</sup> In an instant they are destroyed, completely swept away by terrors. <sup>20</sup> When you arise, O Lord, you will laugh at their silly ideas as a person laughs at dreams in the morning.*

*<sup>21</sup> Then I realized that my heart was bitter, and I was all torn up inside. <sup>22</sup> I was so foolish and ignorant – I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you. <sup>23</sup> Yet I still belong to you; you hold my right hand. <sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny. <sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. <sup>26</sup> My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.*

<sup>27</sup> Those who desert him will perish, for you destroy those who abandon you. <sup>28</sup> But as for me, how good it is to be near God! I have made the Sovereign LORD my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you do. (**Psalm 73**, NLT)

**Isaiah 41:10-13 (CEV):** *Don't be afraid. I am with you. Don't tremble with fear. I am your God. I will make you strong, as I protect you with my arm and give you victories.* <sup>11</sup> Everyone who hates you will be terribly disgraced; those who attack will vanish into thin air. <sup>12</sup> You will look around for those brutal enemies, but you won't find them because they will be gone.

<sup>13</sup> *I am the LORD your God. I am holding your hand, so don't be afraid. I am here to help you.* (**Isaiah 41:10-13**, CEV)

**Ezekiel 33:10-20 (NLT):** *"Son of man, give the people of Israel this message: You are saying, 'Our sins are heavy upon us; we are wasting away! How can we survive?'* <sup>11</sup> *As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die?*

<sup>12</sup> *"Son of man, give your people this message: The righteous behavior of righteous people will not save them if they turn to sin, nor will the wicked behavior of wicked people destroy them if they repent and turn from their sins.* <sup>13</sup> *When I tell righteous people that they will live, but then they sin, expecting their past righteousness to save them, then none of their righteous acts will be remembered. I will destroy them for their sins.* <sup>14</sup> *And suppose I tell some wicked people that they will surely die, but then they turn from their sins and do what is just and right.* <sup>15</sup> *For instance, they might give back a debtor's security, return what they have stolen, and obey my life-giving laws, no longer doing what is evil. If they do this, then they will surely live and not die.* <sup>16</sup> *None of their past sins will be brought up again, for they have done what is just and right, and they will surely live.*

<sup>17</sup> *"Your people are saying, 'The Lord isn't doing what's right,' but it is they who are not doing what's right.* <sup>18</sup> *For again I say, when righteous people turn away from their righteous behavior and turn to evil, they will die.* <sup>19</sup> *But if wicked people turn from their wickedness and do what is just and right, they will live.* <sup>20</sup> *O people of Israel, you are saying, 'The Lord isn't doing what's right.' But I judge each of you according to your deeds."* (**Ezekiel 33:10-20**, NLT)

**Matthew 10:16-42 (NLT):** *"Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves.* <sup>17</sup> *But beware! For you will be handed over to the courts and will be flogged with whips in the synagogues.* <sup>18</sup> *You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell the rulers and other unbelievers about me.* <sup>19</sup> *When you are arrested, don't worry about how to respond or what to say. God will give you the right words at the right time.* <sup>20</sup> *For it is not you who will be speaking – it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*

<sup>21</sup> “A brother will betray his brother to death, a father will betray his own child, and children will rebel against their parents and cause them to be killed. <sup>22</sup> And all nations will hate you because you are my followers. But everyone who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup> When you are persecuted in one town, flee to the next. I tell you the truth, the Son of Man will return before you have reached all the towns of Israel.

<sup>24</sup> “Students are not greater than their teacher, and slaves are not greater than their master. <sup>25</sup> Students are to be like their teacher, and slaves are to be like their master. And since I, the master of the household, have been called the prince of demons, the members of my household will be called by even worse names!

<sup>26</sup> “But don’t be afraid of those who threaten you. For the time is coming when everything that is covered will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. <sup>27</sup> What I tell you now in the darkness, shout abroad when daybreak comes. What I whisper in your ear, shout from the housetops for all to hear!

<sup>28</sup> “Don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> What is the price of two sparrows – one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. <sup>30</sup> And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> So don’t be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.

<sup>32</sup> “Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup> “*Don’t imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword.*

<sup>35</sup> ‘I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. <sup>36</sup> Your enemies will be right in your own household!’

<sup>37</sup> “If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. <sup>38</sup> If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. <sup>39</sup> If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

<sup>40</sup> “Anyone who receives you receives me, and anyone who receives me receives the Father who sent me. <sup>41</sup> If you receive a prophet as one who speaks for God, you will be given the same reward as a prophet. And if you receive righteous people because of their righteousness, you will be given a reward like theirs. <sup>42</sup> And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.” (Matthew 10:16-42, NLT)

**Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT):** *Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30, NLT)*

**John 3:14-17 (NLT):** *And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.*

<sup>16</sup> *“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:14-17, NLT)*

**John 16:31-33 (NIV):** *“Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. <sup>32</sup> “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.*

<sup>33</sup> *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:31-33, NIV)*

**Romans 8:1-17 (NLT):** *So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. <sup>3</sup> The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin’s control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. <sup>4</sup> He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.*

<sup>5</sup> *Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God’s laws, and it never will. <sup>8</sup> That’s why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.*

<sup>9</sup> *But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) <sup>10</sup> And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. <sup>11</sup> The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.*

<sup>12</sup> *Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. <sup>13</sup> For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit*

you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

<sup>15</sup> So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." <sup>16</sup> For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup> And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. *But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.* (Romans 8:1-17, NLT)

**Romans 8:26-28 (NLT):** *And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. <sup>27</sup> And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. <sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.* (Romans 8:26-28, NLT)

**Hebrews 5:4-10 (NIV):** *And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was.*

<sup>5</sup> In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him,

"You are my Son; today I have become your Father." (Psalm 2:7)

<sup>6</sup> And he says in another place,

"You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." (Psalm 110:4)

<sup>7</sup> During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup> *Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered <sup>9</sup> and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him <sup>10</sup> and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.* (Hebrews 5:4-10, NIV)

**Revelation 6:1 – 8:1 (CSB):** *Then I saw the Lamb open one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" <sup>2</sup> I looked, and there was a white horse. Its rider held a bow; a crown was given to him, and he went out as a conqueror in order to conquer.*

### The Second Seal

<sup>3</sup> When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" <sup>4</sup> Then another horse went out, a fiery red one, and its rider was allowed to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another. And a large sword was given to him.

### The Third Seal

*<sup>5</sup> When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" And I looked, and there was a black horse. Its rider held a set of scales in his hand. <sup>6</sup> Then I heard something like a voice among the four living creatures say, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, but do not harm the oil and the wine."*

### The Fourth Seal

*<sup>7</sup> When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" <sup>8</sup> And I looked, and there was a pale green horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following after him. They were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill by the sword, by famine, by plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.*

### The Fifth Seal

*<sup>9</sup> When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the word of God and the testimony they had given. <sup>10</sup> They cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, the one who is holy and true, how long until you judge those who live on the earth and avenge our blood?" <sup>11</sup> So they were each given a white robe, and they were told to rest a little while longer until the number would be completed of their fellow servants and their brothers and sisters, who were going to be killed just as they had been.*

### The Sixth Seal

*<sup>12</sup> Then I saw him open the sixth seal. A violent earthquake occurred; the sun turned black like sackcloth made of hair; the entire moon became like blood; <sup>13</sup> the stars of heaven fell to the earth as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a high wind; <sup>14</sup> the sky was split apart like a scroll being rolled up; and every mountain and island was moved from its place.*

*<sup>15</sup> Then the kings of the earth, the nobles, the generals, the rich, the powerful, and every slave and free person hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. <sup>16</sup> And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, <sup>17</sup> because the great day of their wrath has come! And who is able to stand?"*

### The Sealed of Israel

***7** After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, restraining the four winds of the earth so that no wind could blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. <sup>2</sup> Then I saw another angel rising up from the east, who had the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were allowed to harm the earth and the sea, <sup>3</sup> "Don't harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we seal the servants of our God on their foreheads." <sup>4</sup> And I heard the number of the sealed:*

144,000 sealed from every tribe of the Israelites:

<sup>5</sup> 12,000 sealed from the tribe of Judah,  
12,000 from the tribe of Reuben,  
12,000 from the tribe of Gad,  
<sup>6</sup> 12,000 from the tribe of Asher,  
12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali,  
12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,  
<sup>7</sup> 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon,  
12,000 from the tribe of Levi,  
12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,  
<sup>8</sup> 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun,  
12,000 from the tribe of Joseph,  
12,000 sealed from the tribe of Benjamin.

### A Multitude from the Great Tribulation

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice:

*Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!*

<sup>11</sup> All the angels stood around the throne, and along with the elders and the four living creatures they fell facedown before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying,

*Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen.*

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders asked me, "Who are these people in white robes, and where did they come from?"

<sup>14</sup> I said to him, "Sir, you know."

Then he told me: *These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

<sup>15</sup> For this reason they are before the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple. The one seated on the throne will shelter them: <sup>16</sup> They will no longer hunger; they will no longer thirst; the sun will no longer strike them, nor will any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup> For the Lamb who is at the center of the throne will shepherd them; he will guide them to springs of the waters of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.



## The Seventh Seal

**8** When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.  
(Revelation 6:1 – 8:1, CSB)

**Revelation 19:11-21 (CSB):** *Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True, and with justice he judges and makes war.* <sup>12</sup> His eyes were like a fiery flame, and many crowns were on his head. He had a name written that no one knows except himself. <sup>13</sup> He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God. <sup>14</sup> The armies that were in heaven followed him on white horses, wearing pure white linen. <sup>15</sup> *A sharp sword came from his mouth, so that he might strike the nations with it. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will also trample the winepress of the fierce anger of God, the Almighty.* <sup>16</sup> *And he has a name written on his robe and on his thigh: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

## The Beast and Its Armies Defeated

<sup>17</sup> *Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he called out in a loud voice, saying to all the birds flying high overhead, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, <sup>18</sup> so that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of military commanders, the flesh of the mighty, the flesh of horses and of their riders, and the flesh of everyone, both free and slave, small and great."*

<sup>19</sup> *Then I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and against his army.* <sup>20</sup> *But the beast was taken prisoner, and along with it the false prophet, who had performed the signs in its presence. He deceived those who accepted the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image with these signs. Both of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.* <sup>21</sup> *The rest were killed with the sword that came from the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds ate their fill of their flesh.* (Revelation 19:11-21, CSB)

**Revelation 21:1-4 (CSB):** *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.* <sup>2</sup> *I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.*

<sup>3</sup> *Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God.* <sup>4</sup> *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.* (Revelation 21:1-4, CSB)