

The Seals

How Long?

Seeing Jesus in Revelation (and Hearing His Voice)



At its core, Revelation is a tale of two kingdoms. We haven't seen this too much yet in our studies, but it starts becoming obvious with the opening of the seven seals.

In the seven seals we have a quick look at the world from Heaven's perspective focusing on the work of the two kingdoms from the time of Jesus up until the Second Coming.

Today we're going to wrap up some of the loose ends from a couple of weeks ago when we looked at the first five seals from the perspective of God *Active Will* and *Permissive Will*. (Click [here](#) to read it or click [here](#) to watch it.)

Here is the passage of Scripture that deals with 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 2nd 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 3rd 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 4th 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 5th 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)

The White Horse (1st Seal)

When the first seal is opened, we see a white horse being sent out. The rider is given a crown and told to conquer.

Most commentators believe this is Jesus’ church being sent out to preach the gospel. And while many would say this represents the early Christian Church, there are no time constraints given – it’s an ongoing commission of the church echoing Jesus’ words recorded in **Matthew 28** for all His followers:

“... Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.” (Matthew 28:19, NLT)

This is God’s Kingdom at work.

The Red Horse (2nd Seal)

Satan’s kingdom kicks right into action with the opening of the second seal and the red horse.

The rider of this horse is given permission to take peace from the earth and immediately starts to make his anger felt.

We see quickly what Satan’s kingdom is all about. It destroys peace and brings division, unrest, anger, and violence – and is directed especially towards God’s followers.

The Black Horse (3rd Seal)

The opening of the third seal brings a famine. Because this section of Revelation is mostly symbolic in nature, we would expect this to be something other than just physical hunger. In **Amos**, we find this prophecy:

“The time is surely coming,” says the Sovereign LORD, “when I will send a famine on the land – not a famine of bread or water but of hearing the words of the LORD. People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from border to border searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it.” (Amos 8:11-12, NLT)

Satan's attack leads to a famine of God's Word. This is not an accident, it's by design. If he can get people to ignore God's Word, they have no protection or guidance that will expose his attacks for what they are.

The Green Horse (4th Seal)

When the fourth seal is opened, we see the rider of the green horse getting permission to cause confusion, pain, suffering, and death. This shows the results of the famine of God's Word – the natural consequences of living separated from God.

Here again we see Satan and his agents making life miserable for people on earth, and judging from the words of the "souls" in the fifth seal, we can assume it's especially directed towards God's people.

When we look at the four horseman all together, they give us a sense of Jesus' and Satan's work down through the centuries. Some commentators have tried to assign specific time periods to the different horses, but it paints a rather sketchy, incomplete picture.

It more likely captures the different approaches they have taken at various times, and often you can see all the approaches at the same time.

What it does give us is a clear contrast between the two kingdoms.

- We see God's kingdom consistently going out to save people and bring them to God – it stands for something; eternal life with God! Only one horse and rider is needed to represent it because God and His purpose never changes.
- We see Satan's kingdom working against God's kingdom to bring confusion, destruction, and death in every way he can – it doesn't stand for anything, it has no guiding principles other than to bring God's people down and oppose whatever God is doing!

The Fifth Seal

When the fifth seal is broken, it all centers around a question:

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

And, the response:

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 6:11**, CSB)

At first glance there doesn't seem to be much comfort in this – “just rest until a bunch of other people have been killed just as you have been.”

But notice what's implied – there will come an end to it. While the number may be symbolic and there probably isn't a number ticking down in Heaven so when it's reached, things are over – there will be an end. Life will not continue on as it has for centuries now with tragedy after tragedy and heartache upon heartache.

The Apostle Peter captured this thought well when he wrote:

I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. They will say, “What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.”

... But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief ...

Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness.

(2 Peter 3:3-13, NLT)

Life on this planet as we know it will come to an end – that's a promise! We know the end of the story! (See [Revelation 21:1-4](#).)

But, we still live here on this earth.

We have seen over the past couple of messages the consistent suffering of God's people. In fact, if you carefully study Scripture, you are compelled to conclude that suffering simply is part of following Jesus.

This is a part of the Gospel we here in the United States don't identify much with, though it is true for Christians even today in a large portion of the world. More Christians are losing their lives for Jesus these days than at any other time in this world's history.

But, here is the point we must understand. You and I are called to follow Jesus, not just in the comfortable things, but in all things.

Peter wrote:

God is pleased when, conscious of his will, you patiently endure unjust treatment ... If you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you. For God called you to do good,

even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. (1 Peter 2:19-21, NLT)

Suffering for Jesus is not just a possibility, but as I read the Bible, it is a certainty. But we are never left to deal with it alone.

When Jesus gave us the commission to go to all the world He also gave us this promise – His last recorded words before going back to Heaven:

“And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20, NLT)

He also 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 16:33, NIV)

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](https://www.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, 2nd 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](#).

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- 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)
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- 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)
- July 24, 2021 – *The Seals, The 4 Horsemen* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)

Scripture References

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.* ¹¹ Everyone who hates you will be terribly disgraced; those who attack will vanish into thin air. ¹² You will look around for those brutal enemies, but you won't find them because they will be gone.

¹³ *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?'* ¹¹ *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?*

¹² *"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.* ¹³ *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.* ¹⁴ *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.* ¹⁵ *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.* ¹⁶ *None of their past sins will be brought up again, for they have done what is just and right, and they will surely live.*

¹⁷ “Your people are saying, ‘The Lord isn’t doing what’s right,’ but it is they who are not doing what’s right. ¹⁸ For again I say, when righteous people turn away from their righteous behavior and turn to evil, they will die. ¹⁹ But if wicked people turn from their wickedness and do what is just and right, they will live. ²⁰ 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)

Amos 8:1-14 (NLT): Then the Sovereign LORD showed me another vision. In it I saw a basket filled with ripe fruit. ² “What do you see, Amos?” he asked.

I replied, “A basket full of ripe fruit.”

Then the LORD said, “Like this fruit, Israel is ripe for punishment! I will not delay their punishment again. ³ In that day the singing in the temple will turn to wailing. Dead bodies will be scattered everywhere. They will be carried out of the city in silence. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!”

⁴ Listen to this, you who rob the poor and trample down the needy! ⁵ You can’t wait for the Sabbath day to be over and the religious festivals to end so you can get back to cheating the helpless. You measure out grain with dishonest measures and cheat the buyer with dishonest scales. ⁶ And you mix the grain you sell with chaff swept from the floor. Then you enslave poor people for one piece of silver or a pair of sandals.

⁷ Now the LORD has sworn this oath by his own name, the Pride of Israel: “I will never forget the wicked things you have done! ⁸ The earth will tremble for your deeds, and everyone will mourn. The ground will rise like the Nile River at floodtime; it will heave up, then sink again.

⁹ “In that day,” says the Sovereign LORD, “I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth while it is still day. ¹⁰ I will turn your celebrations into times of mourning and your singing into weeping. You will wear funeral clothes and shave your heads to show your sorrow – as if your only son had died. How very bitter that day will be!

¹¹ “The time is surely coming,” says the Sovereign LORD, “when I will send a famine on the land – not a famine of bread or water but of hearing the words of the LORD. ¹² People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from border to border searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it. ¹³ Beautiful girls and strong young men will grow faint in that day, thirsting for the LORD’s word. ¹⁴ And those who swear by the shameful idols of Samaria – who take oaths in the name of the god of Dan and make vows in the name of the god of Beersheba – they will all fall down, never to rise again.” (Amos 8:1-14, 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. ¹⁷ But beware! For you will be handed over to the courts and will be flogged with whips in the synagogues. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ For it is not you who will be speaking – it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

²¹ “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. ²² And all nations will hate you because you are my followers. But everyone who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ 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.

²⁴ “Students are not greater than their teacher, and slaves are not greater than their master. ²⁵ 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!

²⁶ “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. ²⁷ 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!

²⁸ “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. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don’t be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.

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

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

³⁵ ‘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. ³⁶ Your enemies will be right in your own household!’

³⁷ “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. ³⁸ If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. ³⁹ If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

⁴⁰ “Anyone who receives you receives me, and anyone who receives me receives the Father who sent me. ⁴¹ 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. ⁴² 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. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30, NLT)*

Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT): *Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20, 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, ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.*

¹⁶ “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. ¹⁷ 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. ³² “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.*

³³ “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. ² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ 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.*

⁵ 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. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. ⁷ For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God’s laws, and it never will. ⁸ That’s why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

⁹ 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.) ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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.

¹² Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷ 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. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ 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)

Romans 8:31-39 (NLT): *What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³² Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? ³³ Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one – for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one – for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.*

³⁵ *Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.*

³⁸ *And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow – not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below – indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Romans 8:31-39, NLT)

1 Peter 2:11-25 (NLT): *Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. ¹² Be careful to live properly among*

your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

¹³ For the Lord's sake, submit to all human authority – whether the king as head of state, ¹⁴ or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right.

¹⁵ It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. ¹⁶ For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. ¹⁷ Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.

¹⁸ You who are slaves must submit to your masters with all respect. Do what they tell you – not only if they are kind and reasonable, but even if they are cruel. ¹⁹ For God is pleased when, conscious of his will, you patiently endure unjust treatment. ²⁰ Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.

²¹ For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

²² He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. ²³ He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. ²⁴ He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. ²⁵ Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls. (1 Peter 2:11-25, NLT)

2 Peter 3:3-15 (NLT): *Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. ⁴ They will say, "What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created."*

⁵ They deliberately forget that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. ⁶ Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood. ⁷ And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed.

⁸ But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. ⁹ The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then

the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

¹¹ *Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live,* ¹² *looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames.* ¹³ *But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness.*

¹⁴ *And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.*

¹⁵ *And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. (2 Peter 3:3-15, NLT)*

Revelation 1:1-31 (CSB): *The revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, whatever he saw. ³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep what is written in it, because the time is near. (Revelation 1:1-3, CSB)*

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!" ² 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

³ *When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" ⁴ 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

⁵ *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. ⁶ 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

⁷ *When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" ⁸ 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

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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?" ¹¹ 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

¹² 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; ¹³ the stars of heaven fell to the earth as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a high wind; ¹⁴ the sky was split apart like a scroll being rolled up; and every mountain and island was moved from its place.

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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, ¹⁷ 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. ² 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, ³ "Don't harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we seal the servants of our God on their foreheads." ⁴ And I heard the number of the sealed:

144,000 sealed from every tribe of the Israelites:

⁵ 12,000 sealed from the tribe of Judah,

12,000 from the tribe of Reuben,

12,000 from the tribe of Gad,

⁶ 12,000 from the tribe of Asher,

12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali,

12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,

⁷ 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon,

12,000 from the tribe of Levi,

12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,

⁸ 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

⁹After 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. ¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice:

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

¹¹All 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, ¹²saying,

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

¹³Then one of the elders asked me, “Who are these people in white robes, and where did they come from?”

¹⁴I 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.*

¹⁵For 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: ¹⁶They will no longer hunger; they will no longer thirst; the sun will no longer strike them, nor will any scorching heat. ¹⁷For 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. ¹²His eyes were like a fiery flame, and many crowns were on his head. He had a name written that no one knows except himself. ¹³He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God. ¹⁴The armies that were in heaven followed him on white horses, wearing pure white linen. ¹⁵A 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. ¹⁶And 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

¹⁷ 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, ¹⁸ 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."

¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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. ² I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

³ 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. ⁴ 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)