

STUDIES IN REVELATION

With

Dr. Joe Arthur

&

Harvest Staff



HARVEST
BAPTIST TABERNACLE

The Seven Seals.

Revelation 5:1- 8:1

The Seven Sealed book in the right hand of God

***Revelation 6:17. “For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”**

The Lamb opening the book with the 7 Seals is the beginning of the great day of God’s wrath.

Each of these seals describe future events. “The things which shall be hereafter.” (1:19)

“The picture before us, in a word, is God’s revelation of the dramatic and terrible judgment which will climax the present age.” It serves as a warning “to those who are living carelessly in unbelief to beware lest this age engulf them. The prophecy of the end of the age should spur Christians to snatch souls as brands from the burning, and thus prepare them for the coming of the Lord.” John F. Walvoord, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*

Some Key figures:

God on the throne

A Strong Angel — Means Mighty and Powerful, 5:2; 10:1; 18:21. Notice the angel Proclaims — not simply says. (announcing as herald.) He does so with a “loud voice.” (Urgency and great concern.) Who is this strong angel? Most believe without hesitation Gabriel, the one who ordered the closing and sealing of the book to Daniel.

John- weeping

An Elder/ Elders

The Lion of Judah- Gen. 49:9-10; Isaiah 11:1;10. Behold He has Conquered
The Character of the Lion Contrasted With the Character of the Lamb
As The Lion: (Only Once 5:5)

- ❖ Reference to His Second Coming in Majesty. As King in Power and Majesty
- ❖ He is Sovereign
- ❖ He is Judge

As The Lamb: in the book of Revelation, The Lamb is mentioned 28 X's

- Reference to His first coming in meekness.
- He is our Saviour
- As a Lamb, he is judged
- The Lamb speaks of the Grace of God

Because of His authority as the Lamb, He takes the book from the One on the Throne, who is clearly God the Father. (6:7)

Take the contents of these passages, "The "Lamb" is represented as one who is Sovereign in His own authority , omnipotent in power, and worthy as the Redeemer who died for our sins." Sacrificed in His first coming.

Four beasts

Many Angels

The opening of the seals ushers in the terrible judgments that will fall on the earth. The series of Judgments will happen after the rapture of the church. (Believers)

The scenes described for us in God's word reveal the dramatic and terrible judgment which will climax the end of the present age.

- For the lost, it is a warning for living carelessly in unbelief, to be aware lest this age and all its philosophies engulf them.
- For the believer, the prophecy should urge us to witness and snatch souls from destruction and prepare them for the coming of the Lord.

The First Seal: conquest, peace, (Revelation 6:1-2.) "And I saw"
Behold: a word used here to describe the startling nature of the vision.

A White Horse: Symbol of Peace, Brings Peace, short lived

Rider: Antichrist, (some say this is Jesus, not so)

A Bow: Sweeping victorious warfare. (No Arrows) bloodless victory?

Crown: in the Greek this is not the crown of a sovereign but rather of that of a conqueror, emphasis here is not so much on Authority but on Victory

Conquering: The world. (Political peace)

The Second Seal: War, (6:3-4) (“Come and see”)

A Red Horse: Symbol of wide spread blood shed

Rider: Given the power to take peace from the earth and to wage war, men to Kill one another. Constant conflict between rulers and nations.

A great Sword: great loss of life in a world wide conflict

The hope of permanent peace, and all human efforts to bring it to pass are doomed to failure.

The Third Seal: Famine, (6:5-6). Third Beast “come and see”

The aftermath of war is revealed next as famine.

A Black Horse: Symbol of Suffering

Rider: Famine

Pair of Balances: To Weigh different commodities. Shortages of food and necessities

The Fourth Seal: Death, Divine Judgment (6:7-8). Fourth Beast says (“come and see”)

A pale horse: literally pale green(ghastly color) (Mark 6:39; Rev. 8:7;9:4)

Rider: Death and all that follows in its wake. Power to kill one-fourth of all the worlds population at that time. To kill by sword, hunger, and the beasts of the earth.

Hell followed: Unprecedented death and destruction.

It would seem that these run in succession. It is obvious that these opening judgments are terrible and terrifying and for the unbeliever inescapable.

This should cause us to be all the more diligent to witness with urgency before our time on earth is ended.