

REVELATION, Chapter 6
CHRIST OPENS THE SEALS
Facts to keep in mind

1. Revelation 6, buildings on chapters 4 and 5.
2. Revelation 4 and 5 describes the enthronement of Christ upon the Heavenly throne and the inauguration of His new ministry as High Priest in the Heavenly Sanctuary at Pentecost.
3. The opening of the seals begins with His enthronement and inauguration.
4. The seven seals cover the historical period from the enthronement of the ascended Christ to the Second Coming.
5. The breaking of the seals and the events they detail are not the content of the scroll. Instead they are the events that prelude the disclosure of the book during the final consummation. Revelation 20:12

How are we to understand the 7 seals?

1. Theme	Revelation	Gospel(s)
Gospel spreading	Rev. 6:1-2	Matt. 24:14; Mark 13:10
War	Rev. 6:3-4	Matt. 24:6-7; Mark 13:7-8 Luke 21:9-10
Famine	Rev. 6:5-6	Matt. 24:7; Mark 13:8 Luke 21:11
Pestilence	Rev. 6:7-8	Luke 21:11
Persecution	Rev. 6:9-11	Matt. 24:9-10; Mark 13:9-10 Luke 21:12-13
Heavenly signs	Rev. 6:12-13	Matt. 24:29; Mark 13:24-25 Luke 21:25-26
Tribes mourn	Rev. 6:15-17	Matt. 24:30
Second coming	Rev. 6:17	Matt. 24:30; Mark 13:26; Luke 21:27

2. Victorinus was a third century Christian who was martyred in A.D. 303 during the Emperor Diocletian persecutions. He was noted for two accomplishments. First he was the first to write a complete commentary on the book of Revelation that is extant. The second, he was the first to note that the prophecies of Revelation are not successive but repetitive, repeat and enlarge. (This is, by the way, the obvious form of the prophecies of the book of Daniel also.) In other words, the seals are parallel to the churches. They repeat the same prophetic outline only with additional information.

Pentecost		1	2	3	4	5	6				7
Holy Spirit 	Blessing	Curse 1	Curse 2	Curse 3 and 4	Curse 5 (The Wrath of God)				Blessing		
	White Horse	Red Horse	Black Horse	Pale Horse	Martyrs	Signs				Silence	
	Early Church 31-199	Roman Persecution 200-350	Apostasy 350-538	Papal Persecution 538-1740	Martyrs Wait 1740-55	Earthquake 1755	Dark Day 1780	Stars 1833	1844	Sky Splits	Second Coming

I. Chapter 6:1 – 17

A. v. 1, introduction

1. What is the first action of chapter 6 and what is its significance?

a. _____

b. _____

2. What is the second action of chapter 6 and its significance?

a. _____

b. _____

B. vs. 2 – 8; The Four Horseman

1. Seal #1, Ephesus

a. White Horse. _____

b. bow. _____
Habakkuk 3:8, 9 & Psalms 64:7 – 9

c. crown. _____

d. conquering. _____
Romans 1:8 & Colossians 1:23

2. Seal #2, Smyrna

a. Red Horse. _____

b. take peace, sword. _____
2 Thessalonians 2:3 – 7 & Acts 20:28 – 30

3. Seal #3, Pergamum

a. Black Horse. _____

b. pair of scales. _____
Jeremiah 14:2; Leviticus 26:26 & Ezekiel 4:16, 17

c. voice. _____
Revelation 5:6

d. wheat, barley. _____
2 Kings 6:25; 7:1; Luke 4:4 & Deuteronomy 8:3

“ . . . it is generally agreed that it contained as much as one man could consume in a day; and a penny, the Roman denarius, was the ordinary pay of a labourer. So it appears that in this scarcity each might be able to obtain a bare subsistence by his daily labour; but a man could not, in such cases, provide for a family.” Dr. Adam Clark, Methodist Commentator

e. oil, wine. _____
Revelation 9:4

In order to secure man to Himself and ensure his eternal salvation, Christ left the royal courts of heaven and came to this earth, endured the agonies of sin and shame in man's stead, and died to make him free. In view of the infinite price paid for man's redemption, how dare any professing the name of Christ treat with indifference one of His little ones? How carefully should brethren and sisters in the church guard every word and action lest they hurt the oil and the wine! How patiently, kindly, and affectionately should they deal with the purchase of the blood of Christ! How faithfully and earnestly should they labor to lift up the desponding and the discouraged! How tenderly should they treat those who are trying to obey the truth and have no encouragement at home, who have constantly to breathe the atmosphere of unbelief and darkness! {5T 614.2}

You may "kill us, torture us, condemn us. . . . Your injustice is the proof that we are innocent Nor does your cruelty . . . avail you." It was but a stronger invitation to bring others to their persuasion. "The oftener we are mown down by you, the more in number we grow; the blood of Christians is seed."--Tertullian, Apology, paragraph 50.

Thousands were imprisoned and slain, but others sprang up to fill their places. And those who were martyred for their faith were secured to Christ and accounted of Him as conquerors. They had fought the good fight, and they were to receive the crown of glory when Christ should come. The sufferings which they endured brought Christians nearer to one another and to their Redeemer. Their living example and dying testimony were a constant witness for the truth; and where least expected, the subjects of Satan were leaving his service and enlisting under the banner of Christ.

Satan therefore laid his plans to war more successfully against the government of God by planting his banner in the Christian church. If the followers of Christ could be deceived and led to displease God, then their strength, fortitude, and firmness would fail, and they would fall an easy prey.

The great adversary now endeavored to gain by artifice what he had failed to secure by force. Persecution ceased, and in its stead were substituted the dangerous allurements of temporal prosperity and worldly honor. Idolaters were led to receive a part of the Christian faith, while they rejected other essential truths. They professed to accept Jesus as the Son of God and to believe in His death and resurrection, but they had no conviction of sin and felt no need of repentance or of a change of heart. With some concessions on their part they proposed that Christians should make concessions, that all might unite on the platform of belief in Christ.

Now the church was in fearful peril. Prison, torture, fire, and sword were blessings in comparison with this.”
The Great Controversy, pp. 41, 42

4. Seal #4, Thyatira

a. Pale Horse. _____

b. death & hades. _____

Daniel 7:21, 25; 12:6, 8 & Revelation 13:7; 12:6; 17:6

c. a fourth part. _____

Ezekiel 14:21