

## PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS! – Revelation 6

As we saw last week, the Lamb standing before the Throne of God, *appearing as though it had been slain, is Christ*. He is the **only one** worthy to take the divine scroll from the right-hand of God and open it by breaking the *seven seals*. At this point, *according to end times prophecy*, the church has been safely *sequestered*, raptured *from the world*, and the wrath of God is *about to be unleashed* upon the earth!

The breaking of the seven seals *initiates a preview for the coming apocalypse*, the **seven-year tribulation period - Revelation 6 -19:4**. The **first four seals** reveal the *four horsemen* of the coming apocalypse. **(v.1, 2) – the first broken seal reveals a – White Horse** In a loud, *thunderous* voice one of the four living creatures (Revelation 4:7) declares, **“come and see!”** Some believe the rider is Christ, *however*, it is *most likely* the antiChrist. **Two reasons:** **1) Different crowns**. The Greek word for “*crown*,” related to this rider, is “*stephanos*”, **implying: one given permission to rule**. In our rebellion against God, mankind has given satan permission to reign; however, God has *limited* his reign, as we have seen in the Book of Job. The antiChrist will have limited power!

The Greek word, *however*, for the “*crown*” upon the head of Christ in **Revelation 19:12 - “diadema”** (*de-a-da-ma*) (**diadem**) **literally means: “many crowns.”** Implying, supreme victory and authority; one not needing permission to rule! **2) Different weapons**. This rider is armed *here* with a bow; Christ, in **Revelation 19:11-16 - armed with a “sword.”** The bow indicates that *this* rider is a warrior; **“he went out conquering and to conquer,” and for a time he will prevail.**

**(v.3, 4) The second broken seal reveals – Fiery Red Horse**. The *horse* represents a bloody warfare. The devil is called the “*great red dragon*” (Revelation 12:3), causing some to believe the rider on the *fiery red horse* is simply the rider on the *white horse* revealed. **During the seven-year tribulation period, all hope for peace will be taken from the earth!** **(v.5, 6) The third broken seal reveals – Black Horse**. The scales mentioned here represent *scarcity and famine*. The extent of the famine during the tribulation period can be seen in (v.6b): “A

*quart of wheat.... three quarts of barley...*” purchased for a “denarius” – a “denarii” was a day’s wage in Jesus’ time for a *skilled* laborer – around 15-16 cents a day. A quart of wheat was enough for one meal; a quart of barley three meals. World-wide hunger on a scale beyond all imagination will exist during the tribulation. The *sanctity* of human life will continue to diminish! **Note:** However, *the war lords and aristocratic rulers*, will have no lack (v.6b); “and do not harm the oil and the wine.” The “oil and wine” represent excess, prosperity; the politically powerful and wealthy will prosper, while the famine-stricken masses languish away.

(v.7, 8) The fourth broken seal reveals – Pale Horse. “Pale,” a color signifying that which is corpse-like. The rider is called death, the *aftermath of war and famine like the world has never seen before!* Hades, or the “grave,” follows after death to gather the souls of the victims. A fourth of the earth’s population will be consumed by death during the seven-year tribulation! Today’s population sits at around 7.7 Billion; ¼ of that number would be 1,925,000,000 deaths! (2 Peter 3:9) **The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.** But mankind has willingly chosen death, by rejecting Christ, rather than everlasting life! (1 John 5:12) **He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.**

(v.9-11) The fifth broken seal reveals another scene: The Cry of the Martyrs. This vision is *symbolic* of those believers who will come to Christ after the *rapture* of the church, who will be martyred for their faith in Christ, “slain for the word of God.” But why are they envisioned as being under the altar? The altar here represents the brazen altar in the court of the Old Testament temple, where animal sacrifices were offered by fire, for the sins of the people. *Under the altar, speaks of Christ’s sacrifice as the divine covering for these saints; they are under the atoning work of Christ on the cross!*

Yet, they *cry out* for revenge against their persecutors. Just as we often cry out “Lord how long?” Jesus comforts us, as He comforts them. He who knows the end from the beginning exhorts them to “wait a little while longer”; for the number has been set for their suffering! (v.11b). There’s an end to our suffering in Christ. (Romans 8:18) **For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**

(v.12-17) The sixth broken seal reveals – Chaos in the Cosmos. This disruption of our solar system was prophesied by Christ: (Luke 21:25,26) **“And there will be signs in the sun,**

in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken." In desperation, people will try to hide from the "face of Him who sits on the throne!" We can run, but we cannot hide from the Living God! The only foundation that will not be shaken is that which is found in Christ! (Hebrews 12:28,29) Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire. The "seventh seal," as we will see, is broken in chapter 8.

**APPLICATION:** In the first four seals, the four living creatures invited John to "Come and see!" To see the dreadful things that are to come, but also to see what Christ has delivered us from – the destructive *agenda* of the devil! (v.1b); "...he went out conquering and to conquer." "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill and to destroy!" (John 10:10a)

**Note:** satan has come to eventually rob the world of three things: 1) Peace – second seal. "...to take peace from the earth..." But the devil cannot take away what Christ has freely given to all who believe! (John 14:27) Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. He has also come to rob mankind of: 2) Abundant life – third seal. Here we find a world impoverished, not only *spiritually*, but physically *as well*, during the tribulation period. Spiritually speaking, satan wants us to live an impoverished life of spiritual scarcity, possessing a "corpse-like" faith!

(Ephesians 3:20) Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us... The Greek word for "abundantly" – *hyperekchyn(n)o* (hoop-er-ek-khoo-no) meaning: to pour out beyond measure; to over flow. God wants us to live in the overflow of His goodness; here's the key – "according to the power that works in us!" Abundance is derived from utter dependence upon God, rather than oneself or others! (Psalm 20:7) Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

Lastly, satan seeks to rob mankind of: 3) Hope – fourth seal. Apart from Christ, death has the final say! But in Christ, death cannot hold the believer! (1 Corinthians 15:54-57) So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought

to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. In Christ we sorrow, but not as those who have no hope!

**CONCLUSION**: Thanksgiving is a time for our nation to pause and give thanks for the blessings of God. However, we live in a time of great ingratitude, whereby people grow more and more ungodly and unthankful! But not so in Christ. We can be thankful that the things revealed to us, in those last seven years of the tribulation, will not come upon us! **The four living creatures said, "Come and see!" But *better* yet, "taste and see!" (Psalm 34:8) Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!**