



Who Can Stand?

July 13th
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Revelation 6:1-17

¹ Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, “Come!” ² And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

³ When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” ⁴ And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.

⁵ When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!”

⁷ When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!” ⁸ And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

⁹ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. ¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” ¹¹ Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

¹² When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, ¹³ and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. ¹⁴ The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

SUMMARY

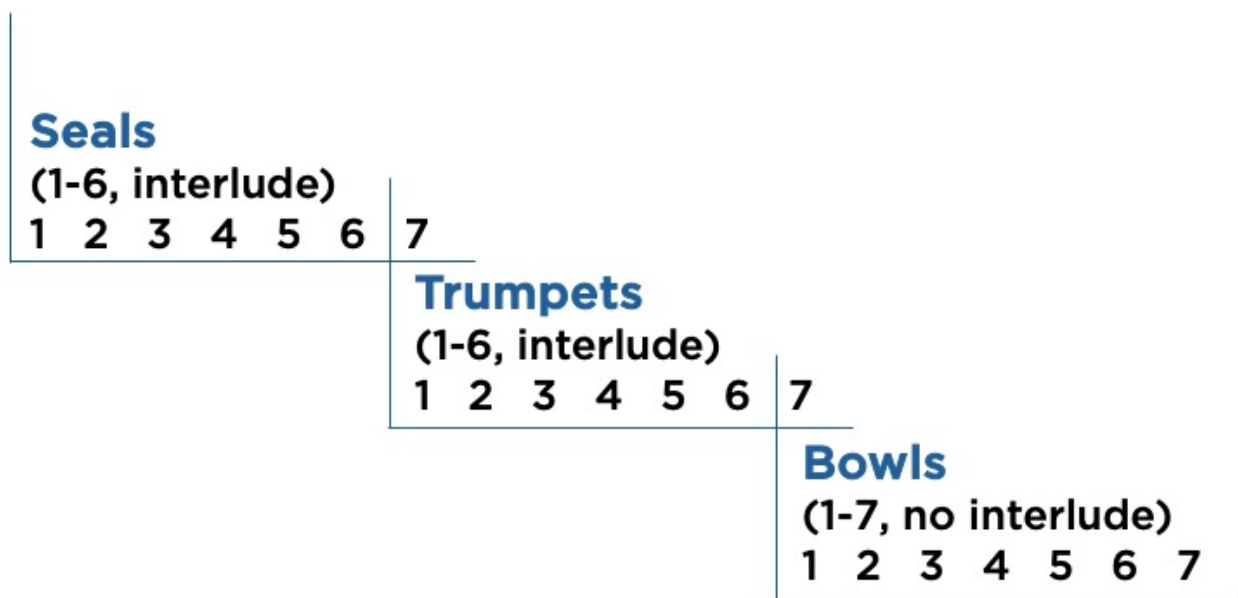
God’s wrath and judgment are central to the book of Revelation. Chapters 6–18 detail the events that unfold as Christ opens the seals of the scroll. Revelation 6 specifically describes the opening of the first six seals, revealing the conditions and judgments on earth during the Great Tribulation. The outcome of these six seals confirms God’s supremacy and demonstrates that no one can withstand His holy wrath and judgment.

Passage Outline

The Four Horsemen (Rev 6:1-8)

The Fifth Seal (Rev 6:9-11)

The Sixth Seal (Rev 6:12-16)



Matthew 24:3-13

³ As [Jesus] sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?” ⁴ And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. ⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, I am the Christ, and they will lead many astray.

⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

⁹ Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. ¹⁰ And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹² And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

The Tribulation – Seals 1 – 6

Matthew 24:4-13	Revelation 6:1-17
False Peace	White Horse
War	Red Horse
Famine	Black Horse
Death	Pale Horse
Martyrdom	5th Seal
Cosmic Signs (Lk 21:11)	6th Seal

Adapted from DTS Course Content (BE 107) by Dr. Mark Hitchcock

Passage Principle

No one can stand before Christ’s judgment.

Christ alone stands in righteousness and the Redeemed stand in Him.

John 3:36

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Romans 5:1-2

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Stand for those who cannot stand for themselves.

Stand in prayer

Stand in example

Stand in witness

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who (or what) do each of the horsemen represent? Why?
 2. Wine and oil are still available, but basic food is expensive and scarce. What does this reveal about their economy - and who is most affected?
 3. How do conquest, conflict, and scarcity lead to death - the fourth horseman? Where do you see these forces at work in history and today? How does that help us understand the vision?
 4. What is revealed by the opening of the fifth seal? How is this related to the suffering of Christians in John's day? In our day?
 5. What occurs when the sixth seal is broken (see Mk 13)? What elements of the Day of Judgment are described?
 6. Which seal opening makes the greatest impression on you? Why?
 7. In what area of your life are you trying to hide from God? What do you need to do to come out of hiding?
- What was your takeaway from this week's passage?

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*Discussion Questions adapted from The Serendipity Bible.