

Welcome as we continue our study in
the Book of Revelation!

Then I saw in the right hand (the scroll has prominence) of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back (The scroll was totally full! The fact that it was written on the back indicates a title deed), sealed with seven seals.

Revelation 5:1



I believe that this scroll is nothing less than the title
deed to the earth.

2 And I saw a mighty angel
proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who
is worthy to open the scroll and
break its seals?"

Revelation 5:2

Michael? Gabriel? This angel is
not identified by name.

mighty

gr. **ischyros**

Strong's g2478

Mighty, strong,

strong man,

powerful, valiant

³And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

Revelation 5:3-4

An exhaustive search was made for someone who had the power and authority to open the scroll. He wept because no one could be found.

And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold,
the Lion of the tribe of Judah

Revelation 5:5a

Further indication that the church is in heaven! The elders
would understand who Jesus was!

Judah is a lion's cub;

from the prey, my son, you have gone up.

He stooped down; he crouched as a lion
and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?

The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,

until tribute comes to him;

and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

Genesis 49:9-10

the Root of David,

Revelation 5:5

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

Isaiah 11:1

The Lord says to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand,

until I make your enemies your footstool.” Psalm 110:1

(David hears a conversation between the LORD [YAHWEH] and David's Lord [Adonai, the Messiah], saying Christ would sit at YAHWEH's right hand. Christ both predated and came after David.

Christ was the result of David's
line, yet He was the one who
brought David (and the line) into
existence! He used this paradox
to baffle the Pharisees in Matthew
22:41-46.

⁵has **conquered**, so that he can open the scroll and its
seven seals.”

Revelation 5:5b

Christ's victory on the cross!

²¹The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me
on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with
my Father on his throne. Revelation 3:21

Christ's victory over sin, death and
the grave has earned Him the right
to take the scroll and **BREAK** its
seven seals!

Christ is acting in the role of Kinsman-Redeemer (Goel) in redeeming the earth in the same manner as Boaz acted as Kinsman-Redeemer in the Book of Ruth. Christ would redeem the title deed to earth which was surrendered to Satan when Adam sinned.

There were four requirements for the Kinsman-Redeemer -

1. Must be a Kinsman (Jesus was the second Adam)
2. Must be able to perform
3. Must be willing
4. Must assume all the obligations

And between the throne and the four living creatures
and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as
though it had been slain,

Revelation 5:6a

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of
the world!” John 1:29

Jesus came first in meekness, but will return as a
conquering Lion! Jesus is not depicted in the position
of death, but rather “standing” in a position of LIFE!

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns

Revelation 5:6a

- ◆ Seven horns
 - ◆ Symbol of a King! "As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise," - Daniel 7:24
 - ◆ Symbol of power - Deut 22:17; 1 Kings 22:11; Zech 1:18; Ps 75:4
 - ◆ Also honor - 1 Sam 2:1-10; Ps 89: 17,24; Ps 112:9, 10: 148:14

and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God
sent out into all the earth.

Revelation 5:6b

“Seven eyes” speaks to His all-seeing nature. He is omniscient. The seven eyes are “the seven spirits of God” which could be yet another reference to the Holy Spirit, sent out into all the earth after Jesus’ resurrection.

Remember, in the Bible, seven is the number of completeness and perfection.

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

John 16:7

And he went and took the scroll from the right hand
of him who was seated on the throne.

Revelation 5:7

The scroll was nothing less than the TITLE DEED
TO ALL THE EARTH! In that future day, authority
over the world will be realized by Christ, an authority
He will exercise both in the judgments that precede
His second coming and in His reign for 1000 years
that will follow His second coming. THE FOCUS IS
UPON CHRIST!

⁷⁸And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Revelation 5:8

The “prayers of the saints”? Hmmmm...
“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is
in heaven”

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed **us** to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made **us** unto our God kings and priests: and **we** shall reign on the earth.

Revelation 5:9-10 King James Version

Who are the “us” and “we”?

The Church!

The church is never in view in the Book of Revelation
after Chapter 3.

the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp.....And they sang a new song,

Revelation 5:9

Note! the twenty-four elders sang!

The angels do not sing!

“Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”,

Revelation 5:11-12

The angels speak of the ATTRIBUTES of Jesus.

But, the elders are singing directly to
the Lamb!

“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed
people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our
God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”

While the angels are speaking about
the Lamb.

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”

The Elders represent the church and they have something to sing about. They have been saved, redeemed! Anyone who has gone through that has something to sing about!

The angels know nothing of this. The angels have never been redeemed from sin.

You and I are not angels.

We are redeemed!

So sing!!!!!!

¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped. twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp.....And they sang a new song,

Revelation 5:13-14

All the rest of creation now joins in this chorus of blessing and praise to the one on the throne and to the Lamb.

Climaxing the scene of worship, the four living creatures pronounce their amen, and the twenty-four elders once again fall down and worship. With the awe-inspiring introduction, the groundwork is laid for the unfolding revelation beginning in Chapter 6, when the scene shifts once again from heaven to the earth.

9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

Matthew 24

Revelation 6-7

False Christs (24:4-5)

Rider on the white horse (6:1-2)

Wars, rumors of wars (24:6-7a)

Rider on the red horse (6:3-4)

Famine (24:7b)

Rider on the black horse (6:5-6)

Famines and plagues (24:7b; Luke
21:11)

Rider on the pale horse (6:7-8)

Persecution and martyrdom
(24:9-10)

Martyrs (6:9-11)

Terrors and great cosmic signs
(24:29; Luke 21:11)

Terror (6:12-17)

Worldwide preaching of the gospel
(24:14)

Ministry of the 144,000 (7:1-8)

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!"

Revelation 6:1

Probably not talking to John.
He is already there. Probably
speaking to the horse and
rider! He is sending the horse
upon the earth. GO! His
sending the judgment.

come

gr. *irchomai*

Strong's g2064

come, go

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.

Revelation 6:2

Though the white horse was symbolic of a conqueror,

THIS IS NOT JESUS!!!! This is an imposter!

Though Jesus will come on a white horse in Chapter 19, this imposter is different!

(Think about it. Who is actually opening the seals? Who was the only one found worthy to do it? It is unlikely that He is both opening the seals and is also the content of one.)



Don't be fooled!

Chapter 19 - Jesus

Jesus has a sword for a weapon

Christ has many diadems (kingly crowns) which could only belong to Christ.

The appearance of the white horse signals the end of the time of judgment.

Chapter 6 - Imposter

Imposter has a bow (scripture doesn't say he has any arrows).

Imposter has a victor's crown (stephanos). Could belong to anyone who has gone forth to conquer.

The white horse is the first appearance of judgment upon the earth.

His Characteristics

1. An intellectual genius - Dan 7:20, 8:23, Eze 28:3
2. A persuasive orator - Dan 7:20, Rev 13:2
3. A shrewd politician - Dan 11:21, Dan 8:25
4. A financial genius - Rev 13:17, Eze 28:4,5, Psa 52:7, Dan 11: 38, 43
5. A forceful military leader - Dan 8:24; Rev 6:2; Rev 13:4; Isa 4:16
6. A powerful organizer - Rev 13:1,2; 17:17
7. A unifying religious guru - 2 Thess 2:4; Rev 13:3, 14, 15

This imposter, this first rider, when unleashed upon the earth, will initially bring peace to the earth. The Antichrist will initially conquer peacefully.

²⁷And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.” Daniel 9:27

The antichrist will make a pact with many of the Jewish people at the beginning of the tribulation period, but 3 1/2 years later, Antichrist will break his covenant and desecrate the Temple by demanding worship of himself in it.

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 (the peace ushered in by the Antichrist), so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.

Revelation 6:3-4

Undoubtedly, this rider unleashes great war upon the earth. The fact that he was given a great sword indicates that the event is under God's control! It is evident that warfare occupies a large place in the consumption of the age with a resultant great loss of life. According to Matthew, a series of wars occur.

⁵When 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. ⁶And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, "A quart^[a] of wheat for a denarius,^[b] and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!"

Revelation 6:5-6

Famine usually follows war!

The roman denarius was worth about 15 cents. In the wage scale of that time, it was common for a laborer to earn one denarius for an entire day's work. This means that a day's work would purchase one one measure of wheat or three measures of barley. A measure is what a laboring man would eat in one meal. A laborer could purchase one meal of wheat or three of barley. BUT, there would be nothing left for other things like oil or wine, both which were considered essentials! The person would have to spend a day's wages for a loaf of bread.

The color of the horse was symbolic as well!

Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible
famine. Lam 5:10

do not harm the oil and wine!”

Revelation 6:6b

Could also mean that the rich (who could afford it) are not yet affected.

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!

Revelation 6:7-8a

The yellowish-green of decay. The pallor of death. Color of a corpse in advance state of corruption.

pale

gr. chlōros

Strong's g5515

greenish, i.e.

verdant, pale,

yellowish pale

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

Revelation 6:8b

The rider is pictured as Death and that which follows as Hades, the abode of the dead. These riders have startling power over one-fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, hunger and wild animals.

Estimated number of
people in the world 7,600,000,000

Estimated number of
Christians in the world
(Being generous here) 2,200,000,000

Subtotal 5,400,000,000

1/4 to be killed 1,350,000,000

Number of people killed in
WW2 70,000,000

Number of people killed in
WW1 20,000,000

and by wild beasts of the earth.

Revelation 6:8b

Could actually refer to especially ferocious wild beasts
roaming during tribulation.

Could also refer to pandemic plagues such as swine flu,
AIDS, Ebola, etc.

and by wild **beasts** of the earth.

Revelation 6:8b

Used 38 times in Revelation, and every other time refers to the coming Antichrist or his henchman, the false prophet. Could be a reference to the brutal political and military leaders of the end times.

beast

gr. **thērion**

Strong's g2342

a dangerous
animal, beast,
wild beast,
venomous beast,
savage,
ferocious

²⁷ And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week,^[a] and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.

Daniel 9:27

Daniel predicts that the last 7 years (or the 70th week) will immediately precede the second coming of Christ. The seven-year period is divided into two halves: the first 3 1/2 years in which Israel is apparently protected under a covenant with the Gentile ruler, and the last 3 1/2 years in which there is unprecedented trouble where Israel is persecuted unmercifully.

See:

Daniel 12:1

Jeremiah 30:7

Joel 2:1-3

²¹For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. ²²And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

Matthew 24:21-22

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, ¹² should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

Revelation 6:9-11

I saw under the altar

Revelation 6:9

¹²and shall take part of the blood of the bull and put it on the horns of the altar with your finger, and the rest of ^[a] the blood you shall pour out at the base of the altar. Exodus 29:12

⁷And the priest shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of fragrant incense before the Lord that is in the tent of meeting, and all the rest of the blood of the bull he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering

Leviticus 4:7

The blood of the sacrifices of the OT was poured out under the altar. THESE TRIBULATION SAINTS WERE

COVERED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST!!!

the souls of those who had been slain for the word of
God and for the witness they had borne.

Revelation 6:9

The introduction of these martyred dead in heaven at this point immediately after the fourth seal seems to imply that these martyrs have come from the tribulation going on in the earth. They are casualties of the first four judgments. The church has already been raptured and the **dead in Christ** have been raised from the dead before the time pictured here.

How will people come to Christ and be saved in the Tribulation?

1. Perhaps by the two witnesses we will learn about later.
2. Perhaps by the 144,000 Israelites who will be sealed for God's purpose in this period. We will learn about them in Chapter 8.
3. Perhaps from belief over the sheer astonishment of the Rapture! The church will be raptured, but the scriptures will still be on the earth. Millions upon millions of copies of the Bible have been distributed all over the world.
4. BUT, they will pay a price in the Tribulation period.

In the whole land, declares the Lord,
two thirds shall be cut off and perish,
and one third shall be left alive.

And I will put this third into the fire,
and refine them as one refines silver,
and test them as gold is tested.

They will call upon my name,
and I will answer them.

I will say, 'They are my people';
and they will say, 'The Lord is my God.'"

Zechariah 13:8-9

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?"

Revelation 6:10

The plea of these martyrs for righteous judgment would indicate that their persecutors are still living.

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?”

Revelation 6:10

THE AGE OF GRACE HAS BEEN
CLOSED. THE AGE OF
JUDGMENT IS AT HAND. The
tribulation saints are crying out for
judgment and it is perfectly
acceptable for them to make that
plea!

Lord

gr. **despotēs**

Strong's g1203

An absolute
ruler (“despot”):

- Lord, master

**God has absolute
power and
authority over
everything and will
judge with
vengeance!**

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^[c] should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

Revelation 6:11

God indicates that there is still time required for the tribulation period to play out. The white robe is a symbol of righteousness. These martyrs have not been raised from the dead and have yet to receive resurrection bodies. This passage suggests some sort of temporary body suitable for a white robe to be replaced by their eternal resurrection body given at Christ's return!

These martyrs have not been raised from the dead and have not received their resurrection bodies. Yet the fact that they are given robes would almost demand that they have bodies of some kind. It is not the resurrection body of flesh and bones of which Christ spoke after His own resurrection. It is a temporary body suited for the presence in heaven but replaced in turn by their everlasting resurrection body given at the time of Christ's return.

John F. Walvoord

Revelation

This is probably the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

¹²When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold,
there was a great earthquake,

Revelation 6:12a

⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against
kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in
various places. Matthew 24:7

What is the worst earthquake?

In terms of loss of life, it's the 1556 Shaanxi Earthquake in present day China which is thought to have killed at least 830,000 people and would have been around an 8 on the Richter Scale. But in terms of magnitude, it's the 1960 earthquake in Chile, which was a horrifying 9.2 on the scale. Honorable mentions are the 2010 Haiti earthquake, with 250,000 confirmed deaths, and the 2010 Chile earthquake, an 8.8 on the scale, actually causing the Terran day to shorten by about 20 microseconds.

and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like
blood,

Revelation 6:12b

³⁰ "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood
and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned to
darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome
day of the Lord comes.

Joel 2:30-31

A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,

Zephaniah 1:15

and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon
became like blood,

Revelation 6:12b

Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with wrath and
fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its
sinners from it. For the stars of the heavens and their
constellations

will not give their light;
the sun will be dark at its rising,
and the moon will not shed its light.

Isaiah 13:9-10

“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be
darkened, and the moon will not give its light, Mark 13:24

¹³and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. ¹⁴The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

Revelation 6:13-14

All the host of heaven shall rot away,
and the skies roll up like a scroll Isaiah 34:4a

See Isaiah 13:6-13

¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the
generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone,
slave_[d] and free, hid themselves in the caves and among
the rocks of the mountains,

Revelation 6:15

What seems to be man's first reaction when they sin?

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in
the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his
wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God
among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:8

¹⁶calling 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,

Revelation 6:16

They actually pray to the mountains and rocks instead of calling out to the Lord for forgiveness.

¹⁷for the great day of their wrath has come,

Revelation 6:17a

The day of God's wrath is not a 24-hour day, but, in one sense, the whole period of the great tribulation, when God will deal in direct judgment with the world, climaxing with the return of Christ in power and glory and divine judgment upon all who oppose His coming.

and who can stand?”

Revelation 6:17b

The answer is obvious. Only those who avail themselves of the grace of God, even though they suffer a martyr's death in this future tragic period. Those who can stand are described in the next chapter, including the 144,000. The revelation given here emphasizes the importance of receiving God's grace today with the bright prospect of the Lord coming for His own.

¹⁷for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

Revelation 6:17

Who indeed?

That question will be answered in Chapter 7!