

**Revelation #18**  
**2022**

**November 20,**

**Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon**

**Today's Message: The Seven Seals: The First Seal; Revelation 6:1-2**

## **I. The Big Picture of the Seven Seal Judgments of Revelation 6-19**

Revelation 5:1-7 marked the long awaited occasion when Jesus takes the scroll with the seven seals, which is the title deed to the earth! But beginning in chapter 6 at the moment He takes the scroll in hand the clock begins ticking. The judgment of God on the devil and rebels begins! Simultaneously, the countdown begins to finish the work of our Sovereign Christ to reclaim, restore and re-head His rightful inheritance! Let me explain.

Remember, it was Adam who forfeited both dominion and headship over all that God had created. And, what Adam forfeited Christ will reclaim. In Revelation 6-19 we are going to see the terrible judgments of God against all the Rebels who rebel against the authority of God. And it is through these judgments that Jesus destroys the master usurper and his hordes and reclaims dominion of what was forfeited and takes His seat on David's throne to rule over the earth for 1,000 years.

Maybe even more awesome is that as Jesus sits on the throne of David He will, indeed, re-head the human race by sitting enthroned as our righteous head! When Adam forfeited his rightful dominion over the earth he also forfeited the righteous headship, which our Lord reclaims! Romans 5:1-19 tells the story:

"For if when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!...

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—...the judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

" Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one many the many will be made righteous." (Romans 5:10,12,16b-19)

So, as terrible as the forthcoming judgments in Revelation 6-19 may be, the judgments are *just* and appropriate for the devil and all rebels. At the same time the judgments clear the way for the righteousness rule of Christ on earth to delight the people of God! For during the 1.000 year reign of Christ on David's throne on the earth, the people of God will enjoy the righteous rule and reign of the perfect King of kings and Lord of lords who sits on it!

With that, let's take a closer look at how the opening of the Seven Seals run parallel to Daniel's vision and Jesus' teaching.

## II. The Seven Seals in parallel with Jesus' teaching in Matthew 24 and Daniel's vision

### A. The Seven Seals of Revelation in parallel with Jesus's teaching in Matthew 24

#### 1. John MacArthur breaks this down into a nice chart:

##### a) "The Coming Seven Seal Judgments" (MacArthur)

Jesus's Words	The Seal	Its Contents
Matthew 24:4-5	1st Seal	False peace
Matthew 24:6-7	2nd Seal	Worldwide war
Matthew 24:7	3rd Seal	Famine
Matthew 24:7	4th Seal	Earthquakes
Matthew 24:9	5th Seal	Divine judgment
Matthew 24:29	6th Seal	Cosmic darkness
Matthew 24:37ff	7th Seal	Cataclysmic events: 7 trumpets and 7 bowls

### B. The Seven seals span a time of 7 years, which parallel Daniel's vision of the "70th week."

#### 1. The final seven years of Daniel's "70 sevens", or "70 weeks"

##### a) Daniel's "70 sevens" chronology:

##### (1) The "seven sevens/ weeks" of Daniel 9:25

###### (a) 49 years

##### (2) The "sixty-two sevens/ weeks" of Daniel 9:25

###### (a) 434 years

##### (3) The "one seven/ week" of Daniel 9:27

###### (a) 7 years

##### b) Daniel's "70 sevens" and corresponding events

##### (1) "Seven sevens"

###### (a) Decree to rebuild Jerusalem to completion, 49 years

(i) 445 B.C. to 396 B.C.

(2) "Sixty-two sevens"

(a) Time period from completion of Jerusalem to the entrance of Messiah into Jerusalem and His rejection, 434 years.

(i) John 12:12-19

(ii) Just days before His rejection at Passover

(iii) Then, Jesus becomes our Passover lamb of sacrifice.

(3) "One Seven": The Tribulation and Great Tribulation

(a) Daniel's 70th week. See Daniel 9:27

(i) Three Divisions of the 70th week

(a) 1st Half: Antichrist establishes a covenant (Daniel 9:27)

(b) Middle: Antichrist breaks the covenant and ends sacrifices at the Temple: (9:27)

(c) 2nd Half: the beast and his image kill the saints until "the Ancient of Days" puts an end to the carnage: (see Dan.7:21; 8:25)

C. The Chronology of the Seven Seals in Revelation

1. Seals 1-4 is believed to be the 1st half of the Tribulation (birth pangs: Mt.24:8).

a) Revelation 6:1 - 9:21

2. Seal 5 is considered to be the Middle of, or a bridge between the events of the first half and second half of the 7 years, or 70th week of Daniel (God's wrath).

a) Revelation 10:1 - 14:20

3. Seal 6-7 marks the last half, or the beginning of the Great Tribulation. Cataclysmic events (God's undiluted wrath).

a) Revelation 15:1 - 16:21

D. Note: Perspectives, or points of view in Revelation from chapters 4-19

1. **Heaven:** John describes events happening in Heaven: Revelation 4-5; 7:9-17; 12:10-12; 14:1-5; 15:1-8; 16:1, 7, 17; 19:1-11

2. **Earth:** John describes events happening on earth: Revelation 6:1-17; 7:1-8; chapters 8-13; 14:6-20; 16:2 - 18:24; 19:11-21

III. (Revelation 6:1-2) The First Seal

A. (6:1) John's witness: "Then I watched"

1. The Lamb initiates the coming judgments
    - a) "The Lamb opened the first of the seven seals."
  2. One of the four living creatures gives the Lord's command
    - a) He commanded with a voice like thunder:
      - (1) "Come!"
    - b) The command is the Lord's command through the creature
  3. The command is a "divine command"
    - a) Meaning, **the judgments are subject to the Lord!**
- B. (6:2) The White horse and the rider
1. The Rider of the white horse in Revelation 6:2 is not the Lord Jesus Christ.
  2. Chart demonstrating the differences between Riders in Revelation 6 and 19

The Rider in Revelation 6:2	The Rider in Revelation 19:11-16
Rode out at the command of Christ	The Rider is in command w/ authority
The crown was <u>given</u> to the rider	The Rider is crowned already
The rider held a bow	The Rider carries a sword
The rider appears at the beginning of the tribulation.	This Rider is coming at the end of the tribulation.
The Rider is trying to gain conquest	This Rider has already conquered

- a) The Rider in Revelation 19 is the Conquering Lord Jesus Christ!
3. Question: Is the Rider in Revelation 6:2 a real person?
- a) Let's take a moment to contextualize the Rider of the whiter horse by comparing it to the horses and riders of "seals 2-4".
    - (1) The Red horse and rider of the second seal is an **impersonal force** sent to take peace from the earth and bring war.
    - (2) The black horse and rider of the third seal is an **impersonal force** bringing world wide famine.
    - (3) The pale horse and rider of the fourth seal is an **impersonal force** bringing death by war, famine, plague and beasts gone wild.
  - b) So, in context, the context would give credence to John MacArthur's opinion that the Rider on the white horse is an **impersonal force** such as a global movement toward peace at all costs.
    - (1) This "rider", or **impersonal force** instills a yearning in the heart of humanity for peace at all costs.

c) Recent examples of **globalization for the good of humanity**.

(1) The Covid crisis

- (a) Global agreement on suspended international travel
- (b) Global agreement to institutionalize the “lockdown” of the citizenry.
- (c) Global consensus to damage economies for the global good.
  - (i) Global consensus concerning “essential” and “non-essential” businesses and gatherings.
- (d) Global mandates by WHO concerning masking and vaccinations.
- (e) The global consensus in favor of agreement with mandates, and the criminalization of disagreement with mandates and “the science.”
- (f) The global consensus to voluntarily set aside national sovereignty, constitutional privileges, and personal liberties for the good of mankind.

(2) Other examples of globalization, which serve to **groom** humanity for the eventual introduction of both one world leader and a one world government, or the “New World Order.”

(a) The Current relentless push toward **global equity** through

- (i) Climate Change initiatives.
- (ii) Global Monetary regulations
- (iii) Institutionalizing Marxist ideologies through
  - (a) Centralization of Governmental authority
    - (i) Nationalizing Law Enforcement
    - (ii) Nationalizing Election laws
  - (b) Forced “Critical Race Theory” through educational and media indoctrination
  - (c) Global acceptance of the LGBTQ+ agenda

(3) Examples of Institutions and Groups with global influence

- (a) The World Economic Forum (WEF)
- (b) The World Health Organization (WHO)
- (c) The World Council of Churches (WCC)

d) The Current Root Cause of Globalization

(1) The Marxist Movement and its global reach

(a) Marxism is an **impersonal force** which has two primary pillars:

- (i) A celebration of humanity over religion
- (ii) And, the triumph of humanity over God.

(2) And to the point, the power of **impersonal forces** and these global actions cannot be attributed to any one person in total.

4. Question: How will the White Horse and its Rider succeed?

a) By *attempting* to do what the “Beast”, or coming Antichrist will, in fact actually do:

- (1) By pushing an agenda of peace without conflict. (Dan. 9:27)
- (2) By deceit (2 Thessalonians 2:9-11)

b) This rider of the **first seal** will fail, but the efforts will set the stage for the coming Antichrist.

(1) Therefore, it is highly probable that the horse and rider of the first seal is an **impersonal force of collective powers** that, indeed, will temporarily satisfy the global yearning of humanity to have peace at all costs.

(2) But, as we will see when the second seal is opened, that peace is short-lived.

(a) Yet, **even when further judgments are poured out people and nations will cry out for a strong leader to save and deliver humanity from war and pestilence.**

(b) Humanity will **turn to the Beast (Revelation 13:1-8a)** rather than **turn to God and the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world (Revelation 13:8b).**

#### IV. Application: A Call to Christians

A. Become aware of the efforts of the **impersonal forces**, which are currently working.

1. Even though we believe that Christians will be raptured before the Seal Judgments come, we **must** be drawing near to God in faith and in practice.

a) “Be holy, because I am holy!” (1 Peter 1:16; 2 Peter 3:11)

(1) 2 Timothy 1:9: ...God “who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began...”

B. Honor God as your Sovereign

1. The **impersonal forces** at work are competing for your allegiance in both heart and mind.
  - a) Be a person of the Word. Know your Bible. Obey it. Live according to it!
- C. Give place in your heart and mind and efforts for Truth
  1. **Stand for Truth at all costs!** Because in this world, there is no place for Truth!