

IV. THE SEVEN SEAL JUDGMENTS

Rev. 6:1-7:17

THE LAMB BREAKS THE FIRST FOUR SEALS (Rev. 6:1-8)

Introduction:

1. The dramatic moment has come. The seals that bind God's book are now to be broken. One by one. The most astounding thing happens when the seals are broken. What is written under the seals leaps off its pages and acts out the events of the future for John and the heavenly host. Remember, they SEE the events happen.

2. The first four seal judgments describe the anti-christ gaining control over the nations of the earth. Four horsemen will be given certain powers that bring about the anti-christs control. We shall look at them, one by one.

I. THE WHITE HORSE AND RIDER (6:1-2)

1. Some thought this to be Christ, but it cannot be. This is the Anti-Christ whom we shall meet and learn more as we go along with our study.

-He is the deceiver - therefore he wears white - deceiving people to think he is the returning Christ.

-The crown he wears is different from the crown worn by Christ. It is a crown of a conqueror.

-The bow symbolizes conquest. Military power (O.T. symbol). Christ uses a Sword - His Word, not a bow.

2. This rider sets out to Conquer. Christ never has to set out to conquer. He is the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings. He has but to SPEAK and that is that.

3. How can this one person conquer the entire world? What could cause men to turn the government of the world over to one man? Christ told us in Mt. 24.

-The world will be full of false messiahs claiming that they have the answers, yet the world is not bettered.

-The world will be full of violence, wars, rumours of wars. A devastated world will turn to any leader who can bring peace and restoration.

-The world will be rocked with natural disaster after natural disaster. Everyone will be living in fear and they will turn to anyone who can promise and provide economic and medical help and aid.

-The world will be torn apart religiously. Religious persecution will sweep the earth creating divisions within the ranks of religion, families, and neighbors causing the people to turn to anyone who can bring peace.

-The world will be far from God and will look to anyone who can bring true care and affection and deal with the lawlessness, drunkenness, drugs, occults, crime, and on and on.

II. THE RED HORSE AND ITS RIDER (6:3-4)

1. This rider is given power to take peace from the earth so that men will kill each other. He is given a GREAT sword. He will cause:
 - strife - violence - assault - division - abuse - anger - hate - uprising
 - murder - insurrection - war - bloodshed
2. This rider will divide race against race, class against class, neighbor against neighbor, employee against employer, husband against wife, religion against religion, and nation against nation. He will destroy every human relationship he can.

III. THE BLACK HORSE AND ITS RIDER (6:5-6)

1. This rider is given power to control the economy and distribution of food. He will bring about rationing of food through famine caused by wars, natural disasters, and greed.
 - It will take a whole days wage to buy enough food for that single day.
 - With starvation all over the world today, imagine what it will be like then.
2. This rider controls food distribution for the entire world. There will be plenty of some things (oil, wine) but the really necessary food items will be depleted. Famine will be rampant all over the world and any food available will be controlled by the anti-christ, the WORLD ruler.

IV. THE PALE HORSE AND ITS RIDER (6:7-8)

1. This rider has a name of DEATH and sitting right behind him is hell or hades, the realm of the dead. His very name announces that terrible things are about to be loosed upon the earth.
2. This rider is given power to cause unbelievable pain and suffering. he is personally responsible for killing ONE FOURTH (25%) of the world population.
 - war - genocide - destroying certain races or groups of people - hunger
 - pestilence (disease) - wild animals - things we cannot even imagine in our civilized world of today.

CONCLUSION

1. The four horsemen of the Apocalypse are not a pretty picture. Nevertheless, they will certainly come and bring upon this earth destruction as this world has never seen before.
2. This will happen just as God wills it to happen and there is no power anywhere to stop or prevent it from happening. May God help us help others turn to Christ NOW!