

## Opening the Sealed Scroll

### Revelation 6:1-8

#### I. Introduction:

##### A. Context

1. In chapter 5 Jesus took possession of a 7-sealed scroll from the Father's hand because He is the only one qualified or worthy to receive it.
2. A strong angel had asked for anyone worthy to step forward and receive the scroll.
3. Jesus, Lion of Judah, root of David, omnipotent & omniscient Lamb, is only 1 worthy.
4. Scroll: contains God's plan for the conclusion of history including tribulation period.

##### B. The tribulation

1. The tribulation is 7-year period when God pours out His judgment on a wicked world.
2. It ends with the return of Jesus to establish His kingdom on the earth.
3. It's the last 7 years of human history as we know it. It's divided into two 3½ year parts.
  - a. – First half
    - i. The first 3½ years of the tribulation will be marked by a false peace.
    - ii. The church's rapture will cause confusion & trepidation around the world.
    - iii. A leader will step forward seeming to have all the answers, but this person is the antichrist, the one who will lead in the world-wide rebellion against God.
  - b. – Second half
    - i. The entire 7-year period is referred to in the Bible as the tribulation; however, it's the last 3½ years that are referred to as the Great Tribulation.
    - ii. The last 3½ years are called the time of Jacob's trouble or the Day of the Lord.
    - iii. Majority of judgments described in Chapters 6-18 take place in the last ½ of the tribulation. The only exception being the first of the seal judgments.

#### II. Opening the scroll (Revelation 6:1-2)

- *Jesus breaks the seals & opens scroll He received from the Father. Each of the 1<sup>st</sup> four seals introduces a horseman often referred to as the 4 horseman of the apocalypse.*

##### A. The first seal

1. As Jesus opened 1<sup>st</sup> seal, 1 of the four living creatures invited John to come and see.
2. These living creatures are actively involved in the plan of God.

##### B. White horse

- *The first of the four horses is white.*
- *White represents the false peace brokered by antichrist in the first half of the tribulation.*

##### 1. – Bow with no arrows

- a. The peace of the first half of the tribulation will be brokered without war.
- b. The empty bow represents the threat of war. If antichrist's kingdom were established by war, the rider would most likely have been seen with a sword.

##### 2 – Crown

- a. A rider wears a victor's crown, a *stephanos*. This represents a crown that was won.
- b. By contrast, crown Jesus wears is a *diadema*, crown of royalty. It's His right as King

#### III. The Second Seal (Revelation 6:3-4)

**A. Red horse**

1. The brokered peace only lasts 3½ years, then worldwide war will break out.
2. This war will be fought for the same reasons men fight today.
3. Antichrist will seek to extend his empire & control resources in middle east, the oil.
4. The antichrist is going to proclaim himself to be god and demand people worship him.
5. Muslim nations & nations of the far east will resist & fight him.
6. He'll break his treaty with Israel & turn on them. Israel will be caught in the middle & suffer terribly in the last ½ of the tribulation. The world will be thrown into world war.

**IV. The Third Seal (Revelation 6:5-6)**

**A. Black horse**

1. The black horse represents death by famine. A natural side effect of war is famine.
2. Rather than farming, nations become war machines & able-bodied men are out fighting
3. There will be severe food shortages in the last half of the tribulation.
4. Many will die in the warfare. Just as many will die of starvation.
5. – A day's wages
  - a. A denarius was equivalent to a day's wages. Person has to work all day for 1 meal.
  - b. Barley was typically used to feed the animals.
6. – Oil and wine
  - a. Oil and wine represent luxuries among the rich who will not suffer immediately.
  - b. But eventually the famine will impact everyone.

**V. The Fourth Seal (Revelation 6:7-8)**

**A. The pale or ashen horse**

1. Along with famine, war brings disease and the wild beasts.
2. We are intimately familiar with how a pandemic can disrupt life.
3. War exacerbates disease because of a lack of medicine and often unsanitary conditions.

**B. One fourth of earth's population**

1. One fourth of the earth's population will die by war, famine, and disease.
2. 2018 earth's population was 7.6 billion. If 1.6 billion are saved, then 6 billion enters tribulation and 1/4<sup>th</sup> of 6 billion is 1.5 billion. A lot of people dying from warfare, etc...

**C. Verified by prophesy**

- *The things John saw in these first four opened seals are verified by prophesy.*

**1. – Daniel (Daniel 9:27)**

- a. This verse speaks of the antichrist. The "week" mentioned is the tribulation period.
  - b. Daniel speaks of those 7 years as a week.
  - c. The antichrist will make a covenant with many, the time of false peace.
  - d. Then ½ through the week, 3½ year mark, he'll break the covenant & there'll be war.
- 2. – Jesus (Matthew 24-25)-the Olivet Discourse.**
- a. Jesus on the Mount of Olives told His disciples what would happen in the end times
  - b. Jesus foretold how antichrist will break the covenant with Israel halfway through the tribulation. (**Matthew 24:15-22**) Antichrist will desecrate the temple in Jerusalem.
  - c. The abomination of desolation is when antichrist demands that everyone worship him
  - d. Jesus said, **1.** Unlike anything world's ever seen **2.** All'd die if God didn't cut it short

**3. – Apostle Paul (1 Thessalonians 5:3-6)**

- a. When world thinks under antichrist's leadership is peace, destruction suddenly comes
- b. One person can bring lasting peace to this world and His name is Jesus Christ.
- c. Not in Darkness: The apostle Paul said we are not in darkness; we are in the light.