

The book of Revelation

Chapter 6

The Lamb opens the seven seals on the scroll

“The seals described in chapter 6 are symbolic of such times of trouble and persecution.” (106)

1. The first four seals and the four horsemen (6:1-8)

-Seal 1-The rider on the white horse (6:1-2)-this is a representation of the Lord Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has been already mentioned several times in this book as the one who is the _____ and will again later in the book be mentioned as the conqueror (3:21, 5:5, 19:11-21). “Thus, again and again our Lord Jesus Christ is represented as the One who has conquered, is conquering, shall conquer...therefore, when we say that in 6:2 the rider upon the white horse is the Christ, we are simply expressing an idea that is in _____ with the entire book.” (108)

-This horse is ‘white.’ The color ‘white’ is always associated with that which is _____ and heavenly.” (107) Christ will be clearly pictured as riding a white horse with a crown and going forth to conquer in Revelation 19:11-21.

-Seal 2-The rider on the red horse (6:3-4)-“The second horse follows the first; that is, wherever Christ by His gospel, Spirit, etc., makes His entrance, there the sword of _____ follows.” (112)

-“We believe that this horse and its rider refers to religious persecution of God’s _____ rather than to war between nations; to slaughter and sacrifice rather than warfare. Believers are slaughtered ‘for His name’s sake.’ It belongs to the category of signs that more directly concern believers: their persecution by the world.” (112)

-Two lines of support for this would be the word “slaughtered that is used in verse 4 (which in John’s writings almost exclusively refers to the righteous being killed by the wicked) and the sword that is mentioned-“yet it (machaira-‘great sword’) signifies strictly the _____ knife.” (113)

-“No _____ is without the rider upon the red horse: the world is always persecuting the Church. Christ always brings the sword. Peace is taken from the earth (Matthew 10:34).” (114)

-Seal 3-The rider on the black horse (6:5-6)-this is a representation of the _____ persecution that the followers of Christ face because of their faith. “We see the rich enjoying their food in abundance and all the comforts of life besides. But the poor have hardly enough to keep body and soul together.” (115) It had already been mentioned that believers were suffering financial persecution as a result of their faith.

-“But this form of persecution is also an _____ in the hand of Christ for the furtherance of His kingdom. The hard-pressed individual feels his dependence on God.” (116)

-Seal 4-The rider on the pale green horse (Rev. 6:7-8)-represents the suffering that the Church faces along with the world due to the _____ of sin that commonly affects all men. “Death cuts down, and Hades-symbolizing the state of disembodied existence-gathers the slain. Yet Death and Hades cannot do as they please. They can do nothing beyond what is allowed by divine permission.” (116) Remember, Christ identified Himself as the One who holds the keys of Death and Hades (1:18).

-This passage is clearly based upon Ezekiel 14:21 and is meant to “describe four _____ woes...These four, moreover, are symbolic of all universal woes that believers suffer along with the rest of humanity throughout the entire dispensation. Yet, with respect to the Church, these woes have a very specific meaning. Our Lord Jesus Christ uses these woes as instruments, for the sanctification of His Church and the extension of His kingdom” (117-118)

2. *The fifth seal and the voice of the martyrs (6:9-11)*

-The martyred saints are those who suffered by the hand of the rider on the _____ horse. “These saints have been slaughtered because they place their trust and confidence in God.” (119)

-The saints call forth for the judgment of the _____-this is not about personal vengeance but a holy desire for the righteousness of the Lord to be universally displayed.

-The saints are given a white robe-symbolic of the _____ of Christ which clothes them. These saints are told to rest and wait because the final judgment will not take place until the fulness of martyrs is complete.

3. *The sixth seal and the Final Judgment (6:12-17)*

-The request of the martyrs is now _____ as John now receives a vision of the final judgment of the Lord. “The sixth seal, accordingly, introduces the judgment day. It describes the one great catastrophe at the end of this age.” (120)

-“The main point of our passage is this: it stresses the _____ of the day of wrath for the wicked. The dissolving elements, earthquake, falling stars, etc., add terror to the picture...we have no right, on the basis of this description, to draw conclusions with respect to the exact changes that will take place in the heavenly bodies at the end of this present age. What we have here is a symbolic picture of the terror of judgment day.” (121)

-“John sees the entire godless world seized with sudden _____...they even seek safety in death itself...the door of grace is closed forever once that day has arrived.” (122)