

MORE THAN
CONQUERORS
A STUDY OF REVELATION

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT
BIBLE STUDY**

October 2, 2024

First Baptist Church ~ Covington, Louisiana

Waylon Bailey, Pastor

Revelation 6:1-17 RSV *Who's In Charge?* *Early Christians wondered this and so do we*

[1] Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say, as with a voice of thunder, "Come!"

Notice that the Lamb breaks the seals. The first four seals represent judgment on the earth.

[2] And I saw, and behold, a white horse, and its rider had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

The horse and its rider represents conquest. In Scripture horses remind us of power, terror and warfare.

Who is the conqueror and what is its conquest? Many different interpretations are given.

I take this to be Christ. Christians have been conquered by Christ and His gospel. This makes us enemies of the world. "He went out conquering and to conquer." Compare Revelation 19:11 where the rider of the white horse is Christ. Revelation 5:5

As surely as night follows day, opposition and persecution follow faith in Christ.

[3] When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!"

The red horse represents bloodshed, especially by religious persecution. The horse is red or fiery in appearance.

[4] And out came another horse, bright red; its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that men should slay one another; and he was given a great sword.

The word for sword is a "short sword", used by individuals rather than armies.

Does this represent religious persecution?

"Whenever the Rider on the white horse – the Christ – makes his appearance, the rider on the red horse follows ... No century is without its rider upon the red horse; the world is ever persecuting the church." – William Hendriksen

[5] When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" And I saw, and behold, a black horse, and its rider had a balance in his hand;

The black horse represents famine, especially because of economic hardship at the hand of persecution. You don't "weigh" bread in better times, only in hard times.

The believers at Thyatira endured hardship because they would not join the guilds and worship their idols and participate in their immorality.

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

It would take a day's wages (a denarius) to buy just a bit of wheat. The oil and wheat would not be harmed. The rich would go right on enjoying their abundance.

A shortness of necessities – Christians have seen that horse and its rider many times.

The red horse and the black horse represent hardships that affect believers in every age.

[7] When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!"

[8] And I saw, and behold, a pale horse, and its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him; and they were given power over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

The fourth seal – the Pale horse with its rider – Death

Three ways to die – the sword of war, hunger, pestilence, wild beasts. These forms of death are limited to a fourth of the earth, including Christians.

Christians are not exempt.

The first four seals deal with earth; the final three with the spirit world (in heaven).

(VS 9-11) The fifth seal – The Martyrs

[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;

This seal answers the question: what happens to those of us who die for our faith?

[10] they cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before thou wilt judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell upon the earth?"

Four consoling truths about the martyrs:

1. *Safe from further harm*
2. *Near to the Throne*
3. *They would receive a white robe symbolizing holiness and purity*
4. *They are not alone in their willingness to die for Christ.*

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

[12] When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood,

The Sixth Seal – the Day of Judgement

This seal answers the question about the wicked of the world who hate Christ. The number "six" is the number of man (e.g. 666)

This describes the awful judgment of the wicked. "There is no more terrifying passage of Scripture to be found."

This is the picture of a crashing universe and a thoroughly frightened human race.

[13] and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale;

[14] the sky vanished like a scroll that is rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

[15] Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the generals and the rich and the strong, and every one, slave and free, hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,

Those of all social classes will be judged – none will be spared. John sees the entire godless world seized with fear.

[16] calling 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;

Better to be crushed in a cave than to face God and the wrath of the Lamb.

These pictures the end of the age when we receive a new heaven and a new earth.

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

*The word for wrath is the Greek word **Orge**, a word to convey God's abiding, universal opposition to evil.*

The question of this verse is answered in Revelation 7, The seals of persecution give rise to the trumpets of judgment in Revelation 8 & 9.