

10-12-25 He Reigns: When the Seals Break: Earth's Calm Is Over

Week 4

Text: Revelation 6:1–17

Big Idea: When Jesus begins to open the seals, the world is plunged into chaos. What the world calls peace is temporary, but what God calls judgment is eternal. The Lamb who saves is also the Lamb who judges, and time is running out.

What if I told you... the calm you're living in is an illusion?

What if I told you... that right now, in heaven, there's a scroll in the hand of Almighty God, sealed shut, waiting for just One who is worthy to open it?

And what if I told you... the only One worthy is already standing, ready to break the seals?

This world is not spiraling out of control; it's following a script.

And the Author is not panicked; He's preparing to pour out His justice.

You won't hear this on the news. You won't find this in a trending podcast.

But it's written in the unshakable Word of God: A day is coming when grace will be interrupted by wrath.

When Jesus opens that scroll, the age of mercy begins to close—and judgment begins to fall.

Not someday. Not maybe. Not metaphorically.

Literally. Globally. Eternally.

The question is not: "Will these things happen?"

The question is: "Will you be ready when they do?"

Revelation 6 isn't a make believe or dramatic writing, it's a final warning.

So today, as we open this chapter, I'm not here to comfort the comfortable...

I'm here to wake up the sleeping, warn the wandering, and call the Church to get serious.

Because the Lamb who saved the world is about to shake it.

John Walvoord (Dallas Theological Seminary): *"The judgments of Revelation are not symbolic of general problems in history, but specific events in a future period when God's*

wrath will be poured out upon the world. This is the Tribulation—the time of Jacob’s trouble.”

I. The Seals Are Opened – Judgment Begins

- **Read Revelation 6:1-2.**

“Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals...”

A. The Lamb, Not Satan, Initiates Judgment

- Jesus, the same Lamb from **chapter 5**, opens the seals.
- Satan doesn’t start the Tribulation; Christ does.
- He’s not just Savior; He is Judge and King.

John MacArthur: *“Though Satan is a destroyer, he is not the ultimate judge. It is Christ who unleashes judgment, proving He is both Savior and Sovereign.”*

B. The First Seal – The White Horse: A Lie Wrapped in Hope

- Rider has a bow, no arrows: conquest through diplomacy and or deception.
- Likely the Antichrist’s rise to power, a global false savior. (**Dan. 9:27; 2 Thess. 2:3-4**)
- Represents the rise of the Antichrist, bringing world unity without true peace (**1 Thess. 5:3 – “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction**).

Titles of the Antichrist:

- the little horn (Daniel 7:8)
- a king, insolent and skill in intrigue (Daniel 8:23)
- the prince who is to come (Daniel 9:26)
- the one who makes desolate (Daniel 9:27)
- the king who does as he pleases (Daniel 11:36-45)
- a foolish shepherd (Zechariah 11:15-17)
- the man of destruction (2 Thessalonians 2:30)
- the lawless one (2 Thessalonians 2:8)
- the rider on the white horse (Revelation 6:2)
- the beast out of the sea (Revelation 13:1-2)

He will mimic Jesus, the true Messiah in every way possible.

Christ: miracles, signs, and wonders (Matt. 9:32-33; Mark 6:2) **Antichrist:** miracles, signs, and wonders (Matt. 24:24; 2 Thess. 2:9)

Christ: is God (John 1:1-2; 10: 35-38) **Antichrist:** claims to be God (2 Thess. 2:4)

Christ: makes a peace covenant with Israel (Ezek. 37:26) **Antichrist:** makes a peace covenant with Israel (Daniel 9:27)

Christ: causes men to worship God (Revelation 1:6) **Antichrist:** causes men to worship Satan (Revelation 13:3-4)

Christ: married to a virtuous bride (Revelation 19:7-10) **Antichrist:** married to a vile prostitute (Revelation 17:3-5)

Christ: crowned with many crowns (Revelation 19:12) **Antichrist:** crown with ten crowns (Revelation 13:1)

Christ: is the King of kings (Revelation 19:16) **Antichrist** is called “the king” (Daniel 11:36)

Christ: sits on a throne (Revelation 3:21; 12:5; 20:11) **Antichrist:** sits on a throne (Revelation 13:2; 16:10)

Christ: sharp sword from his mouth (Revelation 19:15) **Antichrist:** bow in his hand (Revelation 6:2)

Christ: rides a white horse (Revelation 19:11) **Antichrist** rides a white horse (Revelation 6:2)

Christ: violent death (Revelation 5:6; 13:8) **Antichrist:** violent death (Revelation 13:3)

Christ: resurrection (Matt. 28:6) **Antichrist:** resurrection (Revelation 13:3,14)

Christ: Second Coming (Revelation 19:11-21) **Antichrist:** second coming (Revelation 17:8)

Christ: part of the holy Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14) **Antichrist:** part of an unholy trinity; Satan, the Antichrist and false prophet (Revelation 13)

The antichrist will be a Gentile, not a Jew. (Daniel 11:36-37; Revelation 13:1)

He will mesmerize the world with his words. (Daniel 7:8, 11; 11:36; Revelation 13:5)

He will rise from obscurity as a great peacemaker. (Daniel 9:27; Revelation 17:11-12)

He will establish a one world economy (Daniel 11:43; Revelation 13:16-17)

He will claim to be God (2 Thess. 2:4; Revelation 13:8)

Pretrib Insight:

The Church is not present during these events (**Rev 4:1**).

The Antichrist is revealed only after the Restrainer (Holy Spirit through the Church) is removed (**2 Thess. 2:6–7**).

The seals are opened after the Church is raptured and the age of grace has ended.

Adrian Rogers: *"The devil's messiah is coming. He will promise peace, but he will deliver persecution. He will promise hope, but he will bring horror."*

Application:

Don't be fooled by false peace. The Antichrist will look like hope, but he brings horror.

What are you trusting for peace? Money? Government? Your own control?

II. Chaos Unleashed – The Collapse of Earth's Illusions

- **Read Revelation 6:3-8.**

"Another horse came out..." (red, black and pale)

- This is not Satanic dominance, but divine allowance; God is in control even of chaos.

A. Second Seal – Red Horse: War

- Peace has been removed, global conflict erupts.
- This is not isolated violence; it's worldwide warfare.
- Violence, division, bloodshed become the new world order.

B. Third Seal – Black Horse: Economic Collapse

- Scales = famine, rationing.
- A denarius = one day's wage. Food becomes unaffordable, survival becomes uncertain.
- Inflation explodes basic food costs a day's wage.
- A world that once trusted in prosperity now starves.
- **"Do not harm the oil and wine"** – luxuries remain for the elite; the poor suffer.

C. Fourth Seal – Pale Horse: Death

- Death and Hades follow; 1/4 of the earth dies, billions wiped out.
- War, famine, disease, and wild beasts consume humanity.
- Sin that is unrepented will always lead to death.
- This is not cruel; this is justice finally released.

Warren Wiersbe: *"When society tries to build a world without God, the result is always death. Only Christ gives life; the Antichrist and his system bring death."*

Application:

The question isn't if you'll die—it's when and how you'll stand before God.

Get right with God before death comes knocking.

If you won't bow to Christ in peace, you will face Him in chaos.

III. The Fifth Seal – Persecution of the Saints

- **Read Revelation 6:9-11.**

“I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God...”

A. Tribulation Martyrs Cry Out

- These are not the Church—they are those who come to Christ during the Tribulation, refusing the mark of the Beast (**Rev. 20:4**).
- **Read Revelation 20:4.**
- They were killed for their testimony (**“... for the testimony which they held.”**) and allegiance to Jesus.

B. God's Justice Is Deliberate, Not Delayed

- **“How long, O Lord?”** Their cry is not revenge, but for righteous justice.
- God says, **“Rest a little while longer”**, justice is coming in full.
- The martyrs are told to wait. God's vengeance is certain, but it is measured by His sovereign timeline.

Charles Spurgeon: *“If God delays His justice, it is because He waits to be gracious. But His millstone may grind slowly, yet it grinds exceedingly fine.”*

Application:

Don't wait to be counted among the redeemed. Many will be saved during the Tribulation, but at great cost.

You can follow Jesus now in grace or later in great tribulation.

IV. The Sixth Seal – The Shaking of the Heavens

- **Read Revelation 6:12-17.**

“There was a great earthquake... the sun turned black... the moon became like blood; the stars of heaven fell to earth...”

A. Cosmic Upheaval

- Earthquake, cosmic collapse, global terror, this is not a metaphor.

- This is no natural disaster... it is divine disruption.
- Nature itself recognizes the wrath of the Lamb.

B. All Nations Tremble

- Kings, rich, generals, and slaves all hide in fear.
- No one is exempt from God's judgment.
- Judgment makes no distinction by wealth or status.

C. The Cry of the Unrepentant

“Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!” (V.16)

- They don't repent—they try to escape the inescapable.
- They recognize the wrath of the Lamb—but still resist Him.

J. Dwight Pentecost: *“The Tribulation is designed to show men the futility of rebellion. Yet even in judgment, many will harden their hearts rather than repent.”*

Application:

If you fear everything except God, you will eventually fear only God.

The wrath of the Lamb is real, righteous, and unavoidable.

Closing Challenge:

The Lamb who died to save you is the same Lamb who opens the seals of judgment.

What side of that Lamb are you on?

Right now, the door to heaven is still open. The age of grace is still here. But when the scroll begins to unroll, there will be no more delay.

You can bow now or break later.

You can call on Jesus as Savior or face Him as Judge.

Adrian Rogers: *“The same Jesus who saves is the Jesus who will judge. If you have not trusted Him as Savior, you will face Him as Judge.”*

Invitation:

Are you ready to meet the Lamb?

To the unbeliever: the door of grace is open, but soon it will close.

To the complacent: wake up, share the gospel urgently—the time is short.

To the Church: worship, witness, and work while it is still day.

Closing Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, You are the Lamb who was slain—and You are the King who will return. Open our eyes to see what is coming. Break our hearts for those who are lost. Shake us out of our comfort. Make us bold in our witness and urgent in our obedience. Let us not sleep through the signs or yawn through the warnings. Set our hearts on fire before the earth is set on fire. We bow now—so we don’t break later. We surrender now—so we don’t suffer later. In the mighty, matchless name of the Lamb who lives and reigns, we pray. Amen.”