

**Seven-Sealed Book Opened**  
**Revelation Chapter Six**

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Here is an outline of the book of Revelation showing the chiastic structure. Note that starting in chapter 4, activity alternates between heaven and earth. This week we will study chapter 6.

A. Introduction [Chapter 1]

B. People on Earth

[Chapters 2-3] The Seven Churches

<u>Location</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Topics</u>
<b>Heaven</b>	4-5	The Throne, The Book of the Seven Seals & the Lamb
Earth	6-7:8	The Six Seals & 144,000
<b>Heaven</b>	7:9-8:6	Great Multitude & the 7 <sup>th</sup> Seal
Earth	8:7-11:14	The Six Trumpets
<b>Heaven</b>	11:15-19	The Seventh Trumpet
Earth	11:15	Earthquakes, etc.
<b>Heaven</b>	12:1-12	Woman, Child & Dragon
Earth	12:13-13:18	The Dragon & Two Beasts
<b>Heaven</b>	14:1-5	The Lamb & 144,000
Earth	14:16-20	The Six Angels
<b>Heaven</b>	15:1-8	The Seven Bowl Angels
Earth	16:1-18:24	The Seven Bowls
<b>Heaven</b>	19:1-16	The Marriage of the Lamb
Earth	19:17-20:15	Final Five Bowls

B'. People on the New Earth [Chapters 21-1-22:5]

A'. Conclusion [Chapter 22:6-21]

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Note some observations on the structure of this book:

1. Chapters 6-19:6 The Tribulation, also known as Daniels's 70<sup>th</sup> week.
2. Chapters 19:7-21 The Second Coming of Christ.
3. Chapter 20 The Millennium & Last Judgment.
4. Chapters 20-22 deals with the Eternal State.

Now in chapter 6 the scene changes from heaven to earth and the first six seals

Chapter 6: Opening of the first Six Seals and what they mean:

Verses 1-8 Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

1-2	1 <sup>st</sup> seal Rider on White Horse	Rise of the Anti-Christ
3-4	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rider on Red Horse	War
5-6	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rider on Black Horse	Famine
7-8	4 <sup>th</sup> Rider on Pale Horse	Death
9-11	5 <sup>th</sup> Not a rider but Great Tribulation	Martyrs
12-17	6 <sup>th</sup> Not a rider but Heavenly Signs	Cosmic Upheaval

The 7<sup>th</sup> Seal is made up of all 7 Trumpets and 7 Plagues. It opens in chapter 8.

The first of the Four Seals starts off with the four Horsemen who are released one at a time. The horses were White, Red, Black and Pale.

**Revelation 6:1 Then I saw when the Lamb  
broke one of the seven seals and I heard one**

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**of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, “Come!”**

*The First Horseman: The White Horse*

**6:2 I looked and behold a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.**

The Lamb, that is Jesus Christ;

Seven seals is of the book;

Four living creatures: Lion, an ox, a man, and a flying eagle;

‘Come’ is not said to John but to the first rider, a call to come into action in history.

A white horse—introduces the first four seals, of the seven seals showing that Jesus Christ controls history. The white horse is the Anti-christ, who imitates Christ;

The crown given to him: symbolizes his great conquest.

When Jesus Christ opens the 1<sup>st</sup> seal in heaven chaos begins on earth.

John records what he sees: symbols which represent literal or real things that will occur on earth.

What John now sees are four horses with riders on them....and of course the rider is more important than the horse. Each horse is a different color...the first horse is white.

It is no accident that this rider is on a white horse; for he is the Anti-Christ.

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The counterfeit Christ – imitating the true Christ and He, Jesus Christ will also ride a white horse in chapter 19, but here is the imitation of Christ, by the anti-Christ.

**And a crown was given to him.** He is not Jesus Christ, but has a crown given to him but in war time he will be given a crown.

Question arises in verse 2: *Who will give him this crown?* The same one who will give power to the beast: that is Satan, the 7-headed dragon in Revelation chapter 13.

### **Revelation 6:2 ...And he went out conquering and to conquer**

This is very important; for the world will be looking for a leader, a great leader, a strong leader. This is his agenda! To take control of the world.

### ***The Second Horseman: The Red Horse***

**Revelation 6:3 When He Jesus Christ broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come"! calling the second horse**

**Revelation 6:4: and another, a Red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth. And that men would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.**

The first rider had a bow , this rider has a sword.

Riding a Red horse; was known for bloodshed.

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Let's just look at the last century...in it's search for Peace: WW I; WW II; Korean War; Vietnam War; the Persian Gulf war; War in Afghanistan; War in Iraq; War on Terrorism; It has been calculated that there were 84 armed conflicts in the world during the early part of the nineties alone.

***The Third Horseman: The Black Horse***

**Revelation 6:5 When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, “Come”! I looked and behold a black horse and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.**

The Third horse of the Apocalypse – the third seal was black! Black was the color of despair and hopelessness and mourning! This rider does not carry a bow or sword or some other weapon, but he carries a pair of scales.

Why does he carry the scales? What do the scales represent? Economics, trade, business, *famine or collapse of welfare socialism*. These scales represent the weighing of bread in a famine; the scale was so important in ancient times. The study of Righteousness and Un-righteousness is understood by a false scale or a true scale.

**Revelation 6:6: And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying “A quart of wheat for a denarius”**

A quart of wheat was the daily ration for a man. A denarius was a full day's wage. In normal times, a day's wage would be 10 quarts but not now, not in famine. In this time of famine, it required a day's wage for just a ration of wheat!

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**And three quarts of barley for a denarius.** Barley was a cheaper food and usually fed to live stock, but will be purchased by labors or blue collar worker, not as nutritious as wheat but you got more for your money. Think: if all your money goes to just buy enough food for a day, this means there will be no money for clothes, or housing or automobile and of course not enough for food.

**And do not harm the oil and the wine:** This means that there is plenty of oil and wine for those who may have more money.

***The Fourth Horseman: The Pale Horse***

***The Fourth Seal (was of) Death***

**Revelation 6:7 And when the Lamb (Jesus Christ) broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come" this is the calling of the fourth horse**

**Revelation 6:8 I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; (pale green) and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with fame and with pestilence and by the while beast of the earth.**

1<sup>st</sup> Horse – was White; was the anti-Christ, false peace

2<sup>nd</sup> Horse –Red horse –war

3<sup>rd</sup> Horse – Black horse, was famine, now

4<sup>th</sup> Horse -- Pale Green

And you will note that this is the only rider who is given him a name: he is named death!

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*Ashen horse* English color of *chlorine, greenish, yellow green, pale green like chlorophyll*. Here the horse color is rotten flesh or spoiled meat, death! color of a corpse!

This is the only rider who has a name: the name of death, which characterizes his life.

*And Hades* was following with him.

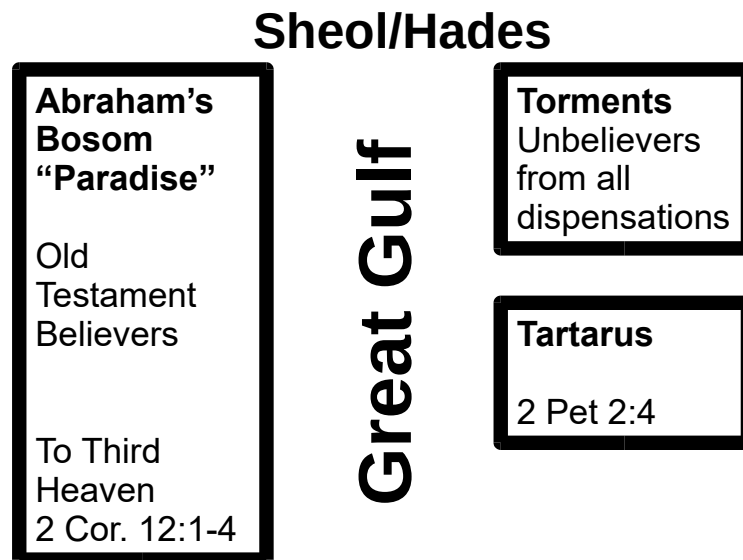
First *death* then *Hades*.

*Hades* refers to the vast subterranean area of departed people of human beings and fallen angels. Divided in compartments:

**Paradise** – place of souls of believers until resurrection of Jesus. all OT believers, from Israel or Gentiles.;

**Torments** which is the souls of Unbelievers; and

**Tartarus** fallen angels.



Who gave him this power to kill one fourth of the earth? The Ruler of the world that is Satan, the Seventh headed dragon. Think of it, about one fourth of the earth was to be killed.

Things get really bad in the Tribulation:

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*Sword*—symbol represents intensification of war and bloodshed

*Famine*—continual economic collapse and starvation

*Pestilence*—disease

*Wild Beast* – animals running rapid and turn on mankind (Leviticus 26:22; Ezekiel 14:21; Ezekiel 33:27)

5<sup>th</sup> Seal; the last 3 seals are different from the 1<sup>st</sup> four. We move from Hades to under the altar in heaven.

A quick glimpse back into heaven – as a result of what is going on down here on earth by the 4 horsemen. What happens to all the saints who died under the first 4 horses because of their witness of Christ, a glimpse of the other side of history.

**Revelation 6:9 When the Lamb (Jesus Christ) broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the Word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained,**

What did John see? We are not sure.

*Question: How do you see souls?* The soul is the real you, we can see and identify our faces but the real you is your soul.

But in the Tribulation these believers will not be afraid to even die for their faith in Jesus Christ. They will not hide in silence!

*Question: If they were shooting Christians would they shoot you?*

**Revelation 6:10 and they cried out with a loud voice saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and**



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**avenging our blood on those who dwell on earth?"**

The word Lord is not the usual word *kurios*; the word here is *despotes* Lord, master, owner, ruler: *how long O authority*

*Kurios* is a more intimate word of relationship while *desptes* has God as Creator and ruler.

Note that they know the Lord as *true and holy*. They address Him as authority and true and holy in the activity going on in the world.

**Not judge and avenge our blood. Their death!**

**Revelation 6:11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.**

The white robe was a picture of Righteousness and the fulfillment of the plan of God.

*The Sixth Seal; this one is the seal of Terror*

**Revelation 6:12 I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood**

**Joel 2:28 and it will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophecy, Your**

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**old men will dream dreams. Your young men will see visions.**

**Joel 2:29 Even on the male and female servants, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.**

**Joel 2:30 I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke/**

**Joel 2:31 The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.**

Revelation 6:13 continues the description of the catastrophic events on earth at the opening of the 6<sup>th</sup> seal, only one is filled with complications.

**Revelation 6:13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.**

Chapters 4-6 deal with the first half of the Tribulation or some 3 ½ years.

1. The first 4 seals, that is the 4 horses occurs in the first 3 ½ years. 1<sup>st</sup> white horse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Red horse, 3<sup>rd</sup> black horse and 4<sup>th</sup> pale horse.
2. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> seals are opened in middle of Tribulation.
3. Out of the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal will come the 7 Trumpets – with 3 Woes! And out of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal will come the 7 vials of bowls.

**Revelation 6:14 and the sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up; and every**

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**mountain and island were moved out of their places.**

This comes out like another nuclear movement. During a nuclear blast, the wind is rapidly pushed out—displaced—for several miles. Suddenly, this wind, like a giant tidal wave, rushes violently, the sky actually rolls up on itself. This will be so great it will cause every mountain and island on earth to be moved or even changed.

**Revelation 6:15 Then the kings of the earth** (leaders of nations; presidents, Kings, rulers etc) **and the great men** (politics, religious, medical, science etc) **and the commanders** (military leaders) **and the rich** (no matter how they became rich) **and the strong** (in authority, and influence) **and slave** (blue collar laborers) **and freeman** (white collar workers) **hid themselves in the caves and among the rock of the mountains;** (there is no escape; no matter what class of people.)

**Revelation 6:16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;**

Probably never so much prayer at one time! Praying to rocks and praying to nature but now they are running from God and in fear of God. We are right back to the problem in the Garden. Man rebelled against God in the Garden with the Tree of Good and Evil not with the Tree of Life which is the tree of Christ. Man is running, but he is running from God rather than to God.

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Man runs from God; man runs to death! They think that death will hide them from God, but death does not hide any one from God. God does not hide the unbeliever.

It shall also be clear that everyone of them believes in God, they pray that God will bring them to death. In good times of America is the one who says there is no God. But in the disaster they will bring them to God but not believe in God for Salvation

**Revelation 6:17 For the great day of their  
wrath has come and who is able to stand?**

We live in a time of degeneracy throughout the world. Thinking they are getting away with it!

So proud of their scientific proof that God does not exist!

So proud that can they turn against God and against Jewish people

So boastful of their knowledge and wisdom that says there is no God.

**Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed  
from heaven against all ungodliness and un-  
rightousness of men who suppress the truth  
in righteousness.**

Who is able to stand? The answer is in Chapter 7!