

John saw an open door in Heaven and heard the Lord Jesus Christ say, 'Come up here!' He was taken up into Heaven which serves as a picture of our soon to be taken up in the Rapture. He saw the throne room of God, the 4 living creatures, the 24 Elders and the Lamb of God Who is now ready to begin opening the 7 seals upon the scroll He has taken from the right hand of God.

Chapter 6:1: *'And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.'*

The Lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the World: He is the only one worthy to loose the seals and open the scroll. When one of the seraphim speaks, it is, to John, as if he is hearing thunder...

John is being shown what will happen in the future so that, as he looks down from Heaven, he sees the things that are about to take place on the Earth... he is seeing into our time; what he is seeing could begin today.

This is not at all like Ebenezer Scrooge and George Bailey, who, upon seeing their 'possible' futures, were able to choose different paths and, so, cause a bright future. John is seeing exactly what **will happen**; this is how it will, for certain, be. No amount of pleading or offering to change will alter God's plan; He has, for 6000 years, patiently offered mankind Salvation and forgiveness of sin. Now, He has finally 'had it!' Now His Wrath and Fury will be loosed and unrestrained; now, all the Earth will eat the fruit of their rebellion and rejection of God's Grace, Mercy and Love.

And so... it finally begins:

Verse 2: *'And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.'*

This rider is the Antichrist. We see him coming to power right at the beginning of the 7-year Tribulation. As we gather the many different prophecies and see how they all fit together, perfectly, the picture which arises is: first, the Rapture, which, according to Jesus' statements, will happen unexpectedly when the World is, as it was in the times of Noah and Lot, going along, as always, with relative calm and peace. At the same time, the Ezekiel 38 invasion of Israel, by Russia, Iran, Turkey, and others, will bring about immediate change: the whole World will be disrupted as God destroys 5/6 of these nations' armies on the mountains of Israel.

The Antichrist will then, suddenly, arise as if he has saved the World from imminent nuclear annihilation. He will rise quickly through stealth and deception: *'And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.'*
Dan 11:21

'A crown was given to him;' the world's leaders being installed now will quickly give their power and authority over to the Antichrist; he is the one for whom they've all been trained to look for and to wait for.

We see him on the white horse, holding a bow while having no arrows. He will rise through flattery, deception and the threat of force; he will begin gathering and consolidating his power. Eventually, he will rule the World.

The first thing he will do is to 'confirm' a treaty, probably between Israel and her neighbors: *'And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week:'* Dan 9:27

So... right here at the beginning of Revelation 6, the 7-year Tribulation has begun;

*The true Church has been removed to a place of safety **before** God unleashes His Judgment and Wrath... just like He did with Noah, before the Flood and with Lot, before Sodom's destruction; as He did with Noah and Lot, He will have removed the Church, while life was still moving along as normal, before destruction.

*The Ezekiel 38/39 war is finished very quickly as God, Himself, kills 5/6's of the armies of Russia, Iran, Turkey and a few others.

*The Antichrist has confirmed the 7-year covenant, peace treaty, between Israel and her neighbors.

*The Antichrist is already being received and glorified as the *savior of the world*.

*Jews are beginning to believe that he is the true messiah.

*The apostate church is beginning to believe that he is 'Our Jesus, our Christ for the New Age.'

Verse 3: *'And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.'*

It's possible that the Ezekiel 38 war occurs in this time slot... it could be that this refers to that carnage as being the beginning of 'peace being taken from the earth.'

Whether or not that is so... this is where real death begins... millions upon millions. Whereas the first rider had a bow but no arrows so that he conquered through flattery and deception, this rider is given an actual death-causing weapon: 'a great sword.'

Verse 4: *'And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.'*

With the massive death around the world, economies will crash and food will become scarce, enabling the Antichrist's absolute control over every life. Currently, even our country is talking about a nationally guaranteed income but in order to receive that guaranteed income... you must first take this simple and easy mark on your right hand or your forehead... quick, simple, painless... what could be easier!

It can be misleading to us to read, 'a measure of wheat for a penny.' We might think that food is plentiful and cheap. The word should be, 'for a denarius,' which was the amount of pay for a full day's labor.

This is saying that food will be so scarce and expensive that it will take a full day's wage just to eat for that day. But just like we are seeing today, for the 'Elite,' the rich, food and even luxuries are always available. They will always have their oil and wine... the supposedly 'finer' things of life.

If we are paying attention to what is happening around us, now, we would see that all of this has obviously been planned and is even in the beginning stages of execution now. Food supplies are being systematically and purposefully destroyed. We might be tempted to deny the proof but we need look no further than the Dutch decision to shut down thousands of Dutch farms to supposedly cut carbon emissions... thousands! and it's happening around the World. In America, over 100 food processing plants have recently been destroyed.

All that to say, this country and every country is ready, now, to receive and follow the Antichrist and most are ready, even now, to receive the Mark of the Beast. If we didn't know, from Scripture, that the Rapture happens before the Tribulation, we could well believe that we are in the beginning days of the Tribulation.

That is the demonic deception running rampant throughout the Laodicean church of today: people are being denied the 'Blessed Hope' we have in knowing that He will come for us soon and that He will come for us before the Tribulation begins.

Verse 7: *'And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.'*

Now we see the death of 100's of millions, even billions... peace has been taken from the Earth; food is scarce; wild animals are no longer afraid of humans; they attack and they kill; 1/4 of Earth's population dies.

The picture here is of Death, personified, being followed by Hades, that section of Sheol into which the world's unsaved dead have been going since the time of Adam and Eve. Hades contains billions now and even more soon as it is filled, more and more, daily.

'Hell and destruction are never full...' Prov 27:20

'Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their

multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.' Isaiah 5:14

'Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee (Lucifer) at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.' Isaiah 14:9

'... who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied...' Hab 2:5

Verse 9: *'And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:'*

When we read that Death rides this pale horse, followed by Hades, the millions dying are the unsaved; the saved have nothing, whatsoever, to do with Hades... only the unsaved go to Hades; the saved go into the presence of the Lord... their sins were paid for by Jesus Christ's death on the Cross.

However... this tells us that huge numbers will, first, come to faith in Jesus Christ, during the Tribulation and also that they will be martyred for their faith and, so, be seen, by John, 'under the altar' in Heaven.

From the very beginning of the Tribulation period, from the moment of the Rapture, when the Holy Spirit stops restraining evil, those who become believers will be hunted down and murdered for their faith.

Even today, the World is being trained to hate and to want to see the death of Christians: TV, movies, books, etc: Christians are bad, especially white Christian males but you females aren't far behind. We are seen as worse than the muslims who are murdering Christians daily; we are worse than those who practice every sin you can imagine; we are being painted as the one thing that, if it were removed, society would be ever so much better in every way. That's how they see us; they hate us with murderous hatred.

That is why we see a huge multitude under the altar, here, and then, in the next chapter, we read: 'After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;'

There is a simple reason why so many are under the altar and around the throne: Christians are hated and soon, every restraint of that hatred will be removed; Christians will be slaughtered in the millions.

No Christians are being killed at the very beginning of the Tribulation simply because there aren't any; they all went up in the Rapture. Very soon, however, many will begin to believe the truth they had rejected before.

Verse 10: *'And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?'*

'Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.' Rom 12:19

Then, as now, our attitude is to be that of one who trusts God, who knows He is in absolute control and He will avenge every sin of those who hate Him and who hate us. What awaits every one of them, unless they come to faith in Jesus Christ, is far worse than we could ever imagine so, we would do well to cease from imagining God's judgment upon them.

What awaits us is far beyond imagination but what awaits them is also far beyond imagination.

Verse 11: *'And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.'*

This is the same as regards the Rapture. There is not a specific *number* of those who will be saved before the Rapture, and here, there is not a specific number of those, also saved, to be killed before they are avenged. In both cases, instead of a specific number of souls, it is, rather, a specific group of '*whos*;' every one of us and them are known and loved by God. When He has saved the last person He had planned to be of the Body of Jesus Christ, we will be removed. Here, it is 'fellow servants and brethren;' when that whole group is gathered unto God, He will avenge them with white hot fury.

This is how we can understand a verse like 2 Pet 3:9: *'The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.'*

The 'any' and the 'all' here refer to this entire group, the same as our verse in Rev. 6: *God is not willing that any (of those He had chosen, from the foundation of the World, to be numbered among the Church) should perish but that all (of them) should come to repentance.* Otherwise, we would be saying that God is incapable of fulfilling **all** His Will. But He told us that is not true but that He would, in fact, do all that He has planned: *'Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.'* Isa 46:9

All whom God planned and chose to be part of the true Church will come to faith before the Rapture. All that God planned to be part of this group, Tribulation Saints, will come to faith before it is too late.

Verse 12: *'And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. ¹⁴ And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.'*

Obviously, real stars cannot fall unto the Earth; our sun is a star; Earth would be vaporized long before the sun touched the Earth. This is one of the areas, in Revelation, that we are, in fact, to understand it as allegory. We are to take Revelation literally unless literal cannot be. Here, we are probably reading of the World's largest earthquake, to date. It probably unleashed many volcanic areas with untold megatons of ash, rising to the stratosphere, blocking out the light of the sun, and the moon, and the stars, as mountains are shaken down and islands are shaken loose, many covered by tsunami waves.

Now, we are about to see God's Wrath in action.

Verse 15: *'And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; ¹⁶ And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: ¹⁷ For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?'*

Did you know that the World's 'Elite' have been carving out great caves, tunnels and caverns, around the World, into which are built great luxury living areas. They are already planning for the times when the Earth's surface will be too dangerous, when men are hunting and killing other men. But even then, as they try to hide out under the ground, they will know, they will understand... God's Wrath has finally come and it's coming for me!' Those who own Billions of dollars will be no more safe than those with no dollars at all.