

**THE COMING OF THE LORD  
THE OPENING OF THE FIFTH AND SIXTH SEALS  
REVELATION 6:9-17**

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**INTRODUCTION**

Last week we began looking at “*The Seven Seal Judgments*” by looking at the first four seals which are commonly referred to as “*The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*.”

I. *FIRST SEAL JUDGMENT: A RIDER ON A WHITE HORSE  
(A DECEIVER & DICTATOR) Vs. 2*

II. *SECOND SEAL JUDGMENT: A RIDER ON A RED HORSE  
(DESTROYER or WAR) Vs. 3,4*

III. *THIRD SEAL JUDGMENT: A RIDER ON A BLACK HORSE  
(DEARTH or FAMINE) Vs. 5,6  
The Color of this horse is Black and that is the picture of Suffering.*

IV. *FOURTH SEAL JUDGMENT: A RIDER ON A PALE HORSE  
(DEATH) Vs. 7,8  
The identity of this pale horse is the color of a corpse.*

**Here the Bible says that 1/4 of the earth’s population is killed!**

For a moment let’s assume that of the approximately 2 billion people in Christendom that 1 billion Christians are legitimate.

The world’s population is just over 7.5 billion people now. So, we’ll assume that of the 7.5 billion, about 1 billion are raptured leaving 6.5 billion people to go through the Tribulation period.

If 1/4 of the earth’s population is killed, that is 1.63 billion people.

**In order to give you a perspective of this devastation:**

With these figures in mind that would be almost 12 times the total number of people killed in both World War I and World War II combined. (WWI - 16.5 million, WW@ - 72 million = 88.5 million)

It is more than 177 times the number of Jews Killed by Hitler in the Holocaust. (6,000,000)

It is more than 96 times the number of People Killed by Hitler in the Holocaust. (11,000,000)

It is 3.28 the population of the United States of America today. (Almost 324,000,000)

Folks, anyway you cut it, that’s a LOT of people!

With that being said lets look at the opening of the fifth seal.

**V. THE FIFTH SEAL JUDGMENT: THE MARTYRED SOULS IN HEAVEN.  
(6:9-11)**

When the fifth seal is opened, the scene shifts from earth to heaven and John sees a vision of those who will be martyred during the Tribulation period for their faith in Christ.

They are described as being under the altar, in keeping with the fact that **the blood of the sacrifices of the Old Testament was poured out under the altar.**

In this case it is the “*souls of them that were slain for the Word of God*” which are seen under the altar.

John hears them crying with a loud voice asking why God has not judged their persecutors.

There is a sense in which this question could be asked by martyrs of all time. There have been martyrs for their faith ever since Able lost his life to Cain in Genesis 4:8.

There are Christians today in such places as China, North Korea, and in many Muslim countries who die for their faith in our day and time.

In answer to the question that is asked, “*How long. . .*”, the reply is given in **verse 11** that there is still a little time required for the fulfillment of God’s program.

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There are other events that must take place, and additional martyrs must be added to their number.

We need to understand that there will be many who will be saved during the Tribulation period!

Think of all the Bibles, books, and Gospel literature that will be left behind at the Rapture. Think of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists that spread the Gospel across the globe (Revelation 7).

Yes, many will be saved! However, there will be a price to pay for being a believer!

The revelation of the fifth seal makes clear that in the future time of the Tribulation, it will be most difficult to declare one's faith in the Lord Jesus.

**VI. THE SIXTH SEAL: THE DAY OF DIVINE WRATH. (6:12-17)**

It would be difficult to paint any scene more moving or more terrible than that described at the opening of the sixth seal.

All the elements of a great catastrophic judgment of God are here:

1. A Great Earthquake. ("10.5" could just be a drop in the bucket)
2. The Sun Becomes Black.
3. The Moon Becomes As Blood.
4. Heavenly Bodies Fall Like Ripe Figs. (Think of the near misses by asteroids in the past)
5. The Heaven Departs As A Scroll. (Nuclear War?)
6. Every Mountain And Island Moving.

The resulting impression upon the unbelieving world is that the time of the judgment of God has come.

The earth today that is so indifferent to the claims of God and that is so bent upon pleasure, luxury, and fame, will face in that day its terrible need.

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All levels of society are here. Some are great men, some are slaves.

But in relation to the judgment of the Lord Jesus Christ that is being poured out, everyone is exactly in the same predicament.

There won't be any question as to where these things are coming from!

It will be both known and acknowledged by those who are on the earth that this is from God!

In the midst of this time when God's great wrath is being poured out upon the earth, these folks sin will come to fruition.

**Isaiah 2:10-21; 13:6-13**

*Jeremiah 46:10—“For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood:”*

*Amos 5:18-20—“Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light. 19As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him. 20Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?”*

*Zephaniah 1:14-18—“The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. 15That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. 17And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung.*

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*18Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land."*

The latter part of Revelation 6:17 asks the question, "*Who shall be able to stand?*" We see the answer to that question in the next chapter. **(7:14-15)**

**Conclusion**

Those of us who have been saved will be caught up in the Rapture to escape this time! Thank God!

But what about your friends, your family, your neighbors, and your co-workers? Where will they be?

Those who haven't been to Jesus for the cleansing power and who have not been washed in the blood of the Lamb are in danger of being left behind to endure this terrible time coming to the earth!

We need to be busy helping folks miss out on this terrible time!