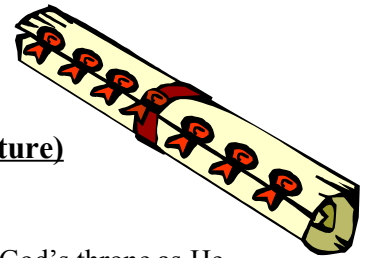


What Is, and Was, and Is to Come...
A Biblical End Times and Prophecy Study



VII. The 70th Week Begins (Scroll, Seals...Riders, Restrainer and Rapture)

The Scroll and Seals - Revelation 5:1-5

After the celestial worship scene in chapter 4, all the heavenly hosts gather around God's throne as He holds a scroll in His hand. The scroll contains all the events of the end of time and prophecy. The scroll is sealed with seven seals and the heavenly beings all proclaim that Christ (the Lamb of God, Lion of Judah, Root of David) is the only One worthy to open the scroll and the seals.



A. The **First Seal** – rider on a **white horse**

Revelation 6:1-2

A world leader (the Antichrist) will rise to power or will have begun his global political influence. Initially he will do so peacefully.

As studied previously, *he* (the Antichrist) will sign some sort of 7-year covenant (peace treaty) with other nations (*many*) that will somehow impact Israel. *Daniel 9:26b-27*



B. The **Second Seal**/rider on a **red horse** - World-wide War

Revelation 6:3-4

Some countries and cultures will rebel initially to the Antichrist. They will fight each other as well as resist the Antichrist's rise to power.



C. The **Third Seal**/rider on a **black horse** - World-wide Famine *Revelation 6:5-6*

A natural outcome of war and economic chaos is a food shortage causing famine and starvation.



D. The **Fourth Seal**/rider on a **pale horse** - Death (1/4 of the world)

Revelation 6:7-8

This death will come as a result of the wars, famine and beast/animals (mauling, diseases, plagues – mad cow, SARS, West Nile, HINI?)



E. The **Fifth Seal**/white robed saints – Martyrs who have been / will be slain

Revelation 6:9-11



F. The **Sixth Seal** - Physical/extra-terrestrial disturbances

Revelation 6:12-17

Restrainer: A godly restrainer will be removed from the earth, allowing these events to happen.

II Thessalonians 2:5-10

Two views of this restrainer:

- **The Holy Spirit/the Church** – the restrainer of “evil” on the earth. Pre-tribulationists indicate that the Church and Holy Spirit must be removed in order for the Antichrist to rise to power.
- **Michael, the archangel** and protector of Israel. Because Satan's efforts during the last half of the 70th week will focus primarily on Israel, God's protector of Israel, Michael (Daniel 12:1, 10:21) will have to be taken out of the way – i.e. remove his protection.
- **Other views:** Government, the Jewish state, evangelism, God's providential protection

Rapture: At this point, two of the primary rapture positions will have potentially occurred – one at the beginning of the 70th week (commonly referred to as the *pre-trib rapture*) and the other just after the 6th seal is opened (pre-wrath rapture). See comparisons in timeline and Matthew 24/Revelation 6 lesson.



G. The **Seventh Seal** – Silence (pause) and the assembling of the angels with the seven trumpets.

Revelation 8:1-6

Up to this point, the judgments were a result of man's (and Satan's) evil to man. The trumpet judgments usher in **God's judgments** on the earth.