

The Seals—Revelation 6:1–17

Topics: Death, Hell, Holiness, Jesus Christ, Judgment, Last Days, Peace, Truth

Open It

1. What is one natural disaster (earthquake, tornado, etc.) that stands out in your memory?
2. How do you react in really frightening situations?

Revelation 6:1–17 (ESV)

¹Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, “Come!”

²And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

³When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!”

⁴And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.

⁵When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand.

⁶And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!”

⁷When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!”

⁸And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider’s name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

⁹When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne.

¹⁰They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

¹¹Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

¹²When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood,

¹³and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale.

¹⁴The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

¹⁵Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,

¹⁶calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,

¹⁷for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

Explore It

3. What happens in the opening scenes of this passage? (6:1)

4. What was the nature and the appearance of the first horse and its rider? (6:2)
5. What happened after the second seal was opened? (6:3)
6. How are the second horse and its rider described? (6:4)
7. What happened at the opening of the third seal? (6:5)
8. How did the voice that John heard explain the meaning of the scales in the hand of the third rider? (6:6)
9. What were the fourth horse and its rider like? (6:7–8)
10. What did John see at the opening of the fifth seal? (6:9)
11. What answer was given the slain ones? (6:11)
12. What happened at the opening of the sixth seal? (6:12–14)
13. How did the inhabitants of earth respond to the events unleashed by the breaking of the seals? (6:15–17)

Get It

14. How does reading this passage make you feel?
15. How long do you think God will wait before judging the earth?
16. How should we pray in light of the fact that God will judge all people?

Apply It

17. How can you help a non-Christian friend or family member see his or her need for Christ?