

*The book of  
Revelation*

6:1-17

Welcome to the weekly verse-by-verse bible study in the book of Revelation.  
Make sure you pray before you start this, or any bible study.

Starting this week in chapter six, let's turn our eyes upon Jesus and see what happens after He takes the scroll from the hand of God.

✠ **Rev 6:1-2** *Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.*

There are a couple thoughts or viewpoints on who this rider is.

First is that some say that this is Jesus, and some go as far as saying that this is Jesus' second coming.

A few problems I have with this is that this is the beginning of the tribulation period, and Jesus does not come until the end of the seven-year tribulation period.

✠ **Rev 19:11** *Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.*

Note in chapter 19 when it's talking of Jesus' return, He is given a title on this white horse.

✠ *He who sat on him was called Faithful and True*

Back in chapter 6, there is no title given this rider.

But you may be thinking that this is a white horse and who else would ride such a horse other than Jesus?

Good observation, but we find the answer in:

✠ **2 Thess 2:8-12** *And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

This is speaking of the antichrist himself. When he comes, he will appear to be a good man and will appear to have all the answers to the world's problems, including the answer to why thousands of millions of people all of a sudden just disappeared. But he is also a deceiver as we just read: *lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception*

✠ *He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.*

You may think that the term "bow" here would represent a warrior, or a mighty man of war.

But the word "bow" is used in other ways as well.

✠ *Psalms 64:3-4 Who sharpen their tongue like a sword,  
And bend their bows to shoot their arrows--bitter words,  
That they may shoot in secret at the blameless;  
Suddenly they shoot at him and do not fear.*

✠ *Jer 9:3 "And like their bow they have bent their tongues for lies.  
They are not valiant for the truth on the earth.  
For they proceed from evil to evil,  
And they do not know Me," says the LORD.*

It's very possible that the antichrist will tell all sorts of lies about Jesus and us, Jesus' followers. He will conquer all the religions of this world and initiate a one-world religion that would worship him. He will be very crafty with his words, and the world will believe his lies, just as they are believing them even now.

The world believes the lies about alcohol and sell it with beautiful women trying to seduce men into thinking that if they drink that they too can have these women. The world even tries to cover it over and we think they are good for initiating the fact that you shouldn't drink and drive. Yet so many are drinking at home and they beat their wives and children and do other things that I will not mention here.

Sex is also a big seller that this world has bought into. You can't seem to go to any movie or even watch TV without sex being right in front of your face, whether it's the actual act or some little dig or action promoting sex on TV. I have heard it said that if pornography was taken from the Internet, that the Internet would shut down, because most of the revenue comes from pornography.

Here is another one, and that's divorce. The world allows a marriage to be broken up for any reason at all.

Not happy, get a divorce.

She burns your dinner, get a divorce.

She or he gains a little weight, get a divorce.

Even as Christians we try to justify divorce in any way we can, and even search the scriptures trying to twist God's word to justify it, but that's not what the bible teaches.

† **Mal 2:16 (NLT)** *"For I hate divorce!" says the LORD, the God of Israel. "It is as cruel as putting on a victim's bloodstained coat," says the LORD Almighty. "So guard yourself; always remain loyal to your wife."*

Here is another lie this world has fallen prey of, and that is looking out for number one, and number one is you. Wait a minute, I thought Jesus was number one, then others came next, and finally you are last? But we as Christians have even fallen into this trap. Sure, we say that Jesus is number one, but if we don't get our way or what we want, then Jesus drops down to the bottom of our list. We as Christians are so spoiled and think we deserve the best in life, yet the bible teaches.

† **Matt 6:19-21** *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Yet how many of our treasures are right here on this earth? How many earthly things do we pray for and beg God for and even will make vows to God so that we can get them? People are starving all over the world, and worse they are dying without Jesus, yet our biggest concern is with our homes, and cars, and food, and clothes, and how we are being treated bad at work.

How do you know where your heart is? Try listening to your prayers; what are you asking for and what is your biggest petition to God? Is it for yourself, or the lost?

*"Oh Father, may you forgive us for our self-seeking and covetous hearts and give us hearts that are truly pleasing to you!"*

So you see how easily the world and even Christians have believed the lies of satan. How much more will the world believe the lies after the church is gone? Yes, the antichrist will come on a white horse pretending to be someone great, and will be given a crown, which represents ruling. He will rule this world for a short seven years until the true and righteous King of kings and Lord of lords shows up. He will ride in on a white horse, and you will know Him by His name: **Faithful and True**, we know Him as Jesus Christ, the Son of GOD!

✠ **Rev 6:3-4** *When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.*

Jesus is still in heaven with the scroll in His hand and He is opening the seals, therefore He cannot be this rider on the white horse spoken of in verse 2, because the rider of that horse is on the earth.

For the first three and a half years, the world will experience a sense of peace and safety, but when this rider on the red horse comes along, all hell will be revealed and what they thought was peace and safety was nothing more than a lie that they were living.

† **1 Thess 5:3** *For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.*

So if the antichrist is so bad, then how could there be peace and safety on the earth? Actually, there won't be, but the illusion will be that there is. You see after the church is gone, all hell will break loose and the world will get what they have been asking for. Party after party, women being abused sexually. Homosexual marriages will be approved and looked upon as a normal lifestyle in the world (Even though it seems it pretty much is already). Drugs and alcohol will pour out freely. What this world will be like will be the most disgusting thing you could imagine, and then multiply it by 100.

The world has been asking for it for a long time, wanting them goodby two shoes Christians out of the way, because they just spoil all our fun. At least, that's what they think, but they will soon find out that what they consider as fun is really a lie, and has been the worst life they have ever lived.

Anger, bitterness, covetousness, self-seeking, pride, lust will take over and they will all start to kill one another. James tells us of such things that are happening even now.

† **James 4:1-2** *Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.*

During this seven-year tribulation, this will all skyrocket to new heights. No, it won't be a pretty sight, but then sin never is a pretty sight!

✠ **Rev 6:5-6** *When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard 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 the wine."*

So, what are these scales, or what do they represent? We get a good indication in the book of Amos.

† **Amos 8:5-6** *Saying:  
"When will the New Moon be past,  
That we may sell grain?  
And the Sabbath,  
That we may trade wheat?  
Making the ephah small and the shekel large,  
Falsifying the scales by deceit,*

*That we may buy the poor for silver,  
And the needy for a pair of sandals--  
Even sell the bad wheat?"*

Think of going to the grocery store, and in the produce department there are scales, which you use to weigh your produce, that's sold by the ounce or pound. The same is true for fish and meat; it is all sold by weight, so much per pound. This is what the scales represent, how things are bought and sold and for how much.

A denarius was a day's wage for a soldier or a laborer. Now imagine a loaf of bread would cost you a day's wages. You would work five days a week for five loaves of bread, that's how much things will cost during this time.

There will be peace for a time, but afterwards wars and people killing each other, then a famine will break out, possibly due to the wars which would destroy the crops and livestock, not to mention the covetousness of man wanting as much money as he can get. But it's all far from over yet, we have only seen Jesus open three seals, and there are four more to go.

✠ **Rev 6:7-8** *When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.*

After wars and famine, follows death, as we see with the forth seal being opened. We are getting close to five billion people upon this earth right now, even after the rapture, we are looking at over one billion people dying from just this one rider, and how will he do it?

*to kill with sword* this will be from wars, red horse.

*with hunger* this will be from famine, the black horse.

*with death* this will be from death of possibly disease.

*and by the beasts of the earth.* This will be the animals going wild as the food is now gone, therefore they will attack man, woman and child to quench their hunger.

Who in their right mind would want to live through such a time? Unfortunately, hundreds of billions of people right now will have to go through this, and there are still three more seals to go, and it doesn't stop at the seals, as we will read going through this book.

✠ **Rev 6:9-11** *When 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 testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.*

Good news, bad news here with the opening of the fifth seal.  
The good news is that people will be saved during the tribulation period.  
The bad news is that they will have be killed or martyred for their belief in Jesus Christ.

Some think they can live like hell right now, and if they miss the rapture that they will turn to Jesus during the tribulation period. A few problems with that is that they won't have the church to support them or to run to in times of trials and problems. They will pretty much be on their own. Could you imagine the church not being there for you? Where would you go on Sunday? Who would pray for you and with you? Nowhere to run and hide, and no one to stand by your side. If you turn to Jesus during the tribulation period, once you proclaim Jesus as Lord of lords, then prepare to meet Him, because you will be killed for your faith in Jesus Christ. If you can't live for Jesus now, what makes you think that you could die for Him then?

*✠ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"*

Don't we talk to God in the same way today, asking Jesus to come and take us home. I know I am ready, but God's not ready yet, because there are more to be saved. I'm so glad that God is a patient God; if He weren't then I would have died in my sins many years ago. But He waited for me, and He may be waiting for you right now as well. God knows who that last person to believe in His Son Jesus is, and that someone maybe you. If it is, stop waiting, because we all want to go home and be with Jesus. It could be someone you know; maybe all that is pending is you sharing Jesus with him or her. Get with it so we can go home!

*✠ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.*

Reading this you have to wonder if some of those who killed these believers would also come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior as well. White represents purity, but they were all sinners like you and me, and for years they may have rejected Jesus Christ, but their hardened hearts were softened and they are now saved. It just goes to show you that no one is beyond God's grace and mercy, and He will save those we thought would never be saved. I'm sure many felt that way about me many years ago, but look at me now, teaching His word.

People may have felt the same way about you as well, but look at you, studying His word right here and now. Who would have thought? GOD!  
So don't give up on anyone, keep sharing Jesus with others, because you never know, they could be saved the next time you share Jesus with them, or ten years from now. We only plant the seeds or water the seeds that were planted, but God gives the increase (Saves them).

† **1 Corinthians 3:6** *I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.*

But also, those going through the tribulation period will also have to die for their faith in Jesus just as these martyrs did.

✠ **Rev 6:12-14** *I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.*

WOW!

I lived in California for most of my life, home of earthquakes, or so they say, but I have not felt that many. Yet I have made it through some of the big ones we have had here over the years. It's pretty scary when it happens as the ground starts to sway or roll under your feet, or you get knocked out of your bed or being woken in the middle of the night, to your bed shaking and the sound of rumbling.

We have all seen the results of earthquakes throughout the world, and the damage they can cause, and the number of people who die because of them. But these are small compared to the big one that will happen not just in California, but the entire world will experience it. How so? Well it is believed by scientist that the earth will shift on it axis and does about every 5000 years, which helps explain what happen in Noah's time. We are overdue for the shifting of the earth on its axis, so it can happen at any time, if the scientists are correct.

But before it shifts, it is believed that the earth will wobble first, and this wobble affect will cause the entire earth to experience a great earthquake, one so devastating that man has never experienced it, nor can they build any building that will protect them from it. As a result of this massive earthquake other things will happen as well.

✠ *and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.*

If you can imagine such an earthquake, then you can also imagine the amount of dust and stuff in the air because of it. This stuff in the air (nonscientific name for it) will make the sun appear to be black and the moon red, like blood, as the bible puts it.

But there is still more.

✠ *And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.*

We are talking about a meteor shower here. We have all seen pictures of the moon with all its craters; these were caused by meteors slamming into it. Small little chunks of space have fallen to the earth before, as we have the craters to prove it.

So imagine if you will, hundreds of thousands of these little chunks of space stuff (once again nonscientific term) falling to the earth at one time.

Even the movie industry has tried to show what this would be like, but it is Hollywoodized (Is that a word? Must be, there was no auto correct) and cannot capture the horror that the earth will experience.

✧ *Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up.*

I cannot imagine the sky receding as a scroll, but it will be an awesome sight. But I am glad I won't be here to see it.

✧ *and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.*

Not one or two of the big mountains in this world but "*every mountain and island*" which means no more Hawaii vacations, because there probably won't be a Hawaii left to go to, and if you are a mountain climber, you definitely won't like it here during this time.

We can make light of it right now, but in actuality it will be a horrible time, and how will the people of the earth respond to all of this?

Let's see.

✧ **Rev 6:15-17** *And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*

From the richest to the poorest, all will have the same response, "*Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?*"

We seem to strive so hard for recognition and wealth, but we see that all the money in the world and all to popularity won't make a difference. It won't save or even help in this time. But then it doesn't help or save us now. Yet we still put so much emphasis on money. No wonder Jesus said,

† **Mark 10:24** *And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "**Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!**"*

† **Matt 6:25** *Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?*

So what has worrying about getting more money gotten you, other than sleepless nights and an ulcer? Will it save you or give you a higher status in heaven?

When you are gone, who will have it? Your kids, the state, strangers or thieves? Jesus told a parable about this.

† **Luke 12:16-21** *Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

Will it take a massive earthquake to make you realize this?  
For millions, it will!

✠ **Rev 6:15-17** *And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*

One very interesting thing I find about these verses is that all will know Who is doing this to them. They are not blaming it on some cosmic malfunction, not on a strange pattern in the weather, not on what they call mother earth. No, they know that God is not happy with the way they have rejected His Son Jesus and how they have treated others, including His followers (as we read about with the fifth seal). Even now the world has so many excuses, yet they don't realize that God is in control. But during this time, they realize that God is in control, yet even though they acknowledge God as being in control, they will still refuse to listen to Him, as we will read as we go on in studying this book.

Jesus told of all these things:

† **Matt 24:7-8** *"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."*

Yet many would not believe Jesus, nor do they believe Him even now, and sad to say even as they are living through this time, they still will not believe and turn to Him for salvation.

Fortunately, we are not in this time, yet. If we were, I wouldn't be here to write this. Maybe you have been reading this for the first time and have not realized what will really happen and you don't want to be here for it. If you say it's not that bad and you would get

through this, then you better stick around or read the rest of this book, because things get worse, a lot worse.

But maybe you have felt a tug on your heart telling you that you don't have to go through this at all, if you would just believe in Jesus, repent of your sins and give your life to Him. Maybe today it's time to make that decision once and for all.

Maybe you have been going back and forth with this as you feel a struggle inside of you, knowing what is right and the right thing to do, but it's hard to leave your current lifestyle. You feel like one of those cartoons with the devil on one shoulder and an angel on the other, and you are wondering which one you will give into.

The answer is to look neither to the left or the right, but straight up to Jesus Christ who is ruling and reigning forever and ever and beyond.

He is the author and finisher of our faith.

† **Heb 12:1-2** *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Don't walk, but rather run to Jesus right now and ask for His forgiveness.

† **1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

You have His word on it that you will be forgiven if you just confess your sins to Jesus.

I pray that during this time of seven years of tribulation that I will see you in heaven as we worship the Lamb of God together there!

I pray that the Lord has ministered to you through His word and used these studies to help get you fired up to share the gospel with others even more, as you think of those you don't want to have to go through this terrible time.

May the Lord richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may you be able to speak to the Lamb of God in heaven, rather than here on earth hiding under a rock during the tribulation period.