

Rev 6:1-11

Pursuing Resilience in Revelation | Power to Endure

Intro

We must realize that these seven seals are not describing future events, but rather current events. Through Christ's victory through the cross and empty tomb, Christ won the power to open the seals and to unleash God's plan for His Church and our rebellious world.

As we examine each of these seals we are looking into what is unfolding before our eyes throughout the entire Church age from Christ's ascension until now. These things correspond to Christ's words in the Gospels regarding the end times, which began when He ascended.

Matthew 24:4-14 NASB2020

'And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. [5] For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will mislead many people. [6] And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. [7] For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. [8] But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pains. [9] "Then they will hand you over to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. [10] And at that time many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. [11] And many false prophets will rise up and mislead many people. [12] And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will become cold. [13] But the one who endures to the end is the one who will be saved. [14] This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come."

Discover

Each of the four horsemen of the apocalypse represent a malevolent force which seeks to undermine God and yet they cannot help but to serve His purposes. The fact that the evil these creatures represent is subject to Christ's sovereignty reminds us that God is indeed over all things. This brings us comfort, knowing that the One who has conquered sin and death on our behalf has the situation under His control.

We absolutely will be preserved through His judgements, as difficult as they may be.

We must always remember that while God's fire burns the world up, it purifies His church. Any pain and suffering we endure can only serve to make us more like Christ so long as our eyes are on Him. Like Job, the end of our suffering will be a restoration that will far exceed what we have lost.

I. The conquering horseman

- A. This first horseman resembles Jesus, but is not Him. Rather it represents a demonic facsimile designed to conquer the world through deception and lust for power.
 - 1. The first horseman represents the rule of man on the earth.
 - 2. Since Adam's rebellion humanity has been marked by blood lust and a thirst for power.
 - a) Since Christ opened this particular seal, there has been a consistent succession of conquering kings who have attempted to forge some sort of peace on earth by human strength apart from God. They are mere extensions of those who built the tower of Babel, but each one is overcome by the next.
 - b) Rome and the various Caesars, Attila the Hun, Genghis Khan, the Celts, Gauls, Holy Romans, Ottomans, Brits, Spanish, Napoleon, Russians, Hitler, and now the US and China.
- B. This rider has been unleashed by Christ and has authority to lead the sons of Adam who are hell bent on continuing their rebellion against God rather than repenting and believing in Christ.
 - 1. God allows this deception to serve His own glorious purposes. To those who desire sin and death, The Lord allows them to have what they want.
 - 2. Sinful man falls on His own sword so that even His rebellion only serves but to reinforce the reign of God.
- C. Satan is a master manipulator, disguising himself as an angel of light and drawing many men away from God.
 - 1. He holds the seemingly good thing as a carrot in front of us in an attempt to keep us from embracing the truly great things God has for us.

II. The warring horseman

- A. This horseman causes division and conflict amongst people.
- B. When will there finally be peace on earth? When Jesus returns and banishes all evil permanently. Until then, there is conflict in the world which God has sovereignly allowed to serve His purposes.
- C.

III. The scarcity horseman

- A. This horseman brings seasons of famine and scarcity. This is Adam's curse, that he will work and yet the land will not yield for him. This is a direct result of the fall.
- B. We also see massive inflation with this horseman, reminding us that economic disaster is a part of God's judgment on the world which we must endure as we seek to attain to our place in Christ.

IV. The death horseman

- A. This horseman brings widespread death and destruction on the earth. This is not a single occurrence, but waves of disease, war, and any manner of deadly forces which are coming up on the earth time and again until Jesus returns.
 - 1. We just went through one of these seasons, though the Lord was kind and spared us the worst of what a plague can be.
 - 2. We should expect plagues, famines, wars, and all manner of threats against life until Jesus returns. This is the world under the state of sin.

V. God's word to His saints (9-11)

- A. Those who overcome this world with Christ will be clothed in white and will see true justice reign.
- B. John 16:32-33 NASB2020, "Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Nurture

Who is God? He is Christ who opens the seals.

What has God done? He has opened the seals to execute His judgment upon the earth and yet He is saving and preserving His saints in the midst of it all.

Who are we? We are those who are being saved out of this crooked and perverse generation for our good and for His glory.

What will we do? We will hold fast to Christ as the world around us crumbles and quakes, though we face sadness, and though hope seems faint. We will trust that we are on the ark that is Christ and so we will survive these floodwaters.

We are destined to overcome with Christ rather than to be crushed with the world.

Act

Hebrews 10:39 NASB2020

[39] But we are not among those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith for the safekeeping of the soul.

2 Timothy 2:3-5 NASB2020

“Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. [4] No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him. [5] And if someone likewise competes as an athlete, he is not crowned as victor unless he competes according to the rules.”