



## Revelation 6

### +INTRODUCTION

To say the events unfolding in Revelation 6 onward, can be difficult to understand & interpret is an understatement. In pop culture today it seems as if there are new movies coming out yearly, each with their own take on how the end of the of the world will happen, from cinematic productions like 'Armageddon', 'The book of Eli' and the horribly nauseating film, '2012'. Curiously, there's a strange fascination with how civilization as we know it, will end.

There are 4 characters in chapter 6 who've received more than their fair share of air-time, known to most as the, '4 horsemen'. Their arrival into the apocalyptic literature of John, is due to the opening of the 7 sealed scroll, by Jesus (Rev. 6:1-8). Scholars for 2000 years have conjectured as to their "true" identity, while coming to little or no unilateral agreement. Interpretations, are as numerous as the pounds lost by the contestants on the Biggest Loser due to Jillian Michaels' relentless torment!

Because our fundamental aim in studying this book is, "the unveiling of Jesus" (Rev 1:1) & because thousands of godly scholars/pastors for 2 millennia have unsuccessfully come to consensus on the colorful literary details

peppered throughout this book we ought to use caution + humility when speculating and forming our own opinions. In other words, "be nice", because arguing from a position which very well may be wrong, is foolish and to assume your unique interpretation on these details is the only correct one is, presumptuous. To press this point one step further, our identity in heaven will most certainly not be defined by our eschatological (end times) view points, and may very well fade into insignificance in the light of the presence of Christ, our beautiful savior. This may very well come to mean that the countless hours devoted by some in sketching colorful charts and exerting immeasurable energy to maintain divisions within the body of Christ may end up feeling very silly 'in the light of His glory + grace'. This is said not as a deterrent from diligent, study of the bible, but rather, to serve as a sober reminder that we, have been purchased to live in light of 'ultimate things', namely, Christ: his coming glory, coming judgement + coming reward!

Ironically, in chapter 6, Jesus is seen as possessing all power + comfort, as he alone sets in motion, cataclysmic events scourging the rebellious (6:15-17), while bringing rest to His faithful (6:9-10).

### +READ (Revelation 6)

Read this passage out loud together as a group/family before asking any of the below questions.

### +OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

- The imagery of the 4 horseman in 6:2-8 describe:
  - white horse \_\_\_\_\_
  - red horse \_\_\_\_\_
  - black horse \_\_\_\_\_
  - pale horse \_\_\_\_\_
- Jesus is portrayed as possessing all power over all things, as seen by Him being the one who opens the seals. Why do you think those who are affected by these events respond the way they do in 6:15-17?
- The opening of the 5th seal, reveals the presence group of people who've been slain for their faith. What does their prayer, "O Sovereign Lord, holy + true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" tell you about them.

### +APPLICATION

Read through the entire chapter again and look for the ways in which Jesus and/or his character are revealed. Knowing these items about him, how do they move you love him/fear him, more?



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