



FAITH PRINCETON SUNDAY SCHOOL

REVELATION 6:1-8 The Four Horsemen

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026

DEAR FAMILY OF FAITH,

As we begin to get into some of the more symbolic portions of Revelation, we will slow our study down in order to leave plenty of time for discussion and investigation of interpretations. As with all of Revelation, let us remember that although comprised of various scenes and visions, Revelation is one cohesive letter sent from Jesus to seven literal churches and through inspiration of the Holy Spirit preserved for all churches of all generations. Many, including Guzik and myself, see much of this as still awaiting ultimate fulfillment in the future. But however it is read, let us not miss that its goal is to encourage a persecuted church to stay strong in their faith and to remind all Christians of the ultimate victory that is ours in Christ Jesus. Be encouraged as you continue to study this Revelation of Jesus Christ.

Bro Stan

REVELATION 6 Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

The First Seal—Rider on White Horse

1 Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come." 2 I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

The Second Seal—Rider on Red Horse

3 When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come." 4 And another, a red horse, went out; and

to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that men would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.

The Third Seal—Rider on Black Horse

5 When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, “Come.” I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine.”

The Fourth Seal—Rider on Pale Horse

7 When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come.” 8 I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Enduring Word Commentary: Revelation 6:1-8

The First Six Seals [part 1]

A. The first four seals of the scroll bring four horsemen.

1. (1-2) The white horse brings a man of conquest.

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.

a. I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals: From the previous chapter, we understand this scroll is the history and destiny of mankind and creation, and only Jesus – **the Lamb** – had the right to loosen the seals on this scroll of the culmination of history.

i. If the scroll details the culmination of history, then the things associated with the removal of the seals must happen *before* the scroll is opened. This is not the fulfillment of history itself, but the *preparation* for it. The actual culmination will be detailed in [Revelation 19](#).

ii. “It is worthy of remark that the opening of the seals is not merely a declaration of what God will do, but is the exhibition of a purpose then accomplished; for whenever the seal is opened, the sentence appears to be *executed*.” (Clarke)

b. And I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.” Each seal is associated with a living creature (*zoa*, one of the cherubim of [Ezekiel 1](#) and [Ezekiel 10](#)) who called out “**come**” (or, it could be translated “go forth”) to each horseman.

c. Behold, a white horse: If one were to take their interpretive clues more from cowboy movies than from the Bible, it would be easy to believe the rider on the **white horse** is Jesus. Jesus does return on a **white horse** in [Revelation 19:11-16](#); but *this* is a satanic dictator who imitates Jesus.

i. He rules (**a crown was given**); he rules with a **bow**, not a sword; and he exercises dominion over the earth (**went out conquering and to conquer**). But the *results* of his rule, as described in the following verses, show clearly that this is not the reign of Jesus.

ii. “The whole context and character of these seals absolutely forbid our thinking of this rider being the Lord Jesus, as so many affirm. *His* reign shall not bring war, famine, and strife in its train.” (Jennings)

iii. Here we reach an interpretive crossroads of the Book of Revelation. You can tell much about how a person understands this book and God’s prophetic plan by seeing how they understand this first rider. Those who think Revelation is mostly a book of *history* believe that this rider is Jesus, the apostles, or the Roman emperors. Those who believe that this is a *prophetic* passage, yet to be fulfilled, often account this rider to be the antichrist.

d. He went out conquering and to conquer: Taking this to be the final satanic dictator over men, we see that he will be more terrible than all previous dictators were. He will rule over men as a false messiah, and lead man in organized rebellion against God, in the pattern of Nimrod, his first predecessor. He is the one often called the *antichrist*.

i. The idea of a satanic dictator over men goes back all the way to Nimrod, the ruler over Babel in [Genesis 10:8-14](#), where it says he was a *mighty hunter before the LORD*. This has the sense that he was a mighty hunter of *men*, and that this was offensive to the face of God.

e. **Come and see:** The modern political and social scene is certainly set for the emergence of such a political leader. All that waits is for the Lord to allow it in His timing after He takes His church from this earth.

i. *And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7)*

ii. Significantly, the *first* seal opened brings this dictator to prominence. We understand that the seventieth week of [Daniel 9](#) begins when this dictator will *confirm a covenant with [the] many*, referring to the Jewish people.

iii. Many wonder if these four horsemen of [Revelation 6](#) are connected with the seventieth week of Daniel and the great tribulation itself, or with the course of history up until that time. This initial emergence of the antichrist, connected with what we know about this leader from [Daniel 9](#) shows that these four horsemen are connected with Daniel's seventieth week and the great tribulation.

2. (3-4) The red horse brings war and conflict.

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.

a. **Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth:** This rider didn't need to *bring* war and destruction. All he needed to do was **take peace from the earth**. Once this **peace** – God's gift to man – was taken, men quickly rush in with war and destruction.

i. Peace between men and among nations is a gift from God. It is not the *natural* state of relations between men.

b. **And it was granted:** This authority was **granted** to the horseman. This is, directly or indirectly, the judgment of God.

c. **That people should kill one another:** Our modern age is marked by war and conflict. Since World War II, there have been more than 150 wars of some kind in the world, and at any given time there may be some three dozen armed conflicts taking thousands of lives yearly. The nations of the world often spend more than \$1 trillion on military expenditures a year.

3. (5-6) The black horse brings scarcity and inequity.

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."

a. **A black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand:** The scales symbolized the need to carefully measure and ration food. This speaks of a time of *scarcity*.

b. **A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius:** These prices are about twelve times higher than normal. It means that it would cost a day's wage to buy the ingredients for a loaf of bread. This describes "a time of famine when life will be reduced to the barest necessities." (Walvoord)

i. We often see great famine in the world today, yet fewer people suffer from hunger today than 100 years ago. However, understanding the world's precarious ecological balance, it would not take much to plunge many into the kind of scarcity and inequity mentioned here.

c. **Do not harm the oil and the wine:** Yet, the nicer things will be available for those who can afford them. There will still be **the oil and the wine** that should not be harmed.

4. (7-8) The pale horse brings death.

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.

a. A pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death: This last rider shows that there will be a tremendous death toll from the dictatorship, war, famine and other calamities described by the previous three horsemen.

i. Our modern age has seen hundreds of millions killed by dictators, war, and famine. Yet all that will pale in comparison to the death toll coming in the wake of this ultimate dictator. No wonder Jesus said of this time *For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.* ([Matthew 24:21](#))

b. Power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill: Power was given to the horseman, and given by God. Though all hell breaks loose on the earth, God is very much in control. He still holds the scroll and opens the seals.

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