

<sup>3</sup> Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near. —  
Revelation 1:3 (NKJV)

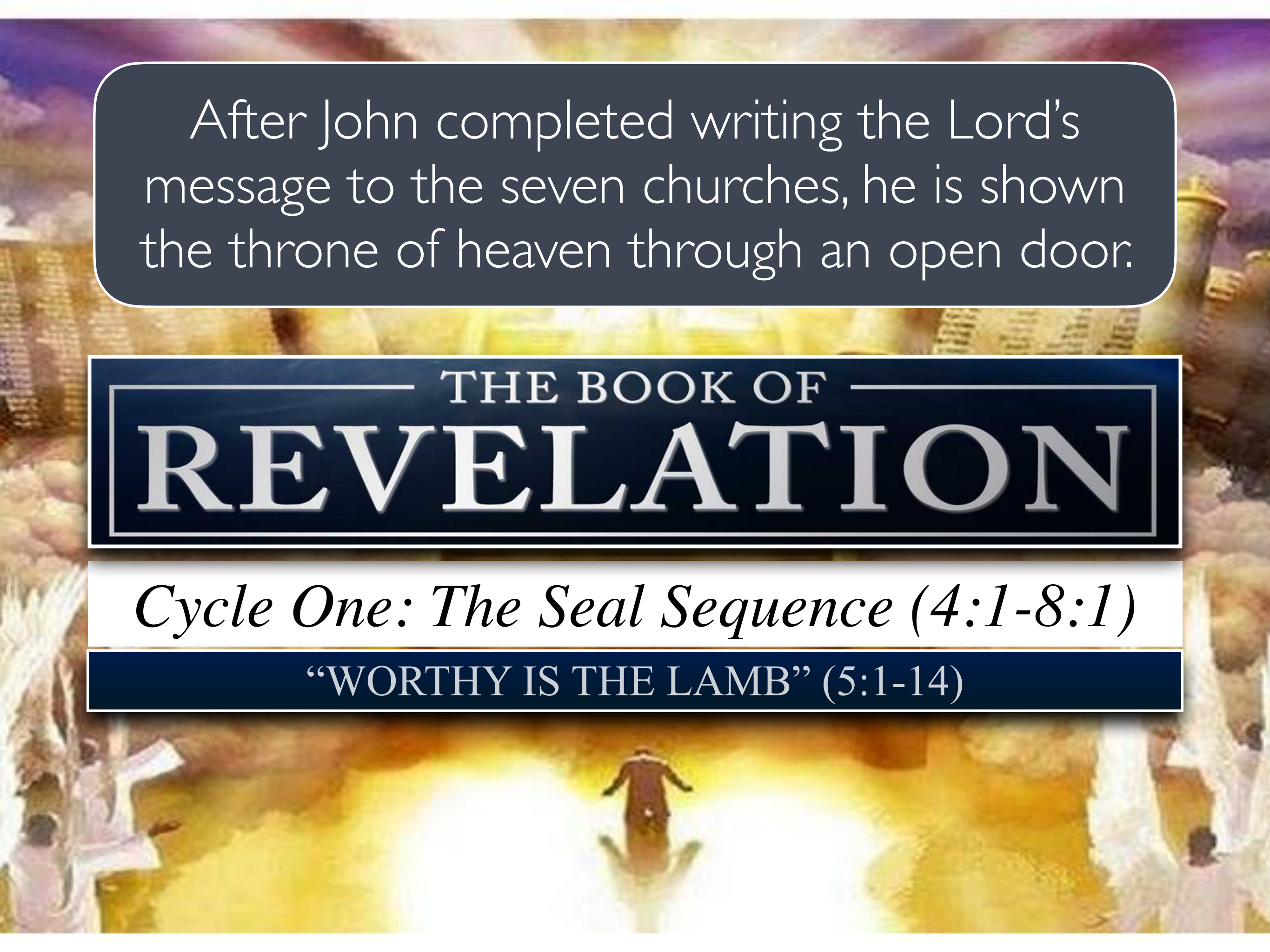
A man with a long white beard and hair, wearing a simple brown robe, is seated in a desert landscape. He is holding a scroll in his left hand and a quill in his right, writing on it. The background shows rolling hills and a clear sky.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**





After John completed writing the Lord's message to the seven churches, he is shown the throne of heaven through an open door.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

“WORTHY IS THE LAMB” (5:1-14)



Chapters four and five present the sovereignty of God who is on his throne and whose righteous rule is vindicated by the work of Christ.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

“WORTHY IS THE LAMB” (5:1-14)



Though it may some-times appear that the wicked rule, all things are actually controlled by God & He will hold the wicked accountable!

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

“WORTHY IS THE LAMB” (5:1-14)

## Revelation 6:1–17 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> 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.”

<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup>

When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come and see.” <sup>4</sup>

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.



## **Revelation 6:1–17 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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.” <sup>7</sup> When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come and see.” <sup>8</sup> 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.

## Revelation 6:1–17 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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?” <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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.



## **Revelation 6:1–17 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. <sup>15</sup> 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, <sup>16</sup> 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! <sup>17</sup> For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**



- The **imagery** and **symbols** in Revelation are necessary in comprehending the **BIG PICTURE** - but if we focus too much on the imagery and symbols we can easily **MISS** the BIG PICTURE.
- The BIG PICTURE in chapters 6-8:1 is clearly **GOD WILL TAKE VENGEANCE** upon those who persecute His people.
- **The 7 seals are the first of 3 7's**



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**



- A series of three “7’s” — 7 seals (6:1-8:5); 7 trumpets (8:6-9:21); and 7 bowls of wrath (15:1-16:21).
- These run parallel to each other in a recapitulation pattern with God’s judgments being increased in intensity.
- John describes them one after the other by revealing from different viewpoints the judging and restraining action of God.



**7 TRUMPETS** - Rev. 8, 9  
God's Call To Repentance



**7 SEALS** - Rev. 6-8:1  
God's Judgment Is Coming



**7 BOWLS** - Rev. 16  
God's Wrath Is Full



**THE WICKED**

All three series of sevens are simultaneous, although the trumpets and the bowls of wrath are more limited in time as they deal only with the “things which must shortly come to pass” (1:1).



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**



- The first four seals form a single unit which utilize colored horses to picture the temporal judgments presented therein.
- The second segment presents a dramatic and heart-wrenching portrait of the souls of those who have died for their faith.
- The third part portrays the terror and chaos that ensues in the face of the judgment of God upon the wicked.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**



- The First Seal: The White Horse (6:1-2)
- The Second Seal: The Red Horse (6:3-4)
- The Third Seal: The Black Horse (6:5-6)
- The Fourth Seal: The Pale Horse (6:7-8)
- The Fifth Seal: The Martyred Saints (6:9-11)
- The Sixth Seal: The Earthquake and Judgment (6:12-17)
- The Seventh Seal: Silence In Heaven, The Seven Trumpets (8:1-5)



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**

Revelation 6:1–2  
(NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> 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.”

## ■ THE FOUR HORSEMEN (1-8)

- ▶ John sees the violent executors of the Lord’s judgment similar to Zechariah’s patrolling, colored horses but the colors are different (red, sorrel, white, black) (Zech. 1:7-17; 6:1-8).
- ▶ Here they correspond to the character of the rider 1) conquest (white), 2) bloodshed (red), 3) scarcity (black), and 4) death (pale). their release brings disasters to the earth.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**

Revelation 6:1–2  
(NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> 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.”

## ■ THE FOUR HORSEMEN (1-8)

### ► **The First Seal: The White Horse (1-2)**

- The Lamb opens the 1<sup>st</sup> seal
- One of the four living creatures invites John, with a thunderous voice to “Come and see.”



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**

Revelation 6:1–2  
(NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> 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.

## ■ THE FOUR HORSEMEN (1-8)

### ► **The First Seal: The White Horse (1-2)**

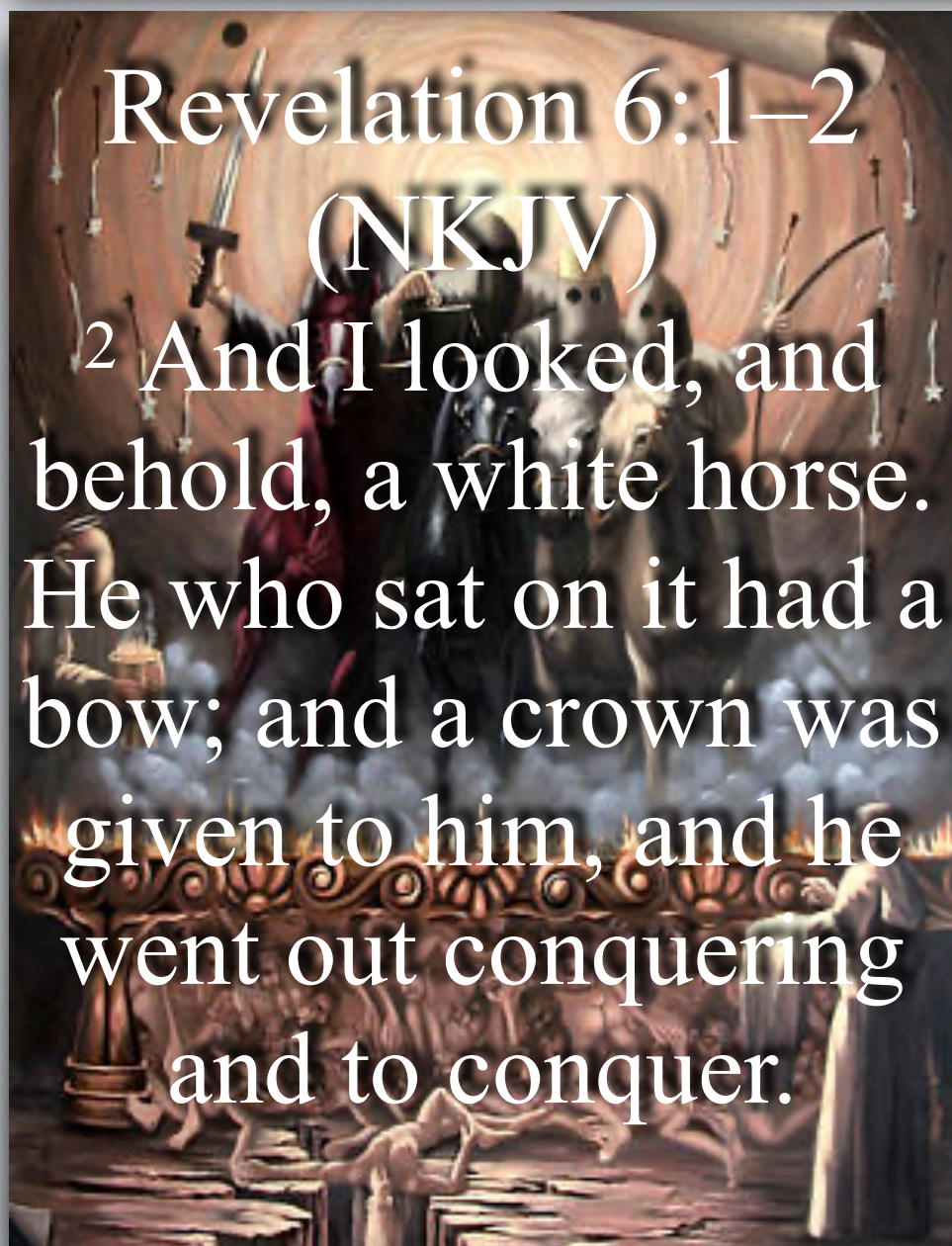
- ◆ Some argue that the rider on the white horse is Christ, and that the white horse represents the victorious progress of the gospel during the early years of the church's history.
- ◆ In 19:11, Christ is riding on a white horse, but there are differences (diadem / sword) in the context.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**



Revelation 6:1–2  
(NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> 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.

## ■ THE FOUR HORSEMEN (1-8)

### ► **The First Seal: The White Horse (1-2)**

- ◆ Brother Dan King argues convincingly that this horse and rider represents a Parthian general, signifying military conquests wrought against the Empire by their dreaded barbarian enemies. (“I Saw The Heavens Opened” - pg. 181)



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**

Revelation 6:1–2  
(NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> 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.

## ■ THE FOUR HORSEMEN (1-8)

### ► **The First Seal: The White Horse (1-2)**

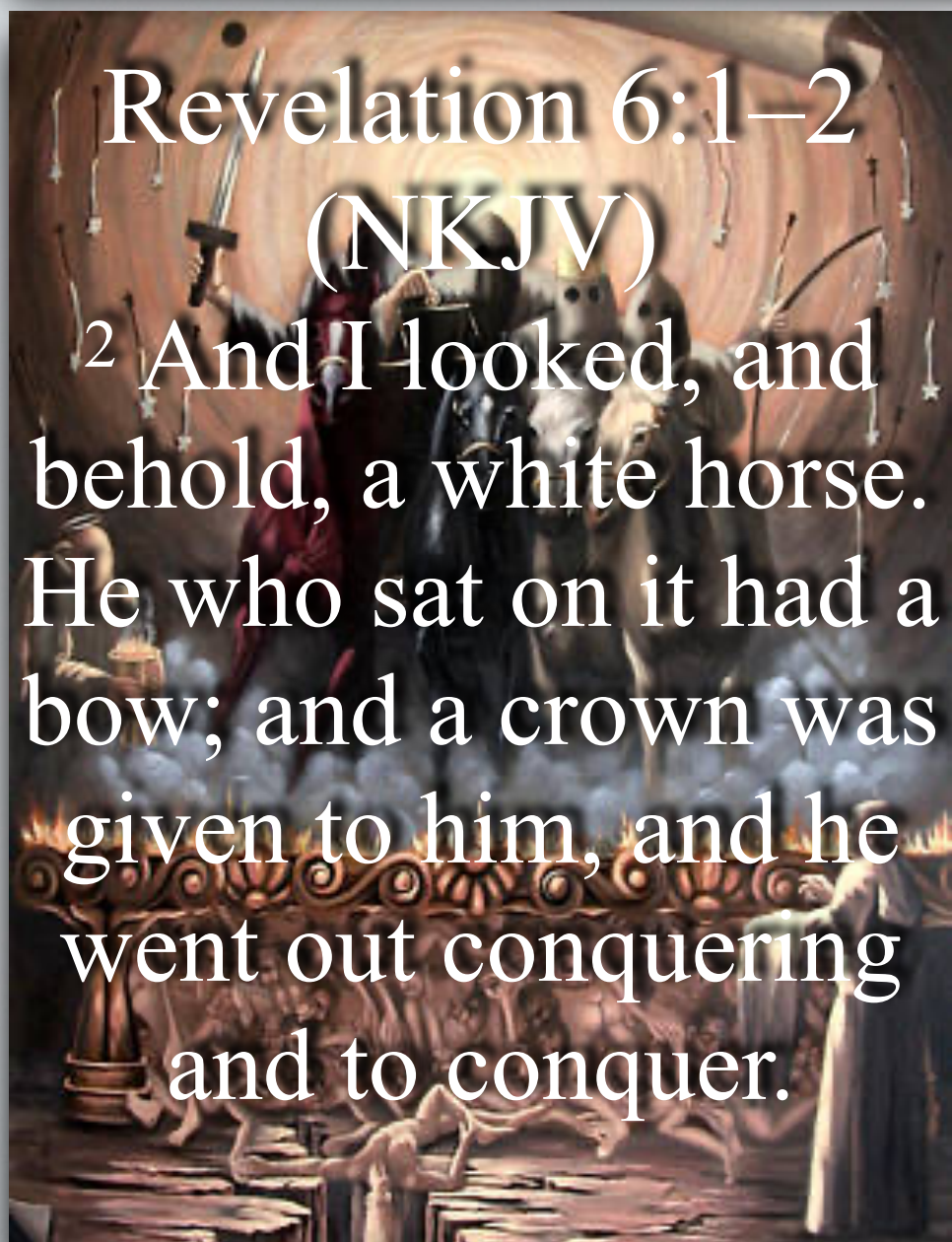
- ❖ Rome had a long history of trouble with the Parthians, and often were humbled by them.
- ❖ They were a perpetual nemesis to them, threatening them on the eastern frontier in Asia Minor.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**



Revelation 6:1–2  
(NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> 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.

## ■ THE FOUR HORSEMEN (1-8)

### ► **The First Seal: The White Horse (1-2)**

- This interpretation fits in well with the other three horsemen.
- All four seem to refer to misfortunes of one kind or another that are to be visited upon the empire to bring it to its knees and humble it before God.

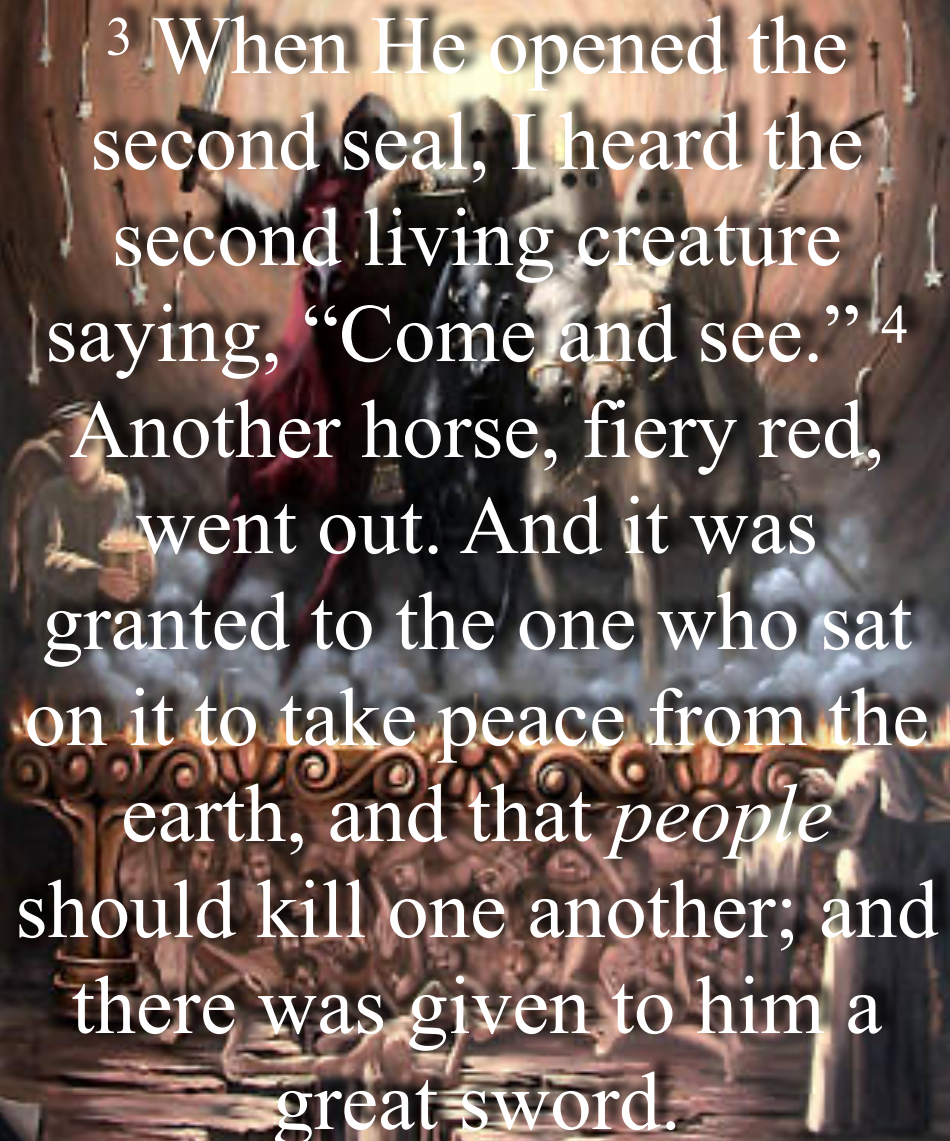


# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**

Revelation 6:3–4 (NKJV)



<sup>3</sup> When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come and see.” <sup>4</sup> 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.

## ■ THE FOUR HORSEMEN (1-8)

### ► **The Second Seal: The Red Horse (6:3-4)**

- ◆ The removal of peace, i.e., war!
- ◆ Rome was to experience defeat and humiliation by military opponents, visited upon her as punishment by God.
- ◆ War meant privation, suffering, death, sorrow, and grieving.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**

Revelation 6:5–6  
(NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> 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.

## ■ THE FOUR HORSEMEN (1-8)

### ► **The Third Seal: The Black Horse (6:5-6)**

- ◆ A pair of balances in this rider’s hand symbolizes that certain portions of the basic food necessities would be measured out.
- ◆ Inflation and famine were to trouble the Empire as a means of humbling and punishing it



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**

Revelation 6:5–6  
(NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> 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.”

## ■ THE FOUR HORSEMEN (1-8)

### ► The Third Seal: The Black Horse (6:5-6)

- ◆ The text implies that it would take an entire day’s wage to purchase the cheapest and most basic of food necessities to feed one man.
- ◆ If a family man would barely earn enough to feed himself, how will he provide for others of his family?



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**

Revelation 6:5–6  
(NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> 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.”

## ■ THE FOUR HORSEMEN (1-8)

### ► **The Third Seal: The Black Horse (6:5-6)**

- ◆ The rich continue to enjoy luxuries while the poor have hardly enough.
- ◆ There was a significant wheat famine in AD 92. Domitian issued an edict to chop down vineyards to plant more wheat, but was rescinded only after the aristocracy bitterly complained.

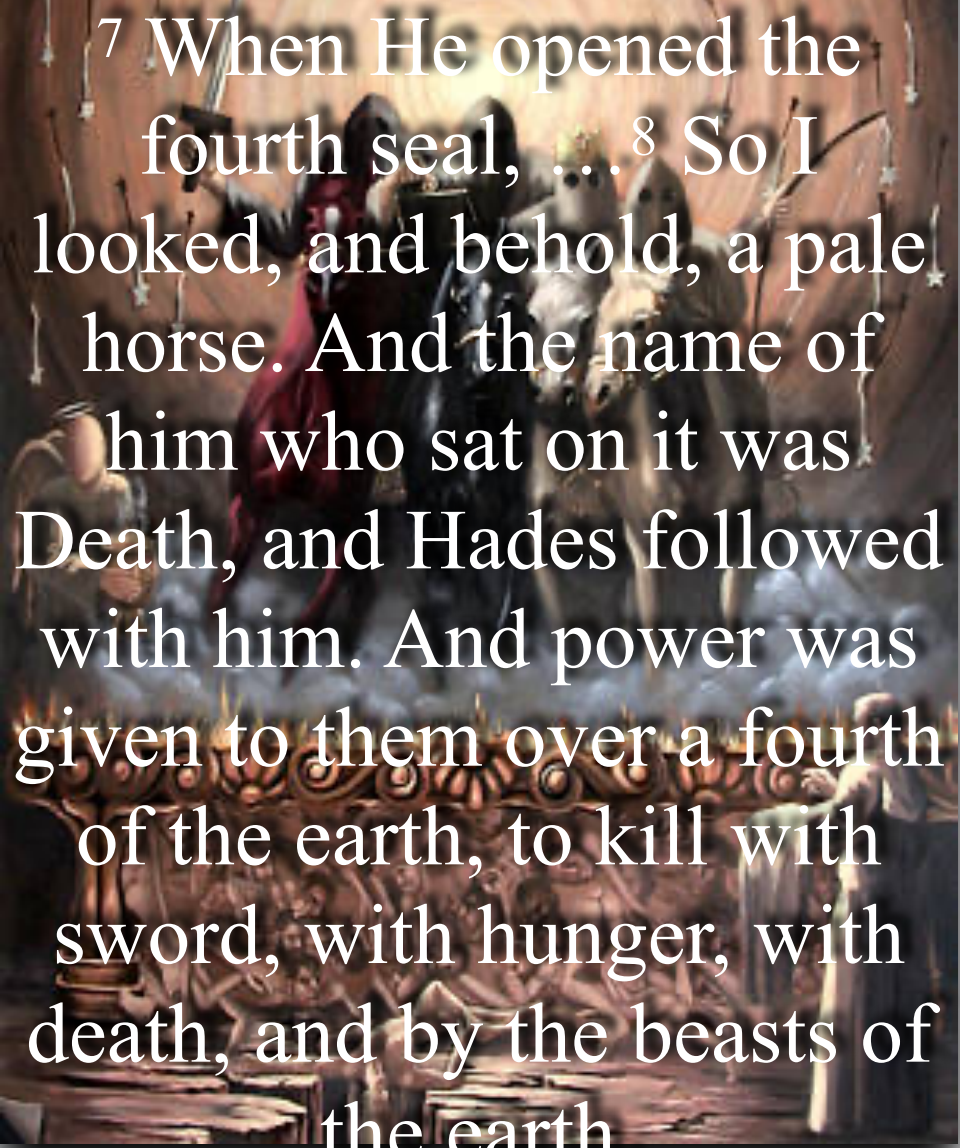


# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**

Revelation 6:7–8 (NKJV)



<sup>7</sup> When He opened the fourth seal, ...<sup>8</sup> 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.

## ■ THE FOUR HORSEMEN (1-8)

### ► **The Fourth Seal: The Pale Horse (6:7-8)**

- ◆ Next John sees a rider on a horse that is the color of an ashen, bloodless corpse. (Gk “pale green” signifying sickness & death.)
- ◆ The rider of this horse is identified as death, with Hades (the invisible realm where departed souls await the judgment).

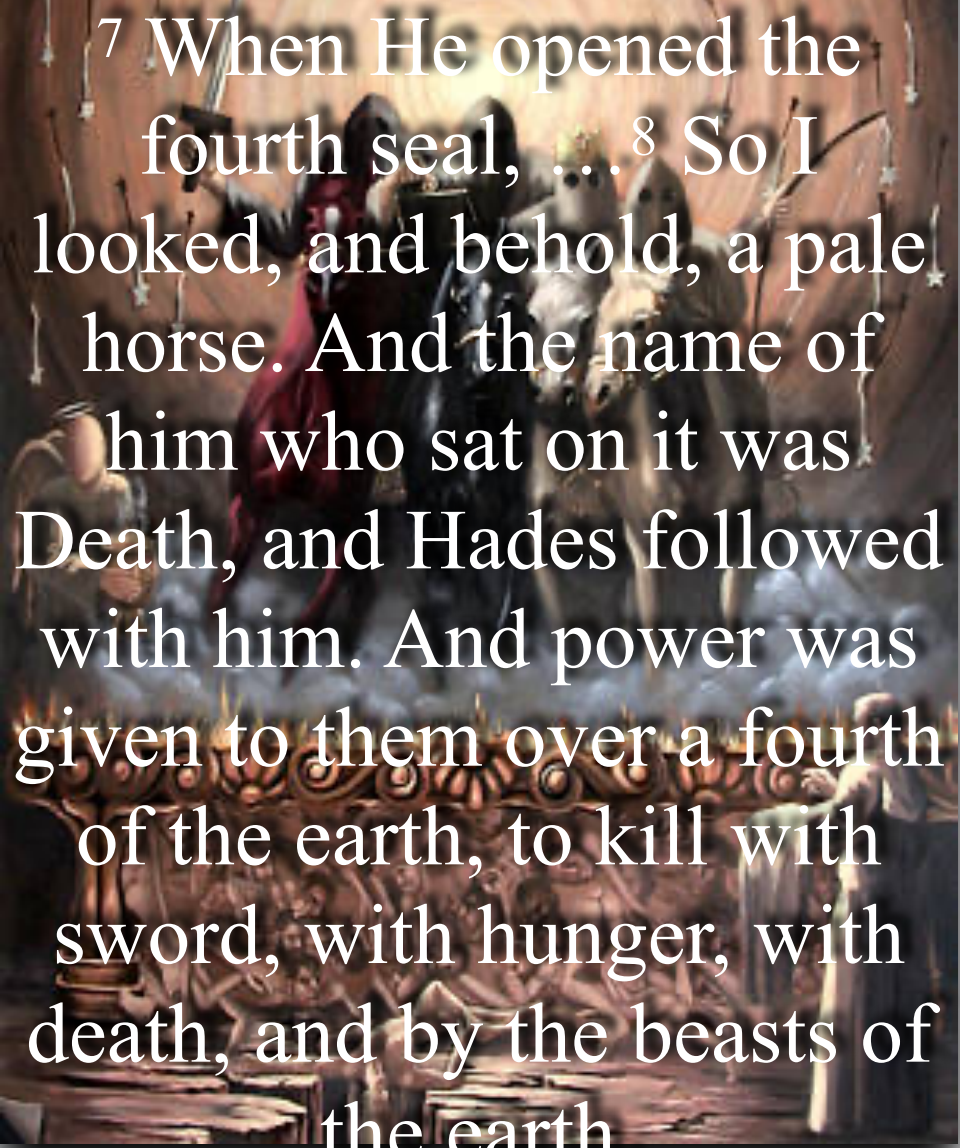


# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**

Revelation 6:7–8 (NKJV)



<sup>7</sup> When He opened the fourth seal, ...<sup>8</sup> 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.

## ■ THE FOUR HORSEMEN (1-8)

### ► **The Fourth Seal: The Pale Horse (6:7-8)**

- ❖ Sickness, pestilence, & death are the results of war & famines.
- ❖ John's language is reminiscent of Ez. 14:21 where God said He would rally his “four dreadful judgments” against Jerusalem: sword, famine, wild beasts, and plague.

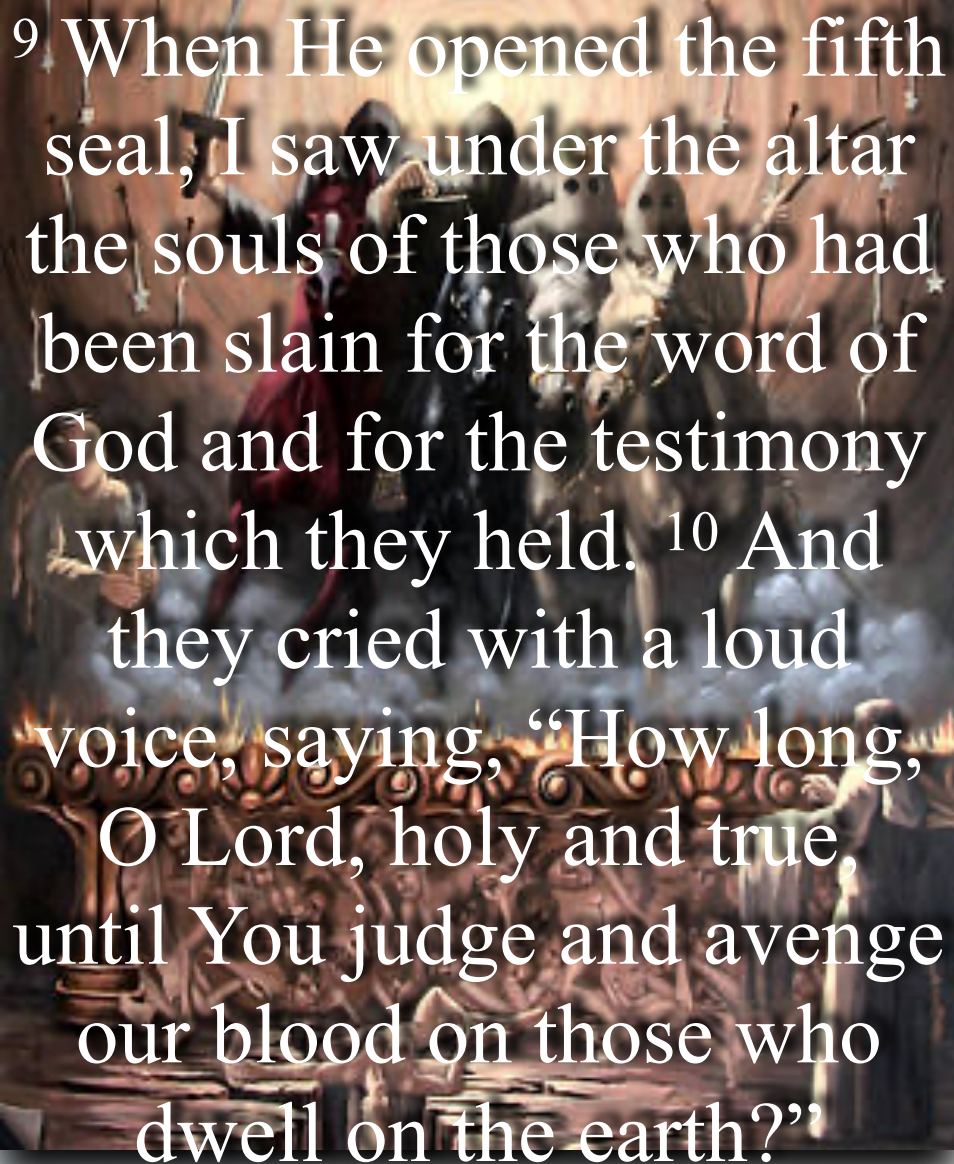


# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**

Revelation 6:9–10 (NKJV)



<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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?”

■ SUFFERING CHRISTIANS (9-11)

► **The Fifth Seal: The  
Martyred Saints (6:9-11)**

- ◆ John sees people who are dead physically, but alive spiritually.
- ◆ These saints are still quite conscious and aware of their circumstances. (Luke 16:19-31)
- ◆ They were not seeking vengeance, but justice for their persecutors and vindication of their faith (10)

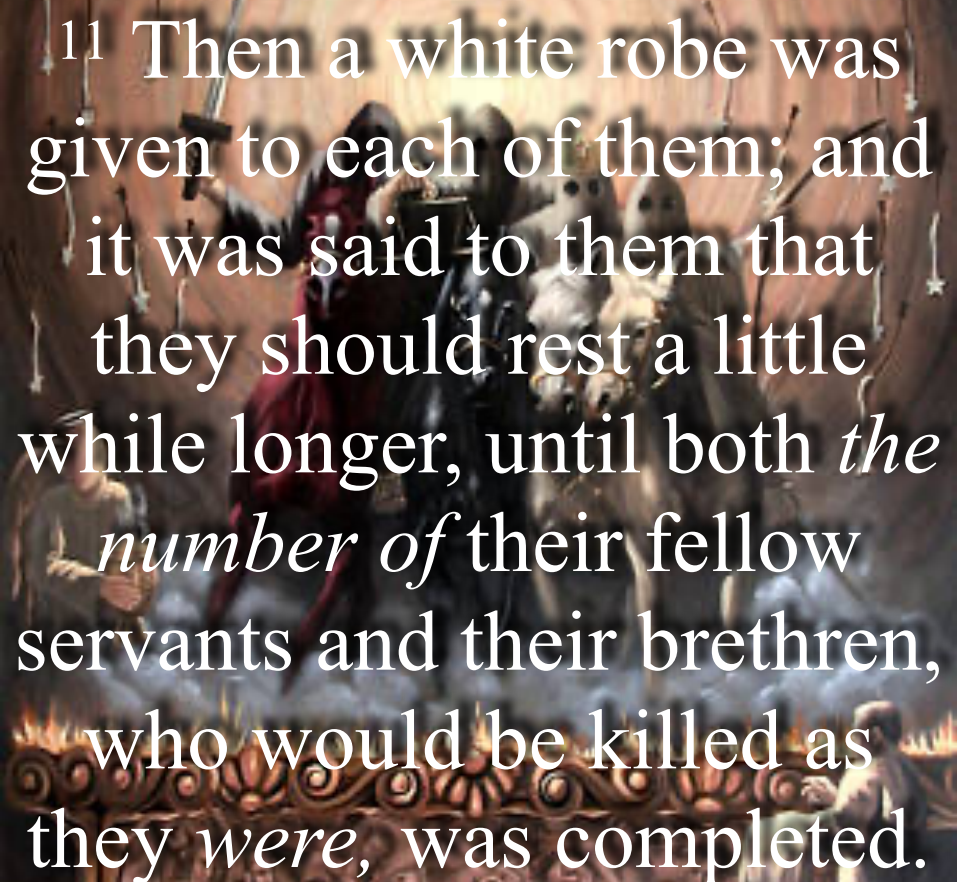


# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**

Revelation 6:11 (NKJV)



<sup>11</sup> 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.

■ SUFFERING CHRISTIANS (9-11)

► **The Fifth Seal: The  
Martyred Saints (6:9-11)**

- ◆ White robes, symbols of righteousness, joy, glory, victory.
- ◆ They were encouraged to be patient a little longer until the number of their brethren who were to die as they had died, should be fulfilled. Persecution will continue even after Domitian.

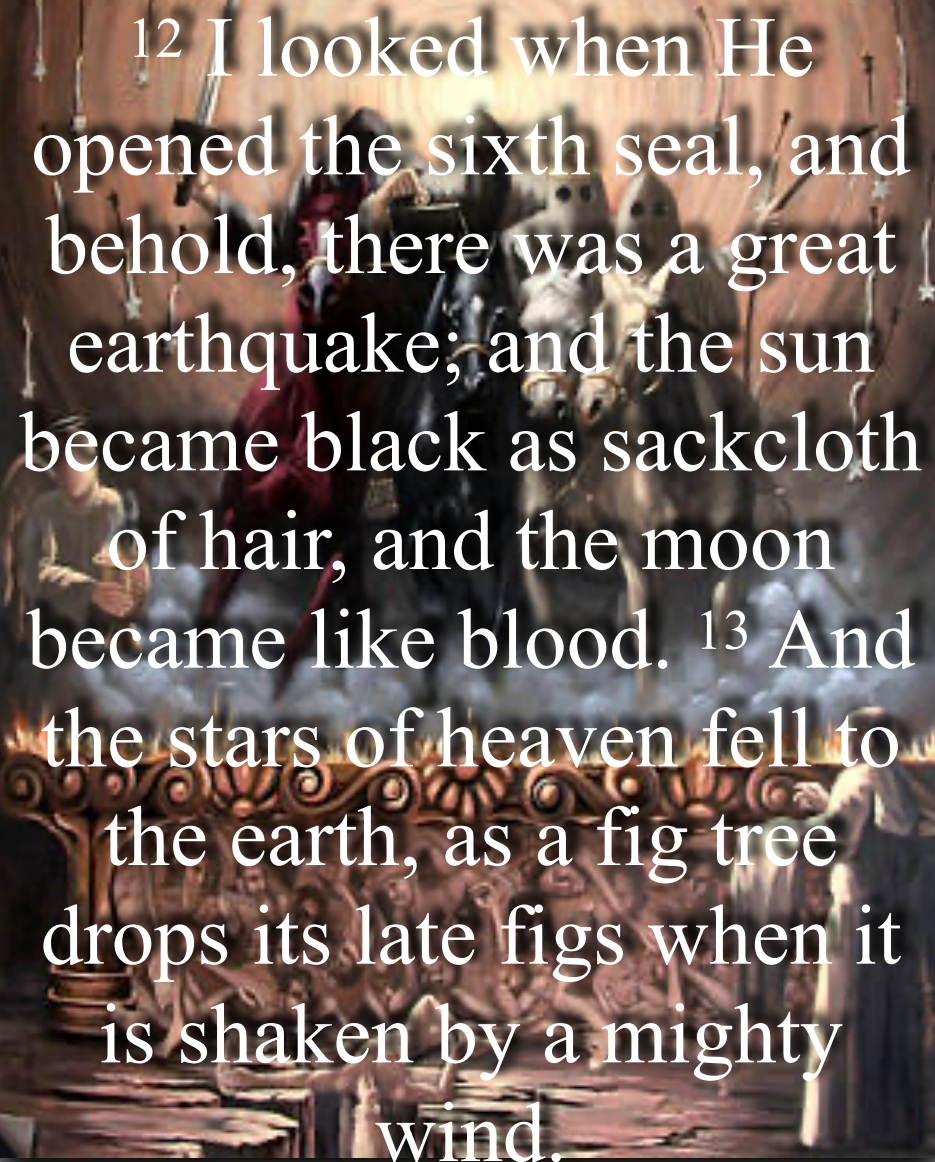


# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**

Revelation 6:12–13 (NKJV)



<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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.

■ GOD’S JUSTICE SERVED (12-17)

► **The Sixth Seal: Earthquake and Judgment (6:12- 17)**

- ◆ There would certainly be a judgment to come upon Rome for its atrocities.
- ◆ Rome would be subdued and Satan would be chained to deceive the nations no more, (20:4)
- ◆ At this time, the martyred saints are vindicated and reign victorious.

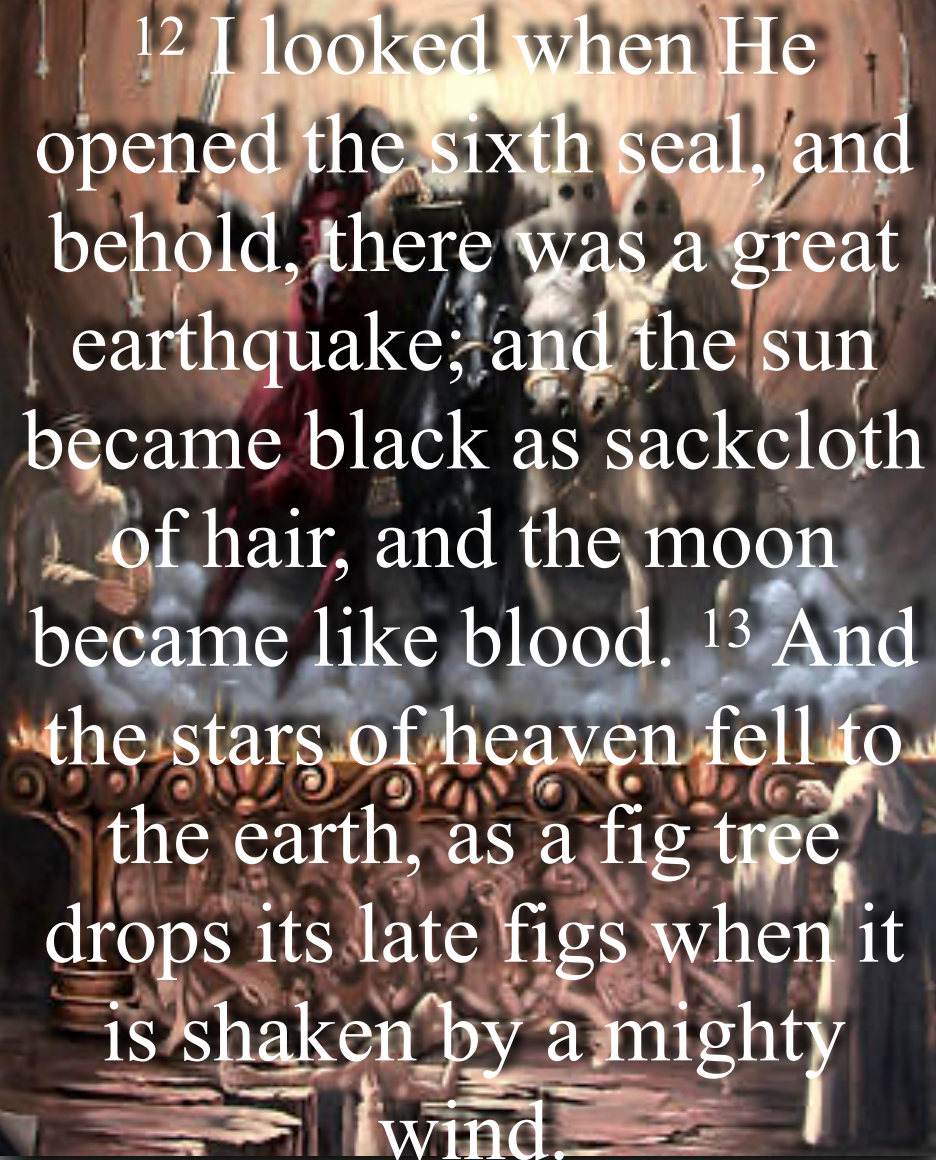


# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**

Revelation 6:12–13 (NKJV)



<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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.

■ GOD’S JUSTICE SERVED (12-17)

► **The Sixth Seal: Earthquake and Judgment (6:12- 17)**

- ◆ The Final Judgment would signal the decisive act of justice and vengeance upon these avowed enemies of God and Christ.
- ◆ “The great day of their wrath” is no doubt the Day of Judgment (v. 17; cf. also Rom. 1:18; Heb. 3:11).



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**



- The first four seals form a single unit which utilize colored horses to picture the temporal judgments presented therein.
- The second segment presents a dramatic and heart-wrenching portrait of the souls of those who have died for their faith.
- The third part portrays the terror and chaos that ensues in the face of the judgment of God upon the wicked.



This world has repeatedly brought suffering to the people of God, but the day will come when God will avenge His saints, and glorify His people.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**



## 2 Thessalonians 1:4–10 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, <sup>5</sup> *which is* manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; <sup>6</sup> since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, <sup>7</sup> and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,



## **2 Thessalonians 1:4–10 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>9</sup> These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, <sup>10</sup> when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

**“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)**

**HEAVENS DOOR HAS BEEN OPENED  
FOR YOU - WILL YOU ENTER?**

**Believe — John 3:16;**

**Repent — Acts 17:30;**

**Confess — Romans 10:9,10;**

**Be baptized — Acts 2:38;**

**Endure by faith — I Corinthians 15:58**







# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle One: The Seal Sequence (4:1-8:1)*

“THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED” (6:1-17)

**Charts by Don McClain**

Preached May 29, 2022

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