

Behold the Lamb of God

The First Six Seals

Revelation 6

Lesson 6

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
February 6, 2011*

Outline of Revelation

Revelation 1:19

1. The things which you have seen (1)
2. The things which are (2-3)
3. The things which will take place after this (4-22)

Alternate Outline:

1. Presentation of the Lamb (1-5)
2. Triumph of the Lamb (6-22)

Presentation of the Lamb (1-5)

Introduction of Jesus Christ (1)

- Blessed revelation of Jesus Christ
- The Triune God – Eternal God, Spirit, Jesus Christ (Redeemer-King)
- The vision of Jesus Christ
- Fear and no fear – wrath and goodness

Presentation of the Lamb (1-5)

Jesus Christ in the midst of His people (2-3)

- 7 historic churches
- A timeless message
- Their duty: to overcome
- A vision of comfort in the day of wrath

Presentation of the Lamb (1-5)

The throne room of God (4-5)

- The holiness and sovereignty of God
- The scroll with 7 seals – Who is worthy to open it?
- Lion of Judah (Genesis 49:9-12)
- The Root of David (Isaiah 11:1, 10)
- The Lamb (John 1:29)
- Deity of the Lamb – object of worship

Revelation – overview

I II III

1	2-3	4	22
C H R I S T	Letters to Seven Churches	Prophecy of Things to Come	

III Prophecy of Things to Come				
4	18	19	20	21-22
Great Tribulation – 7 Years		Return of Christ	1000 Year Reign	Eternal State

4	Great Tribulation – 7 Years			18
Seals 1-6		7 th Seal		
		Trumpets 1-6	7 th Trumpet	
		Bowls 1-7		
Parentheses:	①	②	③	④
Chapter:	7	10-11a	12-14	17-18

- ① – the elect of God preserved
- ② – John and the 2 witnesses
- ③ – Spiritual realities
- ④ – Babylon the Great

The Place of Revelation 6

- ▶ Great Tribulation – 7 years (Daniel 9:24-27)
- ▶ Revelation only mentions 3½ years
- ▶ Revelation 6-18 – is it 7 years or 3½ years?
- ▶ Seals – Trumpets – Bowls: sequential

“A Panorama of Coming Cosmic Judgment”

S. Lewis Johnson

“Now, of course, this is just a brief survey of some of the things that will transpire. This chapter ends just before the coming of our Lord, but John will go back now and fill in details.”

http://www.sljinstitute.net/sermons/eschatology/revelation/revelation_master.html

John F. Walvoord

“In some sense, chapter 6 is the outline of the important facts of the period of great tribulation, and the rest of the events of the book of Revelation are comprehended in the seventh seal.”

The sealed scroll

- In the right hand of God – the Plan of God
- Daniel's sealed book – re: the end times
 - Daniel 8:26 – Seal up the vision
 - Daniel 12:4 – seal book until time of the end
 - The final victory by God
- Christ alone is worthy – by His incarnation and redemption
- Angelic expectation – the final reign on the earth (5:9-10)
- The Lamb opens the scroll

The Seven Seals

- ▶ First 4 seals
 - Presented by 4 Living Creatures – worship
 - 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse – wrath of the Lamb
- ▶ 5th seal – Servants of Christ respond
- ▶ 6th seal – Sinners respond
- ▶ 7th seal – response to prayers of saints (8:1-5)

The First Seal (6:1-2)

White horse and rider with bow and crown

Came out conquering and to conquer

“This rider, like the other three, is not an individual, but a personification of a growing movement or force that will be at work during this future period.” (Thomas)

White horse:

Extra-Biblical – white symbolizes victory (Thomas)

Biblical – white symbolizes righteousness and holiness (Thomas)

Who is he personifying?

Christ – Irenaeus first proposed this

Anti-Christ – most common idea – pretender (anti-Christ)

Conquering and to conquer

▶ Christ:

- The Lamb has conquered (3:21)
- The Lamb has conquered (5:5)
- The Lamb conquered the beast (17:14)

▶ Beast

- 11:7 – conquered the two witnesses for 3 days
- 13:7 – “allowed” to conquer temporarily in middle of G.T.

▶ The people of God

- overcome and be blessed
- Eternal life to those who conquer (“will have this heritage”) (21:7)

▶ White horse and rider proclaim Divine conquest

The second seal (6:3-4)

- ▶ Red horse and rider
- ▶ Personifies forces of war and bloodshed (Thomas)
- ▶ Matthew 24:3-14 – wars and rumors of wars
- ▶ Slay one another – anarchy
- ▶ Old Testament illustration – Judges 7:22
- ▶ “There is no peace, saith my God, for the wicked”
(Isaiah 57:21)

The third seal (6:5-6)

- ▶ Black horse and his rider with scales
- ▶ Personifies famine
- ▶ Voice from the throne
 - Denarius – one days wages
 - Quart of wheat or 3 quarts of barley
- ▶ No harm for oil and wine
 - Suggests continued prosperity for some
 - The curse of prosperity (Psalm 106:15)
- ▶ No daily bread

The fourth seal (6:7-8)

- ▶ Pale (light green) horse and rider
- ▶ Rider is Death – Hades follows
- ▶ “Now death takes the body, and Hades the spirit, of lost men.” Newell
- ▶ Sword, famine, pestilence, wild beasts
- ▶ 1/4 of population (world population = 7 billion)
- ▶ The wages of sin

The fifth seal (6:9-11)

- ▶ A view under the altar
- ▶ Altar of sacrifice (model for Moses' tabernacle)
 - Death of believer portrayed as sacrifice (Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6)
 - Could be depicting their union with Christ in His death which is believers' only claim to be heard and delivered from death.
- ▶ Altar of incense
 - Prayers of saints depicted as incense in 5:8
 - Depicts their request as a sweet savor to God
- ▶ Martyrs – slain for witness to Word of God
 - Could be martyrs of that era.
 - Martyrs of all time (Matt. 23:34-36 – Christ remembers Abel)

The fifth seal (6:9-11)

- ▶ A cry for vengeance
 - Matthew 5:44 – pray for those who persecute you
 - Romans 12:19 – do not avenge yourself – “Vengeance is Mine.”
 - Imprecatory psalms – e.g. Psalm 35; 74:9-11 – Messianic
 - Now saints calling for the Father to avenge their blood
- ▶ Answer – wait
 - White robe – righteousness is the reward of the elect
 - Death of saints is not defeat
- ▶ A reason for this time of wrath – avenging saints/Christ
 - Jeremiah 46:10 – “a day of vengeance”
 - Matthew 25:31-46 – treatment of believers is equal to treatment of Christ and is the cause for eternal damnation.

The sixth seal (6:12-17)

- ▶ Acts of God in earth and space
- ▶ Great earthquake
- ▶ Sun black and moon blood
- ▶ Stars fell – meteor shower (?)
- ▶ Sky vanished – dark clouds (?)
- ▶ Mountains and islands removed
- ▶ Nahum 1:6 – “Who can stand before His indignation? Who can endure the burning of His anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken up by him.”

The sixth seal (6:12-17)

- ▶ Kings, great ones, generals, rich, powerful, slave, free
- ▶ Hide in the rocks – Adam’s folly
- ▶ Seek for death
- ▶ “What sinners dread most is not death, but having to stand before a holy and righteous God.” (Thomas)
- ▶ Recognize God on His throne and the Lamb of God as the instrument of these events – no more “mother nature” or “natural disaster”!!
- ▶ No repentance!!

The First Six Seals

- ▶ The panorama of coming cosmic judgment
- ▶ Wrath from the throne room of God
 - Divine intervention to attain final victory – overcome
 - Removal of civil behavior in human relationships – no peace
 - Removal of means of sustenance – no daily bread
 - Death and Hades
- ▶ God's intent to avenge the dishonor of His Son
- ▶ All creation serves God's wrath
- ▶ The kindness and severity of God – Romans 11:22