

Revelation 6:1-17

***We are at a critical junction: Fork in the road moment: two paths – both get us there (*one is rich*)**
Ch. 6 of Revelation is where the House gets divided: ***(TX/A&M households) A family of rivals**

***-Your Ecclesiology informs your Eschatology: What do we do with Israel?** Supersessionism/*replac*

A. Israel forfeited their rights/blessings/promises when they rejected the Messiah -Jesus of Naz.

B. All OT Promises for Israel have been fulfilled perfectly through Jesus who is Israel embodied & In NT all believers are *now* spiritually *TRUE* Israel (Rom. 9:6-7); Israel=the **CHURCH** now/*future*)

C. God *did* fulfill all the promises toward Israel incl. the Land of Israel which *they lost in disobedience* -Joshua 21:43-45 “So the Lord gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and lived in it. ⁴⁴ And the Lord gave them rest on every side, in accordance with everything that He had sworn to their fathers, and no one of all their enemies stood before them; the Lord handed all their enemies over to them. ⁴⁵ Not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed; everything came to pass.”

=**Covenant Theology** holds that all Jews today need the Messiah Jesus, but that their land is forfeit, that we are living in the millennial kingdom under Jesus’ reign *currently*, *sp.* & He will return at His 2nd coming to bring Heaven to earth -this physical earth will be the New Heaven & Earth.

Amillennialism=NO literal/real physical 1000 year Kingdom on the earth *BEFORE* GWT Judg./New

OR...In spite of Israel’s disobedience -The Covenant Promises to Israel/OT will be perfectly fulfilled in the **future**/Millen. King. ***Ro. 11:25-32** For I do not want you, brothers *and sisters*, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel **until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in**; ²⁶ and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written: Is. 59/Jer. 31 “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Israel/Jacob. ²⁷ “This is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.” ²⁸ In relation to the gospel *they are* enemies on your account, **but in relation to God’s choice they are beloved on account of the fathers** [OT promises]; ²⁹ for the gifts [promises] and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ For just as you once were disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so these also now have been disobedient, that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy. ³² For God has shut up all in disobedience, so that He may show mercy to all.” God is *NOT* finished w/Israel –or His Cov. prom.

****Literally hundreds of OT verses that God promises Israel to be returned to their land to reign under their coming Messiah (Millennial Reign) *Key Prophetic Passages on Restoration**

-Jeremiah 30–31: Promises that God will bring back both Israel/Judah from exile to their ancestral land that Messiah may reign over them in a New Covenant forever.

-Isaiah 11:11-12: Foretells a 2nd gathering of God's people, a remnant from the four corners of the earth -Is. 12 is their song of deliverance -Zion will rule over all nations under Messiah’s banner

-Amos 9:14-15: Promises that Israel will be re-planted in their land and *never again uprooted*.

-Zech. 13-14 -promises the remnant of Israel will be set apart forever as God’s holy people -***Apos. John** references this in Rev. 1:7; 7:1-8 (**FUTURE**). -None of this has happened yet (**1948 beg. Israel**)

***For God’s only glory; for His own inscrutable purposes; For His Name/Renown & promises=Israel**

****Rev. chs. 6-19 (still FUTURE); God’s Wrath impending; 7 yr Tribulation; 2nd Com; Mill. Reig; GWT**

So, as we read Chs. 6-19 -YOU must prayerfull discern, interp, decide, & APPLY (Past/Pres/Future)

****Scene change:** In Heaven looking toward earth (all the action will be on this earth/*near?* Future)

John is seeing this unfold:(*future history*) –He describes what He sees symbolically/**REAL** events

-This is the description of the beg. of end! The scroll of God's Wrath: 7 scrolls each sealed:

=7 specific real judgments =each progressively more intense, more frequent, & more devastating

*These 7 seals describe in general (overview) what will happen over 7 years (**Trump, Thun, Bowl**)

-Beginning of the 7 years of Tribulation (Dan. 9; Mt. 24; Rev. 13) =**unparalleled global disaster**

-Mk. 13:19-20 "For those days will be such a *time of tribulation* as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will *again*. ²⁰ And if the Lord had not shortened *those days*, no life would have been saved."*This can be disturbing/scary: God sover

The first four seals =four riders on horses (4 horsemen of the Apocalypse) =Impersonal forces representative of a judgment/condition thrust upon the earth at some future time. –**(Mt. 24)

1. First Seal: Universal False Peace (first 3.5 years) -**Antichrist builds his alliances, coalitions**

Vs. 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/^{see!}" ² I looked, and behold, a white horse, and the one who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. This first rider white horse (wearing a *stephanos* crown=conquering crown; bow, **no arrows**; This is *NOT* Jesus (Rev. 19:11) b/c He's the One opening & sending these 4 horses. [1Th. 5:3; Da. 7; 2Th.2; Rev. 13]=the **Antichrist** (false Christ), will come, deceive world, offer **false peace** 1938: Hitler convinced Eu. leadrs "peace w/honor, peace for our time" 9-'39 invaded poland -**LIAR**

2. Second Seal: Global War (beginning of the midpoint, 3.5 years =beg. of the Great Trib.)

Vs. 3: When Jesus 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 *people would kill one another*; and a large sword was given to him.

-The 2nd seal is the unleashing of war between countries; people on the edge of control lose their mind, lose all sense of reality and run to violence to solve their insecurities; people v. people; tribe v. tribe; country v. country – alliances broken; massive casualties; global disaster (**nuclear?**)

Jesus describes this moment: Mt. 24:4-9 "And Jesus answered and said to them/Jews, "See to it that no one misleads you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ/Messiah [antichrist] and they will mislead/deceive 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**. -Jews who become followers of Jesus, & those saved in the Trib.

3. The Third Seal: Famine & global, cataclysmic natural disasters

Vs. 5: When Jesus broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come!" I looked, and behold, a black horse, and the one 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[a day's wage], and three quarts of barley/oats for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine." In first century, a day's wage would have bought 12 quarts of wheat = extreme inflation/scarcity of goods/starvation/famine = wars bring disaster on every part of a country (casualties; economics=economy crashed; safety/security; everything is affected) =global disaster and now it becomes a moment for just **survival**. =Pitiful/horrifying (like **scenes in Gaza**)

4. The Fourth Seal: Death

⁷When *the Lamb* broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come!" ⁸I looked, and behold, an ashen horse [pale green/putrid yellow]; and the one who sat on it had the name **Death**, and Hades (death/hell) was following with him. Authority was given to them over a **fourth of the earth**, to kill with sword, and famine, and plague [pestilence/disease], and by the wild animals of the earth (rats/disease & starvation=**maulings**)
Annually: snakes/138K; dogs/60k & crocs; hippos/3k; mosquitos/millions (that's in 2025) ...

5. The Fifth Seal: Prayers of the Martyrs who are killed just for following Jesus

-Describes the whole of the 7 years, spec. the last 3.5 years of Tribulation–The GREAT Trib. **Mt. 24**

⁹When *the Lamb* broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been killed because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;¹⁰ and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O ^[k]Lord, holy and true, ^[l]will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who live on the earth?" ¹¹And a white robe was given to each of them; and they were told that they were to rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers and sisters who were to be killed even as they had been, was completed also. God's plan in election/salvation & those who have been chosen in that time would be killed for their testimony
****Are you willing to die for your faith in Jesus? Today? Lk. 9:23 "deny self; take up cross; follow"**

6. The Sixth Seal: Terror -Describes the last part of The GREAT Trib. = **The DAY of the Lord** "Day of the Lord" **30X in Scripture** =consummation of the this earth when Christ returns -Mt. 24

- **Joel 2:1:** "Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the **day of the Lord** is coming; it is near".
- **Zephaniah 1:14:** "The **great day of the Lord** is near, near and coming swiftly".
- **2 Peter 3:10:** "But the **day of the Lord** will come like a thief, and the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the elements will be destroyed with fire".

¹²And I looked when Jesus broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became as black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; ¹³and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. ¹⁴The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. ¹⁵Then the kings of the earth and the eminent people, and the commanders and the wealthy and the strong, and every slave and free person hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; ¹⁶and they *said to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the ^[m]sight of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; ¹⁷for the **great day** of Their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

-Sobering, horrifying reality at the end of this age; the end times -Heb. 10:31 "It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God" – Heb. 2:3 "How will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" ******The Gospel:** Everyone stands under the guilt, condemnation of their own sins:

Everyone -Ro. 3:23 **V.17** "who is able to stand?" So, the real question for us – will we stand under God's Judgment of our sin (will we have to pay the penalty of our sin = certain death -sp. death; phys. death; eternal death **OR** will you place your life under Jesus, who has already tasted God divine judgment of sin on *your* behalf? -If we are IN Christ, under His blood/death, for us -Ro. 8:1 "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ" =NO fear, worry, anxiety

2 Tim. 4:8 “in the future there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for/ & loved His appearing.” Are you ready? Are you prayerful for His return? Anxious?

APPLICATION

1. History Is Not Chaotic—It Is overseen by the Lamb, the sovereign God of the universe! -When the world feels unstable, believers are called not to panic **but to worship**. Our confidence rests not in political stability or global peace, but in the reign of the risen Christ.
2. False Peace Is Often the First Judgment. Christians must cultivate discernment. Not everything that looks triumphant, moral, or hopeful is from God. The church must measure every movement, leader, and promise against the character and truth of Christ & His WORD.
3. Suffering Does Not Silence the Saints—It Sanctifies Them. God invites His people to bring their grief and injustice to Him. Suffering refines our faith. The church must learn to pray honestly while trusting God’s goodness, purpose & timing in our pain, suffering, and loss.
4. Judgment Reveals What Humanity Truly Fears. The greatest terror of the unrepentant heart is not chaos, but holiness. We must ask ourselves: *Do we long for Christ’s appearing—or fear it?* Revelation ch. 6 presses us to examine whether our lives are oriented toward repentance, worship, and readiness.
5. The Day of Wrath Is Also the Day of Vindication. Believers are called to persevere, knowing that God will one day set *all things* right. Our endurance today is fueled by the certainty of God’s justice tomorrow.

Community Group Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean practically to believe that Jesus—not world events—controls history? How should that shape our daily anxieties and decisions?
2. Why do you think the first rider appears “good” or “successful”? What modern examples of false peace or false hope can you identify?
3. How does the cry of the martyrs in verses 9–11 shape the way we pray in times of injustice or suffering?
4. In what ways does Revelation 6 challenge a comfortable or prosperity-centered view of the Christian life?
5. Why do people in verses 15–17 fear the Lamb more than the disasters themselves? What does that reveal about the human heart?
6. How does this chapter motivate both personal repentance and bold gospel witness?
7. The chapter ends with the question, “Who can stand?” How would you answer that biblically, and how should that answer affect the way we live this week?