

Revelation 6

I. Revelation 6:1–2

The First Seal: The Rider on the _____ Horse

A. The symbolism of the white horse, bow, crown, and conquest

1. The rider carries a bow, receives a crown (stephanos), and goes out “conquering and to conquer.” In ancient warfare, the bow symbolized _____ expansion, particularly long-range domination. The crown signals _____ victory, not _____ success.

B. Interpretation Option 1: _____ as imperial expansion (preterist and idealist emphasis)

1. Many scholars, including G. K. Beale and Craig Koester, understand this rider as symbolizing imperial conquest itself, particularly Rome’s expansion and the ongoing reality of _____ domination.
2. This reading fits the sequence: conquest leads naturally into _____, _____, and _____.
 - a) Strength:
(1) Maintains _____ consistency with the following horsemen, all of which clearly represent _____ forces.
 - b) Limitation:
(1) Does not identify a _____ historical individual.

C. Interpretation Option 2: _____ or the gospel (historicist minority view)

1. Some historicist interpreters have identified this rider as Christ or the victorious spread of the _____.

a) Strength:

(1) *White often symbolizes _____ in Revelation.*

b) Limitation:

(1) *Context strongly favors judgment imagery, making a _____ first rider less likely.*

D. Interpretation Option 3: Antichrist or false messianic conquest (futurist emphasis)

1. Many futurist interpreters see this rider as a _____ Christ, representing deceptive _____ or _____ authority in the end times.

a) Strength:

(1) *Fits Revelation's broader concern with _____ authority.*

b) Limitation:

(1) *Requires reading later Revelation themes _____ into this chapter.*

E. Most balanced conclusion:

1. The rider represents conquest as a _____ force in human history, particularly _____ domination, with possible intensification in the _____ period.

II. Revelation 6:3–4

The Second Seal: The Rider on the _____ Horse

A. Symbolism: removal of _____ and widespread _____

1. The red color signifies _____. The rider removes peace, resulting in societal violence.

B. Interpretation consensus across approaches:

1. Nearly all interpretive traditions agree this rider represents war and social violence.

- a) Preterist:
(1) Reflects warfare within and around the _____ Empire.
- b) Historicist:
(1) Applied to specific wars across church _____.
- c) Futurist:
(1) Seen as _____ global warfare.
- d) Idealist:
(1) Represents _____ warfare throughout the _____ age.

C. Key theological point:

- 1. Violence is not _____. It unfolds within the framework of _____ sovereignty.

III. Revelation 6:5–6

The Third Seal: The Rider on the _____ Horse

A. Symbolism: economic _____ and _____

- 1. The scales represent _____ and inflated prices for basic necessities.

B. Cultural background

- 1. In _____ economies, famine and economic collapse were closely linked with war and conquest.

C. Interpretation variations:

- a) Preterist:
(1) *Reflects famines experienced during Roman imperial instability.*
- b) Historicist:
(1) *Applied to economic crises across church history.*
- c) Futurist:
(1) *Viewed as future global _____.*
- d) Idealist:
(1) *Represents recurring economic injustice and _____ throughout the church age.*

D. Important nuance:

- 1. Oil and wine remain available, suggesting _____ suffering. The _____ survive while the _____ suffer most.

IV. Revelation 6:7–8

The Fourth Seal: The Rider on the _____ Horse

A. Symbolism: _____ as the culmination of the previous forces

- 1. The pale (chloros) color suggests _____ and decay. Death and Hades represent _____ and its aftermath.

B. Interpretive agreement:

- 1. This rider represents widespread death resulting from _____, _____, _____, and _____.

C. Interpretive variations focus on timing:

- a) Preterist:
(1) *Reflects mortality in the Roman world.*
- b) Historicist:
(1) *Applied to plagues and historical catastrophes.*

c) Futurist:

(1) *Viewed as massive end-time mortality.*

d) Idealist:

(1) *Represents death as an _____ feature of fallen history.*

D. Key theological emphasis:

1. Death operates under divine _____, not _____ authority.

V. Revelation 6:9–11

The Fifth Seal: The _____ Under the Altar

A. Symbolism of the altar and the souls beneath it

1. The imagery reflects _____ language. Faithful _____ is presented as sacrificial offering.

B. Interpretation Option 1: _____ - _____ martyrs (preterist emphasis)

1. Refers specifically to believers persecuted under _____ authority.
 - a) Strength:
(1) *Fits original historical context.*
 - b) Limitation:
(1) *Does not account fully for future martyrdom.*

C. Interpretation Option 2: Martyrs throughout church history (historicist and idealist emphasis)

1. Represents all faithful witnesses _____ for their faith.
 - a) Strength:
(1) *Fits ongoing reality of persecution.*

D. Interpretation Option 3: Future tribulation martyrs (futurist emphasis)

1. Refers specifically to believers killed during a _____ tribulation period.

- a) Strength:
 - (1) *Takes seriously future eschatological fulfillment.*
- b) Limitation:
 - (1) *Risks disconnecting the vision from first-century relevance.*

E. Most balanced conclusion:

1. Represents _____ faithful martyrs throughout the church age, including first-century and future witnesses.
2. The white robes symbolize _____
 - a) White garments represent _____, _____, and _____ recognition.
3. “Rest a little longer” reflects divine _____
 - a) Judgment is certain but not immediate.

VI. Revelation 6:12–17

The Sixth Seal: Cosmic _____ and the Day of _____

A. Symbolism of cosmic disturbances

1. _____, darkened _____, falling _____, and sky _____ up represent divine intervention and judgment.

B. Interpretation Option 1: Symbolic political collapse (preterist emphasis)

1. Cosmic imagery often symbolized political _____ in prophetic literature.

- a) Strength:
 - (1) *Fits Old Testament prophetic patterns.*

C. Interpretation Option 2: Historical fulfillment across time (historicist emphasis)

1. Applied to major historical _____.

D. Interpretation Option 3: Literal future cosmic events (futurist emphasis)

1. Seen as actual _____ and _____ events.

a) Strength:

(1) Takes language in a more _____ direction.

b) Limitation:

(1) May overlook symbolic _____ conventions.

E. Interpretation Option 4: Symbolic portrayal of final judgment (idealist emphasis)

1. Represents God's ultimate judgment regardless of specific timing.

2. Most balanced conclusion:

a) Represents both _____ judgment throughout history and _____ final judgment.

F. Universal fear and inability to escape

1. Kings, generals, rich, poor all respond with _____.

G. Key theological point:

1. Earthly status offers _____ protection from divine judgment.

H. The central question: "Who is able to stand?"

1. This question prepares for Revelation 7's answer: those sealed by God.