

## Revelation 6.1-8.1: Opening the Seals

### 6.1-17: The First Six Seals

#### 6.1-8: The Four Horsemen

Zechariah 1.7-11; 6.1-8; also Jeremiah 15.2; Ezekiel 5.12

The Lamb opens a seal and one of the four living creatures speaks: 'Come!'

Common themes: captivity, sword, famine, death

#### 6.1-2: The First Horseman – White: Lust for Conquest

#### 6.3-4: The Second Horseman – Red: War

*Pyrros*: 'Fiery red' – symbolizes the bloodshed and slaughter he brings

#### 6.5-6: The Third Horseman – Black: Famine

The black horse signifies the sorrow and mourning caused by the famine and suffering that follow war. (Osborne 279)

#### 6.6-7: The Fourth Horseman – Pale Green: Disease

The color of disease and death.

Death followed by Hades – death by plague.

#### 6.9-11: Fifth Seal – The Martyred Saints

Ezekiel 40-48

#### 6.12-17: Sixth Seal – Shaking of the Heavens

Christ opens the sixth seal

Sun becomes 'black as a sackcloth of goats hair' (lit.) A coarse coat made of black goat hair worn in times of mourning

Red like blood – Joel 2.31, Acts 2.17-21

Stars falling – Isaiah 34.4; Mark 13.25

Mountains and islands *ekinethesan* – moved or removed

#### 6.15-17: Terror

Rev. 19.17-18, 21; Ezekiel 38.2-6

Kings of the earth, the noblemen, the generals, the wealthy, the powerful

Every slave and freeman

‘At the end of history, everyone who has stood against God will unite first in rebellion and then in destruction as the divine warrior goes to war against them’ (Osborne 294).

What will people do?

1. Hide in caves and rocks – Genesis 19.30; Joshua 10.16; 1 Samuel 22.1; 13.6
2. Cry out to the mountains and caves

The second judge – the Lamb

Jesus as judge (John 5.22, 30; 8.15-16; 9.39)

Day of YHWH is a Day of wrath – Ezekiel 7.19; Zephaniah 1.14-16; 2.2-3; Matt 3.7-8; Romans 1.18

## **7.1-17: First Interlude – Saints on Earth and Heaven**

12x12x1000 – a complete number

7.1-8 – the (martyred?) saints are sealed

Seal – a sign of belonging to ‘the Living God’ (Deut. 5.26; Josh 3.10; Matt. 16.16)

Galat. 3.29: ‘If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed’

Romans 2.29: ‘A man is a Jew if he is one inwardly, and circumcision is circumcision of the heart’

1 Peter 2.9: the Church is ‘a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation’