# THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Bereans Adult Bible Fellowship Placerita Baptist Church

- 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."
- 2 I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.
- 3 When He 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 *men* would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.
- 5 When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come." I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he 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, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine."
- 7 When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come."

8 I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

- 9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain 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 Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.

12 I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth *made* of hair, and the whole moon became like blood;

13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.

14 The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

15 Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains;

16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;
17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

#### **Place in the Book of Revelation**

. What you have seen (Rev 1).

- What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- What will take place after these things (Rev 4–22).

- 1. John's Position (4:1–2)
- 2. John's Vision (4:3–8:1)
  - a. "behold, a THRONE" (4:3–11)
  - b. "I saw . . . A BOOK" (5:1–14)
  - c. The SEALS Opened (6:1–8:1)

# Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse



#### (1) The First Seal—*a White Horse* (6:1–2)

 Represents the work of the "man of sin" attempting to create peace.

#### **Question for Discussion**

# Who is the "man of sin"? What does Scripture say about him?

#### Daniel 9:26-27

<sup>26</sup> "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will* come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

#### Daniel 9:26-27

<sup>27</sup> "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

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- Do not confuse with 19:11–13.
- The "little horn" in Daniel 7.



"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many."

#### (2) The Second Seal—*a Red Horse* (6:3–4)

- "Another" (of the same kind, *allos*; v. 4).
- Men will slay one another in wars growing out of the excitement of the nations under the sway of the "man of sin."

#### Matthew 24:6–7

"You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but *that* is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and . . ."

#### (3) The Third Seal—*a Black Horse* (6:5–6)

• Represents famine as a result of the wars.

#### Ezekiel 4:16–17

- <sup>16</sup> Moreover, He said to me, "Son of man, behold, I am going to break the staff of bread in Jerusalem, and they will eat bread by weight and with anxiety, and drink water by measure and in horror,
- <sup>17</sup> because bread and water will be scarce; and they will be appalled with one another and waste away in their iniquity."

#### Ezekiel 5:16–17

- "When I send against them the deadly arrows of famine which were for the destruction of those whom I will send to destroy you, then I will also intensify the famine upon you and break the staff of bread.
- <sup>17</sup> Moreover, I will send on you famine and wild beasts, and they will bereave you of children; plague and bloodshed also will pass through you, and I will bring the sword on you. I, the LORD, have spoken."

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 A denarius normally comprised a day's wages and would purchase enough wheat to provide a moderate diet for one man for a day.



"When he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard."



"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes."

#### (4) The Fourth Seal—*a Pale Horse* (6:7–8)

- Chlōros = "yellowish green."
- Increasing death toll due to the famine and disease resulting from the wars.
- One-fourth of the world's population will die.
- First 4 more closely related than the remaining 3.

#### **Question for Discussion**

# What might people think if one-fourth of the world's population died in the coming few weeks?



(5) The Fifth Seal— Martyred Souls under the Altar (6:9–11)

- Scapegoats?
- Steadfast adherence to the Word of God.
- Predetermined number of martyrs.
- God's purpose will be accomplished at the right time.

#### Matthew 24:9

"Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name."

#### **Question for Discussion**

# Why will God tie His program to a predetermined number of martyrs?

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"The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes."

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- Triggered by the martyrdom of the saints.
- Dissimilar phenomena from Matthew 24:29 & 2 Peter 3:10–12.
- Attempt to escape—no repentance.

### **Implications Regarding Jesus Christ**

- Jesus is the man of righteousness, not the man of sin.
- Jesus is the Prince of Peace who offers a peace beyond understanding.
- Jesus is the Bread of Life who feeds His people.
- Jesus is the Life, the Living One, not death.
- Jesus is holy and true (v. 10).
- Jesus will do that which is just and right.
- Jesus is the Lamb of God.
- Jesus will judge with divine wrath.