

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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Mission Statement

This study of the Book of Revelation gives special attention to the testimony it provides concerning our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev 19:10; cp. 1:2), leading us to worship and serve Him in everything.

- I. What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II. What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- III. What will take place after these things (Rev 4–22).
 - A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)
 1. John’s Position (4:1–2)
 2. John’s Vision (4:3–8:1)
 - a. “behold, a THRONE” (4:3–11; see v. 2)
 - b. “I saw . . . A BOOK” (5:1–14)—actually a SCROLL
 - c. The SEALS Opened (6:1–8:1)
 - (1) The First Seal—a *White Horse* (6:1–2)
 - This represents the work of the “man of sin” who establishes the covenant with Israel (Daniel 9:26–27). It will be a time of attempting to create peace under a dictatorship.
 - The vision must not be confused with Revelation 19:11–13, since they have nothing in common beyond a white horse.
 - Compare with the “little horn” in Daniel 7:8, 19–27.
 - See Matthew 24:5 and Luke 21:8.
 - (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.”
 - See Matthew 24:6–7 and Luke 21:10.
 - (3) The Third Seal—a *Black Horse* (6:5–6)
 - This horse represents famine as a result of the wars. Compare Ezekiel 4:16–17; 5:16–17.
 - A denarius normally comprised a day’s wages (Matthew 20:2, 10) and would purchase enough wheat to provide a moderate diet for one man for a day.
 - Cf. Matthew 24:7.

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

- *Chlōros* = “yellowish green” (cp. chlorine); used in Revelation 9:4 for “green” vegetation.
- The world will experience an increasing death toll due to the famine and disease resulting from the wars.
- **One-fourth** of the world’s population will die.
- Cf. Matthew 24:7.
- In each group of seven judgments, the first four are more closely related to one another than the remaining three.

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

- Perhaps these believers become scapegoats following the previous series of events.
- Their steadfast adherence to the Word of God occasions their martyrdom (v. 9).
- Verse 11 indicates that there will be a predetermined number of martyrs in accord with God’s perfect plan.
- God’s purpose will be accomplished at the right time.
- Cf. Matthew 24:9.

(6) The Sixth Seal—**the Wrath of the Lamb** (6:12–17)

- Whereas the first five seals demonstrate God’s providential guidance of history, this seal reveals direct divine intervention.
- The martyrdom of the saints triggers the Lamb’s wrath and the Father’s wrath.
- Cf. Joel 2:31.
- Note that the terrestrial and celestial phenomena (earthquake, sun darkened, moon reddened, meteor shower, heaven opened, mountains and islands moved) are not the same as those described in Matthew 24:29 or 2 Peter 3:10–12.
- Earth’s unbelieving inhabitants attempt to escape God more than to find shelter from the phenomena involved in the judgment itself. They refuse to repent.

Questions for Discussion

- a. Who is the “man of sin”? What does Scripture say about him?
- b. What might people think if one-fourth of the world’s population died in the coming few weeks?
- c. Why will God tie His program to a predetermined number of martyrs?

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.