



Citadel Of Faith Covenant Church

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ALPHA AND OMEGA

We once again have a change and turn of events of in chapter six of Revelation. Chapter five was filled with worship and adoration both for the One sitting on the throne and the Lamb of God who had been granted power to take the scroll and open it's seals. We now see what those seven seals contain. In Revelation three sets of symbols represent three series of future judgments; seven seals, seven trumpets and seven bowls. Each series of seven represent events that will take place in the coming tribulation. The seals represent conditions during the early part of the tribulation, trumpets the middle and the bowls the most severe judgments at the end of the Tribulation period. The book of Revelation follows patterns. Remember the pattern of the communication with the churches...commendation, rebuke, call for repentance, and promise? Well, there is another "theme" in the opening of the first four seals (Rev. 6:1-8): 1) Christ breaks the seal, 2) one of the four living creatures cries out "Come", and 3) a colored horse and rider comes on the scene. These horses and riders are often referred to as the "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse". Let's look at each. (Rev. 6:1-2) This opens with the white horse and this represents bloodless conquest. The one who sat on the horse carried a bow with no arrows. A warrior with no war. The crown on his head was a stephanos (a secular term for a winning crown often given in athletic completion). This rider will be a conqueror but not wearing the crown of complete victory. This season during the Tribulation will represent a false peace which the one on the horse will bring to the world (thus the bow without arrows). (Read. I Thess. 5:3) The rider will bring false religion and false global peace. Right after this phase, the second rider is on a red horse. This represents bloodshed. (Rev. 6:3-4) This rider has a sword. Not the sword that came out of the mouth of Christ in (Rev. 1:16), but the greek is machaira which is a dagger used for assassination, uprising and warfare. When the third seal was broken a black horse emerged. This is famine and poverty which follow war. The scales represent the economic collapse (and disparity) that will occur during this time of the Tribulation. Notice, the food is a challenge, but not the oil and the wine. The final seal shows a pale or ashen horse. The greek actually is chlōros which is a "yellowish green" color signifying sickness, illness and death. Death rides the horse and Hades swallows up the soul as it follows this pale horse and rider. One quarter of the world's population will be lost during this time. Even though this is tough to see, this shows us the complete nature of our God. His loving and just. There must be judgment of sin both in man and on the earth that God made. But He will be gracious even in judgment (Mark 13:20). God allows evil to work for him. These four horses and their riders do the bidding of God. This is how all things work together for Good to those who love Him. Even this Tribulation is working for God's good!