Revelation Chapter 6

The Seals

1. The three sevenfold visions of Revelation
   1. First vision: 7 seals
      1. Revelation 6:1-8:5
   2. Second vision: 7 trumpets
      1. Rev. 8:6-11:19
   3. Third vision: 7 censers/bowls
      1. Rev. 15:1-16:21

\*All three visions cover the same time period. Between the second and third vision is the vision of the cosmic war between God and Satan. **The purpose of these visions is to move people to repentance and faith in Christ.**

1. The opening of the seals
   1. The first four seals introduce the four horsemen.
      1. These horse men bring woes and tribulations of various kinds.
         1. The first horseman: (v2)
            1. Militarism and the conquest of empires (the bow).
            2. The horseman represents tyranny.

Tyranny is the rule not the exception. Freedom is the exception.

Where tyranny is present there is also bloodshed, famine, and death.

* + - 1. The second horseman: (vv 3,4)
         1. This horse symbolizes warfare as well as any unlawful killing and murder.

Peace and tranquility are the exception.

Wars and rumors of war rule the day.

Mark 13:7-9

* + - 1. The third horseman: (vv 5, 6)
         1. Death from famine.
      2. The fourth horseman: (vv7,8)
         1. At the end of the day death and the grave reign supreme here on earth.
  1. The fifth seal: (vv 9-11)
     1. The saints beneath the altar are those who were martyred because of their witness to the Word of God.
        1. What are they crying out to God for?
           1. Vengeance

God exacts vengeance

Leviticus 19:18

Romans 12:19

God vindicates His people

Psalm 94

* + - 1. Why does God delay such vengeance?
         1. For the sake of His elect. He desire more people to repent and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4).
      2. They are dressed in white robes
         1. These are their salvation garments.

Clothed with Christ in Baptism

Galatians 3:27

* + 1. We are all martyrs.
       1. Martureo (Greek) simply means witness.
          1. Some are **called** to give the ultimate witness by suffering and dying for Christ’s sake.

Such martyrdom comes from God. One does not seek it.

* 1. The sixth seal: (vv12-17)
     1. This seal/vision depicts the end of all things.
        1. The cosmic shaking and disturbances happen right before and at the great day of wrath.
           1. Jesus says these disturbances will precede and mark His return.

Mark 13:24-27

* + - 1. There will be no place to hide from God’s judgment and anger.
         1. Even the rocks are obedient to God.
      2. The sixth seal is the first scene/vision in Revelation of the end of the world. This first sevenfold vision is one of horror, tribulation, suffering, and fear.
         1. As Christians, this is not our end. Our end is to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:18

\*Please note, again, that the purpose of these sevenfold visions is to move people to repentance and faith in Christ.