

Conclusion

Dana Harris notes, “It is the surprising vulnerability and weakness of a Lamb, who was slaughtered and resurrected, that vanquishes evil and ushers in the new creation.”



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LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- The Roman empire had its propaganda of peace (Pax Romana). How do empires today act similarly? What has to be hidden for the myth of peace to be believed?
- What is the content of the scroll in Jesus’ hand? Explain.
- What is the common theme in each of the 4 horsemen? How might John and his 1st audience have related to their descriptions?
- In Zechariah, the four horses go out and return to report peace in the world. Is that received as good or bad? Why? What might that tell us about John’s use of this same theme (and the lack of peace)?
- How does Rev. 7 stand in relationship to Rev. 6? Why is it necessary to seal the servants of God?
- John first hears about a multitude and then sees the multitude. What is different about the number of what he heard vs. saw, and about the people who make up the group? How might Rom. 2:28-29, or Eph. 2 & 3 help explain what we see here in Rev. 7?
- Where is this multitude when chapter 7 ends? How might that relate to the theme of the new or 2nd Exodus of God’s people?

The Revelation of Jesus Christ (12): Exodus, the Sequel (part 2)

Jerry Cisar — October 29, 2023

Text: Revelation 6, 7

Introduction: Violence and the Lamb

Northrop Frye: “Man creates what he calls *history* as a screen to conceal the workings of the apocalypse from himself.”

Gil Bailie: “‘History’ pays a price in return for its explanatory power.... ‘History’ *conceals* something in order to illuminate everything else....”
“The word ‘apocalypse’ means unveiling.”

I. Unsealing the Scroll (6:1-17)

A. What’s in the scroll?

B. The Four Horsemen

- i. Zech. 1 (& 6 where they become horses pulling chariots)
 - a) Zech. 1:12 False peace withholds mercy. Mercy for God’s people meant judgment for Babylon!
 - b) *The “peace” that keeps people enslaved is no peace at all.*
- ii. Who are these horses and their riders?
 - a) White horse (2): The military conquerors of the world.
 - b) Red horse (4) It’s not just emperors that have war in their heart, the people do too.

c) Black horse (5-6): famine, food scarcity

d) Pale horse (8): plague, and wild beasts of the earth

iii. Their presence means that the rescue of God's people out of captivity is near at hand.

C. Martyrs (6:9-11)

➤ Rev. 12:11

D. Earthquakes (6:12-17)

E. "Who can withstand it?" Chapter 7 answers that question.

II. Sealing the Servants (7:1-14)

A. A Seal to Protect from the Seals

i. Before any of the damages of chapter 6 can begin, there must be a sealing of the servants of God. (Ezek. 9:4)

ii. Ephesians 1:13-14

B. Who are These?

i. First John hears.

ii. Then John looks to see this company of people... What did John see?

a) He heard a perfectly pedigree Israel, but then when he looked to see it, it was anything but pedigree!

b) Rom. 2:28-29

iii. Who are these? (13)

a) We must discern who these are.

b) "the great tribulation"

➤ "When Will This Happen? (parts 1 & 2)
<https://www.gccc.net/sermons-sunday/>.

➤ Rev. 1:9; 2:9-10; 3:8-10

C. These sealed servants are the church of the faithful.

III. Singing by the Sea (7:10, 15-17)

A. God has sealed this multitude and ultimately rescues them out of great tribulation, and now they stand before the throne of God and serve him day and night in the temple.

i. What is in front of the throne? A sea of glass as clear as crystal.

ii. Rev. 15:2-3

B. What does God shelter them with? His presence (15).

C. He wipes away every tear from their eyes.

"God's first unmediated action in Revelation is to 'wipe away every tear from their eyes.'" (Ian Paul,