

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“Seven Sealed Book”

Revelation 6:1

Introduction

1. The key to the Book of Revelation is at the door (1:19). It includes: a. Things seen (1:12 - 18). b. Things which are (ch. 2 - 3). c. Things hereafter (ch. 4 - 22).
2. Already attention has been given to the Throne (ch. 4) and to the Lamb (ch. 5). The Lamb alone is worthy to open the sealed book (5:7). He is now ready to exercise His authority over the universe (6:1-19:16).
3. Get the overview of things.
 - a. Three series of seven judgments.
 - 1) Seven Seals (6-17; 8:1)
 - 2) Seven Trumpets (8:2-9:21; 11:15-19)
 - 3) Seven Vials (15:1-16:21)
 - b. Nine divine inserts (chaps. 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19)
4. Study the significance of the seals.

SEAL #1

1. Its Identity

Who is meant by the white horse rider has been debated. Note that the Lamb opened the first seal. One of the four beasts, apparently the first (like a lion, 4:7), with a thunder invited John to “come and see.” This could not be Christ, for He opened the seal. Moreover, the matter takes place on earth and the Lamb is in heaven (ch. 5). This rider had a conferred (, aorist passive) crown (victor’s). He had a bow, but no arrow, hence a bloodless arrangement. With this information, it is concluded this white horse rider is the Antichrist who is to come.

2. Its Activity

There is no doubt that conquest is the issue here. The text states that! The combination of the present tense (conquering) and aorist subjunctive (purpose: to conquer) points to victory for the Antichrist. This explains the victor’s crown (). What is described is the establishment of the power and position of Antichrist. He rules!

3. Its Similarity

The Lamb (peace) opens the seal (judgment). The “thunder” conveys the sense of accompanying terror. What a contrast to find here. Moreover, the horrors of the tribulation are patent (Mt. 24:4-7a)

NOTE: The Antichrist is a real person. He is the superman of Satan who will rise in the last days i.e. the last days of the future relating to Israel and the nations. That there is the general spirit and agency of Antichrist in this Age of Grace is not to be questioned (1 John 2:18, 19). This in no way militates against the coming personal Antichrist. He is at once “against” Christ and “usurps” the true Christ of God. This coming Antichrist is 1) The “little horn” (Dan. 7:8). 2) The “king of fierce countenance” (Dan. 8:23, 24). 3) The “prince” that shall come (Dan. 9:26, 27). 4) The “willful king” (Dan. 11:36-45). 5) The “abomination” (Dan. 12:11; Mt. 24:15). 6) The “man of sin” (2 Thess. 2:4-8). 7) The first “beast” (Rev. 13:4-10).

Conclusion

The Bible never questions the existence of God. It baldly declares it (Gen. 1:1). If you say in your heart “no God,” Scripture declares you to be “foolish, stupid” (Ps. 14:1; 53:2). The Bible does make very strong affirmations (Acts 17:28 - 31): 1. Who we are. We are the “offspring of God” (v. 29). That means we are the unique distinct creation of God (). Man stands above all other creations. Therefore, images or icons are unthinkable! 2. What we are to do. Everywhere () the “offspring of God” are to “repent” (). This essentially means to “change one’s mind.” When a non believer believes on Christ, he, at that very moment changes his mind. Thus, belief includes and implies repentance. Belief and repentance are not two distinct acts, but one action which embraces two concepts. You can’t do one without the other. 3. Why we are to respond. Because God is about to judge the inhabited earth by Jesus Christ Whom He (God) has raised from the dead. He is the “Lamb” Who opened the sealed book. Satan’s Superman is put on the earth as the first horror of the Tribulation. The only way to avoid this dreadful person is to believe (repent) and surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ. Have you done that? If not, when? Today is the only day you have.