

## REVELATION CHAPTER 6

### The Beginning of the End

Revelation 6:1-2

“The psychological effect of color on human beings was shown not long ago by the repainting of a black bridge a soothing green which resulted in a tremendous decrease in the number of suicides who jumped from it. In another case, the repainting of telephone booth interiors a stimulating red resulted in faster conversations and the elimination of waiting lines.

“Experiments have also revealed that the average person, when shown two identical packages, one wrapped in dark paper and the other in light paper, will almost invariably state that the dark one is the smaller and heavier. Most persons will also underestimate the length of time they have spent in a blue room and overestimate it in a red room.”<sup>1</sup>

The stage is set for the beginning of the Tribulation. Let me introduce you to a few of the performers and see if their colors affect the way you feel about them.

Revelation 6:1-17:

The First Seal - Rider On A White Horse (False Peace)

*<sup>1</sup> Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come."*

*<sup>2</sup> I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.*

The Second Seal - Rider On A Red Horse (War)

*<sup>3</sup> When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come."*

*<sup>4</sup> And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that men would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.*

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<sup>1</sup> Tan, Paul Lee: *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations : A Treasury of Illustrations, Anecdotes, Facts and Quotations for Pastors, Teachers and Christian Workers*. Garland TX : Bible Communications, 1996, c1979

### The Third Seal - Rider On A Black Horse (Famine)

<sup>5</sup> *When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come." I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.*

<sup>6</sup> *And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine."*

### The Fourth Seal - Rider On An Ashen Horse (Death)

<sup>7</sup> *When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come."*

<sup>8</sup> *I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.*

### The Fifth Seal - Martyrs

<sup>9</sup> *When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;*

<sup>10</sup> *and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"*

<sup>11</sup> *And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.*

### The Sixth Seal - Terror

<sup>12</sup> *I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood;*

<sup>13</sup> *and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.*

<sup>14</sup> *The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.*

<sup>15</sup> *Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains;*

<sup>16</sup> *and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the*

*Lamb;*

*<sup>17</sup> for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*

In this chapter John reports on the opening of the first 6 seals. As the first of the first four seals are opened, one of the four living creatures summoned a rider on a horse. The mental images that are created here by using horses are similar to the vision spoken of in Zechariah 1:7–17 NLT:

*7 Three months later, on February 15, the Lord sent another message to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah and grandson of Iddo.8 In a vision during the night, I saw a man sitting on a **red horse** that was standing among some myrtle trees in a small valley. Behind him were riders on **red, brown, and white horses**.9 I asked the angel who was talking with me, “My lord, what do these horses mean?” “I will show you,” the angel replied.10 The rider standing among the myrtle trees then explained, “They are the ones the Lord has sent out to patrol the earth.”11 Then the other riders reported to the angel of the Lord, who was standing among the myrtle trees, “We have been patrolling the earth, and *the whole earth is at peace.*”12 Upon hearing this, the angel of the Lord prayed this prayer: “O Lord of Heaven’s Armies, for seventy years now you have been angry with Jerusalem and the towns of Judah. How long until you again show mercy to them?”13 And the Lord spoke kind and comforting words to the angel who talked with me.14 Then the angel said to me, “Shout this message for all to hear: ‘This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: My love for Jerusalem and Mount Zion is passionate and strong.15 But I am very angry with the other nations that are now enjoying peace and security. I was only a little angry with my people, but the nations inflicted harm on them far beyond my intentions.16 “‘Therefore, this is what the Lord says: I have returned to show mercy to Jerusalem. My Temple will be rebuilt, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, and measurements will be taken for the reconstruction of Jerusalem.’*

*17 “Say this also: ‘This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: The towns of Israel will again overflow with prosperity, and the Lord will again comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem as his own.’”*

Horses were often used to represent God's activity on earth, having great strength (Job 39:19–25) and being swift (Jeremiah 4:13; Isaiah 5:28; Jeremiah 8:16).<sup>2</sup> They represent the forces God uses to accomplish His divine purposes. The center of God's attention throughout biblical history was **Israel**, particularly the city of **Jerusalem**. God has a covenant purpose for Israel, and that purpose will be fulfilled just as He promised.<sup>3</sup>

Chapter six of Revelation begins telling us what will happen in the future regarding the End Times. In chapter five a scroll or book is described. It is sealed with seven seals. There was much concern in heaven about who would be worthy to break the seals and open the book. Now chapter six begins to reveal to us what will happen in the future in the End Times. The first two verses of chapter six refer to the **FIRST SEAL** that is opened which begins the seven-year Tribulation and that seal reveals the coming of **WORLD PEACE**.

Revelation 6:1-2:

*1 Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come."  
2 I looked, and behold, a **white horse**, and he who sat on it had a bow;  
and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and  
to conquer.*

We will see what seems like a scene from an “*Hollywood action production*” at the opening of each seal. This is representative of the startling events that are to follow as the wrath of God unfolds and He takes back His world from Satan. For many years Christians have been taught that the world is heading for a final war at the Battle of Armageddon, perhaps a nuclear holocaust. Maybe that is what Peter had in mind in 2 Peter 3:10:

*10 But The Day Of The Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.*

Those words certainly sound like a nuclear disaster, do they not? Many Christians believe that everything in our society and in our world is going to deteriorate until the mass slaughter breaks loose, LITERALLY AN EARTH-SHAKING EVENT as well in both the heavens and earth. People will be terrified as the biggest earthquakes in history by far will literally be shaking the earth into destruction. The world, we have been told, is going

<sup>2</sup> Swanson, James ; Nave, Orville: *New Nave's*. Oak Harbor : 1994

<sup>3</sup> Wiersbe, Warren W.: *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1996, c1989, S. Re 6:1.

to fall deeper and deeper into chaos, confusion, disaster, and death. From the looks of what is reported on the news all day and all night it would not be difficult at all to form such an opinion.

Scripture tells us that there will be **wars, earthquakes, famines, and plagues**. We look at the world around us and we see people concerned about the moral character of society, of our financial situation, our food supply, fuel costs and the fuel supply, pollution, and environment. We are facing dilemmas that could ultimately drive the world into a living Hell. One day that is surely going to happen but we are not quite there yet. Before the worst comes, and it will come, I believe there are going to be some really good times.

The Bible tells us that we are headed for world peace. Prosperity, safety, and security may well accompany that peace, even though it is a peace that will not last long. Before things get bad they are going to get better. In fact many world leaders are convinced of this. The problems in our world regarding food, fuel, society, and environment are so serious that they are driving the attentions of nations to a **world government** that can focus all the resources of all the nations of the world to solve the problems. In fact there are many such organizational meetings going on around the world behind closed doors at this very moment. **We are closer to a united world government than the great majority of people believe**. Some people point to all the advantages of such a government and others point out quite rightly the disastrous results that would come from it. Remember what God did to the people in Genesis 11:1-9 at the Tower of Babel? The people had all come together speaking one language believing they could accomplish anything and could even build a tower that would reach into Heaven. God prevented that from happening by creating so many different languages that the people were confused to such a degree that they were scattered all over the earth. The effects of the Tribulation and coming of the Antichrist will be far more devastating.

**As you watch the world today you can see wars and skirmishes between many countries as well as internal fighting within individual countries**. But many emerging nations are focusing on their own economies. Some of the nations such as China and India, which have experienced severe poverty for a long time, are beginning to experience economic growth of staggering proportions. Countries are beginning to focus more on the opportunities that come through economic growth rather than military domination. **However, in countries like China, their economic growth is allowing them to build a powerful military that is already capable of causing irreparable damage and death to the United States**. People are becoming less concerned about national borders and, for the most part, the great powers of the world are moving from separation to unification.

We are seeing the unification of western and eastern Europe. Something we thought we would never see. We kind of assumed the Soviet Union would always be there until the very end, and probably be the **king of the North** that came down and overpowered Israel. I would not write off that possibility still occurring. The former Soviet Union could well be hibernating and secretly gathering other nations as allies to overrun the United States. At this point in time we are the only country in the world that is capable of resisting and still

has the power to resist a one-world government. If we lose our freedoms as a republic, the central bankers will have achieved what they have secretly wanted for the last 200 years. A world government structure that would make them even richer and more powerful than ever. Whoever controls the money controls the world.

We are seeing trade barriers among nations coming down all over the world. There is talk about a common currency, there is talk about eliminating all the trade barriers to facilitate a common economy so that the rich can help the poor become richer. In reality we know that the rich will become richer as well. That is what will drive this whole movement toward a one-world government. Already there are huge fortunes being made by those directing multinational corporations along with the oil industry and banking and financial conglomerates<sup>4</sup>. A one-world alliance would serve to bring down barriers to allow for even greater fortunes to be made. And money is always the engine that drives the train. The big money brokers around the world are pouring billions of dollars into the United States in an attempt to control our politics, our economy, our morality, our educational system, and the media. We are on the very outer edge of the envelope regarding U.S. sovereignty and independence, and if God does not intervene on our behalf, I believe we will soon lose it.

We are in deep trouble and we might lose our dominant role in the world, not through military conquest but through economic collapse. My daily prayer is that we as a nation turn to God before it is too late. I ask you make it your daily prayer as well.

**2 Chronicles 7:14:**

*If my people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

I sincerely believe that this single verse in the Bible is the key to the future of the United States. And yet people will look at this promise and never follow what it says we must do to save our country. I can only believe that they either really do not believe what the Bible says or they are simply too self-centered or foolish, and perhaps both, to take the time to do it. It would be so easy and yet we allow bad things to continually happen because we refuse to recognize our Creator.

Many countries around the world are concerned about health issues and providing adequate medical care. They are willing to pull down all the barriers they can in order to accomplish this. In our own hemisphere we have implemented a trade agreement with Canada and Mexico to break down the trade barriers so that the economies flow back and forth and we can all take advantage of each other's strengths and compensate for weaknesses. At least that is the reason that is given to the people for such deals, and there may be some who have been motivated by a legitimate belief that this reasoning is

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<sup>4</sup> A widely diversified corporation put together by purchasing many other corporations for the sake of making more profit, and I would not be at all surprised if it made it easier for them to control prices in the market.

sincere. But you can take it to the bank (no pun intended) that the driving force behind such alliances is the potential for vast fortunes to be made by the major players.

There is a very strong movement under the direction of the World Constitution and Parliament Association to come up with a plan to implement a unified world with a one-world central government. Robert Muller has been called the philosopher of the United Nations and its "*prophet of hope*."<sup>5</sup> Muller has served the United Nations in various capacities for approximately forty years and has performed diplomatic missions all over the world. He has had the responsibility of coordinating the work of thirty-two specialized agencies and world programs for the U.N.

He has to be one of the best informed men in the world, and Muller is convinced that there will not be a third world war among the major powers. Instead, he says that **we are headed for a new world and a new age, a true global, God abiding, political, moral, and spiritual renaissance to make this planet at long last what it was always meant to be, the planet of God.** He claims to be a good Catholic, but his god, however, is not the personal God of the Bible, but the humanistic cosmic force who is pulling together unification all over the globe.

You see if a person does not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that comes through faith in His saving work on the cross, they do not have the presence of the Holy Spirit within them to guide them and assure them of their salvation and eternal life in Heaven with the one and only God. They may claim to believe in God or a god, and they may even claim to be a Christian when they are not. There is no way of being certain but based on the statistics I have reviewed over the last several years, I would venture to guess that by far the greatest majority of people attending churches in the United States today are not born again Christians who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, which is of course is the only way to salvation and eternal life.

So the only thing they really can rely on is what they have here in this life. They may have a feeling that one day when they die, and they hope that day never comes, that some god somewhere will treat them right. Meanwhile, what they have here on this earth is all they have and they have got to preserve it. They worry about what we do to the earth. But if they think we mess up the earth, wait until they see what Jesus is going to do to it. This is a disposable world but they do not know that. God designed this world to be consumed and disposed of, and when it is used up the Lord Himself will create a new Heaven and a new earth.

But these people believe that this is all we have, and the fear of losing the planet will far outweigh the fear of losing territorial borders. And it looks like those that are warning about the destruction of the planet are winning over popular opinion in spite of overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

“In 1955, Professor ARNOLD TOYNBEE, widely called ‘*the*

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<sup>5</sup> Muller may or may not still be an active player within the United Nations.

*greatest living historian*’ made a statement that was announced to the world by the news channels. He said: *‘The time for world government has come.’* The World Government and the World Church will be concurrent prophetic realities.<sup>6</sup> They cannot be widely separated events.”<sup>7</sup>

I do not know for sure if Mr. Toynbee was a believing Christian, but it sure sounds like it. How else could he have made a statement like that which was so on target as to what God has told us will happen?

Thinking about these upcoming events can be rather unsettling, but we can take comfort in knowing God is sovereign and that He is in control. Those of us who know Christ as our Savior can also hold to the fact that He will never leave us nor forsake us, no matter what may happen.

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<sup>6</sup> These two events will occur at the same time.

<sup>7</sup> Tan, Paul Lee: *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations : A Treasury of Illustrations, Anecdotes, Facts and Quotations for Pastors, Teachers and Christian Workers*. Garland TX : Bible Communications, 1996, c1979.