

Four Terrible Horseman

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Revelation 6:1-17.
- B. The Bible predicts a great time of distress.
- C. The seven-year period of tribulation in Daniel 9 is with what Revelation 6 is concerned.

II. Three series of events that run their course.

- A. The opening of the seven seals.
- B. The seven trumpets sounded.
- C. The seven bowls poured out.
- D. Each series consists of four things outward and three revelations concerning the activity of God behind the scenes.

III. The opening of the seven sealed book.

- A. The first seal is the white rider—the anti-Christ who comes in his own name.
 - 1. His bow represents the overpowering of men and women without the shedding of blood—some form of deceit. (Matthew 24)
 - 2. Many things deceive us in this world like advertisements, cigarettes, New Age philosophy, etc.
 - 3. There will be a greater deception under the Anti-Christ. (II Thessalonians 2)
- B. The second seal is war. (Ezekiel 38-39)
- C. The third seal is famine.
- D. The fourth scroll is death accompanied by hell—this is the result of disease.
 - 1. These four horsemen are extremes
 - 2. God allows evil to be manifest to teach us what He demands.
- E. The fifth seal is the altar of God explaining the location of those who have died.
 - 1. Man becomes the dwelling place of God.

2. Symbols are given us so that we might have an explanation of our makeup—body, soul and spirit.

F. The sixth seal is a vivid description of chaos in nature—those who have not given their lives to Christ at this time will be subject to this terror. (Matthew 24:29-30, Luke 24, Isaiah 2, Isaiah 26)

1. There is no escape from judgment.
2. The church is told this even though the church will not be a part of this to make us earnest in our witness and to show us where evil is going to end up. (John 3:36)
3. If grace does not humble us then judgment must.

Application questions:

1. What kind of deceptions do we face today that are reflective of the greater deception to come under the Anti-Christ?

2. What is the intent of communicating this judgment to the church if they will not face it themselves? Explain.

3. What ought our response to be toward the unbelieving world in light of their future judgment? What can you do further in this regard?
