

The Judgments in Revelation Chapter 6 Compared to the Synoptic Gospels

In truth I tell you, it will all recoil on this generation. Matthew 23:36

In truth I tell you, before this generation has passed away all will have taken place. Mark 13:30; Luke 21:32

Revelation Chapter 6	Matthew Chapter 24	Mark Chapter 13	Luke Chapter 21
Wars: <i>Immediately I saw a white horse appear, and its rider was holding a bow; he was given a victor's crown and he went away, to go from victory to victory (6:2)</i>	Wars: <i>You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this is something that must happen, but the end will not be yet ... And if that time had not been shortened, no human being would have survived; but shortened that time shall be, for the sake of those who are chosen (24:6, 22).</i>	Wars: <i>When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this is something that must happen, but the end will not be yet ... And if the Lord had not shortened that time, no human being would have survived; but he did shorten the time, for the sake of the elect whom he chose (13:7, 20).</i>	Wars: <i>And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be terrified, for this is something that must happen first ... When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then you must realize that it will soon be laid desolate ... They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive to every gentile country, and Jerusalem will be trampled down by the Gentiles until their time is complete (21:9, 20, 24).</i>
International strife: <i>And out came another horse, bright red, and its rider was given this duty: to take away peace from the earth and set people killing each other. He was given a huge sword (6:4)</i>	International strife: <i>For nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom (24:7a).</i>	International strife: <i>For nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom (13:8a).</i>	International Strife: <i>Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom (21:10).</i>
Famine: <i>Immediately I saw a black horse appear, and its rider was holding a pair of scales; and I seemed to hear a voice shout from among the</i>	Famine: <i>There will be famines (24:7b)</i>	Famine: <i>there will be famines (13:8b)</i>	Famine: <i>famines in various places (21:11b)</i>

<p><i>four Living Creatures and say, “A day’s wages for a quart of corn, and a day’s wages for three quarts of barley” (6:5b-6)</i></p>			
<p><i>Disease/pestilence: Immediately I saw another horse appear, deathly pale, and its rider was called Death, and Hades followed at its heels. They were given authority over a quarter of the earth, to kill by the sword, by famine, by plague, and through wild beasts (6:8)</i></p>			<p><i>Disease/pestilence: There will be great earthquakes, plagues, and famines (21:11a)</i></p>
<p><i>Persecution: I saw underneath the altar the souls of all the people who had been killed on account of the Word of God, for witnessing to it ... each of them was given a white robe, and they were told be patient a little longer, until the roll was completed of their fellow-servants and brothers who were still to be killed as they had been (6:9-11)</i></p>	<p><i>Persecution: Then you will be handed over to be tortured and put to death; and you will be hated by all nations on account of my name (24:9)</i></p>	<p><i>Persecution: Be on your guard: you will be handed over to sanhedrins; you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will be brought before governors and kings for my sake, as evidence to them ... And when you are taken to be handed over, do not worry beforehand about what to say . you will be universally hated on account of my name (13:9-13)</i></p>	<p><i>Persecution: you will be seized persecuted, you will be handed over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and brought before kings and governors ... You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations, and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated universally on account of my name (21:12-19)</i></p>
<p><i>Earthquakes/cosmic chaos/de-creation: ... when he broke the sixth seal, there was a</i></p>	<p><i>Earthquakes/cosmic chaos/de-creation: and earthquakes in various places ... Immediately</i></p>	<p><i>Earthquakes/cosmic chaos/de-creation: There will be earthquakes in various places</i></p>	<p><i>Earthquakes/cosmic chaos/de-creation: There will be great earthquakes ... There will be</i></p>

<i>violent earthquake and the sun went as black as coarse sackcloth; the moon turned red as blood all over, and the stars of the sky fell onto the earth ... the sky disappeared like a scroll rolling up and all the mountains and islands were shaken from their places ... For the great day of his retribution has come, and who can face it? (6:12-17)</i>	<i>after the distress of those day the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky and the powers of the heavens will be shaken (24:7b, 29)</i>	<i>... But in those days, after that of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will come falling out of the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken (13:8b, 24-25)</i>	<i>signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the turmoil of the ocean and its waves ... for the powers of the heavens will be shaken (21:11a, 25-26)</i>
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The Gospel of John is the only Gospel that does not give a prophecy by Jesus concerning the desolation of Jerusalem in God’s judgment on an apostate covenant people who rejected their Messiah. Is that because God intended for John to write about that judgment in the Book of Revelation? In Matthew 23:35-36 and Luke 11:50-51, Jesus said the judgment for all the bloodshed of the righteous caused by the Israelites would fall on His generation for failing to recognize His visitation (Lk 19:43-44) and some standing with Him would live to see it happen (Mt 16:28). Therefore, the events in these passages described in the Synoptic Gospels refer to God’s judgement against an apostate covenant people in the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Roman army on the 9th of Ab (Av) in A.D 70. The Babylonian army destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple of Solomon in a similar covenant judgment on the same date, the 9th of Ab (Av), in 586/7 B.C. It would follow then, that the same types of events repeated in Revelation Chapter 6 also refer to what was to take place within John’s lifetime in God’s judgment against an apostate covenant people in the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, ending old covenant worship and opening the way for the New Covenant in Christ Jesus (Heb 9:8; 10:10).

S. Peter speaking to the crowd of Jews on Pentecost Sunday concerning the event of God’s Spirit coming to indwell Jesus’ disciples of the New Covenant Church (Acts 2:1-13) and His judgment on Jerusalem and the Old Covenant Church:
“In the last days, the Lord declares, I shall pour out my Spirit on all humanity. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young people shall see visions, your old people dream dreams. Even on the slaves, men and women, shall I pour out my Spirit. I will show portents in the sky above and signs on the earth below. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the day of the Lord comes, that great and terrible Day. And all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved”
 (Acts 2:16-21; quoting Joel 3:1-5).

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Handout Chapter 6

THE LAMB BREAKS THE SEVEN SEALS	
SEAL	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE
First seal: The rider on the white horse	Rev 6:1-2
Second seal: The rider on the red horse	Rev 6:3-4
Third seal: The rider on the black horse	Rev 6:5-6
Fourth seal: The rider on the pale (green) horse	Rev 6:7-8
The riders were “given authority over a quarter of the earth, to kill by the sword, by famine, by plague and through wild beasts” (Rev 6:8).	
Fifth seal: Martyred white-robed saints (souls) under the altar	Rev 6:9-11
Sixth seal: Judgment / de-creation	Rev 6:12-17
Seventh seal: Mission of the seven angels	Rev 8:1-13

The Four Horsemen

Rider	Scripture Passage	Symbolic images associated with the riders
1. White Rider	Rev 6:2	bow, victor’s crown
2. Red Rider	Rev 6:3-4	sword
3. Black Rider	Rev 6:5-6	scales
4. Pale (green) Rider	Rev 6:7-8	death

The four judgments listed in the passages that correspond to the four horsemen: wars, famines, pestilence, and earthquakes. The number 4 not only represents the earth generally but specifically the Promised Land as God’s four-cornered altar. Therefore, judgments that fall on the land are represented as fourfold judgments. The horsemen show us God’s plan for controlling and bringing His judgment on the disobedient nation of Israel /Judah.

God directs the activity of the holy war from His throne room in Heaven:

1. By the command of the Living creatures to “Come” (6:1, 3, 5, 7).
2. By the four-part repetition of the word *edothē*, meaning “it was granted/given” (6:2, 4, 8, 11).
3. By the phrase *ho kathemenos*, meaning “he who was seated on it,” referring to the throne.
4. And, in the last part of the battle, the Word of God Himself fights for the righteous (19:11-21).

There are several points about this victorious rider that demonstrate He is Jesus Christ:

1. He is riding a **white horse**: Revelation 14:14 identifies the White Rider as Christ, and the rider has the same title as in Revelation 3:14.
2. He carries a **bow**: In Habakkuk 3:8-9, God, coming in judgment, is riding on horses against His enemies and is armed with a bow.
3. The White Rider wears a **crown**: The rider is the King of Kings. It is an image of Christ that we know from Revelation 14:14 and 19:11-12.

4. The rider goes out **conquering**: Satan/the final Antichrist, cannot conquer; he has been defeated by the resurrection of the Lamb. The Greek word for conquering is the same word that appears in Christ's letters to the seven churches for *overcoming* or *conquering*, seven times in Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21. Then too, the White Rider is not simply one of four riders; He is leading the others with His bow and His crown.

5. The White Rider must be Christ, the conquering King, coming against His enemies in judgment. He already came to **save/redeem**, but now He is coming to bring **judgment** and to **destroy** as He foretold in the Synoptic Gospels. The terrifying riders who will follow Him are His messengers of wrath, and the faithless of Old Covenant Israel, who rejected the Messiah, are doomed!

Fifth seal: Martyred, white-robed saints (souls) under the altar	Revelation 6:9-11
Sixth seal: Judgment/de-creation	Revelation 6:12-17

The Christ/Lamb will not break the seventh seal until 8:1-13

The parts of creation that John refers to when the sixth seal is broken in 6:12-16: 1. sun, 2. moon, 3. stars, 4. sky, 5. mountains, 7. islands, 8. humans of every status. In the list of the parts of creation, humanity is the eighth stage of de-creation, and within that category there are seven classifications which indicate that the destruction will include all classes of society: 1) kings, 2) governors, 3) commanders, 4) the rich, 5) influential men, 6) slaves and 7) free citizens.

Prophetic de-creation images in Old Testament prophecy:

1. Earthquakes: Ex 19:18; Ps 18:7, 15; 60:2; Is 13:13-14; 24:19-20; Na 1:5
2. Eclipse of the sun: Ex 32:7; Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15; Amos 8:9; Micah 3:6
3. The moon became like blood: Job 25:5; Is 13:10; 24:23; Ez 32:7; Joel 2:10, 31
4. The judgment on the stars (as images of government and clocks that show time has run out): Gen 1:14; Job 9:7; Ecc 12:2; Is 13:10; 34:4; Ez 32:8; Dan 8:10; Joel 2:10; 3:15
5. The wind imagery: in Zechariah's vision, the 4 horsemen bring the winds (Zec 6:5) and are reintroduced in John's vision shaking the fig tree.
6. Fig tree is Israel: Mt 21:19; 24:32-34; Luke 21:29-32
7. The sky vanishing like a Scroll rolled up: Is 34:4; 51:6; Ps 102:25-26
8. Every mountain and island moved out of their places: the Gentile nations are also affected; see Job 9:5-6; 14:18-19; 28:9-11; Is 41:5, 15-16; Ez 38:20; Na 1:4-8; Zeph 2:11.

Do items of the "Seven Seals" passage match the first four figures?

First Seal:	White horse	Fifth Seal:	White robes
Second Seal:	Red horse	Sixth Seal:	Moon like blood (red), Sun black (see 7 th seal & 3 rd horse)
Third Seal:	Black horse	Seventh Seal:	Green grass burned (black)
Fourth Seal:	Green horse		

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