

REVELATION

CHAPTER SIX

The First Six Seals

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Rev 02/02/21

- I. **Revelation 6:1 (NASB)** *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.”*
- A. Intro
1. If Olivet Discourse is about AD 70...
 - a. and we can show parallels with chapter 6 and Olivet Discourse
 - i. then Rev 6:1 will be about AD 70 also
 - b. Olivet Discourse concerns destruction of the temple and the old Jewish priestly order it stood for
 - i. **Matthew 24:1-3 (CSBBible)** ¹ As Jesus left and was going out of the temple, his disciples came up and called his attention to its buildings. ² He replied to them, “Do you see all these things? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here on another that will not be thrown down.” ³ While he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately and said, “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what is the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”
 - ii. likewise, Revelation is about the destruction of the old Jewish priestly order
 2. Chapter 6 has six seals broken which parallel exactly the Olivet Discourse
 - a. R.H. Charles (not a preterist) (1920)
 - i. six seals follow exactly the same order as “Little Apocalypse” in Olivet Discourse
- A/ Wars
- 1/ The First Seal
 - a/ **Revelation 6:1-2 (CSBBible)** ¹ Then I saw the Lamb open one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, “Come! ” ² I looked, and there was a white horse. Its rider held a bow; a crown was given to him, and he went out as a conqueror in order to conquer.
 - b/ **Matthew 24:6 (CSBBible)** You are going to hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, because these things must take place, but the end is not yet.
- B/ International strife
- 1/ The Second Seal
 - a/ **Revelation 6:3-4 (CSBBible)** ³ When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come! ” ⁴ Then another horse went out, a fiery red one, and its rider was allowed to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another. And a large sword was given to him.
 - i/ “earth” should be translated “land”
 - b/ **Matthew 24:7a (CSBBible)** For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

C/ Famine

1/ The Third Seal

a/ **Revelation 6:5-6 (CSBBible)** ⁵ When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come! " And I looked, and there was a black horse. Its rider held a set of scales in his hand. ⁶ Then I heard something like a voice among the four living creatures say, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, but do not harm the oil and the wine."

i/ man on black horse announces it costs a day's wages to buy wheat

b/ **Matthew 24:7b (CSBBible)** There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

D/ Pestilence

1/ The Fourth Seal

a/ **Revelation 6:7-8 (CSBBible)** ⁷ When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come! " ⁸ And I looked, and there was a pale green horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following after him. They were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill by the sword, by famine, by plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.

b/ **Matthew 24:7 (KJV)** For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

i/ some manuscripts leave out "pestilences" (see HCSB note)

E/ Persecution

1/ The Fifth Seal

a/ **Revelation 6:9-11 (CSBBible)** ⁹ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the word of God and the testimony they had given. ¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice: "Lord, the one who is holy and true, how long until you judge those who live on the earth and avenge our blood? " ¹¹ So they were each given a white robe, and they were told to rest a little while longer until the number would be completed of their fellow servants and their brothers and sisters, who were going to be killed just as they had been.

b/ **Matthew 24:9-10 (CSBBible)** ⁹ "Then they will hand you over to be persecuted, and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations because of my name. ¹⁰ Then many will fall away, betray one another, and hate one another.

F/ Deceation

1/ The Sixth Seal

a/ **Revelation 6:12-17 (CSBBible)** ¹² Then I saw him open the sixth seal. A violent earthquake occurred; the sun turned black like sackcloth made of hair; the entire moon became like blood; ¹³ the stars of heaven fell to the earth as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a high wind; ¹⁴ the sky was split apart like a scroll being rolled up; and every mountain and island was moved from its place. ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth, the nobles, the generals, the rich, the powerful, and every slave and free person hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶ And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷ because the great day of their wrath has come! And who is able to stand? "

i/ examples of deceation in the Revelation passage

A) sun black

B) moon as blood

- C) stars fell to earth
- D) heaven rolled up like a scroll
- E) mountains and islands moved out of their places
- b/ **Matthew 24:29-31 (CSBBible)** ²⁹ "Immediately after the distress of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not shed its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the peoples of the earth will mourn; and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ He will send out his angels with a loud trumpet, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.
 - i/ examples of decreation in the Matthew 24 passage
 - A) sun darkened
 - B) moon not give her light
 - C) stars fall from heaven
 - D) powers of heaven will be shaken

B. "seals"

1. First four seals are The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse
 - a. intro
 - i. basic structure of Revelation
 - A/ based on judgments that come in sevens
 - 1/ seven seals, then seven trumpets, then seven bowls
 - a/ the seventh seal contains all seven trumpets
 - b/ the seventh trumpet contains all seven seals
 - b. "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" has made it into American folklore
 - a. referred to the backfield of Notre Dame from 1922-24
 - b. Grantland Rice, famed sportswriter, said this . . .
 - i. << Outlined against a blue-gray October sky, the Four Horsemen rode again. In dramatic lore their names are Death, Destruction, Pestilence, and Famine. But those are aliases. Their real names are: Stuhldreher, Crowley, Miller and Layden. They formed the crest of the South Bend cyclone before which another fighting Army team was swept over the precipice at the Polo Grounds this afternoon as 55,000 spectators peered down upon the bewildering panorama spread out upon the green plain below.>>

C. "four"

1. Chilton claims this has significance
 - a. Chilton is a "maximalist"
 - i. "Biblical symbolism views the earth (and especially the land of Israel) as God's four-cornered altar, and thus often represents wide-sweeping, national judgments in a fourfold manner."
 - A/ **Zechariah 6:2-5 (CSBBible)** ² The first chariot had chestnut horses, the second chariot black horses, ³ the third chariot white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses — all strong horses. ⁴ So I inquired of the angel who was speaking with me, "What are these, my lord?" ⁵ The angel told me, "These are the four spirits of heaven going out after presenting themselves to the Lord of the whole earth.
 - 1/ parallel with Revelation
 - a/ note horses are the same colors as the ones in Rev
 - i/ although not in the same order

2/ the Four Winds are God’s chariots driven by His agents, who go back and forth patrolling the earth.

a/ God’s means of controlling history

i/ **Revelation 7:1 KJV** “¹ And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

3/ this is the source of The Four Horseman

2. Four Horseman of the Apocalypse are the “beginning of sorrows” in destruction of Jerusalem
3. The “Prayer of Habakkuk” against the Babylonians (Hab 3) very important foundation to Rev 6
 - a. see Chilton for parallels

D. “come”

1. KJV has this being said to John

a. **Revelation 6:1 (KJV)** And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

b. reading not supported by most manuscripts

i. **Revelation 6:1 (CSBBible)** Then I saw the Lamb open one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, “Come!”

A/ not “Come and see” as in the KJV

2. each of four living creatures calls forth a different one of the four horsemen

a. **Revelation 6:3 (CSBBible)** When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!”

b. **Revelation 6:5 (CSBBible)** When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and there was a black horse. Its rider held a set of scales in his hand.

c. **Revelation 6:7 (CSBBible)** When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!”

II. **Revelation 6:2 (NASB)** *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.*

A. “white horse”

1. typical dispie interpretation

a. the Antichrist

i. Hal Lindsey

“the only person who could accomplish all of these feats.”

b. two dissenters

a. Henry Morris, Zane C. Hodges

c. fits right in with their general pessimillennialism

B. “he” → why the rider is none other than Jesus

1/ “white horse”

a/ Jesus rides on a white horse in Revelation 19:11-16

i/ **Revelation 19:11 (CSBBible)** ¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True, and with justice he judges and makes war.

A) he is “making war” in Revelation 19, “conquering” in Rev 6:2

1) conquering with sword in Revelation 6:2, with his word in Revelation 19

a) in Revelation 19 the sword is in Jesus’ *mouth*

b) blood somewhat takes away from the point that the conquering is by the WORD

i) the blood could be HIS blood, shed for salvation of world

A] not the blood of his enemies

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- 2/ “bow”
 - a/ a symbol of military conquest
 - i/ creates a problem
 - A/ Jesus is Rev 19 conquers by his word (sword in his mouth)
 - B/ answer (Gore)
 - 1/ Jesus is using the military power of the Romans to destroy Jerusalem
 - a/ thus receiving vindication for his execution
 - b/ Rome is acting as God’s unwilling servant
 - i/ just like Babylon and Assyria
 - 2/ once apostate Jerusalem is destroyed by bow, then Jesus can conquer with his Word
- 3/ “crown”
 - a/ J wears a crown in Rev
 - i/ **Revelation 14:14 (KJV)** “¹⁴ And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud *one* sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.”
- 3/ “conquering and to conquer”
 - a/ the same Greek word used in letters to the seven churches for “overcoming/conquering”
 - i/ Rev 2:7,11,17,26; 3:5,12,21
 - A/ example
 - 1/ **Revelation 3:21 (CSBBible)** ²¹ “To the one who conquers I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.
 - b/ another example from Revelation
 - i/ **Revelation 5:5 (CSBBible)** ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”
 - c/ as Jesus conquers, the church conquers
 - d/ some dispensationalists have taken this verse and done an unfortunate inversion
 - i/ instead of Jesus being given the victory, the Antichrist conquers!

III. **Revelation 6:3-4 (NASB)** *When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come.” (v4) And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, was granted to take peace from the earth [land], and that men would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.”*

- A. “red horse”
 - 1. symbolic of war
 - a. because blood is red
 - b. represented war in Israel and Rome in run-up to AD 70
- B. “earth”
 - 1. this should be “land”
 - a. i.e., the land of Israel that is about to get judged for killing Jesus
- C. “slay”
 - 1. fulfilled in Israel just before AD 70
 - a. Josephus (*The Jewish War*, ii.xviii.2)
 - i. “every city was divided into two armies encamped against one another, and the preservation of the one party was in the destruction of the other; so the day-time was spent in the shedding of blood, and the night in fear... It was then common to see cities filled w/ dead bodies, still lying unburied, and those of old men, mixed w/ infants, all dead, and scattered about together; women also lay amongst them, wo/ any covering for their nakedness; you might then see the whole province full of inexpressible calamities, while dread of still more

barbarous practices which were threatened, was everywhere greater than what had been already perpetrated.” (*The Jewish War*, ii.xviii.2)

IV. **Revelation 6:5-6 (NASB)** *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. (v6) 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 wine.”*

A. “black horse”

1. represents famine

B. “scales”

1. **Ezekiel 4:10 (CSBBible)**¹⁰ The food you eat each day will weigh eight ounces; you will eat it at set times.

a. referring to the hard times during the siege of Babylon

b. “set time” (KJV → “time to time”) means when food available (Gore)

C. “center”

1. God sitting on his throne is in the center of the four living creatures

a. so I suspect the voice speaking was God’s voice

i. but Mounce says it’s the Lamb

D. “denarius”

1. a day’s wages

a. KJV “penny” is completely misleading

b. one is in bad shape if he has to work all day just to eat

c. Chilton: 1000% (ten times) of its normal price

E. “three quarts”

1. barley was always cheaper than wheat (DT)

F. Josephus (*The Jewish War*, v.x.2)

1. “As the famine grew worse, the frenzy of the insurgents kept pace with it, and every day both these horrors burned more fiercely. For, since nowhere was grain to be seen, men would break into houses, and if they found some they mistreated the occupants for having denied the possession of it; if they found none, they tortured them as if they had concealed it more carefully. Proof whether they had food or not was provided by the physical appearance of the wretches; those still in good condition were deemed to be well provided with food; while those who were already wasting away were passed over, for it seemed pointless to kill persons who would soon die of starvation. Many secretly bartered their possessions for a single measure of wheat if they happened to be rich, barley if they were poor. Then they shut themselves up in the darkest corners of their houses; in the extremity of their hunger some even ate their grain underground, while others baked it, guided by necessity and fear. Nowhere was a table laid – the food was snatched half-cooked from the fire and torn into pieces.”

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G. “oil,” “wine”

1. why these luxuries are not harmed?

a. three possible options

i. “scales” is sign of Libra (Chilton)

A/ spans Sep and Oct

1/ if grain harvest failed in April and May

a/ grain running out in Sep/Oct

i/ right when olives (oil) and grapes (wine) coming in unharmed

A) great irony: you can survive on corn alone, but not oil and wine

b/ [** historically, did grain fail in any Sep/Oct period during the siege?]

ii. Scripture often speaks of God’s blessings upon the righteous in terms of oil and wine

A/ **Psalm 104:15 (CSBBible)**¹⁵ wine that makes human hearts glad— making his face shine with oil— and bread that sustains human hearts.

B/ so, idea is that the judgment doesn’t fall on the righteous (Lilje quoted in Mounce)

1/ they had escaped to Pella

a/ when they saw the city surrounded by the Roman army

i/ **Luke 21:20-21 (CSBBible)**²⁰ “When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that its desolation has come near.²¹ Then those in Judea must flee to the mountains. Those inside the city must leave it, and those who are in the country must not enter it,

iii. refers to the artificial famine caused by the Zealots (Gore)

A/ they destroyed the food supply in the city

1/ but there was plenty of oil and wine for the Roman beseigers

VI. **Revelation 6:7-8 (NASB)** *When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come.” (v8) 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 [land], to kill with **sword** and with **famine** and with **pestilence** and by the wild **beasts** of the earth [land].”*

A. “ashen”

1. Gk word is “chloros”

a. means “green”

i. connotes a green sickly pallor

A/ a presage of death

ii. Chilton

A/ apparently most translators don’t use green, nobody can believe John saw a green horse

b. KJV has “pale”

2. the fourth horse represented “pestilence”

B. “Death,” “Hades”

1. “Hades” means “grave”

2. the fourth horse stands for “death” in general

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C. “fourth”

1. the seals devastate a fourth of the land
 - a. the trumpets devastate a third of the land
 - i. **Revelation 8:7-12**
A/ example
 - 1/ **Revelation 8:7 (KJV)** “The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth [LAND]: and the third part of trees was burnt up,”
 - ii. and the bowls destroy it all
A/ **Revelation 16:3 ESV** The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea.

D. “earth”

1. should be translated “land”

E. “kill”

1. the pale horse of death kills
2. done four ways
 - a. listed
 - i. sword (like the red horse)
 - ii. famine (like the black horse)
 - iii. pestilence
 - iv. beasts
 - b. those four ways parallel God’s four basic curses on ungodly nations
 - i. **Ezekiel 14:21 (CSBBible)** ²¹ “For this is what the Lord God says: How much worse will it be when I send my four devastating judgments against Jerusalem — **sword, famine, dangerous animals,** and **plague** — in order to wipe out both people and animals from it!
A/ the exact same four judgments coming on Jerusalem 586 as on Jerusalem AD 70
 - ii. **Ezekiel 5:17 (CSBBible)** ¹⁷ I will send **famine** and **dangerous animals** against you. They will leave you childless. **Plague** and **bloodshed** will sweep through you, and I will bring a sword against you. I, the Lord, have spoken.”
A/ the exact same four judgments
 - c. one more clue Revelation refers to AD 70
 - i. Ezekiel predicts destruction on Jerusalem in 586 BC
A/ John predicts destruction on Jerusalem in AD 70

VII. **Revelation 6:9-10 (NASB)** *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; (v10) 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[land]?”*

A. “underneath”

1. all translations have a form of “under”
2. it probably means in front of and at the base of (DT)

B. “altar”

1. image taken from the OT bronze altar in front of the temple
 - a. blood of the slain victim would stream down the sides of the altar and form a pool around its base
 - b. John’s readers would, of course, realize that it was the Jewish priests who had made the sacrifice
 - i. Jerusalem was THE murderer of the prophets
 - A/ **Matthew 23:35 (CSBBible)**³⁵ So all the righteous blood shed on the earth will be charged to you, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.
 - B/ **Luke 13:33-34 (CSBBible)**³³ Yet it is necessary that I travel today, tomorrow, and the next day, because it is not possible for a prophet to perish outside of Jerusalem.
³⁴ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her. How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!
 - c. in chapter 4, the standing, slain lamb was in front of the altar
 - i. perhaps we should picture the slain lamb standing on the bronze altar

C. “souls”

1. query → how can one “see” a soul, since a soul is immaterial
 - a. answer → “soul” means “a life”
 - i. like there were 23 souls on board the downed aircraft

D. “slain”

1. Each of the 7 churches would have martyrs by now
 - a. Jewish apostates who had used the power of the Roman state to kill Jesus were now doing the same to Jesus’ followers
 - b. examples
 - i. **Revelation 2:9-10 (CSBBible)** I know your [church in Smyrna] affliction and poverty, but you are rich. I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.¹⁰ Don’t be afraid of what you are about to suffer. Look, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison to test you, and you will experience affliction for ten days. Be faithful to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.
 - c. **Matthew 10:17 (CSBBible)**¹⁷ Beware of them, because they will hand you over to local courts and flog you in their synagogues.

E. “cried”

1. relevance for theology concerning the intermediate state
 - a. can be used to oppose two things
 - i. the soul is extinguished after death
 - ii. the soul sleeps after death
 - b. query → can we use what’s in a symbolic vision to base our view of the afterlife?

F. “How long”

1. Many Christians might think, “If I’m serving the King, why doesn’t he protect me?”
2. Actually, it wasn’t that long
 - a. AD 70 coming very quickly

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G. “avenging”

1. contrast the effete modern church with this
 - a. we think its somehow unchristian to pray for God’s wrath to be poured out upon the enemies and persecutors of the church
 - i. note → this vengeance is called for during the **NEW** covenant
 - ii. Jesus called his judgment on the persecutors the “days of vengeance”
 - A/ **Luke 21:22 (CSBBible)** ²² because these are days of **vengeance** to fulfill all the things that are written.
 - B/ **2 Thessalonians 1:6 (CSBBible)** ⁶ since it is just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you . . . ⁹ They will pay the penalty of eternal destruction from the Lord’s presence and from his glorious strength
 2. note → God’s vengeance only falls on the unsaved, not the saved
 - a. **1 Thessalonians 5:9** ⁹ “For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

H. “earth”

1. should be translated “land”
 - a. these seals are referring to Jewish Christians persecuted by apostate rabbinic Jews before AD 70

VIII. **Revelation 6:11 (NASB)** *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.*

A. “white”

1. overcomers are pure

B. “killed”

1. by those who “dwell on the land” (v10)
2. overcomers had to wait for deliverance even as their fellow Christians were being killed
3. note how blasé Jesus is about Christians getting killed (DT)
 - a. because to Jesus death is no big deal
 - i. the murdered ones are coming straight to him

IX. **Revelation 6:12-14 (NASB)** *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; (v13) and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. (v14) The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.*

A. “earthquake”

1. the salvation of God’s people is spoken of in terms of *creation*
 - a. the destruction of those who have revolted against God is spoken of in terms of *decreation*
2. creation Scriptures
 - a. **2 Corinthians 4:6** ⁶ “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness [in Gen 1], hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. “
 - b. **2 Corinthians 5:17** ¹⁷ “Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature [creation]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
 - c. **Ephesians 2:10** ¹⁰ “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, “
 - d. **Ephesians 4:24** ²⁴ “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”
 - e. **Colossians 3:10** ¹⁰ “And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:”

3. decreation Scriptures

a. introduction

- i. familiar OT imagery is used
- ii. they are NOT MEANT TO BE TAKE LITERALLY!!!!!!
A/ note that in OT decreation Scriptures
 - 1/ the physical creations survived
 - 2/ the people under judgment did not survive
- iii. note as we go through them
A/ some can be explained as not literal, but having to do with our perception
 - 1/ i.e., the moon became blood
 - a/ because of stuff in the air, it LOOKS red
 - 2/ many “literalists” do this
 - a. but note: that’s not really literal, is it?
B/ some absolutely can not be literal
 - 1/ stars falling to the earth
- iv. as you listen, listen for two things
A/ decreation rhetoric meant to be symbolic, or literally physical?
B/ judgment
C/ regime change

b. “earthquake”

- i. **Job 9:6** ⁶ Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble. “
- ii. **Psalms 18:7** ⁷ Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth.”
- iii. **Psalms 18:15** ¹⁵ Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils.”
- iv. **Psalms 60:2** ² Thou hast made the earth to tremble; thou hast broken it: heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh.”
- v. **Isaiah 13:13-14** ¹³ Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.”
 - i. destruction of Babylon by the Persians
A/ there wasn’t an earthquake when this happened
- vi. **Isaiah 24:19-21** ¹⁹ The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. ²⁰ The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. (v21) ²¹ And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones *that are* on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.”
- vii. **Nahum 1:5 (CSBBible)** ⁵ The mountains quake before him, and the hills melt; the earth trembles at his presence— the world and all who live in it.
A/ against Ninevah
 - 1/ 100 years after Jonah
 - 2/ referred to eventual destruction of Assyria by Babylon
B/ can this “earthquake” verse be taken LITERALLY?
- viii. **Isaiah 5:25 (KJV)** “Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses *were* torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand *is* stretched out still.”
- ix. **Joel 2:10** “The earth shall quake before them...”
A/ judgment on Judah by plague (not by a nation)

- x. **Hebrews 12:26-28 (CSBBible)** ²⁶ His voice shook the earth at that time, but now he has promised, Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens. ²⁷ This expression, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what can be shaken — that is, created things — so that what is not shaken might remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful. By it, we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe,
- A/ author of Hebrews speaking in tradition of his fellow Jewish OT prophets
 - 1/ there was going to be a “regime change,” and so, decreation rhetoric
 - a/ the old covenant is passing, the new kingdom of Christ is now established
 - i/ precisely the theme of Revelation
- c. **“sun became black” (and other heavenly lights going out)**
- i. **Job 9:7 KJV** “⁷ [God is the subject, Job the speaker] {Which commandeth the sun, and it riseth not; and sealeth up the stars.”
A/ did the sun ever not rise before or during Job’s time?
 - ii. **Job 25:5 KJV** “⁵ Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight.”
 - iii. **Ecclesiastes 12:1,2 KJV** “¹ Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;
² While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:”
 - iv. **Isaiah 5:30 KJV** “³⁰ And in that day they shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea: and if *one* look unto the land, behold darkness *and* sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof.”
A/ judgment against “his people,” v24
 - v. **Isaiah 13:10 KJV** “¹⁰ For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.”
A/ destruction of Babylon by the Medes
 - vi. **Isaiah 24:23** “²³ Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.”
A/ generic prophecy against the “kings of the earth”
B/ note the sun is ashamed right before the new covenant church is set up
 - 1/ **Hebrews 12:22 KJV** “²² But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,”
 - a/ the “you” is the Christians to whom the letter was written
 - vii. **Ezekiel 32:7,8** “⁷ And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light. (v8)
⁸ All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over thee, and set darkness upon thy land, saith the Lord GOD.”
A/ against Egypt
 - viii. **Joel 2:10** “¹⁰ The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:”
A/ judgment of southern kingdom of Judah
 - a/ by plague, not by a nation

- ix. **Joel 2:31 (CSBBible)** The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes.
A/ this quoted by Peter in his Pentecostal sermon
1/ **Acts 2:16-20 (CSBBible)** ¹⁹ I will display wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below: blood and fire and a cloud of smoke. ²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes.
a/ when did all these things happen LITERALLY at Pentecost?
- x. **Joel 3:15** ¹⁵ The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.”
- d. **“moon like blood”**
i. **Joel 2:31 (CSBBible)** The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes.
- e. **“stars of the sky fell to the earth”**
i. **Isaiah 34:4 (CSBBible)** ⁴ All the stars in the sky will dissolve. The sky will roll up like a scroll, and its stars will all wither as leaves wither on the vine, and foliage on the fig tree.
A/ generic prophecy against all nations
B/ “fig”
1/ notice similarity to Revelation 6:13
a/ **Revelation 6:13 (CSBBible)** ¹³ the stars of heaven fell to the earth as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a high wind;
C/ stars falling to the earth can’t be taken literally
1/ there would be no earth left
ii. **Daniel 8:10 (CSBBible)** ¹⁰ It grew as high as the heavenly army, made some of the army and some of the stars fall to the earth, and trampled them.
A/ the “it” is “the little horn”
1/ traditionally interpreted as Antiochus Epiphanes
- f. **“sky split like a scroll”**
i. **Isaiah 34:4 (CSBBible)** ⁴ All the stars in the sky will dissolve. The sky will roll up like a scroll, and its stars will all wither as leaves wither on the vine, and foliage on the fig tree.
A/ generic prophecy against all nations
B/ how can the stars of heaven be literally dissolved?
iii. **Isaiah 51:6 (CSBBible)** ⁶ Look up to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and its inhabitants will die like gnats. But my salvation will last forever, and my righteousness will never be shattered.
A/ generic prophecy against all nations
iv. **Psalms 102:25,26** ²⁵ Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. ²⁶ They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed:”
- g. **“mountain and island”**
i. **Job 9:5** ⁵ Which removeth the mountains, and they know not: which overturneth them in his anger.”
ii. **Job 14:18-19** ¹⁸ And surely the mountain falling cometh to nought, and the rock is removed out of his place. ¹⁹ The waters wear the stones: thou wastest away the things which grow out of the dust of the earth; and thou destroyest the hope of man.”
iii. **Job 28:9-11** ⁹ He putteth forth his hand upon the rock; he overturneth the mountains by the roots.”
iv. **Isaiah 41:4,5,15,16** ⁴ Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he. ⁵ The isles saw it, and feared...

“¹⁵ Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat *them* small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. ¹⁶ Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, *and* shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.”

A/ [ck** who’s Isa prophesying against?]

- v. **Ezekiel 38:20 (CSBBible)** ²⁰ The fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals of the field, every creature that crawls on the ground, and every human being on the face of the earth will tremble before me. The mountains will be demolished, the cliffs will collapse, and every wall will fall to the ground.

A/ spoken against Gog of Magog

X. **Revelation 6:15-17 (NASB)** *Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and rich and strong and every slave and free man **hid** themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; (v16) 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; (v17) for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”*

A. “kings of the earth”

1. Chilton

a. “earth” is “earth” here, not land

i. other nations will be affected by Israel’s judgment

2. opposed to Chilton

a. “kings of the earth” should be “rulers of the land”

i. “king”

A/ Crosswalk lexicon

1/ leader of the people, prince, commander, lord of the land, king

B/ translating as “rulers of the land” making the judgment on Israel

1/ because of the parallels with Isaiah’s and Hosea’s prophecies against Israel

a/ “caves,” “rocks”

- i/ **Isaiah 2:10 (CSBBible)** ¹⁰ Go into the rocks and hide in the dust from the terror of the Lord and from his majestic splendor. **Isaiah 2:19 (CSBBible)** ¹⁹ People will go into caves in the rocks and holes in the ground, away from the terror of the Lord and from his majestic splendor, when he rises to terrify the earth. **Isaiah 2:21 (CSBBible)** ²¹ They will go into the caves of the rocks and the crevices in the cliffs, away from the terror of the Lord and from his majestic splendor, when he rises to terrify the earth.

A) judgment on “house of Jacob” (Isa 2:6)

- 1) **Isaiah 2:6 (KJV)** Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob. . .

b/ “mountains”

- i/ **Hosea 10:6-8 (CSBBible)** ⁶ The calf itself will be taken to Assyria as an offering to the great king. Ephraim will experience shame; Israel will be ashamed of its counsel. ⁷ Samaria’s king will disappear like foam on the surface of the water. ⁸ The high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, will be destroyed; thorns and thistles will grow over their altars. They will say to the mountains, “Cover us!” and to the hills, “Fall on us!”

A) judgment is upon Israel

- 1) so it makes sense that John is also talking about judgment on Israel

B) Hosea 10:6-8 quoted by Jesus with reference to judgment falling on idolatrous Israel *in the lifetimes of those present!*

1) **Luke 23:27-30 (CSBBible)** ²⁷ A large crowd of people followed him, including women who were mourning and lamenting him. ²⁸ But turning to them, Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and your children. ²⁹ Look, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the women without children, the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’

a) “children”

i) not “descendants”

A] it means the very next generation

1] fulfilled literally in AD 70

b) Jesus himself was a preterist!

c) Jesus quotes Hosea 10:6-8 as first century

i) John alludes to Hosea 10:6-8

A] doesn’t it make sense to say John alluding to first century?

ii. one more example of how “rulers of the land” works for the first century

A/ **Acts 4:26-27** The **kings of the earth [rulers of the land] stood up**, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. (27) For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, **both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles**, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

1/ so, not a remarkable thing to say that John was referring to a first century judgment, too

B. “wrath”

1. this lamb is not so gentle and meek (DT)

C. “great day” (v17)

1. the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70

XI. Application

A. God’s judgments are good for the saints

1. even though his judgment is bad for sinners

B. We need to be patient while we await God’s deliverance