

Chapter 6

[1] And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, one of the four beasts, and I heard, as it were, the noise of thunder, saying, Come and see.

[Chapter 5] brought to light that only the Lamb of God was worthy to loosen the seven seals and open the book so that man's existence would find significance beyond the grave! For it was seen that each seal represents a thousand year history of man; and this chapter highlights certain events that happened during the time covered by each of the first six seals, viz, the first six thousand years.

[Verses 1] has Jesus loosening the first seal, which correlates to freeing from the grave those who had lived on earth during the first thousand years. Modern day syntax makes verse 1 plainer;

“And I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, Come and see.” JBP

The time represented by this seal was, in real time, from 4000 B.C. to 3000 B.C.

Reference. ‘the four living creatures’: Ch 4:6, 7, 8, 9; Ch 5:6, 8, 11, 14; and, of course Ch 6:1

[2] And I saw, and behold a white horse; and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him; and he went forth conquering; and to conquer.

Many say that the rider of the white horse is Satan. They argue that since “Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light;” [2 Corinthians 11:14]; he likewise will appear incognito as the rider of the white horse. But notice, the scripture states that the horse is white, not the rider! Many also place the four horsemen in the future, which shall be seen to be an error. And finally, the characteristics of this rider do not match those of Satan, for one of the key attributes, which is paramount to identifying the rider, is the fact that “the rider was given a crown.”

Some believe that Satan will receive a crown in heaven, though the scriptures refute such a belief! The scriptures testify that Jesus, **and** those who follow him, will receive crowns.

[Psalms 8:5] For you have made him (*Jesus, *and likely his followers*) a little lower than the angels, **and have crowned him with glory and honor.** [Hebrews 2:6-9]

[Matthew 23:40-41] ... Then understood his disciples that *Jesus* should come again on the earth, **after that he was glorified and crowned on the right hand of God.** [D&C 76:7r-s]

*[James 1:12] Blessed is the man that resists temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love him. [2 Timothy 4:8]

*[1 Peter 5:4] And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, you shall receive a crown of glory that fades not away. *see also [Genesis 7:62-63 & D&C 36:11b-c] [D&C 98:9b] [D&C 28:3b]

Crown: 1. a mark of victory or honor. 2. A royal headdress. [Webster]

Overall, these characteristics of this rider identify with those of the rider of the white horse in; [Revelation 19:11-16] And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war; [12] ... He had on his head many crowns; ... [13] And he is clothed with a vesture dipped in blood; and his name is called The Word of God. ... [15] And out of his mouth proceeds the word of God, and **with it he will smite the nations;** and **he will rule them with the word of his mouth;** ... [16] And he has on a vesture, and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

The white horse and its rider appeared at the beginning of the first thousand year chronology of

man, beginning when Adam and Eve were banished from the garden. As was seen in the study of [Chapter 5], in the garden they were innocent like children, therefore it was necessary for them to hear the gospel if they were to understand and appreciate the significance of what they had done.

[Genesis 5:44] And thus the gospel began to be preached from the beginning, being declared by holy angels, sent forth from the presence of God; and **by his own voice**, and **by the gift of the Holy Ghost**. [Genesis 4:9-13] IV

[D&C 28:12a] ... I, the Lord God, gave unto Adam and unto his seed, that they should not die as to the temporal death, **until I, the Lord God, should send forth angels** to declare unto them repentance and redemption through faith on the name of my only begotten Son.

[Alma 9:46-49] And after God had appointed that these things should come unto man, behold, then he saw that it was expedient that man should know concerning the things whereof he had appointed unto them; [48] **Therefore he sent angels to converse with them**, who caused men to behold of his glory. [49] And they began from that time forth to call on his name; **therefore God conversed with men**, and made known unto them the plan of redemption, which had been prepared from the foundation of the world; [Genesis 6:51-59] [2 Nephi 1:95-108]

So, Jesus, as the rider of the white horse, with angels under his direction, brought the gospel to those on earth at the beginning of the first millennium. Those who hear his words, and do them, will also be riding white horses when he appears to usher in the millennial reign. Notice;

[Revelation 19:14] The armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ** the fine linen is the righteousness of saints* [Revelation 19:8]

“A few in Sardis have not defiled their garments; and shall walk with me in white; for they are worthy. [5] He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white raiment. [Revelation 3:4-5]

In bygone years the horse was the main means of transportation. It was the vehicle which brought one to his destination.. Jesus established Zion upon celestial principles; and only by being ‘firmly seated upon those principles’ can one attain that glory, i.e. the celestial kingdom.

Jesus said that “Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom, otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself.” [D&C 102:2c]

Some say the rider had a bow but no arrows, so “**he went forth conquering; and to conquer**” through peaceful means. (*But what about the two-edged sword?*) **more in* [Revelation 8:7]

[3] **And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.**

[4] **And there went out another horse that was red; and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another; and there was given unto him a great sword.**

This seal represents the second thousand years of man on earth, from 3000 B.C. to 2000 B.C. Enoch was born 378 years before this epoch began, (3378 B.C.) but lived well into this era. Noah was born 56 years into the time covered by this seal (2944 B.C.) The flood occurred around 2344 B.C. when Noah was 600 years old. And though Noah preached the gospel for 120 years, the people were so wicked that only eight people were spared. Even Noah’s granddaughters perished in the

flood. **to be seen - 1/3 of the people of each era are destroyed!*

The color “red” is generally used in the scriptures to denote Satan or sin. In [Chapter 12] “a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns,” is identified as “that old serpent called the devil, and also called Satan, which deceives the whole world. [Revelation 12:4, 6-8]

In [Chapter 17] the “MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH” is depicted as “a woman sitting upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And she was arrayed in purple and scarlet color.” [Revelation 17:1-5]

[Isaiah 1:18] Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Scarlet, [noun] 1. A beautiful bright red color, brighter than crimson. (Webster)

[Verse 4] states that “power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth.” As the rider of the white horse rode upon principles which bring peace on earth, the rider of this horse rode upon principles which take away peace. Who wants to do that? Satan and his angels!

Concerning the people of this time, the Lord told Enoch;

“Behold, they are without affection, and they hate their own blood; and the fire of my indignation is kindled against them; and in my hot displeasure will I send in the floods upon them; for my fierce anger is kindled against them. And among all the workmanship of my hands there has not been so great wickedness as among your brethren; but, behold, their sins shall be upon the heads of their fathers; Satan shall be their father, and misery shall be their doom; and the whole heavens shall weep over them, even all the workmanship of my hands.” [Genesis 7:41, 43 & 8:16-18, 32]

One more note of interest; the earth was divided into continents during this era, after the flood receded. For it is written that “after the waters had receded from off the face of this land, it became a choice land above all other lands, a chosen land of the Lord.” [Ether 6:2]

* More on the events of this second thousand year epoch in the study of [Revelation 8:8].

[5] And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

[6] And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and don't you hurt the oil and the wine.

This seal represents the time from 2000 BC to 1000 BC. Abraham was born around 2000 B.C., Joseph around 1800, Moses around 1400, Samuel 1100, Saul 1053, and David 1013 B.C.

A significant characteristic of this 1000 year epoch is the “pair of balances” in the rider’s hand; and that the necessities of life (wheat and barley) were scarce, while the luxuries (oil and wine), were plentiful, and apparently important to them.

A measure of wheat or barley was about a quart. A penny was an average day’s wages. During normal times around twenty measures could be had for a penny, but now, only one of wheat and three of barley. Oil and wine, however, which were not essential to life, seemed to be plentiful.

These were times of constant conflict among the nations. The whole house of Israel became

slaves to the Egyptians for 400 years. Then came the Exodus, wandering in the wilderness 40 years, until those 20 years old and above perished, because they did not believe God would deliver them. Only Joshua and Caleb believed God would bring them into their promised land.

It was during the Exodus that the Lord told Moses to “Say *unto the people*, As truly as I live, saith the Lord, as you have spoken in my ears, so will I do to you; Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness, ... from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me. Doubtless you shall not come into the land, concerning which I swore to make you dwell therein, save Caleb ..., and Joshua. But your little ones, which you said should be a prey, them I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised. But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness. And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses are wasted in the wilderness. After the number of the days in which he searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year. ... [Numbers 14:28-38]

As can be seen, even the chosen people of the Lord perished in the wilderness because of their lack of faith. They preferred to be in bondage to the Egyptians than to believe that God would go with them against those who occupied the ‘promised land.’ They did not trust God!

For the complete story, read [Numbers 13:1-2 & 27-28] & [Numbers 14: entire chapter]

[D&C 36:5d] And *Enoch* beheld Satan, and he had a great chain in his hand, and it veiled the whole face of the earth with darkness, and he looked up and laughed, and his angels rejoiced.

[2 Nephi 11:94] And *the devil* leads them by the neck with a flaxen cord, until he binds them with his strong cords for ever. [D&C 3:3b-c] [2 Nephi 12:23-28] [D&C 50:1b]

The first rider received his power from God and brought righteousness into the world; the other riders received their power from the devil and brought evil into the world.

[Ephesians 6:12] For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

[2 Corinthians 11:14-15] for Satan is transformed into an angel of light. [15] Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness.

The stars who followed Satan were like “Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. [Jude :13]

So, the “great sword,” the “flaxen and strong cords,” and the “great chain,” are all symbols representing the power that the doctrines of Satan and his ministers have to blind and to bind people in darkness. And his doctrines always bring wars, despair, starvation, death, and et cetera. These are things that the rider of the red horse, the rider of the black horse, and the rider of the pale horse, have in common. These horses symbolize the doctrines which support and carry their riders.

[7] And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

[8] And I looked, and behold a pale horse; and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

This seal covers the time from 1000 B.C. to the birth of Christ.

Though David was born around 1013 B.C., he lived his adult life during the time of this seal. His son Solomon was born 937 B.C.; the kingdom of Israel was divided 933 B.C.; Galilee went into captivity to Assyria 734 B.C.; the 10 northern tribes of Israel were conquered by the Assyrians and became lost to the world in 721 B.C.; the two southern tribes, Benjamin and Judah, merged to become the Jews, and were captured by Babylon, and Jerusalem was destroyed in 596 B.C.

This epoch saw wars, wars, and more wars. Empires arose, and empires fell.

	<u>Egyptian</u>	<u>Assyrian</u>	<u>Babylonian</u>	<u>Persian</u>	<u>Grecian</u>	<u>Rome</u>
Date fell:	1070 B.C.	612 B.C.	539 B.C.	331 B.C.	146 B.C.	570 A.D.

Though Egypt, the longest lasting empire, reigned during the time represented by the third seal, it is included in this time-line because it fell just 70 years prior to the beginning of this era. Babylonia, Persia, Greece, and Rome ascended to power during the time represented by this fourth seal. Assyria, Babylon, Persia, and Greece fell in this same time frame; Rome fell during the time designated by the fifth seal.

So, history affirms the verity of John's vision of "a pale horse; and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, with death, and with the beasts of the earth."

There was more killing with the sword during this 1000 years than in all the history of man prior to that time. And as happens during wartime, food became scarce and people died from starvation. During that time also, wild beasts were used in battle and in sport. All this was going on over a fourth part of the earth, but guess what, only approximately a fourth part of the earth is land!

How was Israel, God's chosen people, affected by the constant battles between these powers? Oftentimes they were innocent bystanders, but most of the time they were not; for the Lord had promised great things to their nation if they would, as he said; "... walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them;" ... *and* "I will walk among you, and will be your God, and you shall be my people." [**Leviticus 26:3-13**]

What a great promise! All they had to do was to walk in his statutes (laws or principles), keep his commandments - and live by them! But did Israel do these things? Clearly not!

And here is what the Lord told them would happen to them if they ignored his words.

[**Jeremiah 19:7-9**] ... I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they shall eat everyone the flesh of his friend in the siege ...

Their nation had been divided. The ten northern tribes lost to the world; Jerusalem carried captive into Babylon; parents boiling their children in water for food. Gasp!

[**Leviticus 26:3-39**] & [**Deuteronomy 28:1-68**] lists the blessings and warnings the Lord gave to the Jews. According to some scholars, these two scriptures are two of the great scriptures in the bible, because they precisely depict the calamities that came upon the Jews for not hearkening to God's word. The more serious ones were as follows;

“If you will not hearken unto the voice of the Lord your God,”

[1] The Lord shall smite you with consumption, fever, ... and the sword. [this happened]

[2] The Lord shall make the rain of your land powder and dust; [this happened]

[3] Your sons and your daughters shall be given unto another people,
and your eyes shall look with longing for them all the day long; [this happened]

[4] And you shall eat the flesh of your sons and of your daughters, [this happened]

* see also [Lamentations 4:8-14]

These are truly sad memoirs of the Lord’s chosen people. Did they not know what they were chosen to do? The Lord does not choose a people because they are better than others, he chooses them to be better than others, to be a light unto those who sit in darkness! [Matthew 5:16, 18]

In looking at the events that happened within these thousand year time frames, we have looked mostly at what happened in the Middle East, Asia, Asia Minor and Europe. But the Jaradite nation, which began around 2300 B.C. on the American continent, was totally destroyed (*except for one man*), within the time frame depicted by the fourth seal. (sometime after 596 B.C.)

[Omni 1:33-39, Mosiah 12:22-23] * More on the events of this era in the study of [Ch 8:10].

[9] **And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held;**

[10] **And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, do you not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?**

[11] **And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.**

The time depicted by the fifth seal was the thousand years beginning at the birth of Christ and ending at 1000 A.D.

Notice in [Verse 9] that John was shown “the souls of **them that were slain for the word of God.**” This is an important clue as to the time symbolized by the fifth seal. For in virtually all of the books of the Old Testament is recorded God’s warning of what would happen to those who would not hearken to his word. They perished in the wilderness because they would not hearken to his word; the ten northern tribes of Israel dragged off to Assyria because they would not hearken to his word; and the southern two tribes conquered and carried to Babylon, only to suffer all the afflictions of which the Lord warned them in the books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy, because they would not hearken unto his word!

But during the thousand years depicted by the fifth seal they were slain because they **did** harken to the word of God! This is not to say that no one was killed because of the word of God prior to that time, because they were. They were mostly prophets though, who were admonishing people to obey God’s word! Many thousands had already been slain in John’s time under the direction of Nero and Domitian, because they had harkened to God’s word. Unnumbered thousands were yet to become prey to the next eight of the ten Imperial Persecutions of the Christians that had begun under Nero in 64 A.D. and continued through Diocletian in 305 A.D.

One might say at this point; “Gee whiz,” if I could be persecuted because I don’t harken to God’s word, and if I could be persecuted because I do harken to his word; why does it matter how I live?

Peter’s words; “It is better that you suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.” [1 Peter 3:17] support the truism that the principles one lives by determines where he will live in eternity.

And what about the people on the American continent? Did they fare any better? Read Mormon’s letter written to his son Moroni between 400 and 421 A.D.; [Moroni 9:7-22];

[Verses 8-11] ... the Lamanites have many prisoners, ... men, women and children. And the husbands and fathers of those women and children they have slain; and they feed the women upon the flesh of their husbands, and the children upon the flesh of their fathers; and no water, save a little, do they give unto them. And notwithstanding this great abomination of the Lamanites, it does not exceed that of our people in Moriantum. For behold, many of the daughters of the Lamanites have they taken prisoners: and after depriving them of that which was most dear and precious above all things, which is chastity and virtue; and after they had done this thing, they did murder them in a most cruel manner, torturing their bodies even unto death; and after they have done this, they devour their flesh like unto wild beasts, because of the hardness of their hearts; and they do it for a token of bravery. *see [Mormon 3:1-23 & 4:1-9] for more on the destruction of the Nephites.

Under Attila, the Huns nearly destroyed the Roman empires of the east and west in the 400's A.D. The mighty Roman Empire was divided into ten kingdoms by the year 570 A.D.

The Church was taken off the earth in 570 A.D., the same year Muhammad was born.

The Vikings, then called *Varangian Russes*, in the 800's, invaded the land that is now Russia.

[Verse 10] And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, do you not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

It seems that they were in a bit of a hurry for God to “avenge their blood.” It must be man’s nature, even after he has passed from this life to the next, to want God to hurry-up and do his work. The servants had the same eagerness to gather the wheat from the tares in. [Matthew 13:27-29]

But, “it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were,” [Verse 11]

Concerning the phrase “a little season,” some scriptures refer to it as an event which is to happen at a specific time and is to last for a specific duration. The length the of this duration can be approximated fairly closely because of how long a season lasts. However, the phrase “a little season” may denote an undetermined duration of time. Many were being killed even as John was having this vision, and the bloodshed continued for a couple of centuries thereafter.

[12] And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

The sixth seal represents the thousand year epoch of man from 1000 A.D. until 2000 A.D.

We are now living near the end of this epoch.

[Verse 12] states that after this seal had been opened;

(1) there was a great earthquake; (2) the sun became black; (3) and the moon became as blood.

The evils that exist in the world are not brought about by natural occurrences; the opposite of this is true. For example, the flood was not the cause of people's evil ways; the flood came upon them **because** of their evil ways. These three things will come upon us because of our evil ways.

1. The great earthquake typifies severe disparities between world governments and religions!
2. The sun becoming black signifies the light of the gospel being eclipsed by 'dark understanding!'
3. The moon becoming as blood indicates the social laws becoming criminalizing and harmful.

Remember, Jesus gave two laws only; the first one 'spiritual' and the second one 'social.

[**Mark 12:35-36**] You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself.

[**Deuteronomy 6:5**]

[13] And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casts her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

Stars can refer to one or more of five things; People, Angels, Glories, Stars, or Doctrines.

It has already been seen that stars = people in [**Rev 1:20 & 3:1**]; and in [**Rev 12:4**] stars = angels; In [**1 Corinthians 14:40-41 & D&C 76:7a, 1-r**] stars = glories

Stars as metaphors in [**Verse 13**] signifies the countless number of doctrines that shine throughout the world when the greater and lesser lights are defunct. We are there - now!

[14] And the heavens opened as a scroll is opened when it is rolled together; and every mountain, and island, was moved out of its place.

[**Revelation 8:1**] And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

[**D&C 85:26d-27a**] And *the angel* shall sound his trump both long and loud, and all nations shall hear it. And there shall be silence in heaven for the space of half an hour, and immediately after shall the curtain of heaven be unfolded, as a scroll is unfolded, and the face of the Lord shall be unveiled.

The previous two scriptures link the ending of the sixth thousand years to the beginning of the seventh thousand years, when the millennium, the 1000 years of peace, shall reign on earth.

[15] And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountain;

[16] And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; * see [Alma 9:21-27**]**

[17] For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

[**Malachi 3:1-6**] The Lord whom you seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, ... [2] But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appears? for he is like a refiner's fire; [3] And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; ... [5] And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against ... those that fear me not, saith the Lord of hosts. [**Alma 9:22, 25**] If we have hardened our hearts against his word, ... we would fain be glad if we could command the rocks and the mountains to fall upon us, to hide us from his presence."