

# **The First Seal**

## **Revelation 6:1-2**

Introduction: The book mentioned in chapter 5 is now opened. In the process of opening the book the Lamb (the Lord Jesus) is seen "breaking the seals" of the book. As each seal is broken there is a corresponding event that John sees in this part of the vision. As mentioned before, the contents of the book itself are not given here (it is my opinion that the actual writing of this book is the same as the book mentioned in chapter 20 that is used to judge lost man at the Great White Throne) – it is the seals that hold the book shut that are in view.

It needs to be stated at this point that there is a wide variety of opinion on the interpretation of these seals, the trumpets and the vials. The reason there is so much difference is because of one's views of when the rapture takes place in regard to the book of Revelation. If the view is taken that the church is not on the earth at this point in the book, then the interpretation is pretty much the same by those who have a pre-tribulation rapture belief. If the view is taken that the church is still on the earth, then the interpretation takes on an entirely different view. The Bible teaches (it's not just an opinion) that the church will not go through the tribulation. So, with that in mind, the view we hold to is that these events describe for us the tribulation period, and taken with other prophetic portions of the Bible, we see what will take place on earth at this time.

These seals represent the first events that take place on earth after the rapture. (The seals were more than likely a series of pictorial representations.) The

church is in heaven and the events of biblical prophecy begin to unfold on earth. The seven seals are followed by the seven trumpets (actually, the seven trumpets are the seventh seal) and that is followed by the seven vials. These events do not take place simultaneously as some teach but rather are given in subsequent order – one following the other.

The first seal opened represents the first 3 ½ years of the tribulation period – the years of peace on earth.

**READ – Ezekiel 38:1-14; Daniel 9:1-2, 20-27**

## **I. THE VISION**

***A. Noise of thunder – speaks of coming storm, coming war***

***B. White horse – speaks of dignitary, king, power, authority***



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***C. A bow – but no arrows – speaks of conquest without war***

***D. A crown – this is the victor's crown***

***E. Went forth conquering, and to conquer – he is seen defeating the entire world***

## **II. THE MEANING**

***A. Noise of thunder – the coming judgment of God and war with the Dragon***

***B. White horse – is not the King of kings but is the imitator, the Antichrist***

**READ: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-10**

1. The horse (in all four seals where it is seen) would suggest war and rapid conquest – it was indicative of strength and safety
2. The color of this horse is significant as well – white horse – this did not signify holiness and purity as the color white does in the Bible, but the fact that it was a white horse is pointing again to the king having conquered his foes and is riding triumphant through the streets

***C. A bow (but no arrows) – is the fact that he brings peace to the world without an all-out world war (which comes later)***

1. The bow then is like a gun today – to be riding in victory on a white horse holding a bow then would be like riding on a military

vehicle (perhaps a tank) during a parade holding a gun (like they do in the Middle East even today)

2. Not everyone sees the significance of the bow without arrows but much of the ancient writings of that period (including the Bible) rarely mention a bow instead of the arrows when it comes to war and victory, so it is significant – and it would appear to point to the victory the man of sin will achieve without war (he is seen as invading but most of his victory comes without a fight)

***D. A crown – shows he is victorious even before he started***

***E. Went forth conquering, and to conquer – his victory was complete***

1. He is seen as going forth as a successful conqueror, having already been victorious, yet still having a war to pursue
2. This is seen in Daniel, in his description of the “little horn” – the antichrist

**NOTE: Read Daniel 11:36-45**

NOTE: Although these events transpire immediately following the rapture, there is going to be some activity on earth before the rapture that will, in all probability, point to what’s about to happen. If we are as close to the rapture as many believe, then the events taking place around the world are a precursor to what the Bible is teaching in these seals.

### **III. THE APPLICATION**

***A. The application is clear for the unbeliever – although this seal looks good, it is only the “calm before the storm” – if the unbeliever doesn’t accept Christ now, it will be too late once Jesus comes back for His bride***

***B. The application for the believer is equally clear – we must warn others about this pending storm before it’s too late for them***

Conclusion: As stated, we cannot be absolutely dogmatic in our interpretation of this first seal, but we can be confident that, based on the rest of prophetic scripture, and based upon the biblical view of a pre-tribulation rapture, this interpretation is, in fact, the correct one.

No matter what we believe in relation to these events, we can take calm assurance that we won’t be here as a believer, and that God is still gracious and still today is willing to save all that come to Him and redeem them from the wrath to come.