

First Cyclic Vision – Seven Seals

This is the first vision of human history from Jesus' ascension to His second coming in the form of seals (the second will be in the form of trumpets and the third in the form of bowls). All these cyclic visions cover the same time period with different emphasis. The Seven Seals emphasis is the inhumanity of man against man.

First Seal (6:1-2): The white horse symbolizes man's conquering spirit, lust for power, and desire to tyrannize other people. White was the favorite color of the Roman Emperors.

Second Seal (6:3-4): The red horse symbolizes every war and its associated bloodshed during the New Testament era until Jesus' return. To be noted, in the 20th century more people died from war than in all previous centuries combined.

Third Seal (6:5-6): The black horse symbolizes famine and economic imbalance.

Fourth Seal (6:7-8): The pale horse symbolizes disease and death.

Fifth Seal (6:9-11): The altar and the souls under it symbolize all believers who have died whether by martyrdom, as well as those who were persecuted and tempted to renounce their faith in more subtle ways and yet were faithful.

Sixth Seal (6:12-17): The great earthquake symbolizes the first end of earth scene (there are five total in Revelation). Suffering and martyrdom will not continue forever. This end emphasizes the fear and terror it will evoke among unbelievers.

Interlude (7:1-17): Verses 1-8 describe the Church Militant on earth sealed and secured in salvation as it struggles against the forces of evil. Verses 9-17 describe the Church Triumphant who celebrate in the completed victory of the Lamb.

Seventh Seal (8:1-5): Its opening both concludes the first vision and introduces the second cyclic vision of trumpets. The silence with prayer precedes great acts of God's revelation and judgment.