

Revelation- Class 5 (Revelation 6)

“The Six Seals: Prepare for the worst and Hope for the Best”

Recap:

Last week we took time to look at the seven churches

From a different perspective, instead of literal,

Some bible scholars argue that it represents church ages

If their theory is true, it strengthens the argument that we are in the last days

We as a Church have a strong warning that Christ will spit out

A lukewarm Church...

We also took time to skim the surface of the rapture theory as well

Giving an answer of where the Church will be

Especially during chapter 6....

The judgements and wrath of God experienced here on earth.

Lastly, we covered chapters 4-5 where John records his vision of heaven

And instead of seeing angels floating on clouds playing harps

We are given a vision of beauty, awe, wonder, and mysteriousness

Color emanating from the throne of God, thunder, and lightning

Angels with eyeballs all around and inside at the center of the throne

Human representatives throw down their crowns in worship

Each time one of the creatures cry out “Holy!”



I wonder how your experience went this past Sunday as we worshipped...

I was at our Winnebago campus and with this lesson fresh in my mind

They repeated a bridge...

*“All hail King Jesus
All hail the Lord of Heaven and Earth
All hail King Jesus
All hail the Savior of the world”*

I tried to recreate the scene in Revelation
And using a little creative liberty I envisioned people who I loved
Surrounding the throne joining the creatures, angels, and the great cloud of witnesses

In chapter five, this amazing worship experience is interrupted with a question
Who is worthy to receive the deed to the Earth?

And John recorded his bitter weeping because no one was found...

And that's when we see Jesus again... "Behold the Lion of Judah!"

In my mind, this chapter can best be related to a **PEP RALLY**

The triune God is about to bring about justice to a world that is adamantly
Against Him... justice against Satan and His demons...

And as we see Jesus START... the judgements in chapter six.

But before we do let's take a moment to answer the question

That was asked at the end of our time in Freeport...



"Why Didn't God Just Get Rid of Satan?"

This is a great question that could take up our whole lecture time
That would lead into different topics like free will, the sovereignty of God, demonology, etc.
So I will bring out several perspectives for you to chew on, pray about,

My goal is to attempt to answer this question as simple as possible

And hopefully spur you on to further study...

The beauty of the classroom setting is to not tell you stuff that you only agree with

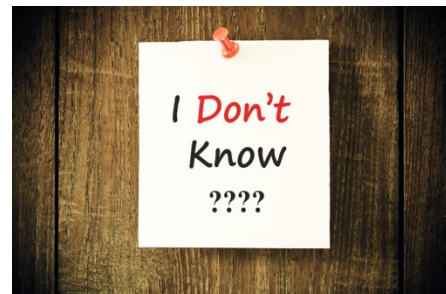
But to present different perspectives that either help you reinforce what you believe in

Or help you see another option you haven't heard of before....

Simple answer...

#1. "I don't know."

The Bible doesn't explicitly state
why God didn't destroy Satan in the beginning.



A little more involved answer...

#2. God **WILL** place Satan and His demons ultimately in the Lake of Fire

Revelation 20:10 (ESV), ^{v10} and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

- Satan is not the host or ruler over hell as seen in movies and TV
- Satan will be tormented day and night

#3. God is Sovereign, in control, He plans and has purposes... even for Satan

Isaiah 14:24 (ESV), "The LORD of hosts has sworn: "As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand,"

**Psalm 18:30 (ESV), "This God—his way is perfect;
the word of the Lord proves true;
he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him."**

**Isaiah 55:8-9 (MSG), "'I don't think the way you think.
The way you work isn't the way I work."
God's Decree.
"For as the sky soars high above earth,
so the way I work surpasses the way you work,
and the way I think is beyond the way you think."**

Let's be honest, this is a hard truth to hold on to and be ok with
We might even have the audacity to say, "well I would have done it differently..."
It's a slippery slope and I'm thankful that God called us to truth in Him
And walk by faith...

Even though we might have done differently God chose a divine solution
that started before He created the Heavens and Earth.
A Christian staple about God is that He is all knowing, meaning
He was never taken by surprise when Satan rebelled and tempted Adam and Eve.
He knew Adam and Eve would fail

Why not just start over? No one would have known!
Instead He would provide a solution...

Revelation 13:8 reveals that Jesus was the lamb slain before the foundations of the world...

Think about this: before the universe was created, before time existed, before man was created, God knew that we (in Adam) would sin. He knew we would rebel against our Creator. And in the wisdom and love of God, in eternity, He predetermined a plan so that we could receive a free gift of salvation. In eternity, God planned for the Son of God to step into history to provide the ultimate sacrifice—the sinless Son of God would suffer sin's penalty of death, be raised from the dead, thus providing a way of salvation.¹

#4. One characteristic attributed to God is that He is longsuffering ***in spite of*** Satan and Evil.

¹ <https://answersingenesis.org/ministry-news/creation-museum/slain-from-the-foundation-of-the-world/>

The enemy will not have a second chance, **HIS JUDGEMENT IS FINAL**

But we are in the age of grace and will last until the appointed time...

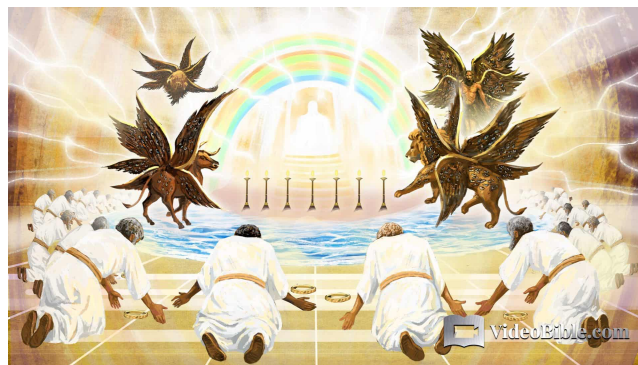
You may wrestle with this explanation... 100% ok!

but you can be thankful that God is longsuffering, because that is extended to you as well.

2 Peter 3:9 (ESV), ¹⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

"Our responsibility to God is to obey Him, to trust Him, and to submit to His will, whether we understand it or not. In the case of His timing for Satan's demise, it has to be the best possible plan because it is God's plan."²

So let's return to the throne room



Revelation 5:11-14 (ESV), ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Holding this deed to earth

To crack the seals... If I were Jesus I'd crack them all in one shot (**We get to chapter 19!**)

But here he takes His time...

Revelation 6

² <https://www.gotquestions.org/God-vs-Satan.html>

Revelation 6:1a (ESV), “Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals...”

Keep this in mind... With each seal will come a judgement
never been experienced in human history: We have had wars, famines, natural disasters,

Mark 13:19 (ESV), “¹⁹ For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be.”

Note- US Population in 2023: 334 Million

Deadliest conflict: World War 2 (50-85 Million Deaths)³

Deadliest Natural Disaster: China floods of 1931 (Affected 50 Mil. / 4 Million Deaths)⁴

Deadliest Famine: Great Chinese Famine 1959-61 (20-50 Million Deaths)⁵

Each broken seal/ judgement is completely within control of God.

What does that mean?

- It’s controlled chaos
- Each judgement also serves a purpose

Revelation 6: 1b-2 (ESV), “and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, “Come!”² And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.”



Many commentators would say that this is the Anti-Christ released by Jesus
Here are several reasons why the first rider isn’t Jesus

³ <https://www.highpointnc.gov/2111/World-War-II#:~:text=World%20War%20II%20was%20the,the%20Soviet%20Union%20and%20China.>

⁴ <https://www.britannica.com/list/6-of-the-worlds-deadliest-natural-disasters>

⁵ <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-deadliest-famines-ever.html>

1. If Jesus is coming down already, who will break the other seals?⁶
2. We are told that Jesus will come down with a great cloud of witnesses (19:14)
3. The rider has a bow, Jesus has a sword. (19:15)

To an unsuspecting world this rider will look like the Messiah
 Believed to be a political hero of the masses
 due to having a bow with no arrows... influencing by peace and agreement

Known as the son of lawlessness 2 Thess. 2:8,
 son of perdition 2 Thess. 2:3, (a title given to Judas, Jn. 17)
 The Anti-Christ will be a religious political figure
 Who will be possessed and influenced by Satan (John 13:27, just like with Judas).
 Abomination that causes desolation (Daniel and Mark 13)
 In revelation he is known as the beast (Rev. 13)

Traits of the Anti-Christ

- He will oppose God
- He will blaspheme God
- He will lift himself up in God's temple proclaiming himself to be god
 - The temple needs to be rebuilt (sacrifices reinstated)
 - Interesting his plan may not be genius
 - President Clinton proposed a plan with the Oslo Accord
 - Breaking up the temple mount in three sections:
 - Jew, Muslim, and Gentile sections.
 - Set up one world system
 - New religious system
- At the center of the tribulation
 - He will require everyone to worship him.

He is part of the unholy trinity: Satan, The Anti-Christ, and the False Prophet.

A Crown was given... by who?

meaning that permission was given by God to be unleashed

He came out conquering and to conquer...

He will not only unite the world, but aim them towards a rebellion towards God.
 He will conquer more than any conqueror in human history.

As the Anti-Christ brings peace and unity
 It is believed to be 3.5 years before

^{6 14}"How the Lamb who opens the seal can be the effect of the opening, and at the same time be the rider on a white horse, we cannot understand."—E. W. Bullinger, [Commentary On Revelation](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1984, 1935), [Rev. 6:2](#).

The second horseman was released.

Practical note: The Anti-Christ will not come and mascaraed himself in red

He will be liked, respected, and listened to.

He will be persuasive and following the pattern of Satan

Who disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14)

Revelation 6:3-4 (ESV), ³When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" ⁴And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword."



It is believed that this horseman takes peace from the earth
Which results in bloodshed and war.

People and nations turning on each other.

we can only imagine the atrocities we can do on our own

With the use of chemical warfare, nuclear bombs, and EMP's, and other weapons

- At&t shutting down
- How the world was during Covid.

The reason why the horse is red

Represents terror and carnage.

Something to think about, we are able to see how fragile our world is.

If the middle east is impacted greatly, how will that impact oil?

If the internet went down, power grids, etc.

How divided were we during COVID?

Revelation 6:5-6 (ESV), *“⁵ When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!”*



Black... is a color of mourning
believed to represent famine and economic collapse

345 million people currently in the world on the brink of starvation⁷
When there is war and famine
It would be easy to push people from the brink into starvation.

In our day and age, not having a seal broken
A child dies every 10 seconds from starvation⁸
can you imagine the magnitude when this seal is broken?

Scales... not fish scales but food scales

A quart... an ancient measurement of food for a days work.

“A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius”

These prices are about twelve times higher than normal. It means that it would cost a day’s wage to buy the ingredients for a loaf of bread. This describes “a time of famine when life will be reduced to the barest necessities.” (Walvoord)⁹

⁷ <https://www.npr.org/2022/07/07/1110219180/record-number-of-people-worldwide-are-moving-toward-starvation-u-n-warns#:~:text=David%20Beasley%2C%20head%20of%20the,Russia%20invaded%20Ukraine%20on%20Feb>

⁸ <https://www.theworldcounts.com/challenges/people-and-poverty/hunger-and-obesity/how-many-people-die-from-hunger-each-year>

⁹ <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-6/>

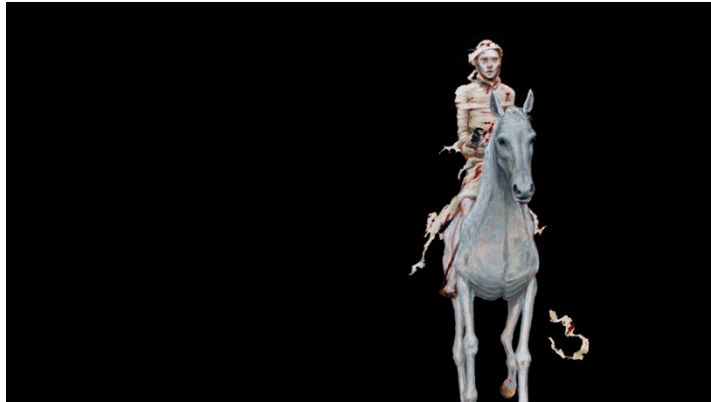
In today's economics... If someone makes \$50,000
A loaf of bread will cost around \$200.

and do not harm the oil and wine!"

It is believed that oil and wine are idioms
That represent the wealthy
Meaning that the poor will get poorer
The rich will get richer ... no more middle class.

The world would have experience false peace
A world without peace and mass destruction and pain
Hunger and thirst... everyone trying to simply survive

Revelation 6:7-8 (ESV), "7 When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" 8 And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth."



Pale Horse:
Represents the death of many unbelievers
This horse has four weapons sword, famine, pestilence, and wild beasts

The last rider will be the death toll on Earth.
A fourth of the earth, 8 Billion people, 2 Billion people.

Example: That is like all of North and South American and China gone!



Revelation 6:9-11 (ESV), ⁹ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. ¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” ¹¹ Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.”



I saw under the altar...

That these souls were **under the altar** emphasizes that their life blood was poured out as an offering to God.

Leviticus 4:7: And he shall pour the remaining blood at the base of the altar of the burnt offering.

the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God...

Commentators believe that this isn't only those killed during the tribulation
 But those that have been killed throughout history for their witness.
 But it also includes people who are saved during the tribulation
 they get their heavenly bodies in Revelation 20

cried out with a loud voice...

These people cried out to God...
They made their plea
And left it at the feet of Jesus.

It's easy to get lost in this crazy vision...
Angels, thunder, horsemen, now souls that were snuffed out for their witness
I wonder if John had seen any of his fellow disciples
Since traditionally, it is believed they all died horrendous deaths.

Even if he didn't I wonder what would had been going through his mind
When each one... men, women, children... each one was given a white robe.
White robe as a reward with rich meaning of righteousness
These were the white robes promised to the overcomers...
Can you imagine the ministry, the heart of Christ

Who could easily say, "Ill get to you later..."
But took the time to listen... hear... and be present with them.
I hear you. I am with you. I am for you. I am your reward.
How long did this take? I don't know... but can we pause and think about this

Can we just have a practical moment of ministry?
Are you in a season of injustice? Are you facing a cost for following Jesus?
Jesus hears you... there's space and time carved out for you...
The reward is reserved for you... if you repent, don't give up, do what it right
He is never too busy to minister even while casting judgement on the world.

Revelation 6:12-14 (ESV), "12 When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. 14 The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place"



Earthquakes in Scripture usually point to the coming of the Messiah

For example:

The great day of the LORD is near; it is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; there the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers. (Zephaniah 1:14-16)

Joel 2:10-11: The sun and moon grow dark, and stars diminish their brightness... for the day of the LORD is great and terrible; who can endure it?

The moon turning into blood and the stars falling...

Meteors, asteroids? If so this would cause world wide damage.

Can be literal but keeping with the pattern of this book, may be symbolic

Revelation 6:15-17, “.¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

The judgement of God is a great equalizer.

All people were brought low from God's wrath.

What is interesting is that even though their world is turned upside down

Even though the moon turns into blood, falling stars, chaos, bloodshed

Famine... death... hell on earth

Who do these people hide from?

Revelation 6:16 (ESV), “¹⁶calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,”

They are able to call out...they call out to the mountains and the rocks

in future chapters they will raise their fists and reject Christ

What will it take?...

“What sinners dread most is not death, but the revealed presence of God.” (Swete)

A final wake up call to a rebellious world...

People will still reject, rebel, and hide.

Where's the hope? God will give you what you want... for those who don't want Christ He'll give it. For those who desire salvation, he'll give it.