

The Revelation to John/Seven Groups of Seven

2. Seven Seals (Revelation 6:1–8:5)

Seal	Symbol	Actual	OT References	NT/Roman World
1 6:1–2	White Horse, bow, crown, Conquer	Conquest		Parthian Calvary; God pronounces the end of Rome’s military rule.
2 6:3–4	Red Horse, sword Take peace from the earth	War		God pronounces the end of the <i>Pax Romana</i> , Rome’s political rule.
3 6:5–6	Black Horse, balance (pair of scales)	Famine	Zechariah 1:7–11; Zechariah 6:1–7	God pronounces the end of Rome’s economic rule and prosperity (rationing). Messianic abundance.
4 6:7–8	Pale Green Horse, sword, famine, plague wild animals	Death; Hades (Gk); <i>Sheol</i> (Hb)		God pronounces the end of Rome; sickness, chaos consequence of war.
5 6:9–11	Martyred Saints, martyrs under altar, “ <i>marturia</i> ,” “how long,” “a little longer”	Reason for Judgment	Psalms 6:3; Psalm 13; Psalm 35:17–28; Isaiah 6:11; Daniel 12:6; Habakkuk 1:2	Q&A model: a petition given to a king to act on one’s behalf
6 6:12–17	Cosmic earthquake, sun and moon, stars fall, all fear	Approach of Judgment But not the Final Judgment	Isaiah 2:6–22; Isaiah 34:1– 4; Joel 2:28–32; Amos 8:9– 12; Malachi 3:2; and Hosea 10:6 (Mt. 24:29)	Language of <i>theophany</i> , OT “Day of the Lord”
Interlude 7:1–8; 9–17	144,000/Sealing of Servants [12x12x10x10x10]	Organized Religion/Faith Community Protection of Redeemed Rev. 14:1, <i>the martyrs</i> <i>White robe</i> : victory	Ezek. 9:3–6; Passover; To “mark” end of Hb. alphabet with a <i>taw</i> ; <i>Signet ring</i> : own, protect; Ps. 23 & 7:17	<i>To seal</i> : Romans 4:11 _____ Eph. 1:13 _____ 1 Cor. 9:2 _____ 2 Cor. 1:18–22 _____ Rev. 9:4 _____
7 8:1	Silence/Transition to 7 Trumpets	Transition to Trumpets Unfolds events through Ch. 22	Loosely based on the ten Egyptian plagues	Action moves to heaven