

## TRIBULATION FIRST 3 ½ YEARS

**Daniel 9:26-27** We see in these verses that the Tribulation period will be seven years. We also see Antichrist is there in the beginning by his political wit getting the seven year covenant (**Is. 28:14-18**) between Israel and her enemies signed and ratified. He is there but is not yet recognized as Antichrist.

### THE SEVEN SEALS

**Revelation 6:1-8:1-2** There are seven seals that describe major aspects and events during the first half of the tribulation. The first four seals depict riders on four horses of different colors. Horses in the bible often show angelic activity – **Zechariah 6:1-3**). These swift angelic messengers in the spiritual realm rapidly carry out God's world wide events that will change the earth and inhabitants forever.

**Revelation 6:1-2** – The first significant event in the Tribulation will be the emergence of Antichrist symbolized by the rider on a white horse. He does not appear as a horrible dictator but as a benevolent ruler seen as a messiah type hero that has come to solve the world's great problems. Notice he has a bow but no arrows or ammunition. He comes with answers and peace at first and not war. With great charisma and deceit (**Mat. 24: 4-5; II Thes. 2:9-10**) he is the “prince who is to come” and who will “confirm the covenant with many for one week” (**Dan. 9:26-27**). This covenant begins the Tribulation.

**Revelation 6:3-4** The second seal shows a rider on a red horse given power and a sword to kill which symbolizes bloodshed and war. The time is prophesied by Christ in (**Mat. 24:6-7**). These wars are not likely started by Antichrist as he is seen as a peace maker. These warring activities against Israel are probably those spoken of in (**Ezek. 38-39**) where Russia and its allies make war against Israel and are beaten back and defeated. Antichrist will probably take credit for the saving and protecting Israel.

**Revelation 6:5-6** The third seal opens with a rider on a black horse which symbolizes famine, probably a result of the previous world wide warfare. When most able bodied men of the nations are at war the fields and crops are ignored or are destroyed by warfare. Farming and commerce of the food supplies are greatly disrupted resulting in hunger and then famine. Prophesied by Jesus in (**Matt. 24:7**) these famines will undoubtedly bring about the one world system of buying and selling by Antichrist. The scales in verse 6 represent food being carefully weighed out proportionately. (**Matt. 20:2**) tells us what the cost of food will be in the Tribulation as a tiny bit of food will cost a full days wage.

**Revelation 6:7-8** The fourth seal opened and a 'pale' horse appeared and its name was “death” and 'hell' followed. Wars bring death, but because of the three previous events this event is catastrophic with the killing of a full quarter of the world people by wars, famine, disease, and the animals will kill millions probably because of hunger from destruction of habitat.

**Revelation 6:9-10** When the fifth seal was opened John saw the souls of those who had been martyred for their testimony “which they held”, (**Matt. 9-13**). These souls were seeking God to avenge them and He told them to wait a little while because there would be more martyrs that would come.

**Revelation 6:12-14** When the sixth seal is opened God causes great physical changes on the earth with such catastrophic events that people of earth desired to die because the wrath of God is begun.

**Revelation 7:1-4, 9-14** After the sixth seal and prior to the opening of the seventh seal there is an interval of time when God 'seals' the 144,000 'Jewish' evangelists that will “preach the gospel of the kingdom” in all the world. John then sees a great multitude of souls that have been martyred during the great Tribulation.

**Revelation 8:1-6** At the opening of the seventh seal there was a period of silence in heaven. John sees the spiritual sacrifice of incense and the prayers of all the saints offered up to God. He also sees the seven angels prepared to sound the seven trumpets of wrath that will pummel the earth and all its people.