**Lesson VI**

**Revelation Chapter 6**

**INTRODUCTION:** “With the assurance that God is on the throne and a complete control of all things (chap. 4-5), we are now prepared for the breaking of the seals in order that we might see the events of history in light of God’s sovereignty. The Seven Seals do not necessarily picture history chronologically. History has many parallels and the events pictured in some of the seals may occur repeatedly, such as war and famine.”

Glenn Bourne, Tower of Truth, page 65.

**I. THE FIRST SEAL** (vss. 1-2)

1. Many interpretations have been offered.
2. Robbins— the antichrist (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7).
3. Hendrickson— Christ (Rev. 19:11)
4. Bourne— the idea of war and conquest
5. This was the biblical understanding of the horse.
6. The bow was symbolic of power.
7. The rider wore a victor’s crown.
8. This rider intended to conquer, and he did. He fulfilled his purpose and conquest. Rome achieved great world power through conquest and the people in John’s day were very much aware of this.

**II. THE SECOND SEAL** (vss.3-4)

1. Most scholars agree that the red horse and its rider represent war, carnage, discord, anger, and bloodshed.
2. This would naturally follow the conquering force.

**III. THE THIRD SEAL** (vss.5-6)

1. Most scholars agree the rider on the black horse with the pair of scales represents scarcity, famine, hunger, distress, and calamity.
2. This would naturally follow the path of war.
3. Ezekiel 4:9-17
4. The quart was the amount of food to support a man for a day and no more.
5. The denarius was the usual day wage for a soldier and a laborer. The prices given were exorbitant, perhaps ten times the usual rate.
6. The church would be in the midst of this as long as they are in the world.

**IV. THE FOURTH SEAL** (vss.7-8)

1. Death naturally follows war and famine.
2. Hades (the abode of the dead) is the inseparable companion of death.
3. The “fourth part” of the earth conveys the thought of a limited number. It is a great part, but still a limited number.

**V. THE FIFTH SEAL** (vss.9-11)

* 1. The altar spoken of would be the altar on the outside of the temple court used for the sacrificing of animals.
  2. Under the altar there was a trough for the purpose of catching the blood of sacrifice animals.
  3. What a perfect place to see those who have been sacrificed to God, Christian martyrs.
  4. It is not so much that they want vengeance as much as justice.
  5. (vs. 11) they are told to wait, because there are going to be more Christians who are offered.

**VI. THE SIXTH SEAL** (vss.12-17)

1. Other uses of this apocalyptic language.
2. Joel 2:10
3. Joel 2:30, 31
4. Matthew 24:29

“This is just as present as the preceding scene, and John is not just talking about the end of time. He is talking about the end; he is talking about the past; he is talking about the present; he is talking about any time. John represents the cosmic upheavals and natural calamities as God’s way of punishing evil men and nations. This is present reality. This sevenfold accumulation of calamity seems to enumerate the all-inclusiveness of God’s judgment. When people sin, they suffer the consequences.

What is this truth about? The end of the world? Yes. In 1996? Yes. In 1840? Yes. Anytime! When Paul states that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23), he states a universal truth. It was true then, and it is always true. What John is mentioning here is that the judgments of God inevitably come upon those who sin.

Ray Robbins, The Revelation of Jesus Christ, pages 107-109.