**Sermon Notes May 1, 2022**

**Series**: Revelation

**Sermon**: Breaking the First Four Seals

**Scripture**: Revelation 6:1-8, Matthew 24:5-14

**Summary**: The events that we will see with the seals are not the end of history itself. They are events that precede the end. The seals have to be broken before the book can be opened. This is exactly what Christ had said.

**Read**: Read Revelation 6

We’ve come to the point where God’s book… the Book of Destiny, the book that spells out what is to happen in the end times… is about to be opened. But it starts with the breaking of its seals. The similarity of the seals being broken in a specific order compliments the fact that the end of the world doesn’t come all at once the future will be filled with wars, natural disasters, persecutions, and the claims of false prophets. Incidentally, we’re seeing a glimpse of all of these right now. It’s at this point that scripture introduces us to the Four Horseman of the Apocalypse. This’ll be the appearance of riders on horses of various colors.

1. **The White Horse and its Rider**
	1. Revelation 6:1-2
		1. Not Christ who returns riding a white horse in chapter 19.
		2. This rider represent conquest, particularly the Antichrist.
			1. Wears a crown of conquest
			2. Wields a bow
		3. Weapons of war are not part of Christs being
		4. Christ has been crowned all along.
		5. The white Rider will conquer by deception
			1. When the heart is empty and hopeless, it turns to any person who promises heaven on earth.
			2. A devastated people will turn to any leader who can bring peace and restoration.
			3. Fear will drive people to a world leader who can promise and provide economic and medical aid.
			4. False religion leaves the heart hungry for something real.
2. **The Red Horse and its Rider**
	1. Revelation 6:3-4
		1. This rider takes peace from the earth.
		2. Given a large sword
			1. He is the rider of strife, violence, assault, abuse, anger, hate, murder, war, and bloodshed.
			2. Divides race against race, class against class, neighbor against neighbor, husband against wife, religion against religion, and nation against nation.
		3. This rider is the lack of peace that the Antichrist and his government bring to the world.
3. **The Black Horse and its Rider**
	1. Revelation 6:5-6
		1. This rider has the power to control the economy and distribution of food.
			1. Great wars will bring famine.
			2. The wealthy will have food and the poor will not.
4. **The Pale Horse and Its Rider**
	1. Revelation 6:7-8
		1. This rider appears to represent the terrible devastation caused by the Antichrist and his government.
		2. His name is Death and Hades sits right behind him.
		3. Given power to cause great pain and suffering
		4. Responsible for killing a quarter of the Earth’s population (2 billion people.)
			1. War and Genocide
				1. Ethnic cleansing
			2. Hunger and Starvation
				1. Caused by war
			3. Virus, Disease, and Illness
				1. 150K people die daily from preventable sickness
			4. Wild Beasts
				1. Homelessness exposes people to the “natural world”

**Application / Next Steps**

The good news is that we can avoid having to experience these events if we would only turn to Christ for salvation before the end comes.

Are you doing your part by growing closer to Christ?

Are you telling others of what is to come and to prepare?

Is your name written in the Lambs Book of Life?

Those whose names are written in the Book of life are those who belong to God, those who have eternal life.