

*Prophecy is like a lamp shining in a dark place. 2 Peter 1:19*

MAY/JUN 2026

# LAMPLIGHTER

A LAMB & LION PUBLICATION



# SEALED OR SEALS

WHAT'S IN YOUR FUTURE?



**LAMB & LION**  
MINISTRIES

MAY/JUNE 2026

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# OBSERVATIONS FROM THE EDITOR

SWAK.

Long before texters and smart-phone users developed their own abbreviated lingo, this acronym was part of the American vernacular. People often closed love letters, Valentine's cards, and everyday notes with the phrase, "Sealed with a kiss." The shortened version of this abbreviation is simply an X—as in X's and O's (connoting kisses and hugs).

Even the X carries deeper meaning. Early Christians combined the first two letters of Christ's name in Greek (Chi and Rho,  $\chi$  and  $\rho$ ) to abbreviate "Christ" in manuscripts and Church writings. This coded reference also had the advantage of avoiding persecution and pointing to the Cross itself in what was known as a *crux decussata*, symbolizing the crucifixion and the sacrifice of Jesus.

While modern Christians often puzzle over Paul's instruction to "greet one another with a holy kiss," we certainly embrace the Gospel truth that Jesus' love was sealed at the Cross and poured into our lives ongoingly.

This edition of the *Lamplighter* explores the breaking of seals of a different kind—those described in Revelation 6—that unleash a series of judgments. The only Anointed One found worthy to open those seals in the entire cosmos is "the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David... [the] Lamb standing, as if slain" (Revelation 5:3-6).

He is worthy—to break the seals and to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing (Revelation 5:9, 12).

It is a great deception to believe that Jesus will not judge the living and the dead. He affirmed in John 5:22 that the Father has given all judgment to the Son. Revelation 6:16 makes clear that the outpouring of wrath during the Seal Judgments is the wrath of the Lamb.

But before the seals are broken and His wrath is poured out on the rebellious world, He is calling His own sheep and sealing them for all eternity.

The urgent question this edition will address is whether each dear reader is sealed—or awaiting the breaking of the seals that will unleash God's wrath on the earth.



Tim Moore  
Executive Editor  
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The *Lamplighter* will utilize the NASB or LSB translations interchangeably and note when other translations are referenced.



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# Sealed or Seals

## WHAT'S IN YOUR FUTURE?

Tim Moore

**T**he Book of Revelation opens with great encouragement and unflinching affirmation of Jesus Christ as Lord of all. He is “the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth” who loves us so much that He “released us from our sin by His blood” (1:5). The book is presented as His own revelation, “which God the Father gave Him to show His bondservants the things which must soon take place” (1:1).

Grace and peace are offered “from Him who is and who was and who is to come” (1:4).

John faithfully recorded the vision he had on the island of Patmos as well as the seven letters Jesus dictated for distribution to seven churches in Asia (modern-day Turkey) late in the first century. Chapter 4 opens with a “rapture in type” as John is told to “Come up here” and whisked away into Heaven (4:1). The throne room scene climaxes when a sealed book

is produced that “no one in Heaven or on the Earth or under the Earth was able to open” (5:3)—until Jesus steps forward to take the book and open the seals.

John’s description of Jesus conveys the perspective of fulfilled prophecy. Jesus is called “the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah,” “the Root of David,” “a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God” (5:5-6). The assembled host of Heaven rightfully breaks out into song and worship, celebrating the beloved Son of God, very God of very God. Their chorus should fill the heart of every follower of Christ who longs for His coming:

*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing. To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever. (5:12-13)*



If the book of Revelation ended at chapter 5, we would have ample reason to praise the Lord. His encouragement and admonition to the Church were clearly conveyed in chapters 2 and 3, and His worthiness to receive everlasting praise was affirmed once again. We could rest assured that His plan for the ages is proceeding according to His will and serve knowing that we will eventually join the throng gathered around His throne in Heaven.

But Jesus' charge to John in 1:18 was to write the things which he had seen (chapter 1), the things which are (chapters 2 and 3), and "the things which will take place after these things." With that revealed outline, what follows the throne room scene of chapters 4 and 5 is clearly meant to offer a glimpse into the not-too-distant future. With that in mind, if it was important enough for Christ to *choose* to reveal what lies ahead in human history, we can rightfully understand that He expects us to heed His words as we would any other.

Lest there be any doubt about His expectation to that effect, we are told just that in chapters 1 and 22—"Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book" (22:7). The urgency of our heeding is made clear at the outset of the book: "for the time is near" (1:3).

## A Divergence of Options

The book of Revelation is clearly addressed to a specific audience: the bondservants of Jesus Christ (1:1). The initial recipients were the Christians in the Seven Churches listed in the text: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea (1:11). The specificity of the letters obviously touches on attributes (both positive and negative) of those particular churches. But the affirmation and/or reproach each one was given finds application in local bodies of Christ throughout the Church Age—and even to time periods within the Church Age.

It is hard to envision non-believers finding application to their situation in the first five chapters of

Revelation, other than a general desire to be among those from every tribe and tongue and people and nation who have been purchased for God by Christ's blood and given a promise to reign alongside Him on the Earth (5:9-10).

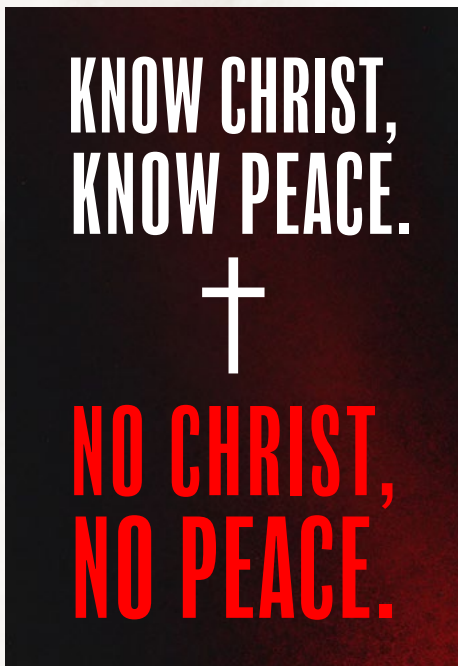
But in chapter 6, the narrative takes a dramatic turn. As one after another seal is broken, the action in Heaven unleashes a great calamity on Earth. No longer the meek and mild suffering Servant of Isaiah 53, Christ is now the Worthy One who breaks the seals that send forth riders and catastrophes to inflict great suffering on the Earth. This reality alone does not align with the false prophets of prosperity who proclaim that Jesus would never hurt a fly. The image here is of Jesus exercising the will of the Father to pour out judgment on an unrepentant world *devoid* of Church Age saints who have been swept up at the Rapture.

In a series of terrors that run through the Seal, Bowl, and Trumpet Judgments, the stark contrast presented in John 3:36 is glaringly apparent: those who believe in the



Son are already glorying in the joy of eternal life with the Savior, while those who reject His offer of salvation experience the wrath that abides on them from the day they were conceived.

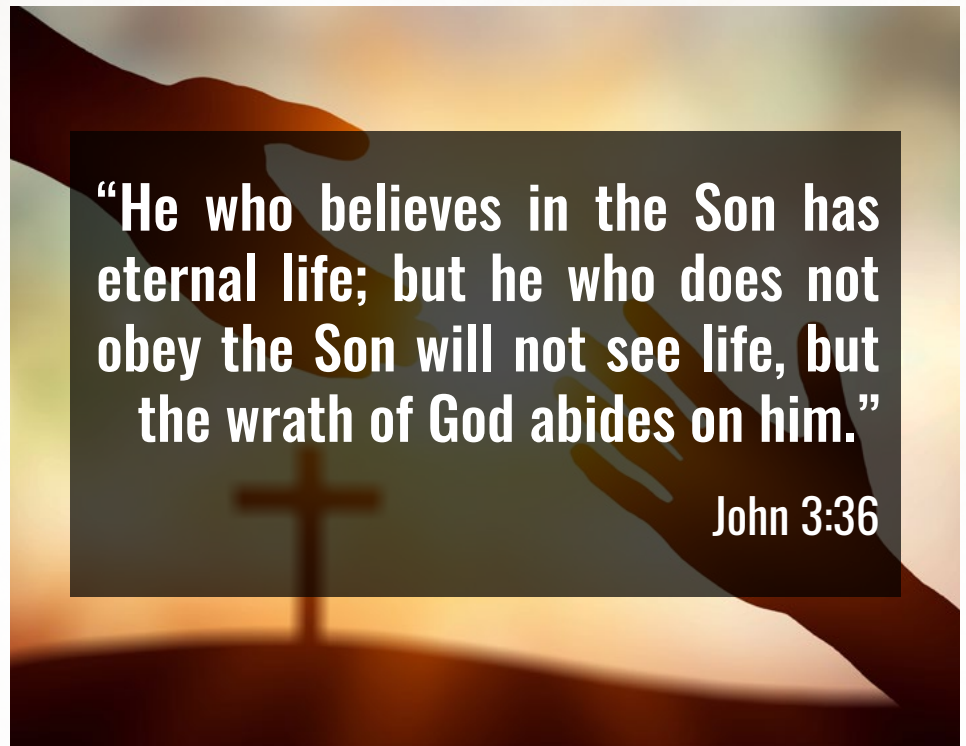
It is that contrast that presents the either/or, black-or-white, diametrically opposed options that every person faces during this life. It really is simple enough to be summed up in bumper-sticker starkness:



Those two statements may seem trite, but as my friend Paul Wilkinson would say, they convey a beautiful simplicity of options. With that in mind, let's take a longer glance behind Door # 1 and Door # 2.

## What's a Seal?

John 6:27 provides the first reference to the seal of God. Jesus testifies that His disciples should not merely work for food that perishes, "but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for *on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.*"



The word that is translated "seal" is the Greek word *sphragizō*, meaning "to stamp for security, preservation, or attestation." We can envision this as the impression of a signet ring in hot wax. In this context, Jesus was clearly affirming the Father's attestation of His authority to forgive sin and bestow eternal life.



This is the type of seal that Matthew 27:66 indicates was used to seal the tomb of Christ: a seal of finality that no one but the rightful authority would dare to break.

Paul uses this word metaphorically in Romans 15:28, 2 Corinthians 1:22, and Ephesians 1:13 and 4:30. Then, in 2 Timothy 2:19, he writes, "the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and 'Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.'" The Greek word in this case (*sphragis*) is a derivative referring specifically to the stamped impression, whether literally or figuratively.

The image of the "book" in Revelation 5:1, that is "written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals," conveys this exact imagery. Given our understanding of a "book" as a bound publication, a better translation would be a scroll, for John would have seen a written instrument not unlike a Torah scroll, but sealed (as with wax) seven times. For many years, the only way to ensure the unbroken security of a private communication was to use a wax seal. Without the original signet or stamp, any breach of the seal could not be counterfeit-

ed. And, if the original signer was a person of great power, it would have been unthinkable for an unauthorized person to break the seal.

Clearly, this is the context of Revelation 5 and 6. Nobody but Jesus Christ was found worthy to break the seals of the book/scroll held by God the Father. Only Christ had overcome so as to break the seals. Overcome what, a skeptic might ask? Death, by the power of His own authority.

The fact that Jesus is worthy evokes the praise I discussed already. But before the seals are broken and the consequences unleashed, the heavenly chorus praises Him for purchasing men who have been made to be a kingdom and priests to God (Revelation 5:10). And that realization brings us back to the Door #1 option available to all mankind: the seal of God.

## Sealed for All Eternity

The idea of God sealing His bondservants is taken directly from Revelation 7:2-3. The angel ascending from the rising of the sun (to the east)—“having the seal of the living God” Himself—cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have *sealed* the bondservants of God on their foreheads.” The next verse describes the number of those who will be sealed: “one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel” (7:4).

This begs a question: Are only those 144,000 sealed by God, or is that a special subset of God’s bondservants throughout human history who are sealed by Him and for Him? One insight is offered during the blowing of the fifth trumpet in

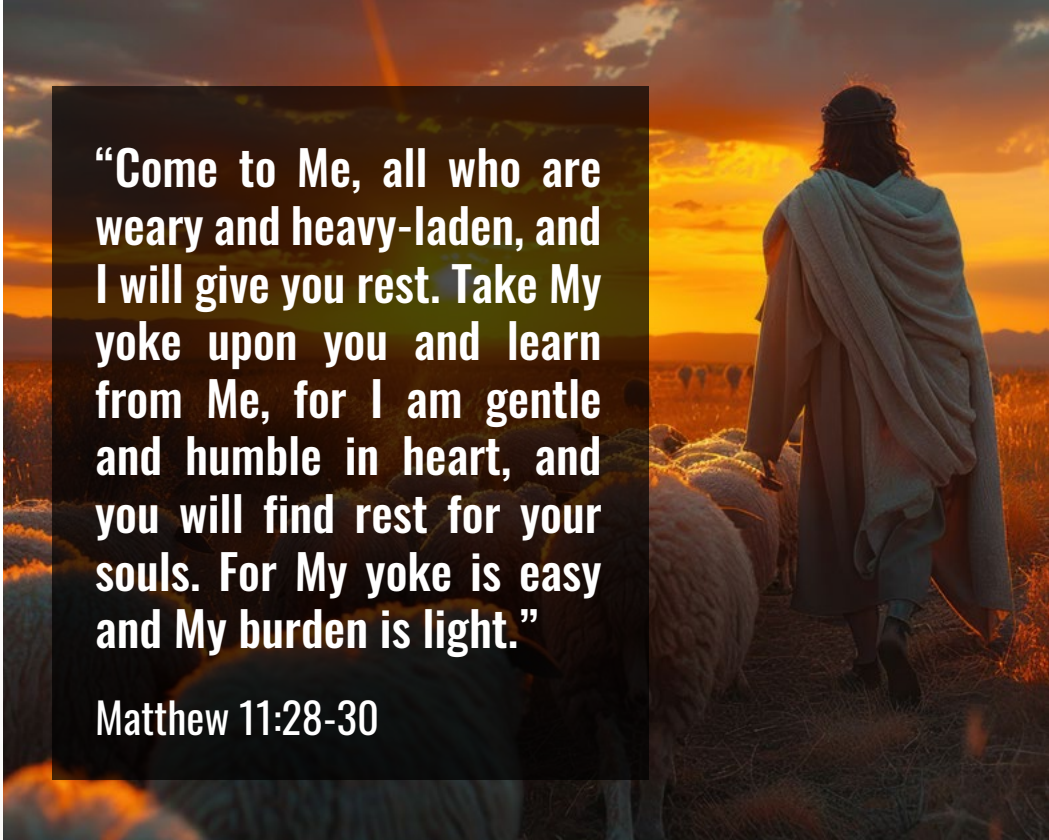
Revelation 9. The demonic locusts who emerge from the bottomless pit are given strict parameters for their torment and destruction. They are told not to hurt the grass or any green thing or tree, “but only the men who do NOT have the seal of God on their foreheads” (9:4).

This is the first indication that there are countervailing seals or marks—one identifying a person as a bondservant of the Most High God, and one marking others as loyalists of the Beast. Since that nefarious mark (infamously known by its numeric code of 666) is described *after* the passage disclosing the seal of God, it is quite possible that Satan’s beastly mark is a cheap counterfeit of the holy seal.

Paul’s description to Timothy captures the essence of the contrast—and the blessedness of our assurance. Because “the Lord knows those who are His,” He seals us. The biblical concept of bondser-

vant is also instructive. Contrary to any negative connotation the word “servant” conveys in our culture, Scripture emphasizes the humble nobility of such a role. Abraham, Joshua, David, Isaiah, and the Messiah were all referred to as servants of the Lord. As described in Exodus 21:5-6, a willing bondservant would bear permanent evidence of his relationship with the master: a pierced ear.

This realization leads me to understand that the 144,000 bondservants of Revelation 7 are a special group sealed from the tribes of Israel. But *all* those who come to Jesus, take on His yoke and find rest for their soul are sealed as bondservants of the Most High (Matthew 11:28-30). Similarly, Jesus’ sheep who hear His voice and follow Him will never perish, for “no one will snatch them from [His] hand” (John 10:27-30). Whether His seal is visible to mortal eyes during the Tribulation, it is recognizable even

A person in a white robe is seen from behind, leading a flock of sheep across a field at sunset. The sky is filled with warm, golden light, and the horizon is visible in the distance. The person is wearing a white head covering and a long white robe. The sheep are in the foreground, and the person is walking towards the right side of the frame.

**“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”**

**Matthew 11:28-30**

by demonic beings (Revelation 9:3-4) and eternally indelible. Perhaps like Woody and Buzz Lightyear from *Toy Story*—and the overcomers at the church of Philadelphia—those who belong to Christ have the name of our Master emblazoned on us forever.

## Sealed for Wrath

It is hard to fathom how anyone could comprehend the blessing Jesus offers and choose the curse instead. But throughout Scripture, there is a clear distinction between those who hear His voice and those who reject the grace, mercy, and love of God. Through Moses, He said,

*“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have placed before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding close to Him...”* (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).

Yet, like Pharaoh, many, if not most, will harden their hearts and seal their own fate by their unrepentant rebellion. Those who are alive when the Tribulation begins will be subjected to the outpoured wrath of God as He administers justice, pours out wrath (still remembering mercy), and orchestrates His purpose to bring the Jewish people to the end of themselves.

As Jesus Christ—the worthy Lamb who was slain—breaks the seven seals on the book held by the Father, successive waves of devastation will be meted out. In rapid progression, they are:



**First** – a rider with a bow and crown on a white horse, sent out to conquer



**Second** – a rider with a great sword on a red horse, sent to provoke war



**Third** – a rider with a pair of scales on a black horse, sent to unleash famine



**Fourth** – a rider named Death on an ashen horse, given authority to kill  $\frac{1}{4}$  of mankind



**Fifth** – a clamor from the martyrs in Heaven that their blood would be avenged



**Sixth** – natural calamities, including a great earthquake and darkened sun and moon



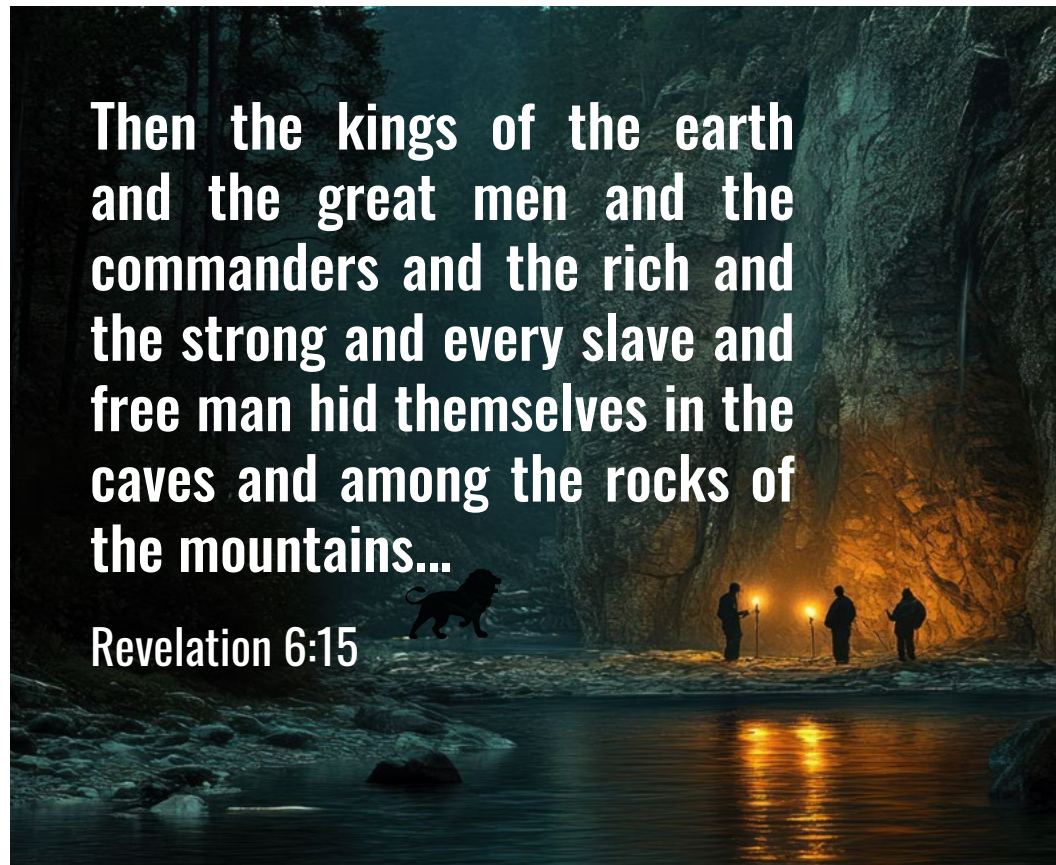
**Seventh** – silence in Heaven, before a censer is thrown to Earth causing thunder, lightning, and an earthquake



Some have asserted that these judgments do not represent the wrath of God because that phrasing is not used until Revelation 16 when “seven bowls of the wrath of God” are poured out. But that is a distinction without a difference. The instigator who authorizes and sets the parameters of the Seal Judgments is Jesus Christ. The first horseman is *given* a crown, the second is *given* a sword, and the fourth is *given* authority to kill with the sword, famine, pestilence, and wild beasts. (I’m reminded of the Disciples’ astonishment at realizing, “even the winds and the sea obey Him” [Matthew 8:27]—let alone the demonic realm.)

By the breaking of the sixth seal, billions will be dead (based on the current world population). Yet the rebellion continues unabated as “kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man” will hide in caves and among the rocks of the mountains (Revelation 6:15). Their testimony, captured in verses 16 and 17, confirms our understanding that the wrath they are experiencing is from God. They will cry out, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

That rhetorical question would suggest that none can stand, but chapter 7 of Revelation tells us otherwise. As I have already explained, John describes an angel “having the seal of the living God” issuing restraining orders to four other angelic beings standing at the four corners of the Earth. Although they had been authorized to harm the Earth and the sea, they are told to



**Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains...**

**Revelation 6:15**

*wait* until the bondservants of God are sealed.

Then, beginning in verse 9, John records that *after these things* he saw “a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, *standing* before the throne and before the Lamb...” This takes us back to another rhetorical question posed by King David: “Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in His Holy place?” (Psalm 24:3, CSB). David answers his own question:

*He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood and has not sworn deceitfully. He shall receive a blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation (Psalm 24:4-5).*

David rightfully understood that salvation comes only from God,

who washes His own white as snow, cleansing them of all *unrighteousness* and crediting them with the blessing of righteousness.

Alternatively, those who endure the wrath of God during the Tribulation—beginning with the Seal Judgments—are being punished because they did not obey the Son by believing in Him, but *chose* to abide under that righteous, terrible, justified wrath. And although those who pass from this life before the Tribulation may escape the various judgments during those seven years, they too will be judged before the Great White Throne and be condemned to everlasting suffering apart from God.

In that regard, the horrors of the Seal, Trumpet, and Bowl Judgments will pale in comparison to the unending terror that awaits those who have rejected the seal of God.

## Choose Now—Before It's Too Late!

Even the alarming words I've chosen cannot adequately describe the Seal Judgments and the everlasting suffering that awaits those who reject Christ. As we've said many times, it is a fate we would not wish on our worst enemy—because God loved those lost souls enough to send His own Son on their behalf. (Contrast that compassionate love with the attitude of Pope Gregory I, who said Christians should

eagerly anticipate looking down from Heaven across the abyss to “enjoy the agonies of their brethren in eternal fire.”)

What a contemptible contrast to the love of God, who said, “As I live! I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways!” (Ezekiel 33:11). Even now, while Christ tarries, the Lord is demonstrating His merciful patience because He does not wish

“for any to perish but for all to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

My prayer is that the warning within this article will pierce the heart of any reader who is not yet sealed by God. While you have breath, it is still not too late to turn to Christ and be saved. If you reject Him, instead of being sealed by Him you will endure His wrath as He unleashes the Seal Judgments.

Choose this day—and please, choose wisely. 🙏

## Loved with Everlasting Love – Wade Robinson (1877)

Loved with everlasting love,  
led by grace that love to know;  
gracious Spirit from above,  
Thou dost taught me it is so!  
O this full and precious peace!  
O this transport all divine!  
In a love which cannot cease,  
I am His and He is mine.  
In a love which cannot cease,  
I am His and He is mine.

Heav'n above is deeper blue;  
earth around is sweeter green;  
something lives in ev'ry hue  
Christless eyes have never seen.  
Birds with gladder songs o'erflow;  
flow'rs with deeper beauties shine;  
Since I know, as now I know,  
I am His and He is mine.  
Since I know, as now I know,  
I am His and He is mine.

Taste the goodness of the Lord:  
welcomed home to His embrace,  
all His love, as blood outpoured,  
seals the pardon of His grace.  
Can I doubt His love for me,  
when I trace that love's design?  
By the cross of Calvary  
I am His and He is mine.  
By the cross of Calvary  
I am His and He is mine.

His forever, only his!  
Who the Lord and me shall part?  
Ah, with what a rest of bliss  
Christ can fill the loving heart!  
Heav'n and earth may fade and flee,  
firstborn light in gloom decline;  
But while God and I shall be,  
I am His and He is mine.  
But while God and I shall be,  
I am His and He is mine.

# THE SIXTH SEAL JUDGMENT

## PROPHESYING A COMING NUCLEAR APOCALYPSE?

Nathan Jones

**W**hen I was quite young, my teachers decided it was in the students' best interest to subject a bunch of little children to the horrors of nuclear warfare. So, our elementary classrooms gathered in the gym, where we all watched a recording of the made-for-television movie *The Day After* (1983).

One movie critic called this apocalyptic nightmare a “haunting vision of post-apocalyptic America” that “continues to resonate with audiences as a stark reminder of the potential consequences of human conflict.” He wasn’t kidding! To this day, I still shudder at the mental image permanently burned into my mind—like a nuclear blast—of Steve Guttenberg’s teeth and hair falling out. And I’ll always remember the movie’s tragic ending, with Jason Robards crying in the dust of his destroyed house as he waited for his inevitable, painful death by radiation.

This movie aimed to revive the public’s awareness of the devastating effects of nuclear war. This was desperately needed, as a cultural malaise in the face of the dangers of the atomic age had taken hold.

By the Reagan era, the Cold War had been at a standstill for decades, and the school drills where we hid under our desks to “survive” a nuclear blast seemed more humorous than helpful to us kids.

I don’t believe the movie’s director, Nicholas Meyer, and our well-meaning teachers truly got the response they’d hoped for. Never in decades has pop culture been so captivated by what life might be like living in a post-nuclear apocalyptic world. More films were released, such as *Threads* (1984), *When the Wind Blows* (1986), *The Book of Eli* (2010), *The Divide* (2011), *Z for Zachariah* (2015), and numerous *Mad Max* and *Terminator* sequels that explored, if not reveled in, life after the Bomb. And if you’re in the mood to experience worlds scorched by radiation, collapsed societies, and the resilient spark of human survival, millions play gritty post-nuclear apocalypse RPGs (role-playing games) such as *Fallout*, *Wasteland*, *Metro*, and *60 Seconds!*. Some of the most popular streaming shows today are based on these end-of-the-world games, like the super-popular *Fallout* (2024).



**Behold, Yahweh empties the earth to destruction, eviscerates it, distorts its surface, and scatters its inhabitants.**

**Isaiah 24:1**

Whether it's morbid curiosity or because people are simply tired of their mundane lives, a subtle, if not insane, yearning to live out a nuclear war has woven itself into our modern psyche. Our culture has become fascinated by what life would be like in an irradiated wasteland. According to the Bible, those living in the Tribulation will find out.

## Foreboding Times Ahead

The Bible warns that terrible times are coming soon, bringing a sudden end to our current age. For example, Isaiah the prophet warned the world: "Behold, Yahweh empties the earth to destruction, eviscerates it, distorts its surface, and scatters its inhabitants" (Isaiah 24:1).

The Lord Jesus revealed even more details: "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth anguish among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of

the heavens will be shaken" (Luke 21:25-26). Jesus pointed out how severe the prophesied danger will be, "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will" (Matthew 24:21). He also added just how high the stakes are for life surviving this coming catastrophe, "And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short" (Matthew 24:22). Jesus did provide hope, for as the world faces its darkest hour, "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to happen, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:27-28).

Paul the Apostle predicted that when the world believes it has achieved peace, in truth, it will be completely unaware of the horrors about to befall it. He said, "While they are saying, 'Peace and safety!' then destruction will come

upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman who is pregnant, and they will never escape" (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

The Bible prophesies that in the end times, the world will increasingly experience chaos, destruction, and death, culminating in a seven-year judgment period called the Tribulation. Especially before our Lord returns to defeat His enemies and establish His kingdom, the book of Revelation describes how the oceans and lakes will be poisoned, the grass and trees burned, and people scorched by the sun's intense heat. At the same time, humanity will suffer from severe plagues, widespread wars and famines, and an atmosphere so polluted that visibility decreases by a third.

## Judgment of the Sixth Seal

The first seven of the 21 judgments prophesied in the book of Revelation are known as the Seal Judgments. They initiate the Tribulation by pouring out God's wrath on the

world's inhabitants as punishment for their sins. The first five Seal Judgments will release a one-world ruler who will conquer through world war, and the aftermath will bring disease, famine, and death. A severe persecution of those who accept Jesus as Savior after the Rapture will break out; they are likely to be used as scapegoats for the world's suffering. These judgments will kill a quarter of the world's population, which is roughly 2 billion people today.

As shocking as these first five seal judgments are, they will be followed by an even worse one—the sixth. John the Apostle recorded the future horror he was commanded to witness.

*Then I looked when He [Jesus] opened the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. And the sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.*

*Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (Revelation 6:12-17).*

We read here that to escape such unimaginable destruction, the earth's population will fearfully flee underground to caves. Deep beneath the mountains, they will cry out in great distress for the rocks to fall and hide them from Christ's wrath. Revelation 6 genuinely depicts a nightmare scene of such catastrophic global carnage that it closely resembles what we envision a nuclear holocaust to be like.

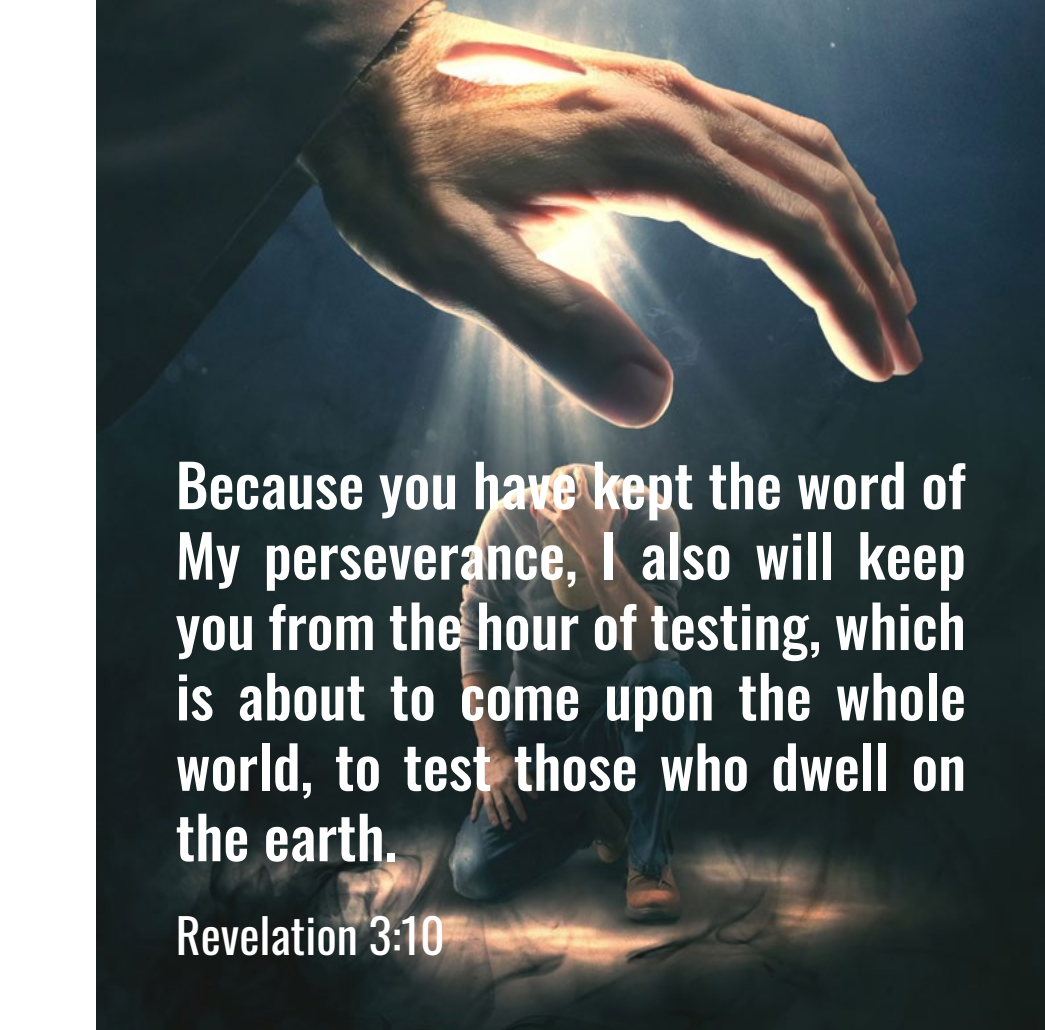
Author Nicholas Wade, in his book *World Beyond Healing* (1987), provides a graphic picture of the physics of an exploding nuclear bomb:

*The explosion of a nuclear weapon is an event of immense power... Within a fraction of a millionth of a second, the nuclear materials and casing of a one megaton weapon are transformed into a packet of energy five times hotter than the center of the sun. Out of this mini-sun bursts a flash of X-rays so intense that the air for several feet around the weapon is heated into an incandescent*

*ball. This little fireball, only a few millionths of a second old, contains the vaporized contents of the weapon, and a vast flux of energy created by the fission and fusion reactions of the nuclear explosion. So immense an amount of energy packed into a tiny space creates temperatures of 100 million degrees centigrade and pressures of millions of pounds per square inch. A violent expansion begins. In less than a thousandth of a second, the fireball of a one-megaton weapon has grown to 440 feet across. In ten seconds, the fireball is more than a mile in diameter.*

Drop such a bomb over a city, and it should be clear that John is describing a weapon unlike anything ever seen in human history, capable of destroying our largest cities in mere seconds. The prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah both foresaw such a scenario (Isaiah 17:1-14; Jeremiah 49:23-27). They foretold that one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities—Damascus,





**Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.**

**Revelation 3:10**

Syria's capital—would be destroyed by Israel in just one day. For mankind to wipe out an entire city so quickly requires the power of a nuclear weapon and is the only plausible explanation.

This prophesied destruction of Damascus aligns closely with the kind of rapid, widespread devastation also described in Revelation 6. As 2026 begins, a documented 12,241 nuclear warheads stored in silos and submarines await the dreaded launch order. Once God lifts His restraining hand, this destructive arsenal will be unleashed on the Antichrist's enemies. As John described, the missiles look like stars falling to the earth. When each payload explodes, the force from splitting atoms tears the sky asunder, making it appear as if a scroll is being rolled up. Every 400-kiloton explosion shakes the

ground with the force of a magnitude-6 earthquake. As tons of dirt and ash are thrust into the atmosphere, the particles block sunlight and make the moon appear blood-red. While God certainly wields His own supernatural weapons, He only needs to allow mankind to create its own nuclear holocaust to produce this level of destruction and the extensive death John foresaw.

When the next two sets of seven judgments, called the Trumpet and Bowl Judgments, are released upon the earth, their descriptions sound remarkably like the fallout expected by a nuclear winter and radiation poisoning. For example, the poisoning of the waters (Revelation 8:11), the sharp decrease in visibility (Revelation 8:12), the widespread death of the earth's vegetation (Revelation 8:7), malig-

nant sores (Revelation 16:2), the collapse of ocean life (Revelation 16:3), and the atmosphere's failure to block harmful ultraviolet rays, leading to severe burns (Revelation 16:8). These are all typical outcomes of nuclear war.

## Pray to Escape

Regarding the nuclear war prophesied by the sixth Seal Judgment, as former Lamb & Lion Ministries evangelist Dennis Pollock noted: "The implications of these prophecies are not pretty—this earth has an appointment with a devastation which shall be horrible beyond imagination." Fortunately, for Christ's faithful, our Lord promises the Church, "Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth" (Revelation 3:10). The Rapture of those saved will occur before the Tribulation begins, so Christians today will not have to witness the nuclear horror that is to come.

And for those who have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, life in Tribulation will be extremely dangerous—if not deadly. This realization should serve as an alarm clock, waking you up to the fact that the world doesn't have much time left before God destroys it in preparation for Christ's kingdom. Therefore, embrace the truth that God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). Don't spend another moment without accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. Escape the coming nuclear apocalypse; embrace life everlasting! 🙏



# THE LAMB AND THE LION

Nita Brainard

*When we think of Christ rising from the dead, most of us envision Him bearing the scars of His crucifixion. Certainly, the power and victory of His resurrection was displayed in the spiritual realm, but from the perspective of those who saw Him, His eternal majesty was still hidden. And He only showed Himself to those who had already received Him as the Lamb of God. But one day, He is coming back as the Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:5). Everyone will bear witness to His glory as every eye will see Him and every knee will bow.*

-Nita Brainard

He came as a lamb, He'll come back as a lion.  
The meekest of men, who was gentle when dying,  
Arose from the dead and to heaven ascended.  
He's coming to earth when the age here has ended,  
And those who refuse to obey and receive Him,  
But cling to their sin and continually grieve Him,  
Will find that He's coming in fury and fire,  
His judgment on sinners at last to require.  
The Lamb who was slain is the only one able  
To open the scroll and to tear off its label.  
Then as a lion in majesty roaring,  
The earth dwellers witness His judgment outpouring.  
The righteous rejoice, but the sinners are crying.  
The Lamb they've rejected returns as a lion.

*Inspired by Tim Moore's presentation at the Maranatha Prophecy Conference in Ontario, Canada. (March, 2026)*

#### Editor's Comment:

*Many who find comfort in the image of Christ as a meek and sacrificial Lamb have not realized that He is coming again as the roaring Lion of Judah. Unleashing the wrath of God and sitting as the Righteous Judge, He will pass sentence on those who have refused His offer of salvation. In that day, mountains and rocks will not be able to hide those destined for destruction from the wrath of the Lamb (Revelation 6:16).*

# THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE

Pete Garcia



**F**ew images in Scripture capture the imagination and warn the soul like the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. Ominous and mysterious, these riders stand as harbingers of divine judgment, poised on the horizon of history awaiting their appointed release upon an unsuspecting world.

To skeptics, they are merely dramatic literary devices, ancient apocalyptic imagery meant to provoke emotion but lacking substance. To Preterists, Amillennialists, and Postmillennialists, they belong entirely to the past, fulfilled in earlier historical events. To many average churchgoers, they represent a topic best avoided, too controversial, unsettling, or complex to study.

But to the watchful believer, the Four Horsemen are neither relics of history nor symbolic abstractions. They remind us that human history is not random or endless. It is moving toward a divinely appointed climax.

Within a Pre-Tribulation framework, these riders cannot appear until after the Church has been caught up to Heaven. Their release follows the removal of

the restraining presence of the Church and begins the events of Daniel’s “seventieth week.” In that sense, the thunder of their hooves is not merely symbolic—it is prophetic.

## Parallels

Some believe the Four Horsemen correspond to the horses seen in Zechariah’s visions. However, their purposes and colors differ, making it unlikely that they represent the same events as those described in Revelation 6.

Others attempt to interpret the horsemen as symbolic representations of modern crises—such as Islam, communism, COVID-19, or global capitalism. Yet once the horsemen are removed from the framework of Daniel’s seventieth week, interpretation becomes entirely subjective. Revelation would effectively become a “choose-your-own-adventure” prophecy where meaning shifts with each generation.

While Islam may play a role in end-times events, many of its militant elements could be neutralized during the horrific Gog-Magog conflict described in



Ezekiel 38–39. If that battle occurs shortly after the Rapture but before the seventieth week, militant Islam would likely cease to be a major geopolitical force thereafter.

Speculation about modern parallels will always exist. But Scripture must interpret Scripture. The prophetic timeline will unfold in one coherent way that aligns with the rest of the Bible.

## Ownership of the Judgments

Revelation was given to John in signs and symbols (Rev. 1:1), but those symbols are not arbitrary.

Their meaning is rooted in Old Testament prophetic imagery which had clearly defined meanings.

The Apostle John was given the Revelation by Jesus Christ on the island of Patmos in 95 AD, which, as the early church father Irenaeus noted, was written toward the end of the reign of Emperor Domitian. Domitian only reigned from 81–96 AD. Moreover, Irenaeus would know because he was the disciple of Polycarp, who was the disciple of John himself, which trumps any later “expert.”

*We will not, however, incur the risk of pronouncing positively as*

*to the name of Antichrist; for if it were necessary that his name should be distinctly revealed in this present time, it would have been announced by him who beheld the apocalyptic vision. For it was seen not very long time since, but almost in our own generation, toward the end of the reign of Domitian.*

— Against Heresies 5.30.3

Jesus Himself provided the outline of the book:

*“Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this” (Rev. 1:19).*



Chapter 1 records John’s vision of the glorified Christ. Chapters 2–3 contain the letters to the Seven Churches, representing the present Church Age. Beginning in chapter 4, the narrative shifts to events that occur **after** the Church Age. In fact, the Church (*Ecclesia*) is no longer mentioned in the narrative.

Chapters 4 and 5 reveal the throne room of Heaven. John describes the sea of glass, the twenty-four elders, the redeemed, myriads of angels, and the four living creatures—cherubim who surround the throne of God. These living creatures will later summon the Four Horsemen.

At the center of this heavenly scene lies a sealed scroll containing God’s judgments upon the earth.

No one in Heaven or on Earth is found worthy to open it until Jesus Christ—the Lion of the tribe of Judah steps forward.

This detail is important.

The Seal Judgments are not the wrath of man or Satan; they are the judgments of Christ Himself. Only He is worthy to open the seals because He alone fulfilled God’s righteousness and became humanity’s Kinsman-Redeemer (Lev. 25; Ruth 4).

When Christ opens the scroll, the final seven-year period of human history begins—fulfilling Daniel’s Seventieth Week.

The Seal Judgments are the first of three series of judgments in that

period, followed by the Trumpet and Bowl Judgments.

## The First Seal: The Rider on the White Horse

*“I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer” (Rev. 6:2).*

When the First Seal is opened, a rider appears on a white horse. One of the four living creatures summons him with the command, “Come.” The rider carries a bow but no arrows and wears a crown. He rides forth as a conqueror.

This figure is commonly confused with Jesus Christ, who also returns on a white horse in Revelation 19. But the differences are significant. Christ returns with a sword proceeding from His mouth, symbolizing the authority of His word. He wears many royal crowns (diadems), not the victor’s wreath (*stephanos*) worn by the rider in Revelation 6.

The rider of the First Seal is the Antichrist—who will rule over the final human political system that brings him to power. Daniel described him centuries earlier as “the prince who is to come” (Dan. 9:26), emerging from territories once belonging to the Roman Empire.

The bow without arrows likely symbolizes conquest achieved through intimidation, diplomacy, and political maneuvering rather than immediate warfare. Daniel describes this leader as cunning and deceptive, causing deceit to prosper under his rule (Dan. 8:25). He

will divide “the land,” likely Israel, for political gain and ultimately exalt himself above God.

Some have attempted to identify this rider with a pope or other religious figure, but false spiritual leaders have existed throughout Church history. If the First Seal merely describes a recurring pattern of deception, the specific sequence of the Seal Judgments loses its meaning. Scripture instead anticipates a singular climactic deceiver—the final counterfeit Christ.

## The Second Seal: The Rider on the Red Horse

*“Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth” (Rev. 6:4).*

The second living creature summons the next rider. His mission is direct and terrifying: to remove peace from the earth.

The twentieth century was the bloodiest in human history, claiming more lives through war and genocide than the previous twenty centuries combined. Even today, dozens of active conflicts rage across the globe. Yet the violence of the Second Seal will exceed anything humanity has experienced thus far.

According to 2 Thessalonians 2:7, a restraining influence currently limits the full eruption of lawlessness that the world might otherwise experience. When the Church is removed at the Rapture, that restraint will vanish. The sudden disappearance of millions will ignite global panic and political instability. Adding fuel to the fire of global chaos, will (possibly) be the arrival

of thousands of interdimensional craft and Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena suddenly appearing overhead that will litter the skies as Satan desperately attempts to obfuscate the Rapture of the Church.

Governments will face immediate internal chaos—riots, looting, assassinations, and border conflicts. To maintain control, authorities will likely impose unprecedented restrictions and consolidate power as quickly as possible to minimize societal collapse. However, by the time the Red Rider goes forth, the kingdom of the Beast should already control much of the world.

Thus, the “great sword” given to this rider represents organized warfare and mass bloodshed against any remaining nation, tribe,

or tongue that will not bend the knee to the Antichrist’s system. Violence will become systemic rather than sporadic.

War has always been part of human history; however, the Second Seal describes something different: a concentrated global eruption of violence unlike anything previously witnessed.

## The Third Seal: The Rider on the Black Horse

*“A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius...” (Rev. 6:6).*

The Third Horseman arrives carrying scales that symbolize economic collapse and food scarcity.





## The Fourth Seal: The Pale Horse

*“And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him” (Rev. 6:8).*

The Fourth Horseman rides a pale, sickly green horse. His name is Death, and Hades follows close behind.

Here the cumulative effects of conquest, war, and famine produce catastrophic mortality. Disease spreads rapidly among weakened populations.

Modern history has already demonstrated how vulnerable global civilization is to pandemics. Dense urban populations and international travel allow diseases to spread faster than ever before. COVID-19 illustrated how quickly a regional outbreak can become a worldwide crisis.

Antibiotic resistance and viral mutation further complicate the problem. Pathogens continually evolve, often faster than medical systems can respond. In the environment described by Revelation, war-torn infrastructure, famine-weakened populations, and collapsing healthcare systems—disease would spread unchecked.

Revelation states that authority is given to kill **a fourth of the earth’s population** through sword, famine, plague, and wild beasts. With today’s global population over eight billion, that proportion would equal roughly two billion deaths.

The scale is staggering. Throughout human history, war and conquest have claimed perhaps 500–800 million lives. The Fourth Seal alone surpasses that many times over.

Even before the Tribulation, the global financial system is showing signs of instability. Decades of debt expansion, fiat currencies, and fiscal mismanagement have created fragile economic structures. The financial crises of 2001 and 2008 revealed just how thin the margin of stability truly is.

The Rapture alone would trigger massive economic shockwaves. Supply chains would collapse overnight. Labor forces would vanish. Markets would panic. After that, sustained and systemic warfare by the previous horsemen would certainly amplify the economic pains already being experienced by most of Earth’s inhabitants. Sorry, there will no longer be a middle class anywhere. You are either extremely rich or extremely poor.

The Third Horseman intensifies that instability into widespread famine. The prices described in Revelation indicate extreme inflation—an entire day’s wage for a single meal. People will work constantly simply to survive. Basic necessities will consume nearly all income.

Yet the rider is also commanded not to harm the oil and wine suggests that luxury goods remain available, implying that the wealthy elite retain access to resources while the majority struggle for survival.

Economic desperation often drives populations to surrender freedoms for security. In that climate, the Antichrist will introduce a controlled financial system—the mark of the beast—offering stability at the cost of allegiance.



Entire regions would be depopulated. Economies would collapse. Infrastructure would fail. The psychological shock will reshape civilization into a one-world government.

## Conclusion

The Four Horsemen do not represent isolated disasters but a cascading chain of events:

- Conquest destabilizes the global order
- War spreads violence across nations
- Famine follows economic collapse
- Disease and death flourish in the aftermath

Each judgment intensifies the next, forming a rapid sequence that dismantles humanity's illusion of control. World wars, economic crises, and pandemics have already

given humanity glimpses of how fragile modern civilization truly is. Yet those events occurred within functioning governments and relatively stable systems.

The judgments described in Revelation occur during a far more concentrated and unrestrained collapse. The early Seal Judgments are not symbolic exaggerations of ordinary history. They describe a specific future period when global violence, famine, pestilence, and societal breakdown converge at a scale never before experienced—apart from the Flood in Noah's day.

The sobering conclusion is this: the early Seal Judgments are not symbolic exaggerations of ordinary history. They describe a distinct and unparalleled period in which global violence, starvation, pestilence, and systemic collapse converge at a scale never before witnessed by mankind, with the exception of the Flood of Noah's generation. Besides that, what history

has shown us are only the tremors. According to the Holy Text, what is coming is the first in an increasingly intensifying series of devastating calamities. 🕊️

\* *All scripture passages from the NKJV*



Pete Garcia is a retired military combat veteran and aviator. He is also a gifted writer, researcher, speaker, and teacher of Bible prophecy and apologetics. His insightful writings are distributed via [rev310.substack.com](http://rev310.substack.com)

# THE SOUND OF FREEDOM

(excerpt from *High Flight*, by Tim Moore)

**M**ost of us know what it's like to wait for something big—Christmas as a kid, summer break, graduation, meeting that special someone, the birth of a child. That kind of anticipation stays with us. Even now, I still get excited about seeing my wife after a trip or playing with my grandkids.

One day, while talking with a friend near an airport, we heard the unmistakable roar of fighter jets overhead. We both paused, recognizing that thrilling sound—the “sound of freedom.” We wanted to rush to a window, but figured we’d missed it. As it turned out, five jets flew past. If we had moved quickly, we might’ve caught the moment.

That sound still stirs something deep in me. It reminds me of the passion that led me to aviation, but it also points to something greater. Scripture tells us that one day, the skies will split with a different kind of sound—not jet engines, but a trumpet. Not the sound of national defense, but divine deliverance.

The true sound of freedom will be the trumpet of God, announcing the return of Jesus Christ. And when that moment comes, it won't be subtle. It won't be missed. It will be the culmination of every longing, every promise, every prayer. The waiting will be over. The King will return.

Until then, we live with anticipation. Eyes lifted. Hearts ready. Listening not for the roar of jets, but for the blast of a trumpet that will shake the heavens and call the faithful home.

That's the sound of freedom we're waiting for!



## INTEL DROP

In WWII, the phrase “sound of freedom” was coined by pilots and infantry who associated the roar of Allied aircraft with liberation. Today, that phrase finds its truest meaning in the trumpet that will announce eternal deliverance. The C-130's four distinctive turboprops are referred to as “Four Fans of Freedom.”

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# REACT OR RESPOND?

What Revelation 4-6 Teaches Us About Eschatological Responses

Josh Schwartz

*“The choice is yours.”*

**W**e sat around the campfire, enveloped in darkness, enthralled by the moment. My senses were engaged, and my thoughts crystallized. I was deep in the Colorado mountains with 20 of the most influential men in my life. This wasn't our first trip, but it was the most formative trip we had taken together.

Danny, our leader, mentor, and friend, was teaching. In so doing, he was giving us a framework for every future interaction. *“The choice is yours, in every situation, every interaction, each moment – you must choose to react or respond.”*

## What's the Difference Between Reaction and Response?

It might seem insignificant, but the way we react or respond is fundamental to navigating life. Decisions come and go; daily opportunities arise, and each interaction requires us to react or respond.

- Reactions are often gut-level, quick, and emotional. An initial, knee-jerk reaction can get us in trouble because it's usually driven by the flesh.
- Conversely, responding means taking a moment, prayerfully weighing options, and graciously deciding what to do.

Think about some recent situations – what's your basic tendency? As you reflect on those moments, I'm sure the outcome hinged on whether you reacted or responded.

Also consider this: As we become more Christlike through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit (Phil. 1:6, 2 Cor. 3:18), the hope is that even our reactions will become more Christlike, without our having to think about them.



## Nothing New Under the Sun

This quandary—to react or to respond—is not a modern phenomenon. The opportunity to react or respond transcends time, culture, and location. Scripture is replete with reactions and responses:

- Reactions: We all suffer the consequences of the reaction of the man and his wife in the garden (Genesis 3). We see how the nation of Israel reacted when spies returned from Canaan (Numbers 13-14). We see a reactive crowd stirred by the Pharisees to chant for the crucifixion of Jesus (Luke 23).
- Response: We praise God for Jesus' response in His

crucifixion: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). Stephen echoed this remarkable sentiment at his stoning (Acts 7:60).

## Reactions and Responses in the Tribulation

Eschatologically speaking, the next great event for believers is the rapture of the church. For all of humanity, it is the Tribulation Period (Revelation 6-19), where we will still see individuals reacting:

*“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, calling to the moun-*

*tains 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, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?” (Revelation 6:15-17).*

Conversely, we see the believers' response in Heaven to the Tribulation on Earth:

*“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for His judgments are true and just; for He has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.” ... And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!” (Revelation 19:1-4).*

Unbelievers seek to hide and cry out in desperation; believers rejoice in the justice and righteousness of God. Even in the most horrific time in earthly human history, everyone has a decision to react or respond.

## A Closer Look: Revelation 4-6

Let's look at reaction and response in Revelation 6 by starting with the context in Revelation 4 and 5.

In Revelation 4, the Apostle John is summoned by the Spirit of God to a glorious scene—the throne room of Heaven—and witnesses things beyond human comprehension, let alone description. He sees the Father seated on the throne, living creatures continually worshipping at the throne, and elders bowing in worship and casting their crowns before His throne.



As the scene continues into Chapter 5, John's heavenly vision expands. He sees the One seated on the throne holding a seven-sealed scroll. He hears a mighty angel proclaiming, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" John begins to weep—indeed, who is worthy?—but he is told, "weep no more." One of the elders describes the Worthy One—the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, the Lamb who was slain. Believers recognize who the elder refers to—it is Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man. The chapter concludes with worship and praise for Jesus.

## Jesus Alone Restores Our Relationship with God

Why is worthiness so important? Shortly after creation, a problem emerged in Genesis 3—the problem of sin, defined as disobedience to God's commands. Sin created a rift, a broken relationship between the Creator God and humanity. Because God is holy, righteous, and

perfect, He cannot be in the presence of unrighteous, unholy, or sinful beings. This issue of sin drives human history. God's plan from the start was to provide a Substitute, a perfect Sacrifice, who would take away the sins of the world, to restore the relationship between God and humanity.

This restoration was achieved through the perfect life and sacrificial death of Jesus on the Cross. Jesus alone is worthy. He purchased salvation for all who place their faith in His sacrifice. You, too, friend, can receive a restored relationship with God and have eternal life with Him in Heaven if you trust in the completed work of Jesus. I urge you, if you have not already, to respond to Jesus today.

## Seals 1-4: Judgment Poured Out

In Revelation 6, John, still in the Heaven's throne room, writes, "*Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals*" (Revelation 6:1).

This seven-sealed scroll, which was in the hand of the Father on the throne and given to the Lamb (Jesus) to open, is the title deed of the earth. As Creator and Sustainer of all things, God alone has the authority to create, destroy, and recreate the earth and everything in it as He wills. The scroll represents the tangible record of His ownership.

As the Lamb breaks the seals, God's wrath is poured out on a rebellious humanity, which deserves judgment and is condemned by a holy God because of sin. As each seal is broken, a different aspect of God's wrath and judgment is disclosed.

There's much to say here, but let's keep it simple:

1. When the first seal is broken, a rider on a white horse appears. He carries a crown and goes forth to conquer. While this image harkens to Jesus in Rev. 19, do not be fooled—Satan is

the great imitator, and this rider is the Antichrist, sent as judgment from God.

2. When the Second Seal is broken, a rider on a red horse takes peace from the earth, causing people to kill one another (massive, global war).
3. As the Third Seal is opened, a rider on a black horse holds scales, and the world's economies are turned upside down. Inflation skyrockets, and a loaf of bread costs a whole day's wages.
4. Another seal is broken, and a fourth horse appears—pale green—ridden by the personification of Death, followed by Hades. This judgment claims the lives of one-fourth of the earth through famine, disease, and wild beasts.

With the breaking of just these four seals, death, destruction, and deception sweep across the earth as never before. These events are cataclysmic and global, but there is more wrath and judgment to come as more seals are broken.

## Seal 5: Altar Souls

The Fifth Seal doesn't unleash more wrath. Instead, the focus shifts to a response from Heaven. John writes,

*“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. 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?’ 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” (Revelation 6:9-11).*

Who are these souls under the altar? They are given a white robe and told to rest and wait for their fellow servants, who were to be killed just as they had been. These are Tribulation saints, martyred for their faith. This martyrdom exemplifies the grace of God because it shows the world's hatred of truth, proves that some will believe in Christ for salvation even during the most destructive time in human history, and removes His children from His wrath. John hears the martyrs' response; they address God as the sovereign Lord, holy and true. They recognize He is the One in control, with authority over all things. He is a holy God, meting out justice in His wrath against sin. We see their submissive, right response to God's wrath and judgment.

They ask, *“How long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”* (Revelation 6:10) This is the opposite of what one might expect; they were most likely tortured, mocked, shamed, and beheaded for their faith and allegiance to Christ, yet they do not react with anger or seek personal revenge; they respond by entrusting all vengeance to the Lord.

## Persecution Comes; We Remain Faithful

The martyrs' response provides valuable insight to believers today. We must persevere despite persecution and hatred. Paul explains, *“All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived”* (2 Timothy 3:12-13). As followers of Jesus, we must expect persecution and deception in increasing measure.



Friends, we must endure through persecution and continue to trust the Word of God. Knowing wrath and judgment are coming, let's remain faithful. We do not know when the Rapture will happen, but we do know that we can make each day count in sharing the Gospel, mindful that even in the Tribulation, some will believe the Gospel! Praise God for His mercy!

## Seal 6: The Reaction in Calamity

Next, God reveals the reaction of the wicked in the Sixth Seal.

*“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, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. 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, 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, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand (Revelation 6:12-17)?’”*

Could a worldwide earthquake be the cause of all this chaos? Darkness, falling stars, rolled up sky, fire, smoke, ash, collapsed buildings, leveled mountains, and



vanished islands. The calamity is beyond imagination.

Notice how humanity reacts; they hide themselves and want rocks to fall on them for protection. It affects everyone—from kings to slaves—no one escapes the global catastrophe.

Their reaction is a temporary fix to an eternal problem. Their immediate response is escape and safety. They know it's the wrath of the Lamb, yet they didn't humble themselves. Instead, in pride, they believed they could find safety in caves and rocks.

The question is revealing: “Who can stand?” They acknowledge God's authority and transcendence but don't recognize His grace through the Lamb's sacrifice. Jesus is standing before the throne, breaking the seals and pouring out wrath. If they had accepted His sacrifice for their sin, they too could stand before the holy and just Creator. Instead, they react with fear that morphs into anger as the Tribulation continues. We must note that the opening of the Seventh Seal triggers silence in Heaven and ushers in the next series of judgments: the seven Trumpet Judgments.

## React or Respond?

Friends, the choice is yours: will you react or respond to God's holy, righteous judgment? The Scriptures make it clear that a time of final judgment is coming because of sin. All of us have sinned and the wages (payment) for our sin is death: spiritual death (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23). We deserve punishment, but God longs for a close personal relationship with each of us and has made a way for us to be right with Him through Jesus.

Will you pridefully try to save yourself, or will you call on Jesus to rescue you from God's eternal wrath and bring you into a relationship with Him? Remember, even in the worst times in human history, His grace and gospel still echo, and the offer of salvation remains.

Scripture is clear: the world is heading toward the Tribulation. Now is the time to respond to the gospel of grace and share the truth of Scripture with a dying, judgment-bound world. I urge you to seek Him while He may be found (Isaiah 55:6) and tell others this good news. Respond today! 📣

\* All Scripture references ESV



Pastor Josh Schwartz now serves as the Executive Vice President of Mark Henry Ministries. Tim and Nathan have appeared on their *Discerning our Days* podcast, which offers biblical discernment in this age of confusion. This article conveys the heart of a pastor—urging unbelievers to respond in faith to Christ while there is still time, instead of hardening their hearts and sealing their fate.

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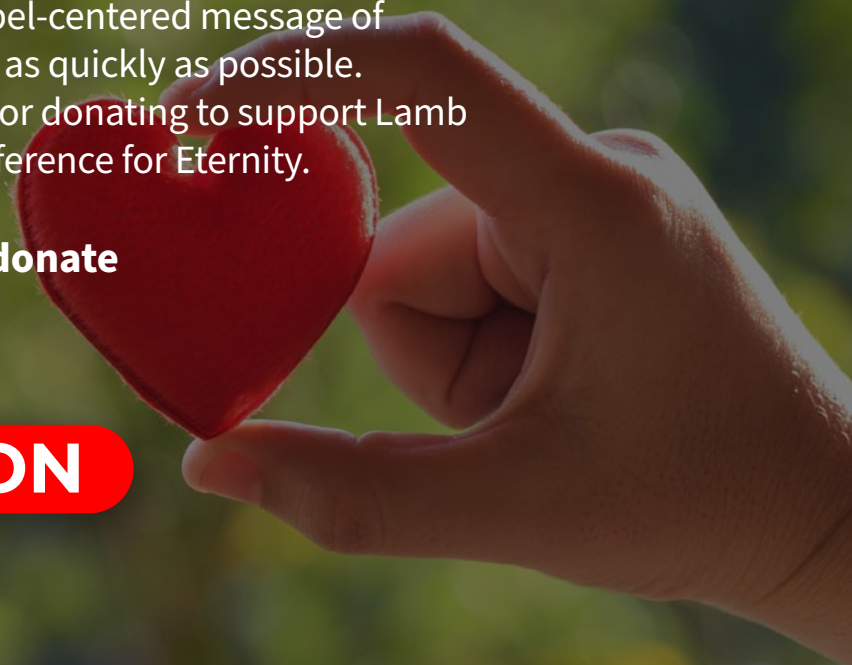
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# A CALL TO COMMITMENT

(excerpt from *Messiah in the Psalms*, by Dr. David Reagan)



**A**s we await the Lord's return, we are to "worship the Lord with reverence," and we are to "rejoice with trembling." The third thing the Spirit calls us to do is to "kiss the Son" (Psalm 2:12). Many modern English translations say "Submit to the Son" or "Pay homage to the Son." The Hebrew literally says, "Kiss." I suppose the literal translation is avoided because "Kiss the Son" sounds so strange.

For years, I wondered what those words meant. I consulted commentaries and found a lot of conjecture, but none of the answers seemed to click in my spirit. So, I continued to pray that the Lord would show me the true meaning of the words.

One day, as I was reading the book of Hosea, the Spirit suddenly impressed a verse upon my heart that gave me the answer I had been seeking. The verse is found in chapter 13.

As this chapter begins, Hosea has just completed his preaching tour of Israel in which he called the people to repent of their idolatry. To his horror, when he arrives back home, he finds a neighbor bowing down before a silver calf, and he cries out, "Men kiss calves!" (Hosea 13:2).

When I read those words, the Spirit witnessed to my spirit. I immediately thought of the words of the psalmist: "Kiss the Son!" Suddenly, this strange statement made complete sense to me.

You see, if Hosea were alive today and could preach to us about America, I think he would say, "I have traveled all over your land to seek its spiritual temperament, and I say to you, everywhere I go I find men kissing calves!"

Except, I suspect he would put it in modern English: "Everywhere I go in this land I find men kissing CDs in the bank, chrome-plated automobiles, and opulent houses. I see men in love with money, power and fame. I say to you, take all that the world has to offer, set it aside in a junk pile, and put God first in your lives. Fall in love with Jesus!"

That's what it means to "Kiss the Son!" It is a call to commit your life to Jesus by falling in love with Him and putting Him first in your life — above career and family. It's a call to make Him the Lord of everything in your life — your family and job, your hopes and dreams, your thoughts and words, your music, reading material, food, drink, recreation — everything!

By making Him your refuge, you will be delivered from the wrath that is to come (Romans 5:9 and 1 Thessalonians 5:9), and you will come to know the full meaning of the last line of Psalm 2:

*How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!*

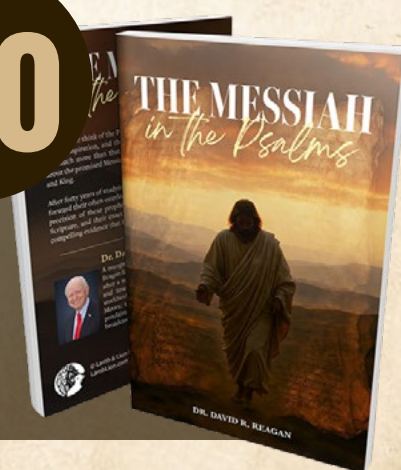
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# SIGNS OF THE TIMES

MAY/JUN 2026

## NATURE

The laws of nature and nature's God are beginning to turn the tide against the perversion known as transgen-derism. Even the International Olympic Committee has come to its senses and realized that men claiming to be women are not eligible to compete against actual women.

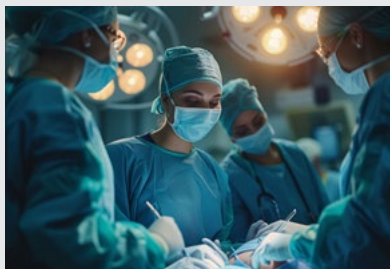


Forecasters predict 11-16 named storms in 2026, including 2-4 major hurricanes (Category 3+). The devastating impacts seen at the end of the 2025 season show that a cataclysmic storm could strike anytime.



## SOCIETY

Even as a New York jury ruled that medical professionals must pay a young woman a multimillion-dollar reward for pressuring her into gender transition surgery, the California Attorney General is suing hospitals for refusing to perform gender transition surgeries.



The Quebec Superior Court has declared that multi-parent families must be allowed to adopt children. In this particular case, a three-year-old girl has now been adopted by a polyamorous homosexual “throuple” of three men. How long, O Lord?!



## SPIRITUAL

An AI-generated Christian “artist” named Solomon Ray has become popular with Christian listeners. His image, persona, voice, and music are all computer-generated, leading many to question the validity of the theology “he” projects—or at least the spirit he serves.



Teacher and librarian unions are fiercely fighting to keep pornographic and perverted books in public school classrooms. Materials banned in American prisons for their harmful effects are being shared with elementary students.



Four years ago, Russia’s war against Ukraine was leading the news. Today, the conflict with Iran is leading the headlines, and the regime that chanted “Death to Israel” and “Death to America” is finding itself at the receiving end of some long overdue retribution. Headlines shout out and quickly fade away, but the Word of our God stands forever. His judgments are true, and His justice will soon rain down on all those who reject His Son—especially those who say, “Aha!” regarding those He has chosen. Can you discern the signs of His coming?

## WORLD POLITICS

A new axis of evil seems to be forming amidst the war with Iran. The militant Islamic regime is being bolstered by Russia, China, and even North Korea. How long before other nations join the age-old effort to “wipe them out as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more.”



Proving what a difference a change of heart makes, Uganda’s military chief and likely future president has said, “We stand with Israel because we are Christians.” That’s a far cry from the stance taken by the despotic Ugandan dictator Idi Amin when he supported anti-Israeli terrorists in 1976.

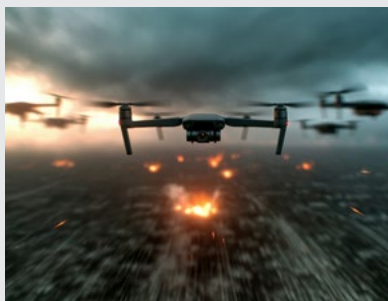


## TECHNOLOGY

Just when sociologists have awakened to the threat of declining populations in the face of ambivalence toward marriage, we are told that sex robots may soon offer physical and emotional companionship for those who want to be unburdened by a human spouse. Heaven forbid.



Despite its superior military technology, the United States is finding it hard to defend against swarms of small drones. Unknown nefarious actors are probing defenses and breaching even secure airspace on a regular basis—as occurred at Barksdale AFB in March.



## ISRAEL

Israel has shocked the world once again with its military and intelligence prowess in the Iran War. But the chessmasters in Iran are playing a long game, confident that their cheap and indiscriminate weapons can inflict great harm on the Jewish state that spends billions to defend its people.



Believing “The enemy of my enemy is my friend,” several Arab Gulf states are finding themselves aligned with Israel in the face of indiscriminate Iranian attacks. In the short term, Israel may soon find itself living free from fear of its closest neighbors—in anticipation of the Ezekiel 38-39 war.



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