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Opening the first seal:  
The Rider on the White Horse

- The Rider carries a bow
- The Rider is *given* a crown
- The Rider is a *conquering conqueror / overcoming overcomer*

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Opening the second seal:  
The Rider on the Red Horse

- The Rider is *given* a mighty sword
- The Rider is *given* authority to take peace (*shalom*, or wholeness)
- The Rider does not kill; rather, the *people* do that

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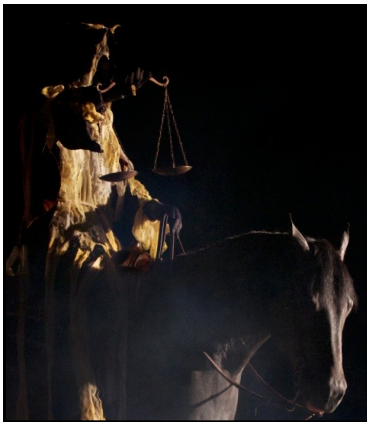
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Opening the third seal:  
The Rider on the Black Horse

- The Rider is *holding* a set of scales
- Interlude: a voice from among the four living creatures
- The Rider does not take any action; rather he represents economic injustice

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### Opening the fourth seal: The Rider on the Black Horse

- We are told the name of this rider: DEATH, and his companion the Grave
- Given authority over ¼ of the earth, to kill with sword and famine and disease and wild animals
- The Rider does not take any action; but he/they have the authority to do so

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### Opening the fifth seal: The Martyred Faithful

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### Opening the fifth seal: The Martyred Faithful

- “I saw...” as opposed to “I heard...”
- “**under the altar** the souls of all who had been martyred for the **word of God** and for **being faithful in their testimony**.”
- They cry for justice, “How long, O Lord...?”
- They are given white robes, and told to “rest a little longer until the full number of their brothers and sisters—**their fellow servants of Jesus** who were to be martyred—had joined them.”

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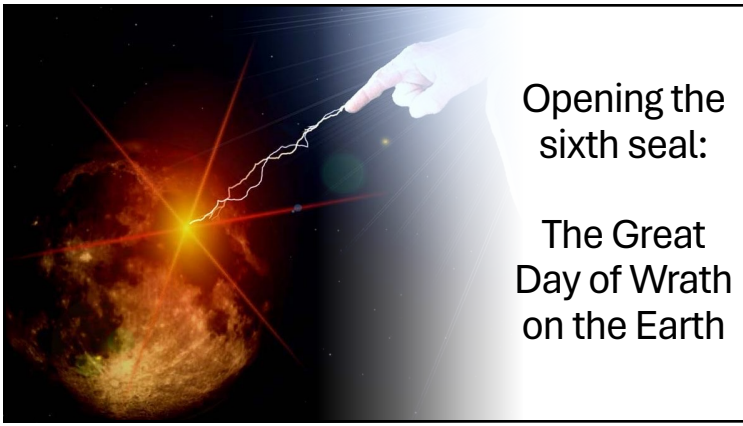
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**Opening the Sixth seal:  
The Great Day of Wrath on the Earth**

- Earth and sky affected:
  - Earthquake – sun became dark – moon red as blood
  - Stars fell, sky rolled up like a scroll, mountains and islands moved
- **Inhabitants** of the earth are terrified: *“Fall on us and hide us from the face of the One who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb”*
- **Who is able to survive?**

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**Opening the Sixth seal:  
The Great Day of Wrath on the Earth**

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  - Earthquake – sun became dark – moon red as blood
  - Stars fell, sky rolled up like a scroll, mountains and islands moved
- **Inhabitants** of the earth are terrified: *“Fall on us and hide us from the face of the One who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb”*
- **Who is able to survive?**

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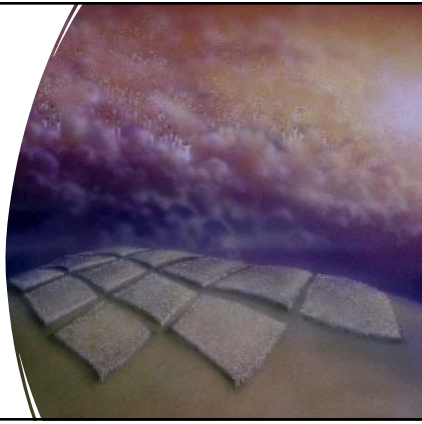
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## The Sixth Seal, Pt. 2

### The Sealing of the Saints



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### The Sixth Seal, Pt. 2: The Sealing of the Saints

- “don’t harm the land/sea/trees until we have placed the seal of God on the foreheads of his servants.”
- “Who are these who are clothed in white?”
  - “These are the ones who came **through** the great tribulation”
  - Alt: These are the ones who came **out of** the great tribulation”
  - Why the difference? Interpretation of Greek preposition **ek**
- “They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white”

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### Opening the Seventh Seal:

### The Silence and the Trumpets

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### The Seventh Seal: The Silence and the Trumpets

- *Silence...* after such ruckus! Remember on the 7<sup>th</sup> day God **rested**
- During the silence, the seven trumpet-angels take their place
  - Who are they?
- Still another angel appears with a gold censer, and he filled it as full as it would go, then added fire,

**THEN THREW IT ONTO THE EARTH**

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### WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN?

The perfectly-sealed scroll is the re-telling of the creation story, right up to the crucifixion:

1. Christ is the firstborn of Creation; he is the overcomer from the beginning!
2. Humanity ushers in the fall due to disobedience; this brings about enmity (war) with God and with one another
3. Enmity brings about injustice and strife
4. Ultimately, humanity's rebellion brings DEATH

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## WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN?

5. And yet, there is redemption, both for those “under the altar” (receivers of the old covenant, before Christ) and for those who bear witness to the Lamb
6. The ultimate judgment of all of humanity comes at the CROSS – for inhabitants of earth/fallen Babylon, it is terrifying!
7. The Day of Atonement (crucifixion) comes, and the EARTH becomes the ALTAR of SACRIFICE

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## HOMEWORK

- Read 8:5 through 11:19. Note any observations, questions, or possibilities you see in the reading
- We will likely not get through ALL of that next time, but it’s good to read it in context!

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