

Revelation -16 (symbolism, etc. in Rev. 6-9)

- 6:2...the horse in each of the following seals is symbolic of power...of a strong force. The white horse is the horse of a victor and the bow indicates military skill and the crown denotes an accomplished victory. There is great argument about the identification of this person. Many believe him to be the Antichrist...allowed to conquer freely as the mystery of iniquity works to conclusion and the hindering influence of the church is altered.
- 6:4...the red horse is symbolic of warfare.
- 6:5, the black horse suggests famine and the terms used to indicate his effect on the earth suggest the removal of the necessities of life while some of the luxury items remain.
- 6:8, the pale horse is suggestive of death. So the progression is that of war, famine, death, under the direction of an absolute leader.
- 6:12-14...the symbolism of white raiment, etc., has been discussed and the symbols that follow are descriptive of apparent changes in the heavenly bodies.
- 7:1, four angels...four is the number of universality...and the suggestion is that of messengers in the will of God at all parts of the universe.
- 7:2 the seal of God...is the means in which the Lord identifies his own. There is a beautiful and graphic picture of this in Ezekiel 9...and you can see some application from it with regard to the work of the Holy Spirit on our behalf today.
- 7:15...day and night in his temple ...suggest merely the presence of God and not that heaven is occupied with a physical building.
- 8:1...a half hour ...shows a relatively short period of time marked out for our understanding.
- 8:3...the golden censor is a figure from the tabernacle and indicates a holy of holies scene in which there is a reminder to God of what has been accomplished through and in the prayers of His people.
- 8:5...the thunderings, in the representation noted earlier, may suggest the beginning of the response of God to the prayers that were uttered in 6:10.
- 8:7...the "third part" is probably a "round number" and indicates along with the notes in 9 and 11, the scope of universality to the judgment of the Lord.
- 8:8 a great mountain probably represents a comet, meteor, or some catastrophic movement by God.
- 8:11 "Wormwood" is a term used throughout Scripture to denote bitterness, anguish, guilt, unpleasantness. This figure is the epitome of all that is bad with all of those.
- 8:13..."Woe, woe, woe" is used to indicate the more severe nature of the last three judgments.
- 9:1 the bottomless pit (the abyss) is spoken of in Rev. 20 and has a reference in Luke 8:31. We do not know much about it or its limits but it is the place of Satan's millennial confinement and never used in a good or helpful sense.