


## Chapter 6

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This chapter marks the beginning of Johns' vision of the history of the world. The Lord is going to share with John all his dealing with mankind. For the most part, the accounting is in chronological order; however, occasionally the Lord takes a time out to teach John, or us. This can often be confusing to a reader, especially when the majority of Johns' accounting is done in a figurative manner.

**Verse 1:** The Savior begins to read from the book, by first opening the first seal. We know from the previous chapter that each seal represent a dispensation of the earth's existence of 1,000 years. The first seal represents the first thousand years of the earth's existence. Note that the period in time that John is familiar with, namely the past and present, are held to very short reenactments. The first four seals are held to but a few verses, while the last two seals are contained in chapters.


**Verse 2:** John begins to see the contents of the **first seal**  as he is invited to come and see. He sees a white horse. White is a symbol commonly used for purity and righteousness, while the horse has for the most part been used in the Bible in reference to war. The horse has been used in other symbolic settings to indicate action, the symbol of movement. Hence, we have someone who is righteous and pure conquering or going (moving) forth to wage war. This is interesting since the end of the verse says that the person on the horse went forth conquering and to conquer. The someone that John saw had a bow. This too refers to war, as the bow symbolizes war. This person somehow fought to bring forth righteousness. This someone is further described as being given a crown. This is very symbolic in religious symbolism. It usually symbolizes exaltation. Crowns also symbolize royalty and victory. This symbol could be used to convey several messages. The person wearing the crown might be royalty or a leader; it might indicate that he was victorious in his battle for righteousness, and it could represent the fact that he received or will receive his exaltation. Bruce R. McConkie suggests that the rider of the horse or the "he" spoken of by John is Enoch and that John is talking about Enochs' city, Zion. Elder McConkie goes further to state that the symbols also point to the fact that the city was exalted. We know that many waged war with Enoch and his city because of their righteousness. We also know that Zion was victorious and that the Lord took them unto himself. Bruce R. McConkie also suggests that each of the symbols shown in the first four seals are depiction's of the major events or highlight of the dispensation. The Old Testament

time tables, though not as accurate as we might like, show the following individuals born in the first dispensation.

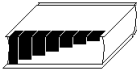
*Adam* was **130** years old when Seth was born  
*Seth* was **105** years old when Enos was born  
*Enos* was **109** years old when Cainan was born  
*Cainan* was **90** years old when Mahalaiel was born  
*Mahalaiel* was **70** years old when Jared was born  
*Jared* was **65** years old when Enoch was born  
*Enoch* was **162** years old when Methuselah was born  
*Methuselah* was **65** years old when Lamech was born

That would place Enoch's birth somewhere around 569 years into the first dispensation, or approximately 3431 BC. That would qualify him for being the star of the first dispensation.

**Verses 3-4:**

John sees the Savior open the **second seal** , and is invited to come and see. John sees another horse, only this time it is red. Red is typically a symbol of the atonement of Jesus Christ when referring to Christian writings. Though it could symbolize death in general. Since the depicted horse could represent movement, the scene could mean the bringing of death. We are told that "he" that sat on the horse was given the power to take peace from the earth, and that they (possible the inhabitants of earth) should kill one another. This was symbolized by the rider having a sword. We find in looking for key events during the second dispensation, that the Flood of Noah is the only key event of that period. It occurred approximately 2,417 BC and Noah lived between 3,017 to 2,067 BC. Given the time period and the circumstances surrounding the flood, it seems logical that the rider of the red horse is Noah and that the death he brought was to the inhabitants of the earth by the great flood. It might be slightly puzzling as to what the "power of taking peace from the earth that men should kill one other" has to do with the story of Noah and the flood. The Bible Dictionary states that the flood happened at a time of great wickedness and violence (Moses 8:28). If the people of the time were not directly killing each other, they did through their wickedness, which brought about the great flood. Noah's name means "rest", which is sort of contradictory since his dispensation was a time of great upheaval and he was a sought man because of his preaching. The fact that he was given power to take peace from the earth might mean that he warned and brought the wrath of God upon the inhabitants of the earth. The sword he carried is symbolic of the truth. He was a preacher of the truth, and warned against those that would

not following his word, that the consequences would bring the judgment of God.

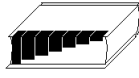
**Verses 5-6:** The **third seal**  is opened by the Savior. John is again invited to come and see. John begins to see the third dispensation, or the third thousand years of the earth's existence. Again, he sees a horse. This time the horse is black. The color black is often associated with mourning. During this time period, the children of Israel were held captive in Egypt. The Old Testament time tables, though not as accurate as we might like, show the following events in, and approaching, the third dispensation.

	Born	Died
Shem	2452 BC.	1842 BC.
Arphaxad	2344 BC.	1904 BC.
Salah	2307 BC.	1874 BC.
Eber	2277 BC.	1813 BC.
Peleg	2245 BC.	2004 BC.
Reu	2213 BC.	1974 BC.
Serug	2181 BC.	1951 BC.
Nahor	2151 BC.	2003 BC.
Terah	2122 BC.	1917 BC.
Abram	2054 BC.	1874 BC.
.....	.....	.....
Moses	1571 BC.	1451 BC. (translated)
Exodus	<b><i>began 1491 BC.</i></b>	<b><i>ended 1429 BC.</i></b>
David	1073 BC.	1015 BC.

History tells us that the children of Israel were under great persecution and abuse. It was a time of great mourning for the children of Israel. As History tells, Moses lead the children of Israel out of bondage and mourning. This ties the symbol of movement represented by the horse to the symbol of mourning represented by the color black, since they were moved from mourning. The accounting states that the "he" (Moses) that rode the horse had a pair of scales or balances in his hand. The scales are symbols of justice or law. What better to symbolize Moses and his dispensation. A voice is heard uttering, "Wheat for a penny". During this dispensation the children of Israel were taught the Law of Moses, "An eye for an eye". They were given rules to follow for all their dealings. The fact that Wine and oil were

mentioned might be significant since they were essential elements in Moses Tabernacle for anointing and sacraments.


**Verses 7-8:**




The **fourth seal** is opened by the Savior. John is again invited to come and see. John begins to see the forth dispensation, or the fourth thousand years of the earth's existence, but this dispensation differs greatly from the previous three. Again, he sees a horse. The color is reported by the King James version of the Bible as the color pale. The Old Greek word is **χλωρος**. The new Greek translates as **Klōros**. It is translated to English as the color yellow-green. This color has been used to symbolize death. This is in line with the verse, since it's rider is called "Death". The versus says that "Death" was followed by "Hell". The key to finding the identity of the two figures is in that they ruled over 1/4 of the earth, and killed and slaughtered. In the Bible Dictionary it overviews the Kingdoms of Assyria and Babylon. Judging from the time frame, and the acts of inhumanity committed by these two countries, I would suggest that Assyria and Babylon are the "Death" and "Hell" spoken of in thses two verses. The 1/4 of the earth spoken of would be that world that John was aware of at his time. Assyria and Babylon controlled 1/4 of the known world, if one were to merge the two countries. The wording of the verse would also lead us to draw that conclusion. Though the symbolic meaning doesn't change, the Old Greek word for the figure that the King James version translates as "Hell" is **ο αδης**. The New Greek translates as **ho hades**. It is translated to English as Hades or Spirit Prison.



**Verses 9-11:**

The **fifth seal**  is opened by the Savior. John begins to see the time that is all too familiar to him. He begins to see his own dispensation. He begins to see the martyrdom of men for their righteousness. One could suspect that many were John's friends and companions. The verse says that souls were slain under the altar. The altar is a symbol of being before God. It says that they were slain for the word of God. John sees the souls of those slain, and hears them ask for the Lord to avenge them. The Lord clothes them in white robes. White is a symbol of purity and righteousness and robes are a symbol of royalty and wholeness. It would appear that they were granted exaltation. The Lord then explains that the time of vengeance is not yet at hand and that other saints must die first, for the Lord's plan to be fulfilled.

**Verse 12:**

The **sixth seal**  is opened by the Savior. There is a great earthquake. Earthquakes spoken of in the scriptures can be literal or they are sometimes figurative. Since this great earthquake occurred in the beginning of the sixth seal, and such an earthquake has not been recorded, I would tend to conclude that it is figurative. Symbolically, earthquakes take on the meaning of warning. Possibly the Lord gave a great warning to the earth. The sixth seal was opened at about the end of the old church, or the beginning of the great apostasy. The great voice of warning for the apostasy was being issued. John himself warned the seven churches that they must change their ways or the church would be removed from their midst. The verse continues with a passage that many are familiar with, and take very literally. John says that the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood. The sun can take on several symbolic meanings, all of which are closely related. It often represents the Son of God, or the Celestial Kingdom (God's glory), or the Power of God (The Priesthood). Black is usually used to represent unrighteousness; however it can also be a symbol of mourning or sadness. Sackcloth of hair was worn anciently as a sign of mourning or sadness (2 Samuel 3:31). After great warning the priesthood and glory of God was taken from the earth, leaving men in a state of mourning. The moon is used to represent the light and knowledge of the gospel which became as blood, symbolizing the adulteration of the knowledge of the gospel. As we all know, the great apostasy brought about the loss of many plain and precious truths. The gospel was changed to the extent that nothing short of a restoration by our Heavenly Father could put straight the things lost.

**Verse 13:**

This verse continues with verse twelve's depiction of the apostasy. John says that the stars of heaven fell. Throughout the book of

Revelation, John uses the symbol "stars" to refer to church leaders and Gods servants. Here we find that the leader of the ancient church would fall to the earth. This represents the fact that they did die. He compares their death to a fig tree casting her untimely figs. This suggest that their lives were cut short. As we know most of the ancient leaders were martyred. The earth was now left without the priesthood authority, without the gospel knowledge, and without the direction of Gods servants.

**Verse 14:** The verse says, "*And the heavens opened as a scroll is opened when it is rolled together. And every mountain and island was moved out of it's place*". Whenever God blesses the earth, he used the symbol of the heavens opening. Scrolls usually represent knowledge. We can see that God is again returning His blessings and knowledge to the earth. Every man on earth would be affected, as is related by every mountain and island being moved. The Lord restored His gospel and the things lost by the great apostasy. This began on April 6,1830 when the church was once again organized on the earth.

**Verses 15-17:** The restoration will cause man to fear there wicked ways, and fear the judgment of God.



In the 18th century, history tells of a period called the enlightenment. During this period people cast aside the tradition of the church of the dark ages that man could not control his destiny, nor make choices for himself. Man started to think for himself and found the desire to search for truth. We find during this period, the rise of many religions, the advancement of civilization and the preparation for the great restoration. God was actually laying the ground work for the return of the Gospel and it's priesthood keys.