

Intro:

common grace is a thing -> video

common grace in provision - Acts 14:17

common grace in restraint - Gen 20:1-6

If God did not restrain the evil that resides in the hearts of all men, hearts which are "deceitful and desperately wicked" humanity would have destroyed itself centuries ago

today we will study the beginning of God's judgment where He will remove some of this common grace - this is the beginning of His wrath

Problem:

the Lamb opened each seal - Rev 6:1, 3, 5, 7

He gave a crown to the conqueror - 6:2

He gave permission to make war - 6:4

He gave authority to death to kill - 6:8

Rev 1:3 happiness and wrath; Rev 4-6 worship and wrath

we like happiness

we like worship

and we are embarrassed by wrath

but they go together

to be embarrassed of God's wrath is to be embarrassed of God.

God's wrath glorifies God

as Thor Ramsey said

In a universe where the sentimentalized, non judgmental, Santa-god reigns, all the mean drunks get away with it. Every single one of them. There is no justice for my mom or other abused women because there is no judgment, period.

Ramsey, Thor (2013-12-30). The Most Encouraging Book on Hell Ever (p. 27). Cruciform Press. Kindle Edition.

His wrath is part of the gospel

Main Idea:

behold conquest

behold war

behold famine

behold death

behold the four horsemen of the apocalypse

behold the depravity of man

Implication:

The first four seals form a unity. They show us the self-defeating character of sin that began in the garden. When the spirit of pride and conquest is abroad, it is followed by war, which is followed by famine, which is followed by death and disease -> all God needs to do is to empower Man and let events take their course and sinners will inevitably be punished. In the wake of conquest come war and famine and pestilence. In other words, the first four seals show God sovereignly allowing man to create His own hell on earth

Application:

whats holding it back?

in a sense we are -Gen 18:16-33; 2 Thess 2 - the restrainer (anti-Christ cant be revealed until restrainer removed)

a time of great tribulation and darkness is coming but we are here now and His light is still shining

Text:**Behold conquest**

Rev. 6:1 ¶ Now I watched when **the Lamb opened** one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, “Come!”

Rev. 6:2 And I looked, and **behold, a white horse!** And its rider had a bow, and **a crown was given to him**, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

problem: The Lamb opened the first seal - Rev 1:3; 4:1-5:14; Lk 12:49-59 - wrath and worship go together

White horse - antichrist - false Christ Rev 19:11-12

crown given - antichrist unleashed - (Job 1:6-12); Dan 9:24-27 (beginning of tribulation)
authority accepted - John 5:43

had a bow - military power - (Hosea 1:5)

Behold War

Rev. 6:3 ¶ When **he opened the second seal**, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!”

Rev. 6:4 And out came **another horse, bright red (same word rev 12:3 for red dragon)**. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that **people should slay (lit. slaughter) one another**, and he was given a great sword.

slay one another - Judges 7:22; 1 Sam 14:20 (typical means of dealing with enemies)

Behold Famine

Rev. 6:5 ¶ When **he opened the third seal**, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and behold, **a black horse!** And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand.

Rev. 6:6 And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, “**A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!**”

a denarius - a whole days wages for rations for a day

do not harm wine - luxuries plentiful necessities scarce - take for granted our daily bread - (Lk 11:3)

famine - Ezek 4:9-17; Deut 28:52-57

Behold Death

Rev. 6:7 ¶ When **he opened the fourth seal**, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!”

Rev. 6:8 And I looked, and behold, **a pale (chlorine/green) horse!** And its rider’s name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over **a fourth of the earth**, to kill with **sword and with famine and with pestilence (death) and by wild beasts of the earth.**

a fourth of the earth - yet future - Matt 24:3-22

- currently about 2 billion people

- 100 million died in all wars combined so far on earth

Behold the four horsemen of the apocalypse

these four seals form a unit

- Zech 6:1-8 (finally and fully unleashed)

- Jer 14:12; 15:1-2; 24:10; 27:8; 32:24, 36; 34:17;

- Ezek. 5:12, 17 14:21

Behold the depravity of man**Implication:**

They show us the self-defeating character of sin that began in the garden. When the spirit of pride and conquest is abroad, it is followed by war, which is followed by famine, which is followed by death and disease -> all God needs to do is to empower man and let events take their course and sinners will inevitably be punished. In the wake of conquest come war and famine and pestilence. In other words, the first four seals show God sovereignly allowing man to create His own hell on earth

Application:

whats holding it back? in a sense we are -Gen 18:16-33; 2 Thess 2 - the restrainer (anti-Christ cant be revealed until restrainer removed)

Articles for further study -

<https://gotquestions.org/restrainer.html>

<http://www.ldolphin.org/preterism-ice.html>