

Revelation 6

Same Interpretation
Different Time Zone
(almost)

Becoming Closer

Review

- **Futurist Model**
 - Church is already raptured
 - Naturally speculative
- **Historicist Model**
 - This is history from John's time to?
 - Burden of Proof
- **Poetic Model (sit back and laugh)**

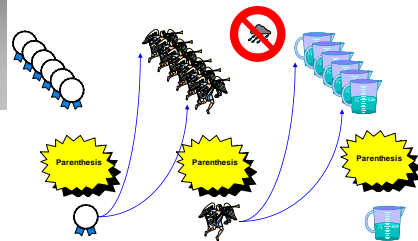
Becoming Closer

Different Theories, Similar Methods

- **Old Testament**
 - Vision
 - Prophecy
 - Pattern
- **Common Usage**
 - John's time
 - "Our" time
- **Plain language**
 - as confirmation
 - as statement
- **The "close up" vision problem**

Becoming Closer

Overall Structure



Becoming Closer

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse



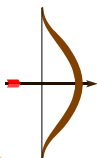
Becoming Closer

The First Seal

(Rev 6:1-2 NIV) I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!" {2} I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

Becoming Closer

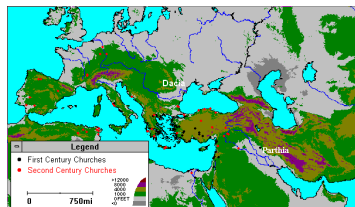
First Seal - Interpretation



- White horse
- Bow
- Crown
- Is this Christ (Rev 19:11)?

Becoming Closer

Second Century



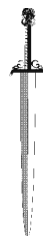
Becoming Closer

The Second Seal

(Rev 6:3-4 NIV) When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" {4} Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword.

Becoming Closer

The Red Horse



- Red Horse
- "take peace from the earth"
- "make men slay each other"
- Sword

Becoming Closer

The Third Seal

(Rev 6:5-6 NIV) When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. {6} Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!"

Becoming Closer

The Black Horse



- Black
- Scales
- "A quart of wheat.."
- "Hurt not..."

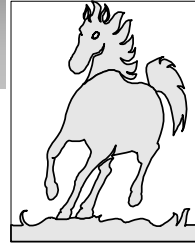
Becoming Closer

The Fourth Seal

(Rev 6:7-8 NIV) When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" {8} I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Becoming Closer

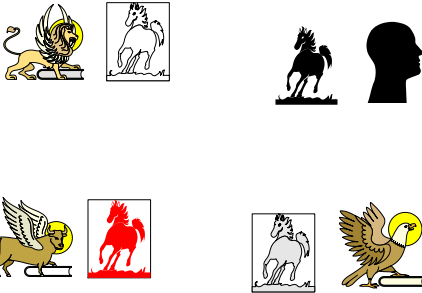
The Pale Horse



- Pale Horse
- Death and Hades
- "Fourth Part"

Becoming Closer

Coincidence?



Becoming Closer

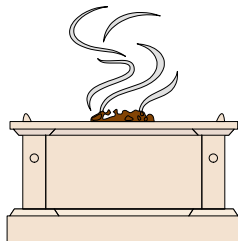
The Fifth Seal

(Rev 6:9-11 NIV) When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. {10} They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" {11} Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.

Becoming Closer

The Souls Under the Altar

- The Altar
- "souls of those..."
- Vengeance?
- White robes
- "Wait..."



Becoming Closer

The Sixth Seal

(Rev 6:12-17 NIV) I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, {13} and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. {14} The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. {15} Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. {16} They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! {17} For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

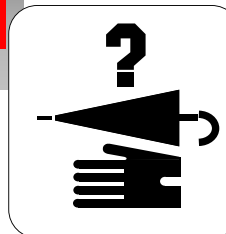
Becoming Closer

Divergence in Method

- | Historicist | Futurist |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| ■ The Seven Letters | ■ The Sixth Seal |
| ■ 19th Century and before | ■ Pre-1940 |
| ■ 20th Century | ■ After World War II |

Becoming Closer

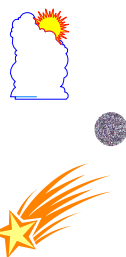
The Symbols



- Earthquake
- Sun turning black
- Moon turning red
- Stars falling
- Sky rolling up
- Mountains
- Islands

Becoming Closer

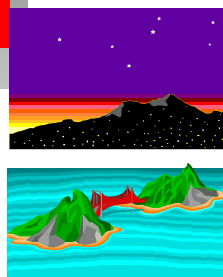
Sun, Moon and Stars



- Earthly dignitaries
 - Gen. 37:9-10
 - Common to kings
- Heavenly beings
 - Numbers 24:17
- Fallen angels
 - Daniel 8:10

Becoming Closer

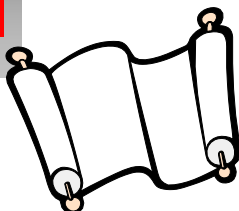
Mountains and Islands



- Mountain
 - spiritual kingdom (Daniel 2:35)
 - earthly kingdom (Jeremiah 51:25)
- Island
 - lesser kingdom (Isaiah 41:5)
 - distant kingdom? (Isaiah 45:1)

Becoming Closer

The sky... like a scroll



- Prime problem: Revelation 20:11
- When does the sky disappear?
- When is it symbolically the heavens?

Becoming Closer

Constantine the Great

- 5th Seal - ends AD 313
- Decree of Milan - AD 313 - religious liberty
- AD 321 - Sunday a day of rest
- AD 323 - end of Gladiators
- AD 325 - summons the Nicean council
- AD 331 destruction of paganism
- Restructured Empire
- Rome --> Constantinople

Becoming Closer