

## The Eschatological Judge

What did Jesus mean when He said, “for not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given **all judgment** to the Son,” (John 5:22)? Let’s look at some instances in the book of Revelation and see what we can learn.

1. What do you observe? Who can take the scroll out of God’s hand and break its seals? What do the seals do?

Then I saw in the right hand of Him who sits on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?” And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. Then I was crying greatly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. And one of the elders said to me, “Stop crying!



Behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the scroll and its seven seals.” (Rev 5:1-5, LSB)

Then I looked when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, “Come.” Then I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sits on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out overcoming and to overcome. And when He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come.” And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sits on it, it was given to him to take peace from the earth, and that men would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him. And when He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, “Come.” Then I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sits on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard something like a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, “One choinix of wheat for one denarius, and three choinix of barley for one denarius, and do not harm the oil and the wine.” And when He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come.” Then I looked, and behold, a pale horse; and he who sits on it had the name Death, and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth. (Rev 6:1-8, LSB)

## 2. What do you observe? Where is this war? Who is victorious?

And the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east. for they are spirits of demons, doing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. (“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his garments, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.”) And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon. (Rev 16:13-16, LSB)

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; having a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself, and being clothed with a garment dipped in blood, His name is also called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the wrath of the rage of God, the Almighty. And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, “Come, assemble for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of strong men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great.” Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army. (Rev 19:11-19, LSB)

The Teacher Note for this lesson is at:

<http://Helpmewithbiblestudy.org/25Curriculum/Class9-12/print/Jesus.Work.EschatologicalJudge.9-12.pdf>

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### Teacher Notes

What did Jesus mean when He said, “for not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given **all judgment** to the Son,” (John 5:22)? Let’s look at some instances in the book of Revelation and see what we can learn.

Revelation is a very difficult book to study and understand. Eschatology is a reference to a period of time at the end of human history.

If interested, [Helpmewithbiblestudy.org](http://Helpmewithbiblestudy.org) has an objective method of studying Revelation that allows you to understand most of the Book literally, sequentially, and coherently.

1. What do you observe? Who can take the scroll out of God’s hand and break its seals? What do the seals do?

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Review the image of the scroll with its seven seals. Answer any question to help them understand what a scroll is and the function of a seal.

Ask the student: what good things happen when the seals are broken?

Inform the student that “One choinix of wheat for one denarius, and three choinix of barley for one denarius,” indicates a famine and food shortage.

Choinix is about 1.1 liters or less than a quart. Denarius is the day wage of a Roman soldier or laborer.

Inform the student that breaking the seals leads to unleashing the seven trumpets (Rev 8:1-2) and seven bowls of God’s wrath containing plagues (Rev 15:1).

In this exclusive role in judgment, Jesus Christ is the only One who can take the scroll out of His Father’s hand to break its seals and unleash His Father’s judgment upon the earth that includes war, famine, death, and supernatural disasters. It is apparent that the scroll is about God’s judgment of earth and those human beings physically alive at the time.

## 2. What do you observe? Where is this war? Who is victorious?

And the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east. for they are spirits of demons, doing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. ("Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his garments, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.") And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon. (Rev 16:13-16, LSB)

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Inform the student that the Hebrew "Har-Meggido" is translated into Greek as "Har-Magedon" and in Latin as "Armageddon." It is an area that features a hill, fortified by king Ahab, in the area of the ancient city of Meggido in northern Israel.

Help the student gain a sense of the sequence and progression of God's wrath: 7 seals, 7 trumpets, and 7 bowls. After the seventh and last bowl, the war at Armageddon occurs.

Ask the student: who do you observe is making war with Jesus Christ?

The beast, false prophet and the kings of the earth are arrayed to make war at Armageddon in an attempt to deny Jesus Christ of His kingdom (Rev 16:13-16; 19:17-19).

Explain to the student that Revelation introduces two people that the apostle John calls the Beast from the Sea (Rev 13:1-2) and the Beast from the Earth. These two people are described in florid figures of speech making it challenging to understand.

Satan gave the Beast of the Sea a mouth to speak "arrogant words with blasphemies against God" (Rev 13:5-6).

The idea that the Beast from the Sea is the "Antichrist" is derived from the apostle John's epistles. He defines antichrist as one who deceives and denies God the Father and / or His Son Jesus Christ. The apostle John's definition applies to anyone; however, the Antichrist is applied to one individual who comes in "the last hour."

The Beast from the Earth personified another evil human being who has the authority to make the whole earth worship the Antichrist (Rev 13:12).

With the intent to deceive, he performs miracles to encourage the worship of the Antichrist including the making of Antichrist idols (Rev 13:14-15). Anyone who did not worship the Antichrist or his image was killed (Rev 13:15).

Ask the student: can you think of any instance when Jesus Christ is involved with killing a human being?

Ask the student: why did God kill human beings in the Old Testament? What is divine judgment? Encourage exploration and discussion in the context of Armageddon.

Divine judgment is the condemnation of sin. It is not a capricious decision but one based on God's moral standard that is embedded in His Being.

Jesus Christ's war asserts the supremacy of His divine authority (John 5:21, 24, 27, 29) and in accordance with His Father's will (John 5:20, 26, 30).

Ask the student: are you aware of any other judgments that Jesus Christ will make after the war in Armageddon? Encourage the student to show the class the biblical evidence for their thoughts.

Ask the student: review questions 1 and 2 - what is one of the functions of the Eschatological Judge?

Jesus carries out God's plan of judgment at the end of human history and the complete elimination of sin.