

# God's Authority over Evil Explained

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Revelation 4:1-8:6

## Chapter 4

- Compare with Isaiah 6:1ff – John is called like a prophet.
- God is at the center of creation – v. 11
- 24 elders – probably 2x12; apostles and tribes – represent the entirety of God's people.

## Chapter 4 – cont.

- The sea – Canaanite myth – bad things come from the sea... why is it here?
- Cf. 13:1; Luke 8:22-24, 33; Rev. 21:1.
- Living creatures – represent the “otherness” of God – tied to holiness.
- Three-fold “Holy, holy, holy....” They affirm and defend the holiness of God “day and night.



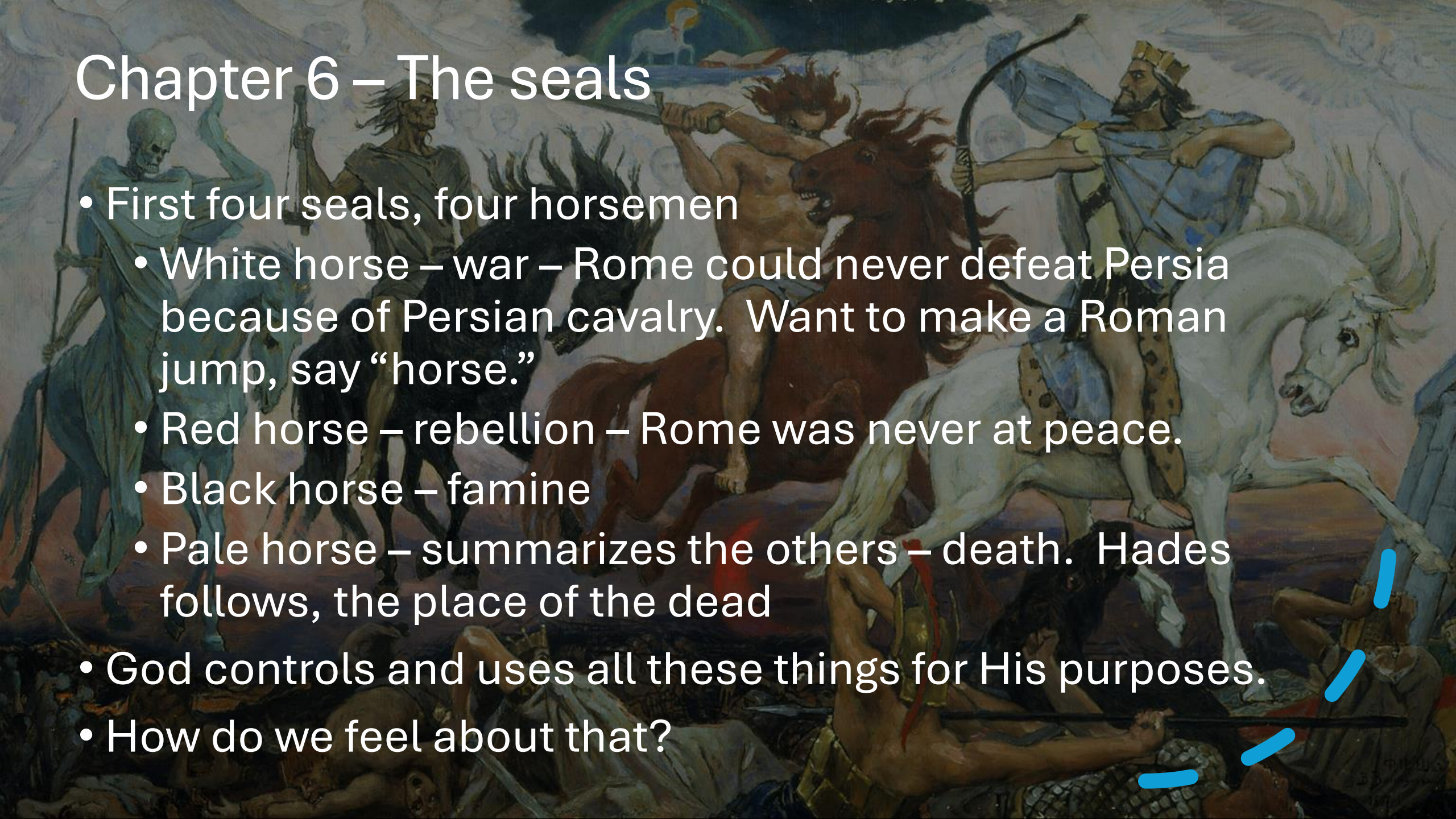
A lion and a lamb are depicted sitting on a bed of white, fluffy clouds. The lion is on the left, looking towards the viewer, and the lamb is on the right, also looking towards the viewer. The background is a dark blue sky with more clouds. The text 'Chapter 5' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

## Chapter 5

- Worthiness passes to Jesus because He was slain and conquered (specifically through being slain).
- Lion – Gen. 49:9-10
- Root of David – Isaiah 11:1-10
- Lamb – reigns through sacrifice
- Horns – sovereign – what does sovereign” mean?
- Jesus takes the limelight here... why is this not a problem? He is God!

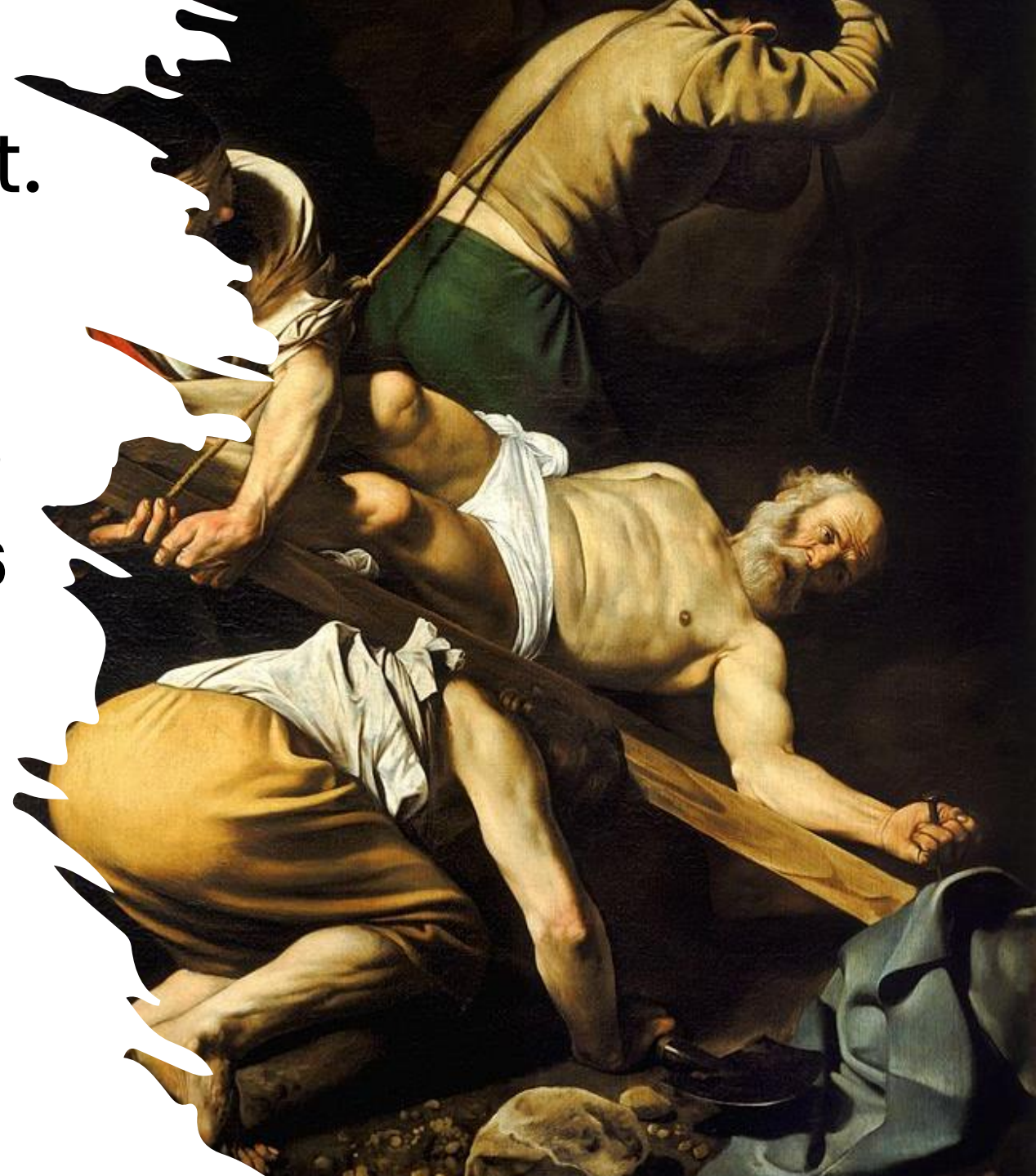
# Chapter 6 – The seals

- First four seals, four horsemen
  - White horse – war – Rome could never defeat Persia because of Persian cavalry. Want to make a Roman jump, say “horse.”
  - Red horse – rebellion – Rome was never at peace.
  - Black horse – famine
  - Pale horse – summarizes the others – death. Hades follows, the place of the dead
- God controls and uses all these things for His purposes.
- How do we feel about that?



# Chapter 6 – the seals cont.

- Fifth seal – Martyrs, sacrificed for the word of God and their testimony. Ask, “How long?” Given a white robe – symbolizes the heavenly dwelling and martyrdom. Are told, wait. 10:6 – wait no longer!
- “Full number” – not an actual number as some think, rather represents when God’s purposes are fulfilled.



# Chapter 6 – the seals cont.

- Sixth seal – Wrath of the Lamb  
– Those who oppose the people of God suffer the wrath. Nature suffers as it affects people - cf. Joel 2:30ff, Isaiah 2:10ff, 24:2ff, Romans 8:18.
- What is our view of nature?
- How do we see God in all this?
- Why do we see it??



# Chapter 7 – break

- Angels with the power to harm – wait!
- V. 3 – God’s people are marked – God watches His own – cf. Exodus 12:23, Ezekiel 9:4.
- 144,000 – not literal. 12,000 from each tribe. Where is Dan? – Judges 18:30; I Kings 12:29
- Strong hints of the militant here. It is a spiritual battle.





# Chapter 7 – break cont.

- Verse 9 shifts to the throne room.
- Uncountable number in white robes – martyred – v. 14.
- Elder discussion with John – what is the purpose?
- The salvation is all-encompassing and complete!



# Chapter 8:1-6 – the seventh seal

- Contains the seven trumpets – the warning judgements
- Contains four natural plagues and three demonic
- These are partial judgements and a call to repentance
- The golden censor – contains the prayers of the saints – a partial answer to those under the alter – 6:10.

