

## COME: THE CRY THAT MOVES HISTORY

October 15, 2023 Rev. 6:1-17; 8:1-5 by Bob Branch  
Standing In The Fire, part 14

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**1. Original audience:** oppressed, marginalized, getting worse.

The Global South: 2050, Africa, the center of Christianity.

America, prosperity, comfort & human freedom/agency

**2. 3 series of 7 scenes all relate to each other**

Filming a football game

What's the purpose of all this? What is God doing in all this?

**3. Something like contractions**

### Revelation 6:1-17, 8:1-5 ESV

**First seal**, “*Come!*” A white horse, rider with a crown & bow.

His intent is **conquest**.

**Who or what is this rider?** (19:11)

*Pause.* **Rome** is in immediate view.

“**Wrath of the lamb.**” (16)

“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people... God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts.” **Romans 1:18, 24**

**Second Seal**, a red horse, the rider is *war itself* unchecked

“*take peace from the earth,*” people will **slaughter** ea other

**Third seal**, a black horse, rider with a scale representing famine and *economic disorder*

**Fourth seal**, pale like death horse, Death + Hades

**Fifth seal**, saints under the altar

A priestly act, a sacrifice, with sacrificial consequences for the world.

***Sacrifice releases power. 1 Kings 18***

When **Jesus** died on the cross, ultimate power released

**“How long” Dressed** in white (purity & victory)

**Rest** a while longer.

**Why? When blood is spilt for God, power is released.**

“they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.” **Revelation 12:11**

**Sixth seal**, the entire cosmos has an earthquake.

(Is. 13:9-10; 32:4-5 Ezek. 32:7-15)

“This is simply the way regular Jewish imagery is able to refer to major socio-political events and bring out their full significance.” **NT Wright**

**Seventh seal:** 30 minutes of Silence.

The saint's prayers are being collected & offered up to God.

**Your prayers matter.**

“Come, Lord Jesus.”

**Why is all this happening?**

“If God's new creation is to be brought to birth, the deepest ills of the old one must be exposed, allowed to come out, and be dealt with.” **NT Wright**