

KING OF THE JUNGLE

SERMON TITLE: THE WRATH OF THE LAMB REVELATION 6:1-17

Herman Melville's famous novel, "[Moby Dick](#)" is the story of Captain Ahab's self-destructive obsession to hunt down the white sperm whale that bit off his leg.

Captain Ahab's lust for vengeance is countered by his first mate's desire to return safely to his family. *His name is "[Starbuck](#)" - the coffee company's namesake.*

But there's a line in the story that applies to our text... Starbuck is speaking to the ship's crew, "[I will have no man in my boat who is not afraid of a whale...](#)"

According to Starbuck *some fear* can be healthy.

Giant sperm whales are dangerous. And without *a proper fear* a sailor won't be as sensitive as he needs to be to the risks involved in harpooning a killer whale.

After today, I hope we all take heed to the words of Starbuck. For if Moby Dick was the king of the sea; the Lion of the tribe of Judah is the King of the Jungle.

And by the time we're done, I hope everyone under the sound of my voice has a healthy fear of that Lion.

Yet we start today - not with lions or whales - but with horses. The Bible mentions horses and horsemen over 300 times, but the four most famous are in Revelation 6. Here are "[the four horsemen of the Apocalypse.](#)"

Today, when we picture a horse we think of a racing thoroughbred, or a shetland pony at the petting zoo, or a recreational horse, or a parade or circus performer.

But historically horses specialized in warfare. The horse was the tank of the ancient world. *Cavalry* always had a leg up over *infantry*. Thus, four horses in Heaven, charging the planet, was an ominous sight.

For John this set off alarms. It struck fear in his heart. He knew this would not bode well for the earth.

Imagine, a four horse starting gate... A thoroughbred race horse crouches behind each gate ready to bolt.

These are huge, powerful animals - each one is six feet tall, over 1000 pounds. They can run 35-40 mph.

These four beasts are in the gate - stomping their hooves, snorting hot breath. They're waiting on the gun to sound. But *these* four horses aren't released at once. Four guns sound - *or four seals are broken*. After each snap another horse gallops toward the Earth.

And guess who's there in the back of the stall, slapping each Judgment horse on it's flank, sending it on its rampage of destruction... It's none other than *the roaring Lamb!* It's Jesus, the King of the Jungle!

This past week marked a milestone for our church. I walked into Brand Bank and paid off our mortgage.

The building we meet in, is now all ours. The bank no longer has a say. It's solely under our management.

This is similar to what happens in Revelation 5-6.

Remember Chapter 5... If you were here last week, *how could you forget?* There's a scroll in Heaven, bound with seven wax seals. This is a Real Estate document. It's *the title deed to the whole universe!*

A strong angel asks, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" At first, John looks around - he sees no one - he realizes what this means!

This leaves the world in dire straights.

When mankind sinned and dropped the ball, Satan recovered our fumble. He usurped enough authority to start throwing his weight around. The devil is getting his way. Three times in John's Gospel, Jesus calls him, "ruler of this world." He's now the neighborhood bully.

And John knows if someone isn't worthy to redeem, or *take back*, this universe from Satan, it will fall forever into his diabolical clutches. The thought of this is too much for John - he's overwhelmed. He begins to sob.

But that's when one of the twenty-four elders speaks to John... *And you should always listen to your elders!*

He tells John, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." And when John turns to look at this Lion, "(there) in the midst of the throne... stood a Lamb as though it had been slain..."

Jesus is a regal Lion - the King of beasts. He roars and the Earth melts. But this Lion looked like a sacrificed Lamb. He still bore the scars of crucifixion.

Jesus is the King of the Jungle, but He earned His authority on the cross by shouldering our sin - and paying our debt - and absolving our guilt and shame.

Jesus the Lamb paid the *buy-back* price. Now He's going to *take back* the universe from its usurper.

John observes in chapter 5, "Then (the Lamb) came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne." Jesus now has the paperwork. He owns the universe lock-stock-and barrel. And it's re-po time!

There's a show on Tru-TV, "Operation Repo." Folks walk outside and see someone towing away their Jag...

They get mad. They go crazy. They start picking a fight, or waving a gun. And the Repo Team has to get rough. They'll use force if needed to take possession.

And this is what happens in Revelation 6...

The Lamb paid the price, and takes the scroll. But Satan is like the deadbeat who goes nuts-o when the rightful owner takes his property. Satan tries to stop the repossession... *This is when the Lamb gets rough!*

Ancient title deeds were closed with multiple seals. Each seal marked the next step in an eviction process.

Every time another seal was popped the owner was one step closer to possessing what belonged to him - *and the squatter was nearer to being out on his ear.*

Here's where we are in the history of the universe...

Jesus has the scroll, and Satan is the troll. The devil lives under the bridge Jesus owns, and makes life hard on the passers-by. Satan frightens and hassles them...

But soon, Jesus is going to start popping these seals and opening the scroll; *and it'll drive out the troll* - along with all those who've been enchanted with his evil.

This is what happens in Revelation 6. Jesus opens the seven seals, and horrible judgments are unleashed on a planet that resists His rule and ownership. He punishes people who prefer to live under Satan's sway.

We don't realize the aberration we live in. *"Today is the day of salvation."* We live in an age of grace.

Normally, God's modus operandi is to put down revolts as quickly as they rise. When Satan launched his angelic coup d'that, judgment was swift, immediate.

Jesus recalled, *"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."* God didn't beat around the bush. He judged.

We don't realize that human history has been an anomaly - a deviation in the story of God. He's been amazingly tolerant. Rather than bring down the hammer, God has given sinners opportunity to repent.

But as God explained to Noah there're limits to His patience, *"My Spirit shall not strive with man forever..."*

In Exodus 34 God identifies Himself to Moses on top of Mount Sinai. He's, "the LORD God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin..."

Sounds good!

God is benevolent and kind, but His patience is not infinite. He finishes, "by no means clearing the guilty..."

God won't put up with perverted ways forever.

Holding the guilty accountable is as big a part of God's nature as showing a repentant person mercy.

Currently, we live in an day when mankind is getting *his way*, and having *his say*. I call it, "The Day of Man."

Mankind rules the roost. We think we're in charge.

Yet the Bible teaches that the sun will set on "The Day of Man" - and a new day will dawn on planet Earth... God will have *His say*, and insist on *His way*.

God will judge evil, and silence human opinions. Paul refers to this period as "The Day of the Lord."

Imagine, renting your house to folks who ignore the lease, refuse to pay rent, and then trash the premises.

You might try to work with these people a few months, but eventually you'll foreclose and start the eviction. *This is what Jesus does in Revelation 6...*

Actually, you've got to tip your hat to God's patience. Believe me, His long-suffering has been remarkable.

Just be thankful I'm not the Almighty...

The first time the Jews yelled, "**Crucify Him...**" - or the moment that soldier's hammer hit the spike into my Son's wrist - or today, when a Muslim Jihadist slits a Christian's throat with his saber - *I would bow up!*

Their heads would roll. I'd take max vengeance.

The first time I saw *a child abused, or a woman raped, or a wife battered, or a senseless murder, or a person killed by a drunk driver, or a baby aborted, or a corrupt politician steal our taxes, or a college professor undermine a teenager's faith, or a Hollywood producer blaspheme the name of Jesus* - I would clean house!

I'd throw so many burning comets at this fallen planet, I'd need Tommy John surgery afterwards.

I have a short fuse... but not God!

Jesus is waiting *to pop the seals, right the wrongs, punish the evil, take back possession...* A trillion times a day He overlooks the sin that He sees. Though it breaks His heart, He's willing to endure. Apparently, to God the wait is worth one more sinner who'll repent.

But the Bible is clear, He won't wait forever. It's been said, "**The love of God is eternal. His patience is not.**"

The day will come when God will lower the boom.

This is what Chapter 6 predicts. The world's rightful owner opens the deed and evicts the sorry tenants.

Verse 1, “Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.”

Pretend you're at a heavyweight boxing bout. The champ climbs into the ring, and the arena announcer shouts to the crowd, “Let's get ready to rumble!...”

But you look, and God's champ is a little Lamb. We'll soon discover, this little Lamb packs a big wallop!

“And I looked, and behold, a white horse.” It's Jesus in charge of the stall. He'll unleash each of the four horses - the *white*, and *red*, and *black*, and *pale* horse.

Jesus proves *He's not horsing around*.

Even today, these horses are in the gate in heaven - snorting, neighing, kicking at the dirt - ready to bolt.

And of this white horse, John writes, “He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.” It's a common mistake to assume this first rider is the Lord Jesus.

We've probably been conditioned by the movies.

In all the old westerns the hero came wearing a *white hat* and riding on a *white horse*. But that's not the case with this first seal. Jesus is in Heaven breaking seals and sending horses - not riding them...

A Russian artist named Victor Vasnetsov is famous for his 1887 painting of the four horsemen in chapter 6.

And he gets the most important detail right!

Notice at the top of Victor's painting, the Lamb has the open scroll before the throne of God in heaven.

To be totally accurate the Lamb should be bigger, and dominate the scene. This is all about Jesus sending judgment. But Victor realized the Lamb is not the rider. *This rider on the white horse is an impostor.*

If you want to fake a \$100 bill you don't put Obama on the front. Try to spend an Obama buck and it won't fool anybody. You want your C-note to portray Ben Franklin, and look as close to authentic as possible.

And this is the devil's strategy. He wants *the false-Christ* on the white horse, to look like *the true Christ*.

Yet the features ascribed to him, give him away...

It is true, that in Revelation 19 we see Jesus returning to Earth on the back of a white warhorse.

But that's where the similarities end...

Jesus returns at the end of this period of judgment - after the seventh seal. This guy rides in at its outset.

Recall from Chapter 1 Jesus always has a sharp sword, but this false-Christ carries a bow. In Genesis 11, Nimrod the hunter, was the first rebel to revolt against God. This Nimrod was an expert with the bow.

After the flood God hung up His bow in the clouds. He'd never again judge the world with water. The *rainbow* was the symbol of His promise... But Nimrod hated God, and tried to draw men to himself. His bow was a symbol of his conquest over the hearts of men.

Likewise, this is the goal of the rider on the white horse. Notice, he has a bow, but no arrows. Apparently, the rider conquers the nations without firing a shot.

This leader is hailed as *a man of peace*. He's an expert in diplomacy. He designs a *sinister shalom*.

There's also a difference in the crown that he wears.

Here, the word "*crown*" denotes the laurel wreath or *competitor's prize*. In Revelation 19 Jesus wears the *diadem*, or *the kingly crown*. Jesus has the right to rule.

The rider on this white horse steals his authority - *and it only lasts for a short time*, until Jesus returns.

I read of an Israeli tour guide who confessed to his group, "*I'm so desperate, I'd sign a deal with the devil if it would mean peace.*" And that's exactly what the Israelis will one day do! The final seven years of history called the Great Tribulation begins when Israel signs a treaty with the rider on this white horse - *aka, antichrist*.

Verse 3, “When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come and see.”

Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.” It doesn’t take long for the false peace of the white horse to crumble.

Paul predicts in 1 Thessalonians 5:3, “For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them...” Today, the world chants, “Give peace a chance.” But *this peace* will be short-lived.

This second horse speaks of war and bloodshed.

It foreshadows all the skirmishes that lead up to the final battle of Armageddon. Notice, its color is appropriate – it’s blood red. The death toll will be astronomical. Millions upon millions will die violently.

But as the world suffers under war Jesus opens the gate to a third horse. “When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come and see.”

So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.” In John’s day scales were a symbol of commerce. All buying and selling was done with the use of balances and scales.

“And I heard 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 the wine.” In the Roman world a denarius was a typical day’s wage. Here, basic food staples cost huge sums of money. Inflation has sky-rocketed.

Global famine will drive up the price of food.

Living in America we're sheltered from the conditions in which most of the people on this planet live. It's frequently stated, "One-third of the world's population has plenty to eat (that's America). One-third are under-nourished. One-third are on the verge of starvation."

We've just watched a super-storm unhinge life in the northeastern United States. What if a super storm - or a global drought - wiped out a single growing season.

A severe famine is not that hard to envision.

Your wife and kids would join the African children you see on TV with their sunken eyes and exposed ribs.

Notice too, the irony in verse 6. Basic foods will be depleted, but there's still an abundance of luxury items like oil and wine. It's God's sarcasm on man's priorities.

We'll have *boos to drink*, but no *bread to eat*.

It's even more profound if the oil in verse 6 can refer to petroleum, not just to olive oil. We'll have gasoline to fill up and drive our fancy cars, but no food in our belly.

There's coming a time when Jesus will rock this planet... False peace is followed by war... war is followed by famine... and famine is followed by death...

Verse 7, "When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a pale horse."

The Greek word translated “*pale*” is “*chloros*” - from which we get our words *chlorine*, or *chlorophyll*. It’s denotes a greenish-yellow color. It’s the flesh tones of a person who’s seasick, or a corpse without make-up.

“And the name of him who sat on (this fourth horse) was Death, and Hades followed with him.” Death has an entourage. Hades fills up on the heels of Death.

The Pale Rider is thinning out a wicked population.

This summer we read stories of folks having their limbs amputated - even dying - due to a mysterious flesh-eating bacteria... Now it’s a meningitis outbreak...

What’s next? The World Health Organizations are well aware that some new antibiotic-resistant super-plague could easily kill millions of the human family.

Add together the cumulative effect of all four horses, and the impact is staggering. John writes, “And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.” A quarter of the world’s population will die.

Last year our global population topped 7 billion. A quarter of that would be a death toll of 1.75 billion.

It’s hard to imagine 1.75 billion of anything, let alone, over a billion dead bodies... If you counted one number per second it would take 11 days to reach a million.

That seems like a long time, but it would take 56 years to count to 1.75 billion. *Now imagine nearly two billion dead bodies littering the planet!* Last week’s hurricane toll hit 98 people. The four horsemen of the Apocalypse will kill one out of every four humans.

And all the while this carnage is occurring on Earth remember what John saw happening in heaven.

Believers from every tribe, tongue, people, nation - who've been redeemed by the blood of Jesus - are before God's throne singing, "Worthy is the Lamb..."

That's the church. That's you and I. Before this *judgment comes down*, the *church will go up*. We'll be **raptured** or *snatched away*. As Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5, "God did not appointed us to wrath."

But there're seven seals, not four... In verse 9 Jesus breaks another. "When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held." As Jesus pops the seals and judges the Earth, guess where the rebels take out their frustrations?

Rather than take responsibility for the consequences of their own sin, they shift the blame to believers. The followers of Jesus become the brunt of their anger.

During this time of Great Tribulation some people will recognize God's judgment and turn to Jesus. *They'll be saved, but not so safe*. The rider on the white horse will make it a crime to be a Christian. He'll insist we coexist. Anybody who takes Jesus as Lord is silenced.

The final seven years will see a multitude of martyrs.

We see the martyrs in verse 9 - their souls, not their bodies, are crying out under the altar in Heaven.

This means they've missed the rapture.

When Jesus retrieves the Church He's a body snatcher. He raptures not only our soul, but resurrects our body - "this corruptible must put on incorruption."

The Tribulation believers are camped under the altar. They've been brutalized. They're victims of injustice.

And they let us know it in verse 10, "They cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Realize they sing a familiar refrain.

Isn't this a lot like the prayers we've prayed?

When we see a criminal walk out of a courtroom because of a technicality... or watch justices uphold rules that sanction the murder of innocent babies... or realize evil men enslave young girls in the sex trade... or hear of deviants who make millions off child porn...

Don't you get angry, and cry out for vengeance?

Isn't there a righteous recoil in your heart whenever you see evil prosper, and good despised? *It shouldn't be.* In Psalm 58 David saw evil men going unpunished. He prayed, "Break their teeth in their mouth, O God!"

And we've all prayed for a few teeth to be broken!

Today, the world glorifies tolerance for all religions, *except Christianity.* Faith in Christ is the sticking point.

And it's a small leap from *bigotry* to *brutality.*

The *false-Christ on the white horse* will hand down a death penalty to anyone who worships *the true Christ*.

“Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.” In Revelation 19 Jesus returns, and when He does the martyrs’ blood gets avenged - their pain gets eased. *But for a time they’ll have to wait...*

And this word “**wait**” is the challenge for our faith as well... Jesus will right all wrongs, but not on our timetable. Verse 11, “*Rest a little while longer...*” is as relevant to us today, as it will be for *these* future saints.

In verse 12 Jesus breaks the scariest seal yet...

“I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.” This earthquake is the Big One. It blows up the richter scale. The Earth convulses soot and smoke that turns the sky black and the moon red.

“And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.” The Greek word translated “*stars*” is “**asteres**.” It applies not only to stars, but to *asteroids* or *meteorites*, or any cosmic projectile streaking through outer space.

This week my yard was deluged with leaves. The milder, outer winds of the hurricane stripped my trees.

And one day, just like it, Jesus will shake the sky above us - celestial bodies will pummel the Earth.

“Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.” This upheaval is almost beyond description.

Obviously, when He cracks open the sixth seal Jesus takes the gloves off. It's a rough, bare-knuckled strike.

Jesus unleashes massive, cataclysmic judgments upon the rebel planet. *We won't be...* but if we were on the Earth, experiencing these judgments, it would make us want to take back all our cries for vengeance.

All I can say is sympathies to you, if you miss the rapture, and you're here when the sixth seal breaks.

Take all the Meteorite movies of recent years... *it's become a film genre...* [Armageddon](#), [Deep Impact](#), [Night of the Comet](#), [Doomsday Rock](#), [Asteroid](#), etc.

All the Hollywood special effects combined are too tame to illustrate the damage such an event would do.

I've got a movie... *not a Hollywood flick - a National Geographic Special* - titled, [“Asteroids Deadly Impact.”](#)

It's a documentary, on not just the *possibility* of a major meteorite strike, in our future, but its *inevitability*.

Do you realize, every day the Earth gets bombarded with 20 tons of cosmic rock. Most of it is space dust, but larger strikes occur. Geologists can take you to over 140

craters all around the globe that are the result of incoming asteroids, and comets, and meteors.

And according to verse 13 it'll happen again.

Recently, CBS News ran a special report. It quoted astronomers who estimate that there are over 400,000 **NEOs**, or **Near Earth Objects**, up to 1000 meters wide, that could strike planet Earth with little or no warning.

Here it happens when Jesus breaks the sixth seal...

The stars fall... Then a super-quake creates massive fissures in the Earth's crust... Continents shift... Islands vanish... As the ground shakes under their feet the inhabitants of the Earth look up and the sky is receding or rolling up like a paper party horn after a blast...

In the movie, "**Deep Impact**," the United States sets up a survival village in the caves of Missouri called "**The Ark**." I wonder if the script's writers read verse 15.

"The kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!' For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" But what a phrase, "*the wrath of the Lamb!*"

Now stay with me... I'm at the end of my text, not the end of my thoughts... Remember this book isn't the revelation of future plagues. It's **the revelation of Jesus!**

Here's the question we should be asking ourselves, *what does all this teach us about Jesus today?* And this is the phrase to chew on... *"the wrath of the Lamb."*

No other animal is as docile and gentle as a lamb! The phrase *"wrath of the Lamb"* is the prime-oxymoron.

And likewise, no other person is more gentle and tender with a trusting heart than our Lord Jesus. But the day will come when He'll be gentle no longer. The rejecting heart will taste His wrath! *The Lamb will roar!*

This is a side to Jesus we all need to see...

Understand Hebrews 13:8, *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."* He never changes.

When we get to Revelation Jesus doesn't suddenly grown fangs. He's the same Jesus Who *welcomed little children - showed compassion to lepers - reattached the ear that Peter chopped off of His arresting officer...*

Perhaps Jesus' marvelous mercy overshadowed the times He got angry, *but there were times He got angry.*

In Mark 3, before Jesus healed the man's withered hand, He saw that the Pharisees were more concerned with their petty laws, than with the man's suffering.

Mark says Jesus *"looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts..."*

Twice Jesus went ballistic and drove out the crooked priests from the Temple... once with a whip - the other time with His bare knuckles. He got furious - *ticked off*.

I'll never forget the Sunday I used that expression, "**Jesus got ticked off.**" After the sermon a fellow accuse me of being disrespectful to my Lord. *I didn't apologize.*

I thought my language could've been much stronger.

In Matthew 23 Jesus was the person who went on a Temple tirade. He called the religious elite, "**hypocrites, blind guides, fools and blind, whitewashed tombs... full of dead men's bones, lawless, sons of murderers, serpents, brood of vipers...**" You don't call somebody a *snake* if you're not ticked-off. Jesus got really angry.

And I'll tell you why Jesus was prone to anger - **it was because of His love.** The reason your kids can make you so angry is because you love them so much.

Love gets angry. If you love someone, and see them headed toward some danger you don't remain callous and indifferent. You're passionate toward them, and you get angry if they refuse to heed your warnings.

I'm afraid we've water-down love. Kids conclude if their parents don't cater to their every whim it means mom and dad doesn't love them. The opposite is true.

A parent who loves their kid will discipline them.

Years ago an arsonist in Washington set several damaging fires. A man heard the news, and as the evidence unraveled, he suspected his son. Eventually the dad contacted police and turned in his own boy.

I saw the interview they did with the anguished dad.

He was a Christian, and loved his son deeply, but he believed justice had to be served. It was love that made him stop his boy, before he could set more fires.

Real love is tough love. It draws a line in the sand. It says, “**this far and no further.**” 1 Corinthians 13 is true, “**Love is patient, love is kind**” – but there comes a point when love has to hold the person it loves accountable.

Every time Jesus breaks one of these seal, it breaks His heart. But love will not stand by forever and watch the human race annihilate itself. *Love intervenes.*

For 2000 years Jesus has sought to interrupt our madness with His mercy. Finally, He'll do it forcibly.

In the OT blasphemy against God was a capital crime against the nation. It sowed seeds of rebellion among God's people. Its penalty was death-by-stoning.

Ironically, this is what's occurring when the sixth seal breaks. *The Lamb* is in heaven acting like *a Lion*.

He'll pelt the planet with meteors. Jesus is going to administer a stoning. While the Earth's brazen rebels plead for an avalanche to put them out of their misery.

At His first coming Jesus sought to interrupt man's rebellion with **His mercy**. Ask the adulteress woman in the Temple, *He stopped her stoning*. But in the future when Jesus pops the seals, He interrupts man's mutiny by participation in a stoning. He pours out **His wrath**.

Remember the point of Revelation - John was writing to first century believers who knew Jesus while He was on Earth, but now He's *exalted, glorified, amplified*.

He hasn't changed natures, but while on Earth He wrapped Himself in lowliness. He made Himself of no reputation. He became a servant to save you and me.

But today, and forevermore, Jesus is unveiled. All that He is has been unwrapped - His glory is revealed.

Our faith needs to grasp this truth - and grow up.

I like what Dorothy Sayers wrote about Jesus' first coming... "The people who hung Christ never accused Him of being a bore; on the contrary, they thought Him too dynamic to be safe. It has been left for later generations to muffle up that shattering personality and surround Him with the atmosphere of tedium.

We have very efficiently pared the claws of the Lion of Judah, certified Him *'meek and mild,'* and recommended Him as a fitting household pet for pale church-goers and pious old ladies..." I suggest the angry Lamb of Revelation 6 is closer to what Jesus is really like than the concepts people today have of Him.

Sayers continues, "To those who knew (Jesus), however, He in no way suggested a milk-and-water person; they objected to Him as a dangerous firebrand.

He had a daily beauty in His life that made us ugly, and officialdom felt that the established order of things would be more secure without Him. So they did away with God in the name of peace and quiet..." Revelation 6 lets us all know they didn't do away with Him forever.

There's a lot we can learn from "*the wrath of the Lamb.*" Just because Jesus loves us, doesn't mean He's never angry with us... Realize, everybody in Hell is loved by Jesus. His wrath never nullifies His love.

But there's stuff love can't tolerate. Love won't sit by forever and watch the person it loves self-destruct.

There comes a time, *in our lives* and *in the universe*, when Jesus has the courage to intervene. He stops us in our tracks - and turns us over to our own choices.

He extends mercy today. He'll break seals tomorrow.

Which brings us back to the words of Starbuck, "*I will have no man in my boat who is not afraid of a whale...*"

"*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.*"

The Revelation of Jesus inspires *love for the Lamb*, *fear for the Lion*, and above all, *worship for the Lord!*