**Revelation 4-7**

*Four Views*

Historicist:

The unsealing of the scroll commences the destruction of the Roman Empire.

The sequence of seals begins with the reign of Domitian (d. 96AD) and historically follows the decline of the Roman Empire through the invasion of the Goths and Vandals in the fourth and fifth centuries.

Preterist:

The unsealing of the scroll represents God’s judgement of Jerusalem (66-70AD); 144,000 Judean Christians escape

The four horsemen represent the Roman invasion of Israel to stop the rebellion (66AD) which brings war, famine and death and the fall of Jerusalem in 70AD

Futurist:

The unsealing of the scrolls represents the Rapture of the Church alone and the start of the Great Tribulation that lasts 7 years. 144,000 Jews are saved during the Great Tribulation.

The white horse is ridden by the Antichrist who brings war, famine and cosmic destruction in the form of nuclear war.

Idealist:

The unsealing of the scrolls represents God’s dealings with mankind throughout history. Tribulation is characteristic of the entire time until Christ’s return. War, famine, suffering and persecution are to be expected in all ages.

The visions of the throne highlight the sovereignty of God and how God protects His people from ultimate destruction even in the face of temporary pain, political upheaval and crisis.