

The Wild Beasts of the Earth

in Revelation 6:8 **are / will be...**

"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. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. **And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death [plague], and by the beasts of the earth.**" (*Revelation 6:7-8*)

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active during
part of the tribulation

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* *

closely linked to
war and famine (6:3-6)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

controversial because
Revelation is very difficult

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

evidence of
environmental collapse

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

feared
rather than protected

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* *

followed by
pleas for justice (6:10)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* *

in line with
Lev. 26:22 & Eze. 14:21

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

Descriptive



Meditation

various hungry wild animals

(probably including packs of smaller ones)

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instruments of
God's justice / wrath (6:10, 17)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

killing
millions of people

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* *

like and unlike
the lions in Dan. 6:24

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* *

more than
just scavengers (19:17-18)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* *

only in
one verse, Revelation 6:8

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

reversing
God's order (Genesis 1:28)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

the final
item in the 6:8 list

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

the flip side of
plagues in the cities

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

under
the Lamb's authority (6:1, 7)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

Directions: after reading through **Revelation chapter six** in a good study Bible, consider and discuss how the wild beasts of the earth in Revelation 6:8 are described above.

Do you agree with the points made? Would you change some or them or add new ones? At the end of the study, discuss the most important descriptive phrases and make applications. The following question may help with the applications. *What is your attitude toward protecting wolves and other predators? Are you a prepper, preparing for environmental collapse or nuclear war? Why / why not? What do you believe about the rapture (1 Cor. 15:52) and the tribulation?* — © 2022 by Jon F. Mahar, Hakusan City, Japan and Alexander, Maine, U.S.A.

Why should Christians care about animals in the future tribulation period?

We believe that the removal or rapture of true believers will take place before the seven year tribulation period begins (1 Thes. 5:9). Yet, there will be many who come to faith in Christ during those seven years. Most of these will be martyred for their faith (Revelation 6:9-11), and these martyrs will call upon the Lord to avenge them (6:10). Some of these future martyrs may be killed by wild animals, somewhat like how many early martyrs were killed by wild animals in the Roman Colosseum.

Why do the wild animals come last on the list in 6:8?

Apparently more people will be killed in and by war, hunger, and pandemics, than by the wild predators. Nevertheless, since the population of the world is now very large, there will still be millions killed by starving beast of prey. Being killed by a wild animal will probably be more common in rural areas, while dying from disease will be more common in the cities.

Why are these wild beasts only mentioned in 6:8?

Revelation chapter six seems to be about the beginning of the Great Tribulation, the second half of the seven year tribulation period. Later in Revelation 19:17-18, only scavenging birds are mentioned. So perhaps most of the predators will die of starvation well before the end.

Is there a connection between these wild beasts and "the beast" in 11:7?

The beast in Revelation 11:7 and many other verses (13:2-4, 14-18, 14:9-11, etc.) is the future Antichrist who is probably called a beast because of his lack of human compassion. He is also probably the one who will wage war in Revelation 6:2 which will lead to famine and environmental collapse (6:5-8). So the beast, the Antichrist, will negatively impact the animals as well as the people.

The beasts of the earth in Revelation 6:8 are future animals rather than those which killed believers in the Roman Colosseum, but it is interesting to note that the coming Roman Antichrist through his wars will cause starving wild beasts to kill even more.

Why is Revelation so controversial?

Apocalyptic prophecy is, of course, uncomfortable reading even for believers because we naturally dislike change, especially negative change involved on a grand scale. We don't like to read about millions of people being killed by wild animals during the tribulation period, but it is going to happen. So this passage should not be skipped or, worse still, misrepresented as something that happened long ago in Roman times.

How should we apply this study?

Some may think that Revelation chapter six shows that we should work to protect the environment so that animals have enough to eat. Others may think that they should become preppers in order to have food for their family and fend off wild animals. Though these ideas may be valid to some extent, ultimately human efforts always come up short. Moreover, since the rapture will come **before** the tribulation period, the main thing is to believe in the Lord like Noah did in order to be removed and avoid God's judgement (1 Thes. 5:9).