

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

### Revelation 6 – Recap and Then Some...

7/2/17

This class is taught...

- ...taking the literal interpretation of the Bible when possible, which includes understanding Bible prophecy literally. Many of the symbols in the book of Revelation are explained in Scripture either in the same passage or by cross referencing to other passages.

- ...believing that the Bible is the unfolding of God's plan of Redemption. We see the unfolding beginning with the first Messianic prophecy in Gen. 3:15.

- ...believing that Scripture teaches a distinction between Israel and the Church. God has a plan for the ethnic nation of Israel and God has a plan for the Church.

I believe that the Church will be raptured BEFORE the Tribulation based on

- Dan. 9:24-27 – considered the backbone of end times prophecy. We do NOT see the church in Daniel's 70 week prophecy.

- Rev. 4 through Rev. 19:11 – we don't see the Church on the earth during the Tribulation on earth.

- Rev. 3:10 – *I will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.*

- *Those who dwell on the earth* – every time that phrase is mentioned in Revelation it is speaking of non-believers – NOT the Church.

- If the Church goes through the Tribulation – what's the purpose of the Church?

- The end times for Israel is noted in Scripture as the tribulation (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 12:1-2) and the millennial kingdom (Isa. 2; Isa. 11; Jer., Eze. 20, 22...; Zech. 12 through 14...). The end times for the Church is noted as APOSTASY (I Tim. 4:1ff; II Tim. 3:1ff; Jude)

I understand Scripture to teach that after the Church, Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus, is raptured from this earth, God will be using the Jews once again in witnessing: 144,000, 2 witnesses....

The overall outline of the book is found in Rev. 1:19 when Jesus told John to *Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.* The things which John saw - Jesus in His majesty – in His glory – we see Jesus vindicated in Rev. 1. In Rev. 2 & 3 we see *the things which are* as we read of Jesus messages to the seven churches in Asia Minor – modern day Turkey. In Rev. 4 & 5 we come to the end of the Church Age. And, we see the things which will take place after this (after the Church Age). I'm suggesting that John is called up to the THRONE ROOM of God, he sees the Church represented by the 24 elders w/ crowns on their heads, having come through the Judgment Seat/the Bema Seat of Christ. In Rev. 4 we see the glorious worship and praise of God because He is the Creator. In Rev. 5 we see

the Lamb, as though slain, as the Redeemer. The Lamb is the only one worthy to take the scroll from God the Father. The scroll, I'm suggesting, is the title deed to the Universe. When sin entered the world, the earth was cursed. Man was separated from God and the ground began to bring forth thorns.

Romans 8:20-23 - *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; <sup>21</sup> because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. <sup>23</sup> Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.*

## GOD IS ALL ABOUT RESTORATION!

We understand the Bible – the plot of the Bible – using four words:

CREATION   FALL   REDEMPTION   RESTORATION

The purpose of the judgments that will be poured out on the earth onto a rebellious world during the Tribulation...

- Purging of the nation of Israel (Eze. 20:33-38; Eze. 22:17-22; Mal. 3:3). Zech. 13:8-9 – two thirds of the Jewish population will die while one third will come to know Jesus when God pours out His Spirit at the end of the Tribulation (Zech. 12).
  - Preparing the nation of Israel for their Messiah (Zech. 12:10-11; Hosea 5:15; Matt. 23:37-39).
  - In the Millennial Kingdom we will see the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant: land, descendants, blessing.
- Unparalleled evangelism during the Tribulation.
- Unparalleled judgment against a world raging against God (Psa. 2).

Once the Lamb rises to take the scroll in Rev. 5, the plan, the program leading to the redemption and ultimate restoration of the world moves in rapid succession! As we move forward in the text, we'll notice that there is no gradual conversion of the world. We will see the initiation of a dramatic, cataclysmic intervention on the part of God to cast out Satan and those who are in rebellion against God and to cleanse the earth.

And so in Rev. 6, the seals to the scroll are loosed...

The first rider on a white horse – the antichrist (handout dated 6/18/17). One of the angelic beings in God's throne room calls the rider to come forth! And, to this rider a crown was given. By Whom? Who is this rider?

Of the second rider it is said *it was granted to the one who sat on the second horse it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.*

The antichrist has limited power; Satan who empowers the antichrist (Rev. 13) has limited power. Satan is the servant of God. In Job we see Satan coming before God requesting – Job. 1:9-12.

Luke 22:31-32 - *And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."*

If God had chosen, He could have banished Satan to another planet or sent Satan directly to the lake of fire. God kept Satan in this world to play his part on earth according to God's rules and not his own. Satan is God's servant.

Consider...it was God Who allowed Satan to fight against Jesus!

- Gen. 3:15 – enmity between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent
- Matt. 4:1 - *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

And, it is God Who will supervise the conflict to the very end.

We must be reminded of Satan's limitations that we might fight against him in faith. We need to be secure in the knowledge that the devil is NOT autonomous; he is NOT capable of acting independently. He is a defeated foe!

Eze. 34:25-30 regarding what will occur when God will establish His covenant of peace with Israel in the Millennial Kingdom - *I will make a covenant of peace with them, and cause wild beasts to cease from the land; and they will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. <sup>26</sup> I will make them and the places all around My hill a blessing; and I will cause showers to come down in their season; there shall be showers of blessing. <sup>27</sup> Then the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase. They shall be safe in their land; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke and delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them. <sup>28</sup> And they shall no longer be a prey for the nations, nor shall beasts of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and no one shall make them afraid. <sup>29</sup> I will raise up for them a garden of renown, and they shall no longer be consumed with hunger in the land, nor bear the shame of the Gentiles anymore. <sup>30</sup> Thus they shall know that I, the LORD their God, am with them, and they, the house of Israel, are My people," says the Lord GOD.'*

By contrast, when the antichrist establishes his covenant of "peace" with Israel, we see war (the sword [the second seal]), famine (the third seal), and harmful beasts (the fourth seal) upon the earth which demonstrate that the antichrist's covenant of peace is a counterfeit!

The coming of the first rider, the antichrist, on the white horse correlates to Jesus' "Olivet Discourse" when Jesus speaks to the disciples about the end of the age:

Matt. 24:4-5 - *Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.*

<sup>5</sup> *For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.*

In His "Olivet Discourse," Jesus went on to say

Matt. 24:6-7 - *And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.* <sup>7</sup> *For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom*

**And, so** we read...

Rev. 6:3-4 - *When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come."* <sup>4</sup> *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.*

- The second living creature, an angelic being, calls the second horse to come forth!
- So, this is the aftermath of the antichrist's peaceful emergence?!! Some say the seals are the result of Satan's wrath – but WHO is breaking the seals?
- Timeframe? Doesn't seem as if the world is experiencing such peace through the antichrist.

- Matt. 24:6-7 - *And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.* <sup>7</sup> *For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.* Beginning of birth pangs?

- The Apostle John was in the Spirit (Rev. 1:10; 4:2). John was under the control of the Holy Spirit. John describes this supernatural revelation by means of a vision. John is in the throne room of God. He's seeing what WILL occur in the future in his, John's, present time. (It's expressed by John in the present tense)

- John sees Him, Jesus, open the second seal.
- The second living creature (an angel) says, with no voice like thunder, "Come".
- WHY no voice like thunder? The loud command to the first rider, the antichrist, appears to not be necessary to the other riders/horses because the next three riders follow as a train.

- Perhaps these next three horses speak to the impact of the peace treaty – the COUNTERFEIT peace treaty.

- The second horse is fiery red. Some have offered in their understanding of Revelation that the color red is symbolic of war and bloodshed. Some have likened the color red to Satan who is noted as the *great red dragon* in Rev. 12:3. Gk – *purros* – having the color of fire.

*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.*

- How do we understand the taking of peace from the earth (note: no percentage of the earth is given), and the *granting* (?) of people killing one another, and the *giving* of the sword to the second rider? Ultimate power rests with God.

○ REMEMBER, God's desire is that NONE would perish (II Pet. 3:9). BUT, we also see when mankind has rebelled, sinned, rejected GOD, He has given them up to uncleanness, vile passions, debased minds (Rom. 1:18-20, 24 - *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,*<sup>19</sup> *because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.*<sup>20</sup> *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ...THEREFORE God also gave them up....*

○ The Gk. word for "kill" means "to slaughter," "killing by violence," "butchering." This will be a time of unprecedented bloodshed.

○ We have seen in Scripture where God, in judging nations, people groups, causes people ambushing people within their own ranks (Eze.38:21 – *every man's sword will be against his brother* – War of Gog and Magog)

Moving on in continuing to compare Jesus' words in the Olivet Discourse/Matt. 24 with Rev. 6 and Jesus' unleashing the judgments...

Matt. 24:7b - *And there will be famines,*  
Rev. 6:5-6 - *When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.*<sup>6</sup> *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."*  
*(black horse – Lam. 5:10 – our skin is hot as an oven because of the fever of famine.)*

- Worldwide war (second rider) can destroy the food supply which would lead to global hunger through the third rider.
- *Scales* - used to weigh food which indicates a great scarcity. No weighing in times of abundance.
- *A quart* – the amount necessary to sustain one person for one day.
- *A denarius* – one day's average wage. One day's work will provide food for one person – for one day.
- *Three quarts of barley* – barley was considered to be lower nutritionally. Cost: only another denarius (one day's work) more. Therefore, a small family could possibly be fed between the wheat and barley over two days by splitting up the wheat and barley – total of 4 qts. Paid with 2 days wages.
- *Oil and wine* – in the midst of common commodities being scarce, luxury items, oil and wine, will remain available for the upper class...it appears.

Matt. 24:7b - *there will be...pestilences,* (fatal epidemic diseases)

Rev. 6:7-8 - *When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, 'Come.'*<sup>8</sup> *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 (authority) was given to them (Death and Hades) over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.*

(CW – check out % of impact in the trumpets and bowls. Could what is written in vv. 7 & 8 be the result of rider #2 and rider #3???)

- *Pale* – the color of a person who is sick. Pale – an ashen green color – characteristic of a corpse.
- The name of the rider – *Death*.
- And, *Hades* (the grave) followed with him, Death (perhaps on foot). Death and Hades are inseparable in that the grave, Hades, takes in all that Death supplies. Death comes first and the grave follows.
- With this fourth rider we see Death and Hades are personified. In Isa. 28:18 we see God lambasting “scornful” leaders in Jerusalem who made an agreement with Egypt to help in Jerusalem’s defense against Assyria instead of depending upon God. *We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge passes through, It will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood we have hidden ourselves.*
- In Rev. 20:13 Death and Hades deliver up the dead that are in them at the Great White Throne judgment. And Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire – Rev. 20:14. There will be no more need of death and the grave. The ultimate destination of non-believers – the Lake of fire (Isa. 66:24).
- *Power was given to them* - we see God allowing the judgment for His purposes.
- *Power over a fourth of the earth* (today’s global population – 7.4B; one fourth equates to 1,850,000,000). With dying bodies scattered over the earth, we can understand a pandemic outbreak (disease breaking out over an entire country or the world)! (More Union and Confederate soldiers died from disease in the Civil War than were killed in battle. 1918-19 influenza epidemic – an estimated 30 million people died.)
  - Those who survive the sword, and hunger will be weakened and will become prey for beasts. What a reversal! Man had been given dominion over the beasts which didn’t last long (Gen. 1:26-28; 9:2-3) and now in this judgment man is given into the hand of beasts (Lev. 26:22; Deut. 32:24)

This is God’s wrath – well in advance of the sixth and seventh seals. In Eze. 14:21 God speaks of His four severe judgments that he had brought upon Jerusalem and will bring upon the earth. Those severe judgments: the sword and famine and wild beasts and pestilence.

Jesus speaks of famines, pestilences and...

Matt. 24:7b - *And there will be...earthquakes in various places.*

Matt. 24:8 - *All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

These are the birth pangs – intensifying contractions prior to the delivery! Yet, what we see during the birth pangs: NO ESCAPE! There will be no escape from the Tribulation!

When you went into labor, could you opt out of the delivery? Could you tell the dr., “NO! Let’s have a reversal. I don’t want to go through with this!”

We see earthquakes during the first 3.5 years and again in the last 3.5 years.

Jesus told the disciples while speaking to them on the Mt. of Olives...during the Olivet Discourse...

Matt. 24:9 - *Then* (after the birth pangs (we see a progression in the events during the seven years of Tribulation) *they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.* "You" – Jesus is speaking to the disciples who may very well represent to us, as we read this, the "remnant" the Jewish believers going through the Tribulation – not having been believers prior to the Rapture.

We have arrived at the middle of the Tribulation – 3.5 years into the Tribulation. The deceptive peace treaty brokered by the antichrist has been broken by the antichrist. Persecution runs rampant (cross reference Rev. 12).

The beginning of sorrows has past. Martyrdom increases. There has always been martyrdom within Christianity. We see unprecedented martyrdom in the Tribulation. AND SO...

Rev. 6:9-11 - *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.* <sup>10</sup> *And 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?"* <sup>11</sup> *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, (martyred) was completed.* - according to God's plan

- *Under the altar* – there is speculation as to which altar. Many suggest that this altar is the altar of incense in the Temple from where prayers go up. The souls of the martyrs are crying out to God. Many suggest that this is the altar of burnt offering in the outer court of the Temple. The blood of the martyred Tribulation saints can be considered an "offering" before God. (We see God's Temple in Heaven – Rev. 11:19)

- The picture of these souls in God's presence after death is in harmony with II Cor. 5:8 – *absent from the body, present with the Lord.*

- *The souls* (no glorified bodies are noted) – these martyrs are not yet resurrected. They will be resurrection at the end of the Tribulation (Dan. 12:1-2). They hadn't been raptured. The rapture is a resurrection – body and soul united.

- Though the physical lives of these Tribulation saints were terminated, they are very much alive! The Apostle John "saw" them and heard them crying out with a loud voice. Their vocal chords – not so much since death. But – their souls LIVED on! (LIVED – operative word!)

- They *had been slain for the word of God* – It's difficult to determine exactly when these saints were martyred. However, because of the INTENSIFIED persecution of believers at mid-Trib (Rev. 12), this fifth seal seems to mark mid-Trib. Remember, the seven seals take us through to the end of the Tribulation. It appears that the fifth seal brings us to the middle of the Tribulation.

- Concerning the judgment on earth during the Tribulation, we read of 7 seals, 7 trumpets, and 7 bowls. How do we understand the unfolding of these judgments? This is important for us to grasp.... We need to know that the seven seals essentially encompass the entire period of the Tribulation culminating with the return of Jesus. How does that work?

The seventh seal appears to contain the seven trumpets (Rev. 8:1-11:19) – the seven trumpets proceed from the seventh seal.

The seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15) appears to contain the seven bowl judgments (Rev. 16:1-21) – the seven bowls proceed from the seventh trumpet.

Thus, the seven seals contain all the judgments to the end when Jesus returns. When the seven seals are all open (which include the trumpets and the bowls), the scroll is completely open and the earth is REDEEMED. PONDER that but don't get ajita!

Continuing with the *being slain for the word of God*

- Note that they *had been slain* which appears to indicate that this was prior to John's seeing them. John saw their disembodied souls. Therefore, Jesus' breaking the fifth seal did not prompt their deaths. AND, their death wasn't due to war, famine, pestilence or beasts. They were slain for the word of God! Their testimony was seen as dangerous and undesirable by the false religious system that we'll see in Rev. 17:6.

- *How long, O Lord* – we see God's ownership of these Tribulation saints.
- *until You judge and avenge our blood* – What is the timeframe? We don't exactly know other than it appears to be taking place at the mid-Trib point or afterwards. When will God judge and avenge their blood? At the end of the Tribulation.

- Isa. 63:3-4 - *Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, (sheepfold/sheep pen) this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?— "I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."* <sup>2</sup> *Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?* <sup>3</sup> *"I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. for I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes."* <sup>4</sup> *For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come.* WHO is this? Jesus! He is coming from Edom/Petra w/ bloodied garments as He is treading the winepress of His wrath. Jesus is the GOEL – the Blood Avenger/Kinsman Redeemer.

- This is part of His Second Coming
  - Rev. 12:6 – *Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.*

## SECOND COMING

Suggested Chronology During the Phases of Armageddon

### Revelation 14:14ff

- Jesus coming on a white cloud (Daniel 7:13) having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.
- In verse 15 we read that the earth is reaped.
- In verse 20 we read that the winepress was trodden and blood came out of the winepress even unto the horse bridles.

### Isaiah 63:1-6



- Jesus is coming from Bozrah (Petra) w/ bloodied garments. He has fought against the enemy coming against the remnant taking refuge in Petra. He's already come from the winepress.

- In verse 3 we see that Jesus has trodden the winepress alone.

#### Revelation 19:11ff

- Heaven opens and Jesus is seen on a white horse, wearing many crowns.
  - Rev. 4:4 – 24 elders sitting on thrones, wearing crowns of gold
  - Rev. 4:10 – the 24 elders cast their crowns before the throne
- Jesus' garments are dipped in blood. He has already been involved in the battle.
- At this point, the "armies in heaven" follow Him to earth.

#### Zechariah 14:4

- Jesus' feet shall stand upon the Mount of Olives.
- The Mount of Olives shall "cleave in its midst. . . and there shall be a great valley.
- In verse 5 we see an escape for those in Jerusalem who have come to know Jesus (see Zech. 12:10ff & Zech. 13:9).
- "And all the saints with You" might have reference to Rev. 19:11ff. Rev. 19:11 and Zech. 14:4 could occur at the same time.
- In verse 9 we see that the Lord is reigning as King which indicates He's set up the Millennial Kingdom.

Do you know that one of the duties of the *Goel*, the kinsman redeemer, who, in a family is the nearest of kin (we see Boaz as the kinsman redeemer in the book of Ruth) was to avenge the blood of the family member who had been murdered?

Jesus is the *Goel*, the Kinsman Redeemer, the Blood Avenger!

The **Avenger of Blood** in ancient Israel, the nearest male relative, was responsible for protecting the property, liberty, and posterity of his next of kin, in addition to protecting their lives through the "avenging of blood." This Old Testament Type of the Avenger of Blood is also fulfilled, as might be expected, by Jesus Christ the Lord.

We see Jesus as the Blood Avenger throughout the Scripture. We see Him as the Angel of Death in Egypt (Ex. 12:23 - *For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.*)

We see Jesus as the Angel of the Lord throughout the OT (Gen. 22; Ex. 3:14; Judges 13:11, 17-18, 20-22).

II Sam. 24:15 – when David numbered Israel, the Lord sent a plague and 70,000 men died. We see the Angel stretching His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it. The Angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of ArauNAH [Ornan] the Jebusite.

At His Second Coming Jesus is the One Who fights against the nations who have come against Israel (Zech. 14:14ff; Isa. 63:1-6; Rev. 19:15)

And, so we find these verses...

In Zech. 2:8 - For thus says the LORD of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.

In Joel 3:1-3 – I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat, and I will enter into judgment with them there, **on account of my people and my heritage Israel**, because they have scattered them among the nations, and have divided up my land,

*Then a white robe was given to each of them* – these are the white robes promised to the overcomers (I Jn. 5:45) (Rev. 3:5, 18 – he who overcomes will be clothed in white). This is the righteousness of God which is obtained not by works, but by faith alone (Rom. 3:21-26; II Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9).

- *They should rest a little while longer* – their afterlife is seen as rest! What a comfort! Altho' we do hear their emotional cries. (Rev. 21:4 – in the Eternal State God will wipe away every tear)

- *...until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed* – here is a difficult reality. God, Who has the power to step in and end this butchery at any moment, instead chooses to allow it to play out in all its gruesome detail. Although we will never fully comprehend God's divine patience, we know that it is explained in part by His great mercy toward those who have not yet turned. If God were to move immediately in vengeance mode at the time of the martyrs' request, what does that say about those who were yet to become believers? They would be eternally lost. But that will not happen in God's plan!

- *Killed as they were* – these fellow servants and brethren of the martyred saints whose souls are under the altar, according to God's plan, must be killed - for their testimony also (just as these martyred souls were killed)! Why? For God's glory. That must be our answer!

What will be the effects of the first four seals? You might say that they could be explained as merely an intensification of what history already records: conflicts, war, death, famine, disease, and martyrdom. BUT, these four seals are not a "merely" occurrence as they have a global impact!

I'm suggesting that the fifth seal brings us to the middle of the Tribulation.

With the opening of the sixth seal, however, what spills out is unique!