

Revelation #19
2022

November 27,

Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon

Today's Message: The Seven Seals: The Second, Third, and Fourth Seals; Revelation 6:3-8

Remember that Revelation 6 marks the beginning of the Seven Year Tribulation. We believe that the chronology of the Seven Seals are arranged as follows:

1. Seals 1-4 cover the first half of the Tribulation
2. Seal 5 hovers at the middle of the Tribulation
3. Seals 6-7 cover the last half of the Tribulation and marks the beginning of the Great Tribulation. During this time there will be no repentance offered to the inhabitants of the earth.
4. Blessing for Israel: At the end of the Seventh Seal judgment (which includes both the Trumpet and Bowl judgments) the Lord Jesus Christ will set up His millennial kingdom on earth and rule and reign for 1,000 years. We must also rejoice that by this time "all Israel will be saved" (Romans 11:26-29). By this we mean that by the time the Seven Year Tribulation ends Messiah, who sits on the throne of David, will turn "godlessness away from Israel" and they will receive the Lord Jesus as both Savior and Lord!

With the overview of the seals firmly in mind let's move on.

In Revelation 6:1-2, as the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb, opens the first seal the judgment of God begins upon the earth! It is the first of the judgment upon the nations and the inhabitants of the earth, who have rebelled against the God of Heaven and Earth!

The First Seal, the inaugural judgment, is a judgment to be sure. But at first it has the appearance of a great blessing to humanity. Yet, as we learned last week, the peace was deceptive in that the impersonal force driving the peace had the appearance of power and permanence but truly had neither power nor permanence. This peace, we asserted, was a peace gained without conflict and a peace gained by negotiation, which seduced people into willingly giving up personal liberty and national sovereignty.

I want to offer a concession concerning the "rider on the white horse." It may be that the "rider on the white horse" is, as I argued last week in taking John MacArthur's position, an impersonal force that is more of a collection of, or a collective agreement between several powerful entities. Some examples we provided were groups such as the WHO, IMF, WEF, and WCC. These groups have exerted a significant influence upon nations and individuals the world over in our contemporary history. But it may also be that the "rider on the white horse" is an actual person who wields a great deal of influence standing as the head who executes the vision of groups such as was mentioned earlier. It could be argued that this individual is the Antichrist in his early emergence as a recognized and dominant leader.

Either way, the period of peace without conflict in the first seal is short lived as is evidenced by the opening of the second seal by the Lamb of God!

I. The Second Seal: The Red Horse of Worldwide War: Revelation 6:3-4

- A. (6:3) The Lamb opens the second seal and the second living creature summons the fiery red horse and rider with the command, "Come!"
 - 1. The first horseman was summoned with a thundering command
 - 2. The second, third and fourth horses are commanded to "Come!" but without the accompanying "voice like thunder".
- B. (6:4) The Second Horse and Rider
 - 1. The Horse is fiery red
 - a) Red: indicates war. A war horse comes forth
 - 2. Its rider was given/ granted power
 - a) God has all authority over the power of the horseman.
 - (1) He allowed the false peace
 - (2) He ends the false peace by bringing war on the earth.
 - 3. Power to take peace from the earth
 - a) Peace will vanish
 - (1) The whole world will erupt in war like the world has never seen or experienced.
 - (2) The **impersonal forces** and the unstable alliances and tenuous treaties formed among nations and the inhabitants of the earth will dissolve into a catastrophic time of war unlike the world has ever seen.
 - (3) It is likely that an Antichrist personality will be the visible **head** of the **impersonal forces**. This **personality may be the "little horn"** of **Daniel 7:20**: "...that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows".
 - (a) It may be that his alliances with the **impersonal forces** fall apart as they recoil at the peace process. And the **personality**, or "the little horn" forces war in order to assert his authority.
 - (b) **Daniel 7:21** indicates that the "**little horn**," "was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them."
 - (i) This Antichrist personality especially hates the people of God.
 - 4. As a result, there is a global outbreak of violence, as the inhabitants of the earth become violent!
 - a) God gave this "rider" unprecedented power and authority to disrupt peace to the point that the inhabitants of the earth "slay each other."

- b) The “rider” was given a large sword.
 - (1) Meaning, that God gave the sword to this “rider” to instigate the global war resulting in unprecedented bloodshed.
 - (2) MacArthur writes: “While Scripture does not give the details, the advances in modern weaponry suggest a terrible, unimaginable holocaust.”

5. Application:

- a) God’s judgment in this second seal is against the nations who reject Him.
 - (1) He makes them go “insane” and turn upon each other.
 - (a) See Jeremiah 25:15-17 and Ezekiel 38:21
- b) Ultimate power rests with God!
 - (1) God unravels human confidence: While the inhabitants of the earth, even in our day, believe that the power of peace resides within mankind’s grasp, God brings global dismay upon humanity.
 - (2) God unravels Humanism: The Godless worldview of humanism forever puncturing the belief that mankind is basically good.
 - (a) Remember: Humanism asserts that mankind is basically good and does not need the structures of religion, in particular, the Christian testimony of God’s Sovereign authority over all creation.
 - (b) It is Christ that has preeminence and in Him all things hold together! (Colossians 1:17-20)

II. **The Third seal: The Black Horse of worldwide famine (6:5-6)**

- A. The color black in Scripture is associated with famine.
 - 1. Lamentation 5:10 (KJV): “Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine.”
- B. This famine will be worldwide, unprecedented and is the result of the **war** of the second seal.
 - 1. Jesus predicted this famine in Matthew 24:7, which corresponds to this famine.
- C. The rider has a pair of scales
 - 1. To measure out food which is extremely scarce. Extreme rationing.
- D. John hears a voice among the four living creatures
 - 1. This is the voice of God. From the throne God speaks concerning **starvation**.
 - a) “A quart of wheat for a day’s wages and three quarts of barley for a day’s wages.”
 - (1) Barely enough to sustain human life.

- (2) A day's wages will provide enough for one person!
- 2. God commands caution to "not damage the oil and the wine."
 - a) The command is toward the Black Horse and Rider. It is not given to the people.
 - b) Again, the judgments of God are under the **absolute control of God!**

III. **The Fourth Seal: The Pale Horse of Death (6:7-8)**

A. A Pale horse

- 1. Pale: greenish-yellow; sickly color; grayish; associated with decay and death

B. Death and Hades

- 1. Death is the rider and Hades follows right behind.
 - a) Upon the death of people dying during this Fourth Seal, Hades is the immediate destination.
 - (1) The body rots in the ground (death)
 - (2) The soul and spirit enter the underworld (Hades)
 - b) Revelation 20:13 tells us more concerning the future outcome of those who die apart from knowing Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
 - (1) "The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done."

(a) Even for the dead there will be— for the dead who die apart from faith in Christ— there will be a release of soul and spirit from Hades and a joining of soul and spirit with the body which will be raised from the grave, so that, that person can stand before God's judgment, as Revelation 20:13 says.

- 2. Yet, Christ gained the total victory over death and Hades by way of the cross, on which He bore our shame of unbelief and the curse imposed on us b/c of our sin.
 - a) Christ Jesus bore the curse of sin in His body on the cross by becoming the curse for us! His cross-work became our redemption! (Galatians 3:13)
 - b) "When you were **dead in your sins** and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you **alive with Christ**. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; **He took it away, nailing it to the cross**. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, **triumphing over them by the cross**." (Colossians 2:13-15)

C. Death and Hades are given power over $\frac{1}{4}$ of the earth.

1. Approximately 2 billion people will die by the following:

a) Death by sword, famine, pestilence (plague) and wild beasts

(1) We've covered the severity and global aspect of war and famine

(a) Those who escape the sword will die of hunger

(b) Those who escape dying of hunger will suffer from pestilence (plague).

(2) But, pestilence (plague): diseases of the most horrid kind.

(a) This may be a result of chemical or biological warfare.

(b) Those who escape pestilence and plague will be tormented by wild beasts.

(3) Wild beasts

(a) War and famine and pestilence have taken their toll.

Most if not all of the $\frac{1}{4}$ of the population have died.

(b) Now, with a large part of humanity gone, the wild beasts will attack and kill the remainder of the $\frac{1}{4}$ th and torment the rest.

(i) Probably rats and other vermin.

IV. What can we learn? Is there a pathway of hope that runs straight to the Gospel?

A. What must we learn and pass on to people?

1. There will be no escaping from being immersed in global suffering. No matter who you are, where you live; wherever man finds himself there will be a

God-ordained sword, famine, pestilence, and wild-beast to torment and kill. (see Ezekiel 33:27)

2. The day of the Lord will be a day of darkness for all humanity left behind because of unbelief. (see Amos 5:18-20)

B. Is there a pathway of hope that runs straight to the Gospel?

1. Run to Him! Bowing down before the only One True God giving our very lives to Christ the Savior and King by calling upon His Name as the Supremacy!

a) You and I have served idols of self-love and self-indulgence far too long.

2. Run to Him! Christ Jesus is the Light of the world! In Him is no darkness or deceit!

a) It's always dark for Satan and his followers. It is always dark where sin reigns, be it in the world or in your heart!

3. Call upon Him! In the days of Noah and the great flood there was an Ark for Noah and his family— the people of God. In the days of Israel and the law, God provided cities of refuge for people that inadvertently killed someone. Today, God

has sent His only begotten Son to be your saving Ark from the flood of the judgments to come! God has provided you with a city of Refuge in Christ alone. Would you run to Him today and flee from the coming judgment! Today is the day of salvation!

4. While Death and Hades await the unrepentant, The Lord of Glory awaits for all who Run to Him calling upon His Name for salvation from eternal judgment!