

"The Seal Judgments"

Part 3

Revelation 6:1-17

Introduction: In the last 2 weeks we have been looking at Revelation 6:1-2 and in those verses we saw Jesus open the first of the seals on the scroll. This started what is known as the Tribulation or the 70th week of Daniel. The first seal brought forth a rider on a white horse. He had a bow and a crown and he went forth conquering and to conquer. This rider is none other than the Anti-Christ who will come on the scene immediately following the Rapture of the church.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 6-7

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

² That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

⁶ And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

Today the Anti-Christ is restrained by the presence of the Holy Spirit but after the Rapture of the church Satan will be free to bring his Masterpiece on the scene.

Last week we looked at the Anti-Christ in some detail but we did not by any means exhaust the study about him. We will gather more Truth on him as we work our way through the book of Revelation.

In our study today we are going to move on in the Seal Judgments. Before we move on however there is something which I need to remind you about because it will help us to understand the verses which are coming up. We looked at how the Anti-Christ will be a counterfeit of Jesus Christ when he comes. He will come on the scene and he will gain power and authority through diplomacy and not through force. He will enter into a Covenant with the Nation of Israel and he will promise to protect them from their enemies. In doing this he will be setting himself up to deceive Israel into thinking he is their Messiah.

Let me remind you of a Promise which God has made to the Nation of Israel.

Ezekiel 34:25-28

²⁵ And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods.

²⁶ And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.

²⁷ And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them.

²⁸ And they shall no more be a prey to the heathen, neither shall the beast of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and none shall make them afraid.

God has promised to the Nation of Israel peace and safety and so this Covenant which the Anti-Christ makes with Israel is a counterfeit of God's Covenant.

Now let us now look at the next seal.

I. **Seal #2**

Notice Revelation 6:3-4

Here we see the 2nd horseman of the apocalypse. The first horse was white which spoke of peace and victory. This horse however is red and this horse speaks of bloodshed.

This horse and its rider are GIVEN power to take peace from the earth. This horse and its rider are connected with Satan's plan to deceive the Nation of Israel with the counterfeit peace treaty. **God will not permit Satan to duplicate His Promise so what we see here is God confusing evil by sending war upon the earth.**

Application: There is something here that is very important for us to grasp. When Satan sends out a counterfeit there will always be something which marks it as being a counterfeit. Normally there will be confusion with the counterfeit. An example of this today would be the charismatic gifts such as speaking in tongues, healing and miracles. These gifts no longer exist today but Satan has counterfeited these gifts and where these counterfeits have been practiced there has been much confusion.

❖ **If is it not PERFECTLY in agreement with God's Word it is not of God.**

Now let us get back to our text and consider something important; there is a parallel passage with what we are looking at here and we need to take a close look at it.

Matthew 24:1-3

And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

² *And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*

³ *And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*

In Matthew 24 Jesus teaches his disciples about the 70th week of Daniel or the 7 years of Tribulation. To show the accuracy of what he would teach them He foretold the destruction of the Temple. The stones of the temple were massive and the disciples could not comprehend how or why they would be taken apart. Let me read for you the historical account of when the Romans attacked Jerusalem.

"When the Romans came to the city in AD 70 it was divided among three warring factions of Jews who were so at each others' throats that they paid no heed to the approach of the Romans. Thus Titus came up and surrounded the city while it was distracted by its own internal warfare. The Romans assaulted the walls again and again, and gave every opportunity to the Jews to surrender and save their capital from destruction. During the long siege a terrible famine raged in the city and the bodies of the inhabitants were literally stacked like cordwood in the streets. Mothers ate their children to preserve their own strength. The toil of Jewish suffering was horrible but they would not surrender the city. Again and again they attempted to trick the Romans through guile and deliberate breach of trust. When at last walls were breached Titus tried to preserve the Temple by giving orders to his soldiers not to destroy or burn it. But the anger of the soldiers against the Jews was so intense that, maddened by the resistance they encountered, they disobeyed the order of their general and set fire to the Temple. There were great quantities of gold and silver in the Temple which had been placed there for safe keeping. This melted and ran down between the stones of the Temple. When the soldiers captured the Temple area, in their greed to obtain this gold and silver they took

long bars and pried apart the massive stones. Thus there was not "one stone left upon another". The prophecy of Jesus was fulfilled to the very Word."

Jesus foretold of the destruction of the Temple so as to show the accuracy of Matthew 24-25.

Matthew 24:4-8

⁴ *And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.*

⁵ *For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.*

⁶ ***And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.***

⁷ ***For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.***

⁸ *All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

The word "sorrows" here is very important. It speaks of the pain which comes with child birth. So what Jesus is saying is that these seals which we are looking at are the beginning of birth pangs.

Now let us get back to Revelation.

Notice Revelation 6:4 again.

It is interesting in this verse that we are told peace is taken from the earth and THEY SHALL KILL ONE ANOTHER. This has the idea of a massive slaughter. This will be a time of unmatched bloodshed on the earth. God will be sure this peace established by the Anti-Christ is not mistaken for the peace which He promised. We are also told there was given to the rider not just a sword but a GREAT SWORD.

Now I want you to see something that is very alarming. The rider CARRIES the sword but the sword is GIVEN TO HIM BY GOD.

God is bringing judgment upon the earth at this time. When the Tribulation begins there is not one saved person on the earth. Now because God had been rejected the world's population will turn on one another.

Now here is what I want you to see. **When a Nation or the world turns its back upon God one of the judgments is MADNESS which leads to inner turmoil and destruction from the inside out.**

Jeremiah 25:15-17

¹⁵ For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it.

¹⁶ And they shall drink, and be **moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them.**

¹⁷ Then took I the cup at the LORD's hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the LORD had sent me:

The word **MOVED** here in verse 16 means TO BE SHAKEN, TO REEL TO AND FRO. Let me place it in words that we can wrap our minds around. It speaks of **instability**.

Let me show you several verses from the Scriptures.

Ephesians 4:11-14

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

¹⁴ **That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;**

Here in verse 14 we see that those who are not rooted and grounded in the Bible will be very unstable. This is what happens to nations who reject God. This is the idea with the word MOVED in Jeremiah.

Conclusion:

Jesus made it very clear that His Words will come to pass just as He spoke them. This means the Seal Judgments WILL come just as the Bible foretells.

The Rapture is the very next event on God's calendar and after the Rapture there will not be one saved person left on the earth. The demonic world will have the restraints lifted and the 70th week of Daniel will begin. The Anti-Christ will step up into a position of great authority and power. There will be a peace which will which will be established but it will

not last very long. Wars will begin to break out and these will just be the beginning of the birth pangs. There will be massive murder and bloodshed.

This is what is coming in the future. But I want to show you what is already here. Our Nation has turned away from God and we are starting to see the judgment from God.

One man has said that God must judge a nation while it exists for there is no resurrection for a nation.

When we consider how God deals with nations who have turned from Him by turning them over to INSTABILITY, MADNESS, and DESTRUCTION FROM THE INSIDE OUT we can clearly see this happening in our nation today. The USA is a Nation that is divided over many things. The point is things are not getting better but they are getting worse. And then on top of all of that the world is on a direct collision course with the TRIBULATION.

You NEED to be SAVED.

1. **We are all sinners.**

Romans 3:23

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

2. **Sin separates us from God.**

Isaiah 59:2

² But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

3. **All sin must be paid for.**

Romans 6:23a

²³ For the wages of sin is death;

4. **Judgment is coming.**

Hebrews 9:27

²⁷ And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

5. **Jesus Christ died to pay for your sins.**

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AM Service

1 Corinthians 15:3

³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

6. You must repent and accept Him as your Savior.

John 1:12

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: