

"The Seal Judgments"

Part 5

Revelation 6:1-17

Introduction: In our study of the book of Revelation we have been looking at the Seal Judgments found in Revelation 6. These judgments found here were confirmed earlier by our Lord in the Olivet Discourse.

Matthew 24:1-8

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?*

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.*

Jesus foretold the destruction of the Temple in order to show the accuracy of His prophecy.

The statements of our Lord run parallel with Revelation 6. In Revelation 6 we have so far looked at 3 of the 6 Seal Judgments.

1. **Seal #1 - The Anti-Christ. (Revelation 6:1-2)**
2. **Seal #2 - Removal of Peace from the Earth. (Revelation 6:3-4)**

This is the confusion of evil brought about by God because Satan is attempting to counterfeit the Covenant of Peace which was promised by God to the Nation of Israel.

3. **Seal #3 - Famine.(Revelation 6:5-6)**

This is what we looked at last week. Famine and war travel together. This famine will be so severe that it will take a man an entire day's wage to make enough money to buy enough food to sustain him for one day. The word "penny" here is a denarius which was one day's wages. A measure of wheat is needed to sustain a man for one day or 3 measures of barley. So if one man in a family of 4 has a job he will not be able to buy enough food to sustain his entire family. People will rob and murder just to get food to survive. The people of the inner cities will migrate into the rural areas in search of food.

This will be far worse than anything the world has ever seen and the reason is because the restraints will be lifted from the demonic world after the rapture. The world will be populated by only UNSAVED people after the rapture and many of them will demon possessed. Let me show you something which Jesus spoke of when he foretold how people will be caught off guard when He returns at the end of the Great Tribulation.

Matthew 24:37-39

³⁷ *But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

³⁸ *For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,*

³⁹ *And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

Jesus tells us what went on in Noah's day will repeat again in the tribulation.

Genesis 6:1-5

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

² *That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.*

³ *And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*

⁴ *There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.*

⁵ *And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

The demons of Noah's day possessed the men in order to get to the women. I believe the demon possession of Noah's day is a picture of what will happen in the Tribulation. Therefore the results of the famine will be devastating.

I. **Seal #4**

Notice Revelation 6:7-8

This seal is also in the first half of the Tribulation period.

Matthew 24:7-8

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 rider on this horse is Death and Hell followed right behind him. When this seal is opened power will be given to the both Death and Hell over one fourth part of the earth. There is much to consider here.

- a. **This verse tells us one fourth of the world's population will die when this seal is opened up.**

Let me attempt to help you to grasp the devastation which will take place at this time. Our world population today is 7.5 billion people. If one fourth of the world died today that means 1.8 billion people would die. To help you to understand how many people this is let me show you something.

- ✓ USA Population - 321 million
- ✓ China Population - 1.4 billion
- ✓ Japan Population - 127 million

If we add these up it would equal just about 1.8 billion. So when this seal is opened and one fourth of the world's population dies it would be equal to all the people of the USA, China, and Japan dying at the same time.

The question in my mind is how will they bury all those people? I believe it will be mass graves and in many cases they will not be buried but will be left on the ground to decay.

Let us now look at how they will die.

Notice Revelation 6:8 again.

1. Sword
2. Hunger
3. Death
4. Beasts

We will consider each of these in a moment but let us first of all look at something else here. There are 4 ways in which the people will die at this time. The number 4 speaks of and is the signature of the world.

- ✓ There are 4 seasons.
- ✓ There are 4 corners. (Rev 7:1)
- ✓ There are 4 winds. (Matt 24:31)
- ✓ There are 4 beasts which rise out of the sea which are the 4 world empires. (Daniel 7)
- ✓ There are 4 metals which picture the 4 world empires. (Daniel 2)

The list goes on and on so here is what I want you to see. The 4 means of DEATH in this 4th Seal Judgment speaks of GLOBAL catastrophe. This is not localized but it is over the face of the entire earth.

Now let me get you back to the means of death again.

1. **The sword speaks of death by the increase of the wars on the earth.**
2. **The hunger spoken of here will be an intensifying of the 3rd Seal Judgment.**
3. **The death spoken of here refers to DISEASES. There will be an increased spread of disease at this time. Some of this will possibly come from the dead bodies.**
4. **The beasts of the earth are exactly what it says. Those who survive the war, the hunger and the disease will be too weak to fight off the animals looking for food.**

Ezekiel spoke of the judgment recorded of here.

Ezekiel 5:15-17

¹⁵ So it shall be a reproach and a taunt, an instruction and an astonishment unto the nations that are round about thee, when I shall execute judgments in thee in anger and in fury and in furious rebukes. I the LORD have spoken it.

¹⁶ When I shall send upon them the evil arrows of **famine**, which shall be for their destruction, and which I will send to destroy you: and I will increase the **famine** upon you, and will break your staff of bread:

¹⁷ So will I send upon you **famine** and **evil beasts**, and they shall bereave thee: and **pestilence** and blood shall pass through thee; and I will bring the **sword upon thee**. I the LORD have spoken it.

Ezekiel 6:11-12

¹¹ Thus saith the Lord GOD; Smite with thine hand, and stamp with thy foot, and say, Alas for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel! for they shall fall **by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence**.

¹² He that is far off shall die **of the pestilence**; and he that is near shall fall **by the sword**; and he that remaineth and is besieged shall die **by the famine**: thus will I accomplish my fury upon them.

To some these will seem to be natural disturbances but from what Ezekiel records we can see that these are all from God as part of His wrath.

These judgments will be inescapable.

Ezekiel 33:27

²⁷ Say thou thus unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; As I live, surely they that are in the wastes shall fall by the sword, and him that is in the open field will I give to the beasts to be devoured, and they that be in the forts and in the caves shall die of the pestilence.

There will be no hiding from these judgments.

Let me show you what Amos records concerning the inescapable judgment of the Tribulation.

Amos 5:18-20

¹⁸ *Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light.*

¹⁹ **As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.**

²⁰ *Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?*

Notice Revelation 6:8

The riders on the horse of this 4th seal are death and hell.

Death is a reference to the GRAVE and hell is THE HOLDING PLACE OF THE SOULS OF THE UNSAVED.

Those who die under this Seal Judgment appear to be all unsaved people.

II. The Reversal

When God created the world and man He gave to man dominion over the beasts of the earth.

Genesis 1:26

²⁶ *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and **let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.***

Then in Genesis 9 God put the fear of man in the wild animals.

Genesis 9:1-3

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

² *And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.*

³ *Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.*

When this seal is opened the roles will be reversed and God will turn the animals upon mankind.

Let me show you the warnings God gave to Israel.

Leviticus 26:22

²² *I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number; and your high ways shall be desolate.*

²³ *And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me;*

²⁴ *Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins.*

Deuteronomy 32:24

²⁴ *They shall be burnt with hunger, and devoured with burning heat, and with bitter destruction: I will also send the teeth of beasts upon them, with the poison of serpents of the dust.*

Conclusion:

There is only ONE WAY to escape this if it happens before you die. If you are not saved and the Rapture happens you will go into this period of time.

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

² *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

³ *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*