

Revelation Part 6 | 5/28/17

- The beginning of the tribulation and God's judgment
 - Chapter 6 begins with the opening of the seven seals of the scroll that God the Father was holding by the Son Jesus Christ who is the lamb.
 - This signifies the beginning of God's judgment upon the world as each seal will bring pain and suffering until Christ's 2nd coming.
 - The seven seals contain within them all of the future events of wrath and judgment.
 - The seventh seal contains the seven trumpets and the seventh trumpet the seven bowls.
 - This time of tribulation will last for 7 years.
 - Jesus gave a parallel of these future events to His disciples in Matthew 24:3-13
 - **Read Matthew 24:3-13**
 - What Jesus describes in this passage, takes place in the first 6 seals described in chapter 6.
 - There is an amazing amount of parallelism between the 2.
- Seals 1-4 the four horses and their riders | Revelation 6:1-8
 - **Read Revelation 6:1-8**
 - The four horses and their riders
 - The first four seals reflect different horses and riders.
 - These are understood to be powers or forces and not necessarily just a single individual nor a literal person riding on a horse.
 - They describe the likely rising of the antichrist in the world, which will eventually lead to world war and chaos.
 - The 1st Seal – Rider on the white horse | Revelation 6:1-2
 - **Read Revelation 6:1-2**
 - This rider and horse reveals a conquering power that will wear a crown of victory and usher in a time of peace.
 - The white horse and its rider signify a world conquering power.
 - This power could lead by the antichrist (see below), or a power that is Satan controlled.
 - Either way the world will follow this power, future ruler or antichrist.
 - This is not Christ, even though that resembles how Christ appears in Chapter 19.
 - We normally think here of conquering in as of war but this is taken to be conquering through peace.
 - This power will usher in a time of peace as signified by the white horse, the bow with no arrows and also the peace that was removed by the 2nd horse and rider.
 - This will be a time of peace, but it will be a false peace.
 - In actuality things are being setup for death and destruction.
 - It may seem like a time of peace and tranquility on earth, but really it is just the calm before the storm.
 - This is also seen by some as the rise of the antichrist.
 - Jesus's passage from Matthew tells us that there will also be a series of false messiah's during this time.
 - Matthew 24:4-5

- “And Jesus answered them, “see that no one leads you astray. **For many will come** in my name, saying, “I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray.”.
- **Those that proclaim to be Christ or oppose Him are referred to as “antichrist” in Scripture.**
 - So, there are “many” that get the label antichrist, however there is still one “antichrist” that is yet to come that is a primary subject in Revelation.
 - There will likely be numerous false witnesses along with this power to bring deception.
- So then, who or what is the antichrist?
 - Interestingly the word “antichrist” does not even appear in the Book of Revelation, the word come from the books written by John.
 - However, he is clearly seen in Revelation through his actions and traits described throughout Scripture.
 - **John is the only one who uses the word “antichrist” and he describes him not only as a sole individual but also as a designation for those who carry the same attributes.**
 - An antichrist is one who denies Christ
 - 2 John 7
 - “For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.”
 - John describes the spirit of the antichrist as already being in the world.
 - 1 John 4:3
 - “and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.”
 - This concept is seen in what Jesus describes as false christ’s and prophets
 - Matthew 24:24
 - “For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.
 - **While there is a specific antichrist that we think of that culminates in Revelation, there are agents of Satan that have always been here seeking to turn the world away from Christ.**
 - There is however a distinction for one specific antichrist that will come and deceive the world before Christ’s return.
 - **The antichrist is satanically controlled world ruler what will come to replace and oppose Christ.**
 - 1 John 1:18
 - “Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists

have come. Therefore, we know that it is the last hour.”

- Revelation does not use the word “antichrist” but the attributes of this individual are clearly seen.
- Throughout Scripture we see him referred to the “lawless one” or “Son of perdition” and has the same attributes of an antichrist.
 - Full picture is given by reading 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4
 - “Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9
 - “And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,”
 - These passages also speak to the pinnacle of his power during the tribulation, but also his defeat.
 - But it gives is a good description of how he will be able to deceive the world so that they will worship him.
 - Satan desires for us to glorify him, and he will achieve that through the use of the antichrist during the tribulation.
- The actual “antichrist” that is commonly referred to is believed to be a human that will act as an agent of Satan.
 - The antichrist is not Satan himself, but Satan is certainly the power behind him.
 - He will be a human that will fulfill the prophecy of the things to come about him.
 - **Over the last 100 years what times have you heard thrown around as potential being the “antichrist”?**
 - He will deceive and turn many to lies and sin.
- He is seen as the beast in Revelation Chapter 13.
 - This antichrist will come as a great dictator and deceive the world into worshipping him.
 - He will have the resemblance of Christ.
 - This is him at his pinnacle of power.
- He is the “prince who is to come” from Daniel 9:26 and a “little horn” from Daniel 7:8.

- It is possible then that the rider on the white horse is the antichrist himself as he begins to rise in power in the world.
 - So, he is the one who brings this false sense of peace upon the world, which is just an early stage in the larger plan for the antichrist to be worshiped as god later on.
 - He will promise world peace and happiness, yet there are alternative motives that ultimately will end in destruction.
 - Then in Chapter 13 we see him as the beast who established a world government and worship of himself.
 - His true identity will then be revealed.
 - **If we take this to be the ushering in and rise of the antichrist, what do you think this might look like? If he is to usher in a false peace how might that happen, why will so many follow him?**
- The 2nd Seal – Rider on the red horse | Revelation 6:3-4
 - ***Read Revelation 6:3-4***
 - This peace that comes with the first horse doesn't last for long and we see it is followed by war.
 - This false peace setup the world for a time of war, and not just a battle overseas that we don't physically see, but a world war.
 - This will be a war that effects the entire world, it will have an effect on every inhabitant.
 - **How could this go from a time of peace to war?**
 - **What would a worldwide war look like today?**
- The 3rd Seal – Rider on the black horse | Revelation 6:5-6
 - ***Read Revelation 6:5-6***
 - The black horse points to famine and lack of food.
 - The scales and statements about a quart of wheat for a denarius speak to the high cost of food.
 - A denarius at that time was the normal wage received per day for the average worker.
 - The barley was of lower cost than the wheat bread.
 - This would be the natural result of a world war if one broke out across the world.
 - The world economies would break down and the necessities like food and water will become scarce and very expensive to purchase.
 - **If famine is wide spread how bad was the war? Will this take us back to "simpler times" of hard labor and trading of goods?**
- The 4th Seal – Rider on a pale horse | Revelation 6:7-8
 - ***Read Revelation 6:7-8***
 - The 4th seal brought a rider on a pale horse which brings with him death to ¼ of the earth.
 - Death and hades
 - These are essentially synonyms but death is the condition of Hades.
 - We see Hades portrayed as a place of torment for the lost.
 - Luke 16:22b-23a
 - "...the rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment..."
 - This is a culmination and natural results from the previous seals. ¼ of the world's population will die from war, disease, famine and the wild animals.

- The earth's population today is 7.5 billion, so ¼ would be 1.88 billion people that will lose their lives.
- The 5th Seal – The souls of the martyrs | Revelation 6:9-11
 - **Read Revelation 6:9-11**
 - This fifth seal gives us a glimpse under the altar, to hear the voices of the martyrs, those who have lost their life for Christ.
 - It is those who were a witness for Christ and sharing their faith. For that were killed by those who deny and hate God.
 - Jesus said this would happen.
 - Matthew 24:9
 - “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.”
 - These martyrs knew that God's judgment was coming, they just didn't know when.
 - They want to see His judgment upon the world for those who hate Him.
 - **The martyrdom of the Christians will continue until God's chosen number is complete.**
 - Martyrs are not restricted to a time period, nor is the desire of the Christian to seek God's judgment.
 - There is not just a specific time or place where martyrs are made, this happens each and every day.
 - Every day throughout history someone dies for their faith and witness for Christ.
 - On Friday May 26th 2017, 23 Coptic Christians were murdered while on their way to a monastery to pray.
 - There will always be those who die for Christ until His 2nd coming.
 - Today Christians also seek God's judgment upon the evil in the world.
 - We pray and ask for this time to come, but it is God's timing.
 - He is full of mercy and grace even to those who martyr His children, to give them time to repent.
 - But there will be a time when God's judgment will fall and time will run out. Either upon their death or prior to His coming.
 - **Have you ever cried the prayer of the martyrs? Have you desired for God divine judgment upon the world?**
- The 6th seal reveals God's wrath Revelation 6:12-17
 - **Read Revelation 6:12-17**
 - Prior to the 6th seal we saw God's judgment working in the world through humanity.
 - Meaning there wasn't natural disaster but the devastation took place because of wars caused by following a false witness.
 - In the 6th seal however God directly intervenes and begins His direct wrath upon the world.
 - The opening of this seal gives us imagery of some of the most prevalent descriptions in Scripture of the end times just prior to Christ's return.
 - Great global earthquakes, darkened sun, blood moon and falling stars are described in the Old and New Testament.
 - Joel 2:30-31
 - “And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.”
 - This is where we have seen so many “blood moon” predictions regarding the end of the world. There was a

significant amount of attention paid to the last one in September of 2015

- Luke 21:25-27
 - “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”
 - This isn’t the only time these types of events occur, in fact they get worse if as you go through the bowls.
- These events will be catastrophic
 - These events will not be felt by just a small portion of the world, but it will affect everyone.
 - What we know of Earth will forever change at this point in time.
 - The covenants will no longer be as they are.
 - There will be massive earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and meteor showers.
- **These events reflect a time of the “day of the Lord”**
 - All throughout the Old Testament and New Testament you have references to either a “day of the Lord” or “day of wrath”.
 - Especially the Book of Joel.
 - **These don’t always speak to a specific day but all reflect God’s judgment.**
 - **These events in the tribulation are certainly signs of God’s wrath as described by “the day of the Lord”.**
 - Revelation 6:17
 - “for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”
 - **The final “day of the Lord”** is seen at the end of the tribulation and also the end of the millennial kingdom.
- Those on the Earth will then realize who the source of their troubles is which is Christ the Lamb.
 - At this time Christ has not returned, but the world will know that it is His wrath that is being poured upon the world.
 - They will call on the mountains to hide them from the Lamb who is seated on the throne and from His wrath.
 - **How do you think the lost of the world will take this when they realize that Jesus Christ is the source of their trouble?**
- Who can stand? Those who put their faith in Christ even during the tribulation. | Revelation 6:17
 - **Read Revelation 6:17**
 - There is a question put forth in verse 17 asking who can stand?
 - This will be answered as we take a “pause” in the seals and go into Chapter 7. Here we see that there will be many will be saved during the tribulation.
 - All throughout the pouring of God’s wrath He still shows His grace and mercy desiring for the lost to seek and turn to Him.