

1 A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

LESSON 24

2 THE FIRST FOUR SEALS GRAPHIC

3 OPENING REMARKS

- Revelation chapter 6 is an important time in the study of the Book of Revelation
- We are still looking at the scene in heaven and seeing the cause (in heaven) and the effect (on earth)
- Chapter 12 gives us the view on earth of what happens when these seals are opened
- We are now going into the first portion of the seals being opened
- Up to this time we have seen the saints being organized according to their rewards and their walk with God down here in this life

4 OPENING REMARKS cont.

- We have met the 4 living ones, the 24 elders, the messengers, and the 4 horsemen
- We have also seen that Jesus is the only who could open the seals of the 7-sealed book which is the title deed to the earth
- Jesus will be taking by force what Satan would not give up

5 THE FIRST SEAL

Revelation 6:1-2

1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

- Remember the colors apply to the horse and not to the rider
- The color represents the nature of the work to be done
- White as we have studied always connects with the righteousness of the saints of God

6 THE FIRST SEAL cont.

- The white horseman causes the gospel to be preached to every

kindred, tongue, people, and nation

- This gospel will be preached from the heavens, but from earth it will appear as a supernatural experience
- Remember this is not the same gospel that is preached now which is under the period of grace
- The gospel they preach is – better to fear God who can destroy the soul and body than what Satan/mankind can do which is destroy the body only
- The bow here represents the preaching of the Word
- It is accompanied by the displeasure, anger and wrath of God for the sin in the world

7 **THE FIRST SEAL cont.**

- The white horse and the messenger who sits on it is sent by one of the 4 living ones sayingcome, you're the first one to go out
- The words ".....and to conquer" suggests final victory; he accomplished what he set out to do
- The number 4 is an important number in Biblical numeration. Do you remember what it refers to?
- The number 4 always represents God's dealing with the earth: the 4 gospels, the cherubim, horsemen, etc.
- Antichrist's number is 666 as the number 6 refers to Satan and his dominion, activities, minions, etc.
- Revelation is consistent in its use of numbers, symbols and other highly descriptive words

8 **THE SECOND SEAL**

Revelation 6:3-4

3 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

- Come and see is actually rendered come and go.....
- Verse 4 means exactly what it says. It does not say war but it is probably included as there is no peace anywhere

9 **THE SECOND SEAL cont.**

- Recall that as we studied the church ages, that as they began to close they overlapped into the next church age
- We are now living on the brink of this 3-1/2 year period of the Great Tribulation
- This takes place right after the Rapture, the catching away of the bride
- At the Rapture, Satan is cast out of heaven and onto this world and takes up his abode in Antichrist
- This is why we have seen, just as the Scriptures tell us, the escalation of wars, conflicts, chaos and perplexities of the whole world
- However, the worst is yet to come

10 **THE SECOND SEAL cont.**

- This peace is taken from the earth however Antichrist is able to bring peace; it does not last long as it is an imitation peace just as the tares are imitation Christians
- Satan always tries to imitate what God does but it is never lasting
- This "peace" is Satan's imitation of the 1,000 years of peace but only lasts a very short period of time
- Wars, terrorism and such is mentioned for this period of time that is leading up to the Rapture
- In the following from the Olivet Discourse Jesus is asked 3 distinct questions

11 **THE SECOND SEAL cont.**

Matthew 24:3

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?

- There are 3 separate answers to these questions some of which have to be searched out
- There is overlap here with the time leading up to the Rapture and with the Great Tribulation

12 **THE SECOND SEAL cont.**

Matthew 24:5-8, 10

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

6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors 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.

10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

13 **THE SECOND SEAL cont.**

Matthew 24:11-14

11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

14 **THE SECOND SEAL cont.**

- We are dealing with the horsemen here from the viewpoint of heaven

Luke 21:28

28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

- This is where we stand right now
- It is not a time for us to be dealing with our old natures
- It is a time for us to stand fast and lift up our heads for our redemption draweth nigh

15 **THE SECOND SEAL cont.**

- It is a time for us to turn our eyes upon God and set our faces like flint so that we do not take our eyes off of God
- We do not want to be like the 5 foolish virgins who took their eyes off of God and went asleep at the wrong time
- If we have our minds on the natural things of this life you're going to miss seeing Him when He comes to take His bride away

- We need to let God give to us what He has for us
- Our own natures cannot rule us in any sense of the of the word

16 **THE SECOND SEAL cont.**

- God has the same powers today as He always had
- He can do all things and *nothing* is impossible with God
- The meekness of God's people is not weakness!
- The stronger you are in God the meeker you become
- We are turning over our battles to God for Him to fight them for us while we fight the battles He gives us so we might grow and become stronger in Him
- We need to hold fast to what we have made up our minds to do as there is no time to sort out life's problems
- The time is too short and we do not want to be found sleeping

17 **THE SECOND SEAL cont.**

- "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28
- Let us not keep our eyes looking down at our troubles and those waves that are so high
- Instead look up because we know with certainty that our redemption is close at hand
- It is almost here and we'll be taken out of this old world of troubles and trials
- The Scripture tells us that we'll have to endure until the end (Matthew 24:13)
- There will be suffering and heartaches but if we expect to rule and reign with Him, as the Scripture tells us, the we will endure

18 **THE SECOND SEAL cont.**

Luke 21:29-32

29 And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;

30 when they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

32 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

19 **THE SECOND SEAL cont.**

- This Scripture does not say its going to pass away and then it's going to all be fulfilled
- A generation is about 30 years
- The generation that sees these things beginning to happen and then escalate within that 30 years, that generation will not pass away
- The generation starts with the prophecy that Jerusalem will be once more restored to the Jews (Daniel 9:25)
- Every sign of Biblical prophecy regarding the end times shows us that we are right at the door
- As we read in Matthew and Luke these things are the beginning of the end but not the age or world

20 **THE SECOND SEAL cont.**

- This "end" is for the time we are living in today; from the cross to the end of the period of grace
- The Scriptures we just read show that there is no peace anywhere
- The red horse is given the power to take all the peace from the earth and they shall kill one another and to him was given a great sword
- In this order we see wars and rumors of wars, then famine
- John brings out the identical happenings as those found in the Olivet Discourse
- Famine naturally follows wars then pestilences and diseases naturally follows famine

21 **THE THIRD SEAL**

Revelation 6:5-6

5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

- This description is different from the others as it describes what we might call a "food administrator"
- When there has been great wars there has always been food shortages and food rationing

22 **THE THIRD SEAL cont.**

- The black horse is to watch over the rationing of food and medicine
- The balances indicate there is a very careful measuring of the food and medicines because of the great scarcity
- In the Old Testament the oil and wine was their medicines
- A measure is slightly more than a quart
- A penny denotes a day's wage
- The oil and wine are mentioned separately as they must be preserved for the sick and wounded
- Remember we are in the 3-1/2 years of the Great Tribulation

23 **THE THIRD SEAL cont.**

- The black horse does not bring the famine, it is the natural results of a universal war
- The internal strife that we see in every nation right now, it's not just nation against nation, includes rebellion and terrorism, strikes and lockouts
- With this nation against nation and kingdom against kingdom there would be no commerce or trade
- The whole world at this time is in great turmoil
- The work of the black horseman is to prevent the famine from wiping out mankind
- This shows how terribly devastating the absence of peace is

24 **THE FOURTH SEAL**

Revelation 6:7-8

7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

- These happenings are overlapping with each one escalating more than the previous ones

25 **THE FOURTH SEAL cont.**

- The breaking of the seals started with – don't fear Satan who is now cast down among you for he can only kill your body

- We go from the preaching of the gospel of that day to the removal of peace from the earth
- Remember Satan is trying to bring peace and it is this satanic peace that God will suddenly take from the earth
- The parallel Scriptures in the earth viewpoint, chapters 12-16, will provide much more detail of these events in the Great Tribulation
- The total length of time that these 4 horsemen operate is only the 3-1/2 years so no single feature could last very long

26 **THE FIRST FOUR SEALS GRAPHIC**

27 **THE FOURTH SEAL cont.**

- We see in verse 8 that peace is also taken from the animal kingdom so that all animals become dangerous
- These operations of the horsemen affects only a fourth part of the earth so we would expect that the part of the earth in which the horsemen work is that controlled by Antichrist or is subject to his severest persecution
- The 4 horsemen have a single purpose: to give the saints some relief from the persecutions of Antichrist
- Again this shows the mixture of God's grace and His wrath
- God is disrupting Satan's endeavors and limiting the events of this time

28 **THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

- God always has a purpose in His operations and His cause and effect
- The scenario here is with Antichrist being so busy trying to keep peace his attention and resources are drawn away from persecuting the tribulation saints
- Remember when Satan is cast out the man Antichrist already has a kingdom, the old Roman empire, under his control
- It is at this time, right after the Rapture, that Satan takes up his abode in Antichrist's body
- The Antichrist already had all the nations turn over their rule to him because he can bring peace to the world

29 **THE GREAT TRIBULATION cont.**

- What we are reading here is after the Rapture
- Antichrist does bring peace but only for weeks or perhaps months at

the very most

- Even America will turn her rule over to Antichrist
- When everything goes wrong again God taking the peace away
- It is God who sends the wars and God who sends the famines
- He is doing this to keep Antichrist busy during these 3-1/2 years
- Antichrist is so busy trying to rule and straighten up the mess that he cannot persecute people quite as long

30 **THE GREAT TRIBULATION cont.**

- The tribulation saints are willing to give their life and shed their blood and be martyred rather than take the mark of the beast
- This is what these 4 horsemen are all about
- The part of the earth where the horsemen work would be that quarter part that is controlled directly by Antichrist or is subject to the severest persecution
- We see that these first four seals are broken rather quickly
- The 5th and 6th seals are also broken rather quickly
- It is the 7th seal that lasts such a long time: 7 years
- There are 7 trumpets/vials under the 7th seal

31 **THE GREAT TRIBULATION cont.**

- Many people expected "this generation" (Luke 29:32) to begin with the return of Israel as a nation which would be 1947 but this is incorrect according to Scripture

Luke 21:24

24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

- Jerusalem didn't return to the Jews until the 1967 war
- The generation (30 years) spoken of by Jesus did not start until "the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24)
- The 5th seal is entirely different from the 1st 4 seals and horsemen

32 **THE FIFTH SEAL**

Revelation 6:9-11

9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the

testimony which they held:

10 and they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth ?

11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

33 **THE FIFTH SEAL cont.**

- We pass from cause to effect; the 4 horsemen have done their work as is revealed here under the altar
- There is one more seal to be broken and then the final results will be in
- The 5th seal does not have any result on earth; rather it shows the result of what has been happening on the earth
- These people had been killed, martyred, but not yet raised
- The killing is still going on so they have been told to wait
- Their question reveals their identity

34 **THE FIFTH SEAL cont.**

- These who have been martyred during the Great Tribulation would be all raised at one time e.g. given their resurrected bodies
- Their resurrection happens in chapter 7
- These killings will be done by Antichrist who, so far, has not been mentioned in Revelation
- The reason for this is that we are in the heaven point of view portion and Antichrist does not come from heaven
- He is of earth and of Satan so he naturally does not appear in a history of heaven
- When the saints are martyred, and await their resurrection, their souls would be seen in heaven

35 **END GRAPHIC**