

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles to Revelation 6 –

Last week in chapter 5, the Apostle John described to us what he saw when he got to heaven.

And he described God holding a scroll in His hand that had seven seals on it.

And I proceeded to tell you that the bible doesn't tell us exactly what was written on the scroll – because the emphasis is on He who is worthy to open up the scroll.

And then we saw the Lamb grab the scroll from God's right hand and the heavens erupted in praise and worship.

Now, in chapter six, we are going to see the scroll begin to be opened up as the seals are broken one by one.

Let's pray...

Before we get into our text this morning, I want you to keep one finger in Revelation 6 and turn your bible to Matthew 24.

[Mat 24:3-8 NKJV] 3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what [will be] the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" 4 And Jesus answered and said

to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 6 "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all [these things] must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 "All these [are] the beginning of sorrows.

Now, the one of the reasons that I had us read what Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew is because it references the same thing – the beginning of the seven years of the Great Tribulation – right before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Another reason that I took you to Matthew is because there are commentators out there, who teach that what happens from Revelation 6 to Revelation 19 is not really going to happen – that it is all allegorical – that it is all symbolic.

Others will teach that the book of Revelation is historical and they will say that what occurs here are things that have already come to pass.

But we look at the Book of Revelation from a prophetic view – these things have not yet occurred. But we know they will occur because the bible tells us that they will occur.

[Rev 6:1-17 NKJV] 1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.” 2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

John is still in heaven –

And he sees Jesus Christ begin to open the scroll from chapter five.

Now, regarding the breaking of the seals and the scroll.

We may have the misconception that the seven seals were right next to each other – So all Jesus had to do was break the seven seals in the same manner that someone would open up an envelope.

That’s not the way it worked back them.

There was usually an outer seal – and once that was broken, it allowed the individual to open up the scroll until he came to the next seal, then that one had to be broken in order to get to the next one and so on and so on.

So what we are going to see is that with each seal being broken, something is going to happen because the scroll is going to open up a little bit more.

So John sees Jesus break the first seal, and then one of the Cherubim with the four faces and the six wings – calls him over to look down from where they are – in heaven, on what is going to take place on earth.

And what did John see – someone riding a white horse.

Right next to verse two where it says, *He who sat on it,*

I want you to write – “not Jesus” because there are many individuals who will interpret this and say, this has to be Jesus Christ because in Revelation 19, Jesus is riding a white horse.

The white horse has always been a symbol of victory – after a victory, the Roman Generals would ride a white horse in triumph with their captives following behind them.

And the reason it cannot be Jesus is because we will see what the result of his rule is.

Jesus reign is not going to bring war, famine and strife to the world.

Another thing that John sees on this individual is that he has a bow – but notice that he has no arrows?????

That is because this individual on the white horse, the means that he is going to conquer the world is through diplomacy and not warfare – at least initially.

Turn with me to Daniel 9 -

[Dan 9:26-27 NKJV] 26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it [shall be] with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 **Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."**

The individual riding the white horse is no other than the **antichrist**.

Now, the word antichrist – doesn't mean opposite of Christ – it actually means "in place of Christ"

That is why he comes in a white horse

He will try to take the place of Jesus as the Messiah and Savior of the World.

He will steer people away from Jesus to follow him.

He will be a world ruler that will initially bring peace, but will eventually bring war.

He will deceive many to think that he is the Christ, when he is actually from the devil.

And we will most certainly talk more about the antichrist – especially when we get to chapter 13.

3 When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." 4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that [people] should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

John sees Jesus open up the second seal –

And another one of the Cherubim calls John to have a look – and this time a red horse is seen.

The individual sitting on this horse bring forth all-out war.

Remember, the antichrist is going to conquer the world – through diplomacy / through peace deals but it is not going to take long before people start to turn on each other.

[1Th 5:3 NKJV] 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

People are going to start to turn on each other and become barbaric toward one another – where murder is going to be the norm.

We are talking about ethnic cleansing and the disregard for human life.

5 When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of

scales in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "**A quart of wheat** for a **denarius**, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

When the third seal is broken – we have worldwide famine.

A quart of wheat was a day's ration –

A denarius is what someone would earn for a day's work.

That means you will have to work all day just to be able to purchase the wheat to be able to make a loaf of bread.

Barley is going to be cheaper – but barley was the cheap grain used to feed livestock –

So if you have a family, you're not going to be eating bread at night – you're going to have to resort to eating cattle food.

The antichrist is going to promise peace and prosperity – but what he actually will bring is famine, war and death.

7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." 8 So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

Pale – the Greek word for pale here actually refers to a color of a green tint.

And we are told who rides it – death personified with Hades following close behind.

The idea here is that when the fourth seal is broken $\frac{1}{4}$ of the earth population will perish and Hades will be collecting their souls to take to hell.

To give you a better perspective of how many people that is – the last time I checked, the world has about 7.8 Billion people.

$\frac{1}{4}$ of it is slightly less than 2 billion.

That's the combined population of the US, Canada, Mexico, Central & South America, all Europe, & Japan put together.

9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been 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, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

The first four seals spoke of events that occur on earth during the Tribulation.

The fifth seal speaks of an event that happens in heaven.

And when the seal is open, John sees souls under the altar in heaven.

Now, when an animal was slain in the Old Testament, the majority of the blood from the sacrifice would be poured out under the altar.

We studied this when we studied the book of Exodus.(29:12)

And that is what we are seeing here in verse 9 –

These are the souls of the individuals that are going to be martyred during the Tribulation Period.

These were individuals who accepted Jesus Christ after the rapture of the church.

These are individuals who are not going to take the mark of the beast – who are going to rebel against that antichrist and his regime.

These are individuals that will be killed because they did not renounce Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Turn with me to Romans 8 -

[Rom 8:31-39 NKJV] 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God [is] for us, who [can be] against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? [It is] God who justifies. 34 Who [is] he who condemns? [It is] Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [Shall] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the

slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Though we have it pretty easy in here in the US, there may be a day when it becomes harder to speak and live like a believer in Jesus Christ.

There may come a day when people will storm through our doors and ask us to renounce Jesus Christ or die -

Paul was convinced that nothing, including death, could separate him from the love of God – and you see a picture of this in heaven – these souls have made it into heaven, and God is paying attention to their cries.

And why were they crying?

Because they wanted vengeance – they wanted things made right.

But notice they are not trying to take vengeance into their own hands.

They are asking God to take vengeance – on His time.

They are handling it properly – putting it in God's hands.

Vengeance is okay, but it must be done properly and justly, and for us, that means that we put it in God's hands, we let God take care of vengeance.

11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both [the number of] their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they [were], was completed.

I believe in something called, "the fullness of the Gentiles" and what that is there is a point when the last person that God wants to get saved before the tribulation period – when he or she gets saved, the rapture will occur and the Tribulation will begin.

In the same way, the souls of these saints that are calling on God to avenge them, God is telling them to wait because up to this point in the Tribulation, there are more that still have to be martyred.

So the question is?

Why doesn't God simply intervene – why doesn't He take vengeance at that moment.

I believe it is the same reason that the church has not been raptured yet –

Grace -

[2Pe 3:9 NKJV] 9 The Lord is not slack concerning [His] promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Those who have trusted in Jesus have eternal life. If some of them have to give up their earthly life, that's okay because they will be in heaven.

But God waits to bring judgment on the unbelieving world in order to give those who don't know Christ a chance to repent.

This is the sense of our "sacrifice", being willing if necessary even to die so that others might have a chance to find Jesus.

12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. 13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. 14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

Sixth seal open – great earthquake and celestial disturbances

Some people believe that the earthquake will be so great that it will kick up dust in the air and block out the sun.

As powerful as this earthquake might be – there is an even more powerful one recorded in Revelation 16 – an earthquake that will be the most powerful ever felt by man.

These celestial disturbances / these stars falling from heaven can be meteors, asteroids or a small comet raining down on the earth.

In the Old testament, the celestial disturbances were always associated to the Day of the Lord.

[Joe 2:30-31 NKJV] 30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, 16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

The people in the Tribulation will have an awareness that the things that are happening are coming from heaven itself.

Yet instead of repenting and asking God for help, they are running and hiding from Him.

Many people have the misconception that if they miss out on the rapture, that will be ok because then they could dedicate their life to Christ during the Tribulation Period.

It will not be easier to come to Christ during the Tribulation, it will be harder.

If you can't open your eyes to the truth about Jesus now, you are going to have a harder time when the world has fallen under the spell of the Antichrist.

[2Th 2:9-12 NKJV] 9 The coming of the [lawless one] is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

I want you to notice the differences between the groups of people in the 5th seal and the 6th seal.

Because we can call one group the martyrs and the other group the rebels

One group is in heaven under the altar calling for God's wrath

The other group is on earth, in caves hiding from God's wrath and His presence.

I had you make a note where it says who is able to stand???

Only the believer can stand before this great judgment, the one who is justified by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Amen

Let's pray...

