

3/14/04

Revelation 6 - 7

We come to the third major division of the book, the things which will take place after. Rev. 1:19

This third and final major division runs from chapter four to the end with it corresponding visions.

* The first division of this third major division goes from chapter four to chapter eight, verse one.

In chapter four we saw the awesome throne of God and the worship of the Father as Creator.

In chapter five we saw the Lamb who had been slain and worthy to take the scroll and loosen the seals, then the church present in heaven worshipped the Lamb who redeemed them.

Now in chapter six we will begin to see the seven year tribulation that is to come upon the world, "The hour of testings". Rev. 3:10

- Chapter 6-18 covers this seven year period.
- God's wrath and judgment is poured out in seven seals, seven trumpets and seven vials or bowls.
- The seventh introducing the first of the next series, sort of a telescopic extension or concentric circles.

-These last seven years are identified with the 70th week of David 9:24-27 (7+62+1=70 yrs.).

-7x7=49, 7x62=434 equaling 483 years leaving 7 years to be fulfilled.

6:1-2 The First Seal

6:1 The first seal is opened.

- 1) John saw the lamb who is worthy opens the seals, Jesus Christ. Rev. 5:5
- 2) John heard one of the living creatures, a Cherub or Saraph, say literally come, not see.
 - a) Usually people take the command to "come" as directed to John.
 - b) But the text does not say that, the address is to the horsemen "come".
 - c) The voice like thunder symbolic of authority and judgment.

6:2 The vision John saw was a white horse.

- 1) This is the first of the four horses of the apocalypse much like Zechariah's four riders. Zech.1:7-11; 6:1-8
- 2) The first is a white horse symbolic of peace but it will be false peace, he is the Anti-christ.
 - a) You can not have Jesus opening up the seals and riding on the horse on earth at the same time!

- b) For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie, that they may be condemned who believe not the truth. 2Thess. 2:11
 - c) The scene is changed again, we are on earth again.
- 3) He who sat on the horse had a bow, he will win people over by diplomacy at first, he has no arrows.
- * And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes. Dan. 8:23
- 4) A crown was given to him.
- a) The word for crown “stephanos” speaks of reward, Satan giving his power and throne to the antichrist.
 - b) It was given to him, God allows this in fulfillment of prophesy, he is a vessel, Rev.13:2; 17:17
 - * The anti-schriest is coming. Jn. 5:43; 1Jn. 2:8
 - c) Jesus wears the kings crown “diadems”. Rev. 19:11-12
- 5) He will go out conquering and to conquer as we have already stated, through diplomacy, he has no arrows for his bow.

- a) The Jews make a one week covenant with the antichrist. Dan. 9:27
- b) He shall deceive many. Matt. 24:5
- c) He is the Man of sin, son of Perdition, The Lawless one. 2Thess. 2

6:3-4 The second seal is opened.

- 6:3** The calling of the horseman.
- 1) John saw a second seal opened. vs. 3
 - 2) He heard the second living creature say “come and see” also. vs. 3
- 6:4** The horror of the second horse.
- 1) John saw a fiery red horse. vs. 4
 - a) The red horse symbolizes war.
 - b) Satan is called the Red Dragon. Rev. 12:3
 - c) Peace and safety, then sudden destruction shall come as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 1Thess. 5:3
 - 2) Nations will not be able to oppose him. vs. 4
 - a) It is granted to him to take peace out of the earth.
 - b) People will kill by and at his command.
 - c) It was given to him a great sword for capital punishment.

- 1)) Once again, it is in fulfillment of prophesy by the sovereign wisdom of God.
- 2)) He has no power in himself.
- 3)) The word for sword “machaira” is small dagger sword.

6:5-6 The third seal is opened.

6:5 The calling of the horseman.

- 1) John heard the third living creature say, “Come and see.” vs. 5
- 2) John saw a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. vs. 5
* The black horse is symbolic of famine, which follows war. Lam. 4:8-9; 5:10

6:6 The severity of the famine.

- 1) John heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying. vs. 6
 - a) The voice is God’s.
 - b) Some believe it is the Father but most likely it is the Son.
- 2) The extent of the famine.
 - a) “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius” a days wages for one persons provisions for a day.

- b) “And do not harm the oil and the wine”, representing the luxuries of the wealthy are not affected.

6:7-8 The fourth seal is opened.

6:7 The calling of the horseman.

- 1) John saw the fourth seal opened. vs. 7
- 2) He heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come and see.” vs. 7

6:8 The extent of death.

- 1) John saw a pale horse, symbolic of pestilence. vs. 8
- 2) And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him.
* Hades is the abode of the wicked departed spirits. Lk. 16
- 3) And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth to kill them, about one million to a million and a half.
 - a) By the sword, “rhomphaia” long Thracian worn over the sholder.
 - b) By hunger.
 - c) By death.
 - d) By the Beast.
* Just in the order as Christ said, Matt. 24:6-7

6:9-11 The fifth seal is opened.

6:9 The martyrs for their faith.

- 1) John saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain.
 - a) The alter after the pattern of the tabernacle, the scene is in heaven.
 - b) The brazen alter was the depository of the blood under it. Lev. 4:7
- 2) They were judged for their faith in Jesus.
 - a) For the word of God and for the testimony which they held.
 - b) As Jesus prophesied. Matt. 24:7, 9, 14, 21-22

6:10 The cry of the martyrs.

- 1) They cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long”.
- 2) They address Jesus, “O Lord, holy and true”.
 - * Lord, “despotes”, denoting ownership, not kurios.
- 3) They petition for information, “Until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”
 - a) Notice these saints are praying for judgment and vengeance, that shows us that they are in a different dispensation, not grace, but judgment.
 - b) The church saint can not pray like that. Rev. 12:19

6:11 The comfort of the martyrs.

- 1) John saw a white robe given to each of them, representing their righteousness by faith in the blood of the Lamb.
- 2) They were told 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.
 - a) A set number.
 - b) Jesus said, “Fear not him who is able to kill the body, but... Mat. 10:28

6:12-17 The sixth seal is opened.**6:12-14** John saw God's displeasure over the death of saints.

- 1) He saw a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. vs. 13
 - a) Three earthquakes are mentioned. Rev. 6:12;11:13; 16:18-19
 - b) Jesus spoke about His coming describing what take place in the seal, trumpets and bowls. 1s. 2:10-12, 19; Joel 2:31; 3:15; Matt. 24:29-30; Lk. 21:25-26; 23:30, Acts. 2:20,
 - c) Is. earth reeling to and fro like a drunken man.
- 2) And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fvg tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Vs. 13

* Both of these in fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel.

- 3) Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. vs. 14
- a) Therefore I will shake the heavens, And the earth will move out of her place, In the wrath of the LORD of hosts And in the day of His fierce anger. Is. 13:13
- b) The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, And shall totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, And it will fall, and not rise again. Is. 24:20
* Is. 13:9-10; Joel. 2:31; 3:15

6:15-17 John saw and heard the calloused hearts of man.

- 1) Men will attempt to hid from God. vs. 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,
- b) But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderer's soap. Mal, 3:2
- 2) Men rather die rather than repent. vs. 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!"

- 3) Men know it is God's judgment. vs. 17
* "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"
- a) Men aware it's judgment of God, but do not repent
- b) Jesus said the events between sixth and seventh seal are only the beginning of sorrows, the great tribulation is yet to come. Matt. 24:8, Rev.7:14
- c) Matt. 24:21; Jer.30:7, Jacobs trouble.

7:1-8 The servants of God sealed before the judgment.

- 7:1** The ministry of the four angels.
* Chapter seven is a parenthetical passage, filling in details like we will have in the trumpets.
- 1) John saw after these things the opening of the sixth seal, He saw four angels.
- 2) John saw them standing at the four corners of the earth.
- a) The expression is figurative of the entire earth.

- b) The expression the four quadrants or the four point of a compass are similar.
- 3) These four angels were holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.
 - a) The implication is to harm in judgment.
 - b) The winds personifying the force and judgment.
 - c) This reminds us of Daniel, Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.”, the vision of the four empires to come. Dan. 7:2

7:2-3 The angel from the east.

- 1) John saw another angel ascending from the east.
 - a) He is distinct from the four previous angels.
 - b) But of the same source of nature by the word another “allos”.
- 2) The angel had authority over the four. vs. 2
 - a) He had the seal of the living God.
 - b) And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, here the

intent and mission of these angels in verse one is stated clearly.

- 3) The angel gives a specific command. vs. 3
 - a) He says, “Do not harm the earth”.
 - b) The specific areas of judgment are two-fold.
 - 1)) The sea.
 - 2)) The trees.
 - c) The time-line is given, “Till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”
 - 1)) The word for servants is “dulos”, bondsman, those by choice.
 - 2)) The mark on the foreheads is only found in Revelation. Rev. 9:4; 13:16; 14:1, 9; 17:5; 20:4; 22:4
 - 3)) The book of Ezekiel called for the marking of the godly also, prior to judgment. Ezk. 9
 - 4)) The believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit, as God sees our yielding and being filled with the Holy Spirit, He knows we are His. Eph. 1:13; 2Cor. 1:22

7:4-8 The number of those to be sealed.

- 1) John heard 144,000 of all the tribes of Israel. vs. 4
 - a) This is not figurative language.
 - b) This is plain language, literal Israel.

- c) No one else can fit in this passage.
- 2) From verse five to eight the individual tribes are named. vs. 5-8
- a) They are specified 12.000 from each tribe.
- 1)) The lost tribes of Israel used to be taught by Armstrong, the World Wide Church of God but have since recanted.
- 2)) Pastor Russel of J. W. teaches they J.W's.
- b) The Anti-christ will also give his mark on the right hand or the forehead. Rev. 13:16-18
- c) These 144,000 will be redeemed from the earth to be before the throne of God. Rev. 14:1
- d) Michael will rise up as the defender of Israel. Dan. 12:1
- e) There are really thirteen tribes of Israel, the two sons of Joseph took his place, Ephraim and Manasseh.
- f) The tribe of Dan and Ephraim are omitted perhaps due to it's idolatry. Gen. 49:17, Judge. 18:30; Hos.4:17
- g) The tribe of Manasseh is listed and Ephraim is included in Joseph. vs. 8
- h) Ruben had forfeited his inheritance as the first-born because he had sex with his father's concubine and the Levites had no inheritance. Gen. 49:4

7:9-12 The great company before the throne of God.

7:9-10 The great multitude.

- 1) After these things John beheld a great multitude which no one could number and they are declared to us. vs. 9
- a) Of all nations.
- b) Of all tribes.
- c) Of all peoples.
- d) Of all tongues.
- 1)) Many will be saved during the tribulation.
- 2)) Some believe those left behind in the Rapture will not have a second chance, 2Thess. 2:9-12
- 3)) The prophecy of Joel quoted in Acts two but is not completely fulfilled till the tribulation. Joel 2:30-31
- 2) Their location of the multitude. Vs. 9
- a) They are said to be standing before the throne and before the Lamb.
- b) They are clothed with white robes, the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
- c) They have palm branches in their hands,
- * The scene is familiar, when Jesus rode in to Jerusalem on the donkey. Matt. 21

- 3) The proclamation of the multitude.
 - a) They cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, they acknowledge the Father.
 - b) They cried out with the same loud voice about salvation to the Lamb!

7:11-12 The familiar company.

- 1) All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures. Rev. 4-5
- 2) They all fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God. Rev. 4-5
- 3) Their proclamation is an affirmation of the great multitude that was saved. vs. 12
 - a) They said, "Amen!", so be it, we agree with the worship and praise.
 - b) They add their own worship and praise, "Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

7:13-14 **The identification of the great company.**

7:13 The question of one of the elders.

- 1) One of the elders asked John a question about the great multitude. vs. 13

- a) He said to John, "Who are these arrayed in white robes.
- b) He also said, "And where did they come from?"

7:14 The answer of John to the elder.

- 1) John did not know. he said to the elder, "Sir, you know."
- 2) So the elder tells John who they are, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation.
- 3) The elder also tells John how they were able to be before the throne of the Lamb, "And washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."
 - 1)) This tells us their identity, they are those under the fifth seal. Rev. 6:9
 - 2)) Which means that the first six seals take us through the seven years not just 3 1/2 years.
 - 3)) If they were the church, he would have recognized them.
 - 4)) If they were Old Testament saints, likewise.

7:15-17 The indicted position of the multitude.

- 1) The elder says, "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. vs. 15"
 - * Their position is to serve, while we are kings and priests during the

tribulation, after that they will also reign with Christ

- 2) And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. vs. 15
 - * They are in intimate fellowship with the Father.

7:16-17 Their time on earth is over.

- 1) Their eternal rest is stated, “They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat.” vs. 16
 - a) Prophetic of the Messiah’s mission. Is. 49:10
 - b) Those who treated the Jew with consideration during tribulation. Mat.25:35-40
- 2) Their eternal comfort is stated. vs. 17
 - a) “For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters.
 - * Shepherd “poimaino” means to feed, to tend a flock, keep sheep. Jn. 21:16; Acts 20:28; 1Pet. 5:2
 - b) And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” vs. 17
 - * Is 25:8; 1Cor. 15:54; Rev. 21:4

- 1) Provides the conclusion of the seals.
- 2) Provides the beginning of the trumpets.

8:1 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.