

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

CHAPTER 6:7-8 ~ THE 4TH SEAL (CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

Revelation 6:7-8 “When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come.” {8} I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.”

- “The rider is pictured as Death and the aftermath of his ride, or that which follows, as Hades, the abode of the dead. In keeping with this startling picture, it is revealed to John that this rider has power over one-fourth part of the earth, to kill with the sword, hunger, and the beasts of the earth.” (Walvoord)
- “By any standard of comparison this is an awesome judgment. If one-fourth of the world population is destroyed in the fourth seal, it would represent the greatest destruction of human life ever recorded in history.” (Walvoord)
- It is important to remember that the church (Rapture) has already happened. While not known, there are a number of people who are already gone.
- Right now, the world’s population is about 8.28 billion people. A quarter of that would be 2,070,000,000.
- Most Populous Countries (Estimated July 1, 2026):
 - India ~ 1.43 billion
 - China ~ 1.41 billion
 - United States ~ 342.6 million
 - Indonesia ~ 285.6 million
 - Pakistan ~ 261.7 million
- Almost all of India and China would be gone.
- **Revelation 9:18** tells us that there are another 1/3 of mankind that is going to be killed by plagues.
- We must remember that God is the initiator of these things and He is also in full control.
 - **6:4** “...it was granted to take peace from earth...”
- “From this introduction to the judgments portrayed in the book of Revelation, it should be evident that the world is facing a time of trouble such as man has never known before. The dream of the optimist for a world becoming increasingly better scientifically, intellectually, morally, and religiously does not fit the pattern of God’s prophetic Word. The ultimate triumph of God is assured; and as the book of Revelation makes plain, Christ will reign over the earth and bring in a kingdom of peace and righteousness after the time of trouble has run its course. First, however, there must be the awful time of the great tribulation.” (Walvoord)

CHAPTER 6:9-11 ~ THE 5TH SEAL

Revelation 6:9-11 “When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain **because of the word of God**, and **because of the testimony which they had maintained**; {10} and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" {11} And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, **until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.**”

- Our scene shifts from the events of earth to what is taking place in heaven.
- “...John sees a vision of those who will be martyred for their faith in Christ. They are described as being under the altar, in keeping with the fact that the blood of the sacrifices of the Old Testament was poured out under the altar (Exodus 29:12; Lev. 4:7). In this case it is the “souls of them that were slain for the Word of God” which are seen under the altar. John hears them crying with a loud voice asking why God has not judged their persecutors.” (Walvoord)
- Who are these souls underneath the altar?
- They are believers who did not get raptured with the church but were saved during this first 3 ½ years of the tribulation.
- They were not killed in the seal judgments of God...John specifically says they were slain *because of the word of God and because of the testimony which they had maintained*.
- While many were obviously pressing them to follow the antichrist and turn away from God, they did not. They maintained their testimony and were murdered because of it.
- This judgment from God is two-fold:
 - Those who murder God’s people are heaping more judgment upon themselves.
 - Once God’s people are gone, there is less of a godly influence for unbelievers to repent.
- These martyred saints are given white robes to signify their complete righteousness in Christ.
- To have a robe means they must have a body...does this mean that they have a temporary body **before** the final resurrection? You cannot put a robe on a spirit.
- “The revelation of the fifth seal makes clear that in the future time of tribulation it will be most difficult to declare one’s faith in the Lord Jesus. It may very well be that the majority of those who trust Christ as Saviour in that day will be put to death.” (Walvoord)
- Do you remember how many times in **chapters 4-5** God was shown to be in control? Did you hear the language of, while those martyred wanted justice, it was told to them that they had to wait, **“until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.”**”

- This means that God has even the **exact number** of martyred saints under His sovereign control.

CHAPTER 6:12-17 ~ THE 6TH SEAL

Revelation 6:12-17 “I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; {13} and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. {14} The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. {15} Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; {16} and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; {17} for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’”

- John’s gaze is back on the earth after the 6th seal is broken. What he sees is disturbing.
- “All the elements of a great catastrophic judgment of God are here present, namely, a great earthquake, the sun becoming black, the moon becoming as blood, the stars of heaven falling like ripe figs, the heaven departing as a scroll, and every mountain and island moving.” (Walvoord)
- It is important to take these as literal, not a picture of something to come.
- “The judgments of war, famine, and death, and the martyrdom of the saints have largely originated in human decision and in the evil heart of man. The judgment described here, however, originates in God as a divine punishment inflicted upon a blasphemous world.”
- The results of this judgment coming from God is quite different than what happened before.
- It is now brought into the world’s focus that this is the God of heaven who is bringing this down upon them.
- This causes the greatest rulers of the earth to hide themselves...they know they cannot stand before the One who sits on the throne.
- It is very interesting that mankind will do all they can to hide and they even know they can’t actually stand before God...but they won’t repent. They won’t bow their knee before God and submit to His rule.
- “It is questionable whether changes in government and in human affairs would have brought such a striking transformation in the hearts of these wicked people. As is often the case with desperate men, instead of availing themselves of the grace of God, they attempt to hide from the wrath of the Lamb by seeking escape in death. However their hope is futile, for death is not an escape but merely a change from one state to another. Those who escape through death from the immediate judgment of God are destined for eternal judgment at the judgment of the great white throne.” (Walvoord)

MATTHEW 24 AND REVELATION 6

The Olivet Discourse and the First 6 Seals

Olivet Discourse		The First 6 Seals	
24:4-5	False Christs	6:1-2	White Horse
24:6-7	War	6:3-4	Red Horse
24:7	Famine	6:5-6	Black Horse
24:9	Death	6:7-8	Pale Horse
24:9-13	Martyrdom	6:9-11	5th Seal
Luke 21:11	Signs	6:12-17	6th Seal

- 6th Seal...there is Luke 21:11; but Matthew 24:29 is keeping in Matthew 24.

Practical Application for Our Own Hearts

- Do you know where you are going to be when this is all taking place?
- We can rejoice because we are made righteous by the blood of the Lamb.
- We can also take heart knowing that no matter how bad this life is, we are never going to experience God's wrath as believers.
- It may seem out of control, but we know that God is in full control.
- We should also read this and be motivated in two ways:
 - To share the gospel with people who don't know Christ. We know what is going to come. We know that righteous judgment awaits the unbelieving world.
 - To persevere until the end. We know that all our present sufferings are nothing compared to what awaits us in heaven.