

## **“6 SEALS – THE COUNTDOWN TO THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS”**

We are in Revelation chapter 6 today ... the events of this chapter occur directly after the heavenly scene we saw last time in chapter 5. Can you remember what we saw there? Here is a good summary linking what we saw last time with what is to come:

**John turns to see the Lion and, behold, he sees a Lamb (Rev. 5:4-6). Having heard of the Lion, he might naturally expect to see in Christ a vision of mighty power ... but instead, he sees a Lamb, the emblem of weakness, and it had been slain. The One that prevails as the Lion, is the One who first suffered as the Lamb. His power to overcome in opening the book ... is that He has overcome by going into death.**

**As the Lamb slain, He overcame sin and death and the devil. Having overcome as the suffering Lamb ... He has acquired the right to destroy every enemy as the mighty Lion. As the Lion, Christ is able to TAKE the book; as the Lamb, He is worthy to OPEN the book. The days of the LORD's patience are past; the time for judgment has come!**

So Yes, ... when we get to Revelation chapter 6 ***“the days of His patience are past and the time of His judgement is now before us.”*** There are seven seals that will be broken on a somewhat mysterious scroll leading to the coming of the Lord Jesus and His rule over this world.

**Each seal will unveil another part of the scroll causing tremendous consequences for this planet.** In this study we'll look at:

- The situation after the rapture - what are the general conditions on earth when the Church is removed?
- The opening the seven sealed scroll - what impact do the four horsemen have on earth?
- The great sixth seal - how does it link in with what the prophets and Jesus Himself saw for the end of the tribulation?
- The dramatic climax - Why does God turn all the lights off in the 6th seal? And what will mankind see when the sky is rolled back like a scroll?

## **AFTER THE RAPTURE ...**

First Seal: The Conqueror ... “**6** 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.**” Revelation 6:1 (NKJV)

In Chapter 4 we had a picture of the rapture with John being “*caught up*” into heaven. So now, before rushing into chapter 6 ... let's start by laying a foundation on **what life on earth will be like** at the start of Revelation 6 by answering a critical question ...

### **What Happens When The Church Leaves?**

- **Firstly, there will be a great void.** People will be incredibly frightened wondering what has happened. Everyone will know people that have suddenly gone. They will be anxiously looking for answers and reassurance and into that void will step a man with a plan for world control. Never let a good crisis go to waste right?
- **With the Church removed, the salt and light of this world is gone.** If you think it is bad now, what about when there is little to no counter-voice or constraint on the wickedness of the day? (**Matt. 5:13-16**).
- **In connection to this, the Holy Spirit will no longer restrain lawlessness** or prevent the coming of the Antichrist and his deceptive satanic signs (**2 Thess. 2:6-12**).
- **Satan himself will now know that his time is short** ... as he is permanently banished from any access to heaven, down to the earth. It is likely that, as we go up – he comes down (**Rev. 12:7-12**).
- **God Himself will now be directly judging this world.** **The day of grace is over and the day of His vengeance has begun.** You will note that ... all of the seals, all of the trumpets, and all of the bowl judgements, originate in heaven and are directly from God. **Together they constitute His wrath upon this earth.** The seals bring forth various judgements as we shall see ... **and the Lord Jesus is the One, the only One, that has the right to break these.**

### **So What Are The Main Reasons For The Tribulation?**

1. To judge sin and put an end to wickedness (**Isa. 13:9-11**)
2. To force everyone on the earth into a decision with only two choices - will you follow Jesus or Satan? This decision leads to a tremendous number of souls saved throughout the whole earth as seen in (**Rev. 7:9-17**.)
3. To break the power of the holy people, Israel, forcing them to finally acknowledge and call upon Jesus, the One that they pierced! (**Dan. 12:5-7, Zech. 12:10**) In other words, a main purpose of the tribulation is for the salvation of the Jewish nation.

4. To enthrone the true King! The events of the tribulation will build until reaching its crescendo with the return of the King! We shall be given a glimpse of that at the end of this chapter before us today. (**Rev. 6:14-16, Rev. 11:15, 19:11,16**).

And it all starts with the opening of this scroll - this title deed to the earth. One by one the seals will be broken and the scroll read.

***But before searching through this chapter ... I want to add two points:***

Firstly ... that Revelation has different layers and themes running through it **and it is not all consecutive**. I believe Revelation 6 is one layer and theme ... giving an overview of the entire tribulation period from start to end. Once all the seals on the scroll have been broken, the true ruler of this world will take possession of this planet. ***And no prizes for knowing that is Jesus!***

Secondly ... it is important to note **that while the seals have not yet been opened, their nearness cast shadows that we can see today**. For example ... the deceptions, wars, famines, earthquakes and plagues that will be unleashed in the future have relevant foreshadows in the here and now. We see deception running wild. We see wars and hear of rumors of wars.

We've recently been involved in a global plague/pestilence (pandemic) with Covid19 ... and experienced how the Governments of this world used this time of crisis for their own control, power and agenda. So, we are already seeing foreshadows "of what is to come" ... but it will be in far greater strength and frequency in the tribulation period.

**So, Let's Read through Revelation Chapter 6 ... and look at what each seal brings forth ...**

**NEXT WEEK ... Chapter 6 Pt. 2 "THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE"**