ESCHATOLOGY

GOD'S FINAL CHAPTER

Week 8 – 12
Revelation – God's Literal Final Chapter

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(See Revelation 6:1-8) 10-08-2001

DUDE, WE ARE HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE, STOP BEING SO NICE TO EVERYONE

REVELATION

- **Biblical Truth:**

  Even when the world recognizes Christ, sees Him, and sees that He is about to unleash judgment the world will still choose to reject Him.

  Even though we (Christians) will be persecuted, we are not to fear what is to come.

REVELATION

Key Verse(s) – Revelation 6.12-17 (NIV):

12 I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, 13 and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. 14 The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

REVELATION

Key Verse(s) – Revelation 6.12-17 (NIV):

15 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16 They called to the mountains and the 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 their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

REVELATION

Context

- Revelation written by John
- Written ~ 95 AD

REVELATION

Key Applications

- We must be prepared spiritually for the "evil day" ahead
- We are to be good stewards of all God gives us, including time, resources, money, etc. and NOT yield it or turn it over to Satan or we risk losing it, and facing God's judgment
- God's judgment precedes His wrath – in our Christian walk prior to the end times as we find ourselves in God's judgment our call is to repent before we are subject to His wrath

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Key Symbolism

(4.3) appearance of jasper, carnelian, rainbow surrounding the throne of God – God dwells in "unapproachable light" (see I Tim 6.16, Ezek 1.26-28) so John describes Him in terms of the reflected brilliance of precious stones

(4.4) 24 thrones surrounding God's throne – Represents the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 Apostles – represents OT and NT believers

REVELATION

Key Symbolism

(4.5) seven lamps blazing - Which is the HOLY SPIRIT - NOT in number or nature, but the infinite perfect Holy Spirit of God (see also Isa 11.2, Rev 1.4, 3.1, 5.6 (seven eyes) - Spirit of the Lord (nature of Jesus), Spirit of fear of the Lord (ability to hear and obey God), Spirit of wisdom (ability to make the right decision), understanding (ability to understand God's word), counsel (the ability to give good advice), power (might – the ability to do what God calls us to do), knowledge (the ability to comprehend beyond human comprehension)

REVELATION

Key Symbolism

(4.6-8) 4 creatures surrounding the throne – represents the four gospels

- … Lion – King of the jungle/beasts – Matthew identifies Jesus as King of the Jews
- … Ox – Beast of burden – Mark identifies Jesus as a servant
- … Man – human – Luke identifies Jesus as the "son of man" – all God and all man at the same time
- … Eagle – rules the skies – John identifies Jesus as God
- … Special note – the last part of their chorus – "who was, and is, and is to come" – in Greek – extension of God's holy name – Yahweh – e.g. literally "I AM"

(5.6) a lamb – imagery of Jesus – the lamb of God who was crucified for our sins

REVELATION

1. First Glimpse into the throne room of God / Heaven (Ch 4)

- V. 2-6 glimpse of God's throne room
  - … God's throne surrounded by magnificent light (see I Tim 6.16, Ezek 1.26-28)
  - … Like the brilliant reflection of precious stones
  - … Jasper – last stone in the breastplate of the High Priest (see Ex 28.15-30) – brilliant white – represents the purity / holiness of Jesus
  - … Carnelian – Ruby – 1st stone in the breastplate of the High Priest – brilliant red – represents the blood that Jesus shed on the cross
  - … Symbolic that Jesus is our high priest forever

REVELATION

1. First Glimpse into the throne room of God / Heaven (Ch 4) (cont.)

- V. 4-11 – Surrounding the throne
  - … 24 Elders – represents the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles
  - … Holy Spirit – see symbolism
  - … Four living creatures representing the 4 gospels – see symbolism

REVELATION

2. Scroll of Judgment (Ch 5)

- V. 1-4 – the scroll itself
  - … Sealed by God
  - … OT scroll could only be opened by person who sealed scroll or his representative
  - … God sealed the scroll and only God can open it
  - … The scroll is the "deed to earth"
  - … Judgments are for turning over God's property to Satan – in other words we have not been good stewards

REVELATION

2. Scroll of Judgment (Ch 5)

- V. 4-7 Only the lamb of God can open the scroll
  - … Only God can open the scroll – Jesus is God and only Jesus through His sacrifice is able
  - … V. 6 – "looking as if it had been slain" – Jesus will still bear the marks of His crucifixion so that we will always know His sacrifice
  - … V. 7 – Jesus takes the scroll from God with the authority to open the scroll
  - … Once He takes it, all angels in heaven gather at throne, and all angels, all heaven, and all non-human creation worship Christ

REVELATION

The Seal Judgments (Ch 6)

- Note the first seal is right before or immediately after the start of the tribulation
- The tribulation actually starts when the Anti-Christ makes a peace treaty with Israel and allows them to start the OT sacrificial system in peace
- The Anti-Christ will have to have enough power to create and sign the peace treaty w/ Israel but the first seal can come either right before or right after the start of the tribulation
- "Horsemen of the apocalypse" symbolic of what will happen – NOT literal horses / horsemen

REVELATION

1. 1st Seal – World dominion

- NOTE this is NOT Christ or Christ's return
- Represents world dominion
- White symbolizes conquest
- Essentially the whole world will come under the rule of the Anti-Christ
- Again may be just before or just after start of tribulation

REVELATION

2. 2nd Seal – War

- Red symbolizes bloodshed and war
- White horse represents conquest from without – red horse represents internal revolution
- The Anti-Christ will portray himself as a man of peace and all the world will recognize him for this – God will lay bare his true heart and show his true nature – a warrior who takes away peace from the earth
- This represents wars between nations and is not related to the Anti-Christ's persecution of the church

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3. 3rd Seal – Economic Collapse

- Black symbolizes famine – thus the sequence is conquest, bloodshed, then famine
- 1 qt of wheat – only enough for 1 person – e.g. a day's wages for one person's meal – three quarts of barley – less nutritious – feeds small family of three
- economic collapse will lead to the "mark of the beast"

REVELATION

4. 4th Seal – Death

- Pale symbolizes death
- Pale traditionally associated with ghosts / dead
- ¼ of the worlds population dies by war, famine, plague, and the wild beasts of the earth

REVELATION

5. 5th Seal – Patience

- John sees the saints that were martyred by the Anti-Christ
- "under the altar" – In OT sacrifice the blood of the slaughtered animal is poured out at the base of the altar (see Ex 29.12, Lev 4.7)
- Clearly the bible identifies these as God's saints
- They are told to wait a "little longer"

REVELATION

6. 6th Seal – Geological / Astrological Signs

- This seal judgment and corresponding signs signify the start of the DOTL
- Same signs identified by OT prophets
- This seal happens well after the mid-point and towards the end of the great tribulation
- God's judgment / wrath different than Satan's wrath
- Great earthquake – sun is darkened – moon turned red – stars fall to earth (meteors)

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7. Interlude between 6th & 7th seals (Ch 7)

- This is linear in a time line sense – i.e. this occurs after the events of the 6th seal and before the 7th seal
- The verb to harm – in the Greek means to hurt with the implication that it is underserved – land, sea, plants, grass, earth specifically do not deserve to be harmed but will as a result of the Anti-Christ's rule
- The sealing is to protect
- The sealing of the Jews – 144, 000 sealed with God's Mark

REVELATION

7. Interlude between 6th & 7th seals (Ch 7) (cont.)

- Note: The seal here is not equated to salvation in a limited sense – i.e. this does NOT mean that only 144000 Jews are saved – nor does it mean that only Jews are protected from God's wrath – these are those that God owns
- Note: Dan and Ephraim are left out of this list – Levi and Joseph are on the list
- V. 9 - 17 great multitude that came out of the great tribulation – they are in their glorified bodies - never again will they thirst or go hungry

REVELATION

8. 7th Seal – Silence in Heaven

- This seal judgment leads to the trumpet judgments
- Silence is significant because since creation the throne room of God is always full of praise continually – all of heaven is awed by the coming wrath of God