

Revelation: The Time is Near

Who is Able to Stand?

Revelation 6:9-17

We're to be caught up to heaven before the time of the end.

Believer, don't be caught up in the causes of the world.

It doesn't mean we don't take a stand, or do what is right, or speak the truth, but our goal is heaven, our work the gospel, our life to lift Jesus up.

[1Jo 5:19-20 NKJV] 19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies [under the sway of] the wicked one. 20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Previously:

- John on Patmos, revealed Jesus in glory
- 7 churches / lampstands / stars / messages
- 7 Spirits of God, Creatures/Angels/Throne, 24 Elders
- Scroll written on both sides, sealed 7 times
- No one above, on or beneath could open (John wept)
- Lamb in the midst of the throne who was slain, 7 horns, 7 eyes - He could open
- 7 number of completion, perfection

[Psa 40:7 NKJV] 7 Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book [it is] written of me.

[Heb 10:7 NKJV] 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come--In the volume of the book it is written of Me--To do Your will, O God.' "

Remember, Revelation is JESUS REVEALED
He is the only one WORTHY to open the scrolls.
TO DO God's will

No one else could do this **justly, rightly, holy.**

7 Seals (7 Trumpets, 7 Bowls) Chart in notes for Rev 6:1-8

They are related. I believe that there is some overlap as we'll see in the next two seals and how the trumpets and blows play out, it seems that the seals describe the overarching events of the 7 years of tribulation and the others speak to other events and details of the happenings.

Seals 1-4

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (there is a fifth at the end, and it's Jesus!)

1 - white horse, rider bow and crown - conqueror with peace, the antichrist

[1Th 5:1-3 NKJV] 1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 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.

2 - fiery red horse, rider large sword - no more peace, war on the whole earth, violence with every man and beast

Really echoes the effects of sin and the garden...the serpent promises peace, enlightenment, being like God - all by disobeying God and trusting in the serpent...and all of a sudden sin, death, murder, blood sacrifice and exile rush in

3 - black horse, pair of scales - famine, economic depression, rationing, luxurious goods hoarded by the rich - rich building bunkers even today, selling stocks prior to the virus, etc.

Types of fulfillment - hitler, stalin, alexander the great, caesar, nimrod - all types of the antichrist, but not the final fulfillment. Same goes for world events. Will follow similar patterns, birth pangs, until the final even happens.

4 - pale green, corpse color - rider was Death, Hell followed after- 1/4 of the earth killed by all of these things, hunger, famine, war, disease, beasts of the earth. Effects of the second and third horsemen, but much more than that as it's its own horse. The scales, the effects, the consequences of sin turned way up. Personified.

Beasts - viruses, bacterium? Etc.

Today: the 5th and 6th seals

Martyrs

Signs in the sky

[pray]

Revelation 6:9-11

Jesus opens the fifth seal

**We're really into it at this point...remember all that has happened.
All that has changed.**

Rapture. Tentative globalism. World leader promising peace. World War X. Violence and unrest everywhere. Diseases like never before. Famine. The Great Depression of all Depressions.

And who gets the blame? Not just those who don't go along with the government on earth, but those who are a part of the Heavenly, True Government. Christians.

This will be a time unlike any other. The Age of Grace / Church Age is over. People are coming to faith now. Some of the church who didn't obey/believe was left behind. Perhaps a lot of it is them. A lot are Jews. A lot are people who we share with but are on the fence.

But now, it's not a pleasant trip to church on a beautiful Sunday morning. The very reality of our faith, of our belief is exposed. It is life or death. And Christians hide for their lives, but not for long. Are martyred left and right.

Christians in the middle east, eastern europe, asia

Beheaded under Muslim rule

Chased out, arrested, persecuted by The People's Republic of China...Communism

Churches burned in Africa, Asia

Does anyone care?

And all throughout history. There has been some care, some relief...but even America doesn't stand much for Christians anymore.

Persecutions on our home front - from baking cakes, to home schooling, to what is being taught to kindergarteners, to comedy, to the media, to the Supreme Court's recent ruling (listen to the two part message "A House Divided")

Things are ramping up. This is the pre-game warmup of persecution.

It will be state-sanctioned, populous approved, full-on hunting season on Believers during the tribulation.

John sees the souls of the martyrs - slain for two things:

1 - the word of God it's a very fulfillment of the word. But it's also because they hold fast to the truth. And as we're seeing in our day and age, the truth is no longer cast aside, it is actively refuted, rejected, and called hatred

2 - for their testimony - that Jesus had changed them. That they were in the world, but now not of it. That they were lost, broken, hurt, in sin, captives and now free, whole, found, truly enlightened and obedient to the real Master of Peace, the real one world leader, Jesus

V10 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?”

How long until you judge the world and avenge our blood?

Jesus may not save you in this life gang, he may use you and I as martyrs
(South African Christian family in Afghanistan)

But he will avenge them.

[Deu 32:35 NKJV] 35 Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; Their foot shall slip in [due] time; For the day of their calamity [is] at hand, And the things to come hasten upon them.'

White robe - covering of salvation for their souls

Rest a little while longer -

There was a number to be completed. Fellow servants. Their brethren.

Church raptured, but these “tribulation saints” likely have a different role in heaven.

They're servants. They had every chance to believe prior to this time. But they rejected until the sky was basically falling on them. They still believe. They're still forgiven. Their joy will be full in heaven. But they're from another time period. There is a different reward.

But I ask, would we be so willing to be martyred for our faith? Would we stand up in a time that's even harder than ours? Persecution is the real litmus test of our faith. Are we church goers or Christians? Laodiceans or Smyrnans?

Comfort in that they are covered and it will be completed. There will be an end one day to believers being martyred.

:12-14

John just keeps looking. I don't know that I could handle seeing all of these things one after another after another. I feel like that just thinking about each of the things in this seal.

Sixth seal

Great Earthquake

California worried about the big one - recently reported that activity in California suggests that the likelihood of the big one in the San Andreas fault is elevated

Yellowstone Caldera unrest

We felt an earthquake from Idaho in March, largest in 40 years

This earthquake I believe will rattle the whole earth. Like the Romans razed Jerusalem, the whole earth will be razed

Sun became black like sackcloth of hair

Does the sun actually burn out? I remember a lot of talk about that in pop culture as a kid.

If this is the very end, yes. Jesus replaces the sun in the new heavens and earth. Is it just the earth's atmosphere darkening it? Is it just a spiritual darkening?

Plagues in Egypt - Darkness

Moon like blood

So much hype over "blood moons" these days. Some could be a sign of getting ready to rebuild the temple and a red heifer.

But no matter how red the sun gets now, it will be redder then.

But interestingly, like animals before a storm, we as people are talking about the apocalypse, whether we take it seriously or not is a different story, but we know a spiritual storm is coming.

Stars of heaven fell to earth - like figs

**[Isa 14:12 NKJV] 12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!
[How] you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!**

Ezekiel 28

Satan and the angels sometimes described as stars falling from heaven.

Again, eternal timelines, out of time. I think there may be some overlap, if not just in significance and signs, but in time.

Satan goes to and fro on the earth, reports to heaven in time of Job
 But he's cast out completely now.
 Garden of Eden

There's a lot here to unpack in separate study.

Talking about stars, signs in heaven, etc.

*God gave us the sun, moon, stars for times and seasons. For practical determining of the times.
 Fitting that they are removed, signifying the End of Time.*

Time itself is almost like a specific place in eternity.

Sky receded as a scroll

This will happen when Jesus returns, "every eye will see him"

Literally dimensions warped.

Every mountain and island moved out of its place

Again at Jesus' return

[Isa 40:3-5 NKJV] 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; 5 The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see [it] together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

:15-17

Everyone hides in the mountains, caves, rocks...they are absolutely terrified

Rich building bunkers today. Bunkers in the 60's. Presidential bunkers. Safe rooms. Seed vault (worried about a flood)

NORAD

It's a great way to hide and be safe from large destruction.

But even then it won't save them.

For some reason one of my favorite verses...

[Rev 6:16 NKJV] 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!"For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

They literally know who it is. Know what and Who the truth is.

And they want to be hidden and killed from the wrath of the lamb!

THEY CANNOT STAND

Later on we'll see that there is a time when people want to die and literally cannot. We'll see that when you do take the mark you've made your final choice.

So this seems to be at the very end. Jesus bursts through the heavenly dimensions and the world is completely shaken as God says "ENOUGH!"

And they, being completely hardened, totally wicked, don't even want to repent. Just like the enemy. They just want to be hidden from the wrath.

I have to think that the people in the flood, at least some of them repented as the flood waters rose. As they weren't able to get into the ark. That God was merciful to those who repented before certain death...if they had time.

This great men, rich men, commanders, slave and free dig their own graves and cry for the grave to bury them.

Let that not be us. Let us be on the winning side. The world has no idea it's digging its own grave as we speak.

Let us be like Jesus and cry to them, "COME FORTH." While there is time.

Next time: The Sealed of Israel, a Great Multitude...then then Seventh Seal