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## ***Session 5. The Seals of Judgment and God's Protection (Revelation 6-7)***

### **INTRODUCTION**

What is on my heart in this series is to get people familiar and comfortable with the book of Revelation, so that they have confidence that they can understand it and encounter the Lord in it. Just getting familiar with the basic flow of the book, the terms, and the concepts really is worth it. Don't feel as if you have to grasp it all in these early days, but do this study and get familiar with the chapters, get familiar with the ideas and let the thing build over the years.

Tonight we are looking at Revelation 6-7 in the briefest way: the seals of judgment and the revelation of God's protection of the saints in the midst of judgment.

### **JESUS BREAKS THE SEALS**

Roman numeral I. The introduction to the seven seals. Of course this goes back to chapter 5 which we looked at in our last session. In chapter 5:7 Jesus is before the Father and He takes the scroll out of the hand of the Father. The scroll has seven seals on it. He has to break all seven seals to unroll the scroll.

We understand that the scroll speaks of the title deed of the earth, but it is more than that. It is the action plan which Jesus is going to use to cleanse the earth and to get it ready for the glory of God. The action plan, parts of it, are in the book of Revelation.

Through the action of taking the scroll, Jesus is saying in effect, "I will take the leadership of the earth. I will take the responsibility to cleanse it. I will break the seals and unroll the scroll." In other words, He will unfold the action plan, which is designed in the wisdom of God and in the love of God, to drive evil off the planet so that the glory of God can fill the earth. That is what the scroll is about.

Jesus opens the scroll as He breaks one seal after the other. Each of the seven seals releases a specific judgment against wickedness in the earth. These seals are released by Jesus, but in concert with the praying church. The seals of judgment are not designed against the people of God. They are loosed by the people of God under Jesus' leadership.

### **THE SEALS ARE LITERAL**

Paragraph B. The seals are literal. The reason I am saying this, is that some commentators will interpret them as purely symbolic. I think that is a great mistake. They are future, they are progressive, and they grow in intensity. The fourth seal is more intense than the third seal.

They are numbered, so we know in which order they are coming: when the fifth seal happens, we know the sixth seal is coming next. This will unify the prayer movement across the earth.

I like to refer to the book of Revelation as a canonized prayer manual. The whole body of Christ in the earth knows that the sixth seal comes after the fifth and the fifth comes after the fourth. So we are all on the same page with the same focus.

The book of Revelation—which I refer to as the end-time book of Acts—is a canonized prayer manual, which the saints, apostles, and prophets will use to release these things across the earth, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and of Jesus.

### **THE TIMING**

Paragraph D. The timing in which Jesus opens the seals is one of the significant interpretive keys to the whole book. I do not believe that He has opened the scroll yet. The scroll still has seven seals. It says in Revelation 4:1: “After these things,” and He is talking about the things of chapter 2-3, which are the things of the church. “After these things”—the things He described about the church which He wanted corrected—“I will show you things that must take place after this.”

John has this revelation in about 90 AD. It is sixty years after the ascension to the right hand of the Father. Sixty years after the resurrection, after Jesus has ascended, He has not yet opened the scroll. The reason I am saying this, is that it is common for commentators to say, “When Jesus was raised from the dead, that is when He broke the seals and opened the scroll.” Well, it is sixty years after the resurrection and the seals have not yet been opened.

The next point I want to make—because it is such an important part of understanding this chapter—is that these events will actually happen in the future. They have not happened yet.

### **THE BOWLS OF PRAYER WILL BE FULL**

Revelation 5:8 (paraphrased): “When Jesus had taken the scroll, the living creatures fell down and the twenty-four elders fell down, each of them having a harp and a golden bowls”—here is the key—“full of incense, which is the prayers of the saints.” In other words, when Jesus takes the scroll to break open the seals, the bowls of prayer at the Father’s throne will be full. In other words, the prayer movement in the earth will be mature.

It is going to take a praying church filling the bowls with prayer in order to loose the seals and the bowls of prayer are not yet full. The seal judgements will strike the kingdom of darkness and drive it back from its place of effectiveness. The church is beginning to get hold of this in the last decade or two, but I am talking about a church which is anointed and focused in prayer. It is going to take a praying church. The seven seals will not be broken until the bowls of prayer at the Father’s throne are full. This is yet to come in the future.

### **THE PRAYER MOVEMENT WILL BE MATURE**

People say, “The Lord might come any time.” I say, “No, that is not going to happen.” The Lord is not coming until the prayer movement is mature in the earth—mature enough to release the Great Tribulation against the Antichrist.

A lot of folks are waiting for the Lord to rapture them so they can miss the Tribulation, but Jesus is waiting for the church to grow up to loose the Tribulation. Because the Tribulation—the primary point of the Tribulation—is God’s judgment on the kingdom of the Antichrist in the same way Moses loosed the judgments upon Pharaoh in Egypt.

Paragraph E. The judgments of the seven seals will be against the harlot. The great harlot, the false church, will have come to a place of tremendous power across the earth at that point in time. The judgments will also be against the Antichrist. Those are not identical. They are two different realities.

When the bowls are full at the right hand of the Father, this judgment will be released by a mature prayer movement. And they will be released in the same way Moses released the ten plagues of Egypt upon Pharaoh.

### **THE GREAT PASTORAL DILEMMA**

Paragraph F. The thing which is most disturbing when you first read the book of Revelation is that the seals are released by Jesus. You read each one of them and it says, “And He opened the seal.” You think, “OK, that is good.” But when you read what the seal is, then it throws you automatically into a dilemma. It is the very dilemma which the forerunners will have to answer, in order to prepare the nations for the glory of God—the second coming of Christ. How could a God of love be responsible for judgments this severe, without contradicting love?

Of course that is the great pastoral dilemma. That is the dilemma which the nations and even much of the church will have to face. If He is a God of love, how could He do this? The answer is, that because He is a God of love He will do it. Jesus is releasing judgment against the kingdom of darkness to hinder it, to stop the spread of wickedness, and to stop the persecution of the saints.

He is also releasing judgment to cause the things which unbelievers are trusting in, and which keep them from being saved, to be seen as false. The release of judgment shakes their confidence in the things they trust in.

### **“COME AND SEE”**

In Revelation 6:1 (paraphrased), John says, “I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and one of the four living creatures said with a voice like thunder, ‘Come near the heart of God and see.’” In other words, “Consider and take seriously what is happening here. Pay attention to these judgments.”

I find that much of the Church is doing neither one of these things. We are called to come near the heart of the Lamb, in other words, to encounter the Jesus who would release such an action plan to cleanse the earth.

I want to know that Jesus—Bridegroom, King and Judge. I want to come near Him. I want to posture my heart to encounter this one. I want to see. In other words, I want to understand what

His action plan is in detail—the part which is written. It is this very phrase, “Come and see,” with which the Lord has stirred me over the years, to go deep in the book of Revelation—as deep as I can. The goal is to go deep. I am not claiming that I am going deep, but that is the goal.

Isaiah 33:17-18 (paraphrased) says, “In that day you will see the beauty of the Lord. You will see the beauty of Jesus and then your heart will meditate on terror.” You will see His beauty and you will meditate on the fierceness with which He confronts Satan on a global level through the Church in order to drive evil off the planet.

We need to meditate on this. In the natural it is terrifying, but it must be done because God in His wisdom has declared that this is the least severe way to reach the largest number of people at the deepest levels of love.

### **GOD’S JUDGEMENTS ARE NOT AGAINST THE SAINTS**

Notice that God’s judgment is not against the saints. The book of Revelation is not about the judgment of God on the saints. Yes, there is a sub theme in the book of Revelation, which is the Antichrist’s rage against the church, but that is not the primary theme of the book of Revelation

Like in the book of Acts, there clearly is a sub theme of the persecution of the church. As far as we know, all the apostles were martyred. That is what history tells us. There is a record of the persecution of the saints in the book of Acts, but the book of Acts is not mostly a book about persecution. It is the acts of the Holy Spirit through the apostles.

The book of the Revelation is the acts of the Holy Spirit through the end-time apostles. Yes, there is a sub theme of persecution, but God has not appointed the church of God for wrath. The wrath of God does not come on the church, but the church will release the wrath of God through believing prayer under Jesus’ leadership.

### **THE FIRST SEAL**

The first seal: The Antichrist’s political aggression. When the Antichrist is released in political prominence, this is when the scroll is being opened. Once the first seal is released, a domino effect will begin and will not be stopped. Once the Antichrist is recognized on a global level—Jesus is going to let that happen. He is the one who opens the seal which releases the Antichrist. It says in Revelation 6:2, “I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.”

What is going on in the end-time plan in the Revelation 17, is that the harlot church is judged. The harlot church is the joining of all the world religions into one false religion, and many believers will join it.

### **A WORLD WIDE RELIGION WILL EMERGE**

In Revelation 17:6 John said, “I saw the woman”—the harlot—“she was drunk with the blood of the saints.” This is the world religion which is going to emerge. You can see even the early stirrings of it right now. You can see it right now by the increase of compromise which is being

proclaimed in the body of Christ in the western world. You can see it. The standards are getting lower and lower, under the doctrine and value of toleration.

This is going to end up with a world wide religion which will be drunk with the blood of the saints, because they will kill so many true believers. The global unified church will view the true church as intolerant. They will say, “The only enemy we have are those Jesus fanatics.” The truth is that the only hope for the world is the Jesus fanatics under Jesus’ zealous, pure, and loving leadership.

The woman will be drunk with the blood of the saints.

### **REVELATION 17 TELLS THE STORY**

For several years before the Antichrist is in place, the one world religion will be functioning in power. Revelation 17 tells the story in detail. Look at verse 16, there is a surprising reality. The ten horns, which is clearly one of the few symbols in the book of Revelation—there are about eight or nine main symbols in the book of Revelation and this is one of them—the ten horns will be ten nations in league with the Antichrist. They do not like this false church, they hate her.

In the early days they like her, but she will begin to have so much influence, so much money and so much power, that these ten nations—these ten horns—will go to the Antichrist and say, “Wait, she is too big, she is too proud, and she is too powerful. We need to get rid of her.” So actually, within the kingdom of darkness, there will be a civil war. They will turn on her and kill her. Here is my point: this will have been happening for several years at the time of the first seal. The blood of the saints will have been poured out by this harlot religion.

Surprisingly, the judgment against the harlot religion will be loosed by Jesus through the person of the Antichrist. He will rise up, strike her, and burn her. We will get to that at another time, but it is a very clear strategy. Even the Antichrist himself will bring judgment against the kingdom of darkness, in the way Adolph Hitler caused trouble even on the devil’s kingdom and on his own kingdom, though he was totally used of the devil. I mean, demons do not get along with each other at all. That sounds funny, but it is true. They do not like each other at all.

### **THE WHITE HORSE GOES FORTH**

The white horse goes forth. White symbolizes righteousness. This is a counterfeit righteousness. This is a false Christ, not the real one. The real white horse is at the end of Revelation in chapter 19.

Paragraph C. He has a bow in his hand, but it is an arrowless bow. It is a bow, but there is no arrow. This is very significant, because initially the rage of the Antichrist and his ten nation confederation is against the one world religion—the very religion that has caused the church to backslide and kill the saints. You may think, “Why do they all not get along?” They cannot bear each other because of their pride.

The Antichrist goes forth with a bow, but there is no arrow. What this speaks of, is the threat of war. It is about bloodless victories. Before war breaks out, he takes over nations.

It is the same thing which Adolph Hitler did in WWII in 1938 when he took over Austria and what is now the Czech Republic. He took over nations without war, but of course he bullied them. It was deceptive diplomacy. It was peaceful conquest outwardly, but behind the scenes he was bullying them and threatening them. So he took over nations before there was a war. Most people knew it, in terms of the politicians around the world, but they didn’t know what to do about it.

The Antichrist is going to start out with peaceful conquest of nations. The nations being taken over will not be so peaceful. There will be bloodless victories and deceptive diplomacy.

### **POWER WILL BE GIVEN TO THE ANTICHRIST**

Paragraph F. Power will be given—a crown will be given to this evil man. It is interesting that the power with which the Antichrist will function, will be given to him first by Jesus. Jesus uses the Antichrist to confront evil in the earth, even though he himself is the number one champion of evil. The devil is such a murderer and the devil is so proud that he actually sabotages his own kingdom by his works of destruction.

But God is not the only one who will give him power. The devil will give him power and the evil kings of the earth will also give him power. It says repeatedly, “Power is given to him, a throne is given.” People say, “Who is giving the power?” It is power which will first come from God, second from the devil, and third from the kings of the earth, who will give their rightful authority to him. They are really the kings over those nations, but they will cooperate with him in the way some nations joined Adolph Hitler in WWII. They gave their authority to him of their own free will.

The point that I most want to press on your mind is not how evil kings will give their power to him or how the devil will, but how Jesus is the one who allows this man to go forth. The very release of the Antichrist is a judgment on the kingdom of darkness, though the Antichrist is the number one champion of darkness.

### **THE LORD SETS THE BOUNDARY LINES**

Paragraph G. Some see the white horse as the triumph of Jesus in the gospel. I do not think that this is a right interpretation. The white horse—the first seal—I believe, is clearly the Antichrist and that seal has not yet been opened.

The second seal is worldwide bloodshed and the final world war. Revelation 6:3-4: “When Jesus opened the second seal”—it is the act of God from heaven releasing this—“I heard the second living creature saying, ‘Come and see.’ And another horse, fiery red, went out and it was granted to the one who sat on it. . . .”

Again, it is the Lord who allows the boundary lines of evil. The ones who do the evil are responsible for choosing evil, but God allows them to move within certain boundary lines. The boundary lines are going to be expanded so that judgment is actually released on the kingdom of darkness. The whole thing is going to rebound against the devil, who thinks he is going to out-manuever Jesus. His idea is, “The battle plan is already written in the book of Revelation. Surely, I will out-manuever Jesus because I already know what His tactics are.”

Jesus is so full of confidence. It is as if He says, “Here, you can see what I am going to do, but I will still defeat you. I will lay it out in advance, even my tactics.”

### **WORLD WAR BREAKS OUT**

Verse 4 (paraphrased): “Another horse went out. It is a red horse. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth and that people should kill one another; and to this horse and this horseman was given a great sword.”

Notice, this is where world war breaks out. In the first seal, it was not world war. It was a bow with no arrows, it was peaceful conquest, but this is bloodshed. Once the Antichrist assumes power in the first seal, he begins to go against the harlot and against all the nations of the earth who will not participate fully with him. He goes forth to destroy them and war breaks out, even among the ungodly nations.

Daniel 11:40-45 describes the ungodly nations warring against each other. The devil cannot bring them to unity, not even his own servants.

There is a great sword. It is very different from the arrowless bow.

### **THE JUDGEMENT OF THE GREAT HARLOT**

Paragraph B. The Antichrist continues as a vehicle of judgment on the harlot. He takes peace from all the nations which were drunk through the harlot back in Revelation 17. It says in Revelation 17:1-2 (paraphrased)—that is the backdrop of what is going on in the nations when the seals begin to be opened—the angel tells John, “I will show you the judgment of the great harlot. The kings of the earth committed fornication with her and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk.” In other words, they were so drawn by her darkness, that they became drunk and intoxicated with her sin.

Then, verse 16, the Antichrist comes and strikes against her, declares war on her, and burns her. The harlot is a worldwide institution. He burns her with fire. At the heart of the world war is actually the kingdom of darkness against the kingdom of darkness. The rage, the murderous rage of Satan shows that he cannot be reasoned with, even within his own ranks. He is being driven by blind pride and murderous rage, even towards his own loyal followers.

We find out in Revelation 9 that locusts from the pit come and torment those who worship the devil. The devil torments his own worshipers. He has murderous rage in his heart. He cannot be reasoned with at all.

## **MULTIPLICATION OF FOOD**

Roman numeral IV. Jesus opens the third seal, Revelation 6:5. He opens the third seal and a black horse goes out. The rider of the black horse has a pair of scales. Now we are going to look at economic crisis. Verse 6, John hears a voice from the throne. He hears this very ominous statement, “A quart of wheat for a denarius and three quarts of barley for a denarius.”

Paragraph A. After the Antichrist is released in the first seal, when he gets a little momentum and he gets into position, then he creates a world war in the second seal. The third seal naturally follows. There is an economic crisis—the greatest economic crisis in history, which is followed by famine which is more severe than in any other time in history. There will be economic crisis and famine which are the natural result of war.

In the midst of this famine the saints will be multiplying food in the name of Jesus, as in the days of Moses, when three million Israelites were in the desert, and water came out of the rock and food came from heaven. That is a picture of the Great Tribulation. There will be a supernatural supply of food through the praying church in this time of history.

## **FAMINE**

Paragraph B, you will notice it says, “A quart of wheat for a denarius” (v. 6). A denarius was a day’s wages. A quart of wheat was enough for one man to eat for one day without dying of starvation. It was not enough to be satisfied or to be strong. A quart of wheat could keep a man from starvation, but barely.

Imagine this: a man works all day, he works thirty days, and the net result of thirty days of work is only thirty days of food to barely keep him from starvation. He cannot feed his family, he cannot pay his bills. He can only supply a minimal amount of food to keep one person alive. The earning power of the work force of the earth will be about one tenth of what it is right now on a global level.

Wheat is a good grain, barley is an inferior grain. You can buy one quart of wheat for three quarts of barley. You will get three times as much, it tastes not as good, and it is not nearly as nutritious. Poor people will buy barley. This is the most ominous description of famine and economic crisis.

## **THE FOURTH SEAL: FAMINE**

Roman numeral V. The fourth seal. It goes on now. It goes beyond the crisis of famine and economics.

We are not ready to do this yet, but the church will actually release this and Jesus is the one opening the seals. I realize that in this time of history we do not know this Jesus yet. We are saying, “OK, OK...” But we are far more into the Jesus of Christmas. The Jesus of Armageddon is someone we are just getting acquainted with. The truth is that there is no contradiction between these two faces of Jesus; because the Jesus of Christmas is the one who is bringing good

will and peace among all nations, and the Jesus of Armageddon is the one who will set up the global situation so that world peace can come in truth and in righteousness.

The part I want to bring you back to, is the truth that Jesus is waiting for us to grow up to release the judgements upon the Antichrist, because so many of us are so used to hoping that we will get raptured and leave the earth before the tribulation.

It is exactly the opposite paradigm than what most people are familiar with, so that when they read this they might automatically say, “Man, this is going to be terrible, I am glad I won’t be here,” instead of saying, “Jesus is releasing this and He wants me to be involved with Him? No way!”

### **GET FAMILIAR WITH THE WORD OF GOD**

Right now the answer might be, “Don’t worry about it right now. Get familiar with the Word of God.” Because we are not to release this right now. When the Antichrist is in place and the first seal, the second seal, and the third seal are unfolding, our confidence and the clarity of our understanding will be bolstered.

Beloved, we do not want to crack open the book of Revelation for the first time in the midst of these events. That would be the same logic as a guy deciding to build a boat in Noah’s flood after the rain starts. It is like the rain starts and the guy says, “How do you make boats? Was there not a book somewhere about boats?” We do not want to become familiar with the book of Revelation after the first seal. We want to be deeply connected with Jesus and His master plan long before that seal unfolds.

The bowls of prayer in heaven will be full. In other words, the church will be informed in prayer, unified with God’s end time strategy, and unified together before the seals are even released by the praying church.

When I look at this right now I say, “Lord, I do not know if there is a man on the earth who would have the nerve to pray these things.”

Someone might say, “I will pray them.”

I say, “Not on the microphone. No, no.” The reason is that this is not the time, and neither do we have the connection with God’s heart or His mind, with understanding of what is happening. That is what forerunners are all about.

### **10,000 JOHN THE BAPTISTS**

The Lord stirred my heart to ask Him to raise up 10,000 John the Baptists. Men and women, old and young—messengers—who are doing what the four living creatures told John, “Come and see.” In other words, they are coming near the heart of God and gaining insight before the events take place.

That is what we are doing here and why we are having this class on Saturday nights. The goal is not to just get through a twelve session overview. The point of the twelve sessions is that you will have confidence to go deep, not just on the battle plan, but on the heart of the Bridegroom, King, and Judge, the one who is responsible for the battle plan. It is not enough to just know His heart, I want to know His mind and I want to know His battle plan.

### **THERE WILL BE A GREAT REVOLUTION**

There will be a great revolution. It will be an eschatological revolution which is going to shift human history into the age to come. And at the very point of the arrow is the praying church.

It is not a revolution of one nation against another. It is a revolution of the age to come confronting the present evil age and causing an eschatological shift of history. And the prayer movement is at the point of the arrow of God’s plan. The forerunners are at the point of the point, preparing the prayer movement.

My question is, “Where are you at?” You may say, “Well, to be honest, I am still trying to get familiar with the Jesus of Christmas and I will get to the Jesus of Armageddon later.” That is not a horrible place to be, that is where most of us are. Beloved, the good news is that it is the same Jesus who will bring world peace and who will release the judgements of God on the nations.

I believe we have time to go deep. In this next decade it is time to pick up the pace and to come and to see these things. To come to the throne of God, to gaze on His heart, and to ask for insight into these matters. The four living creatures told John to come and see. How much more should we come and see, because this was not even about John’s generation. He was in his nineties, writing for our day. How much more should we come and see and follow the exhortation which the four living creatures gave John!

### **THE PALE HORSE**

Roman numeral V. The fourth seal. A pale horse. Now it is going to grow in intensity—each seal grows in intensity. The name of the pale horse is Death and Hades. Power was given to these two. Again, Jesus is the one releasing this and the praying church will be cooperating with Him in releasing this against the empire of the Antichrist and the false religion. The Antichrist will be attacking, but we will be praying that there will be complete confusion and civil war in his camp.

“And power was given to them over one fourth of the earth, to kill with the sword, with hunger, with death”—and that word “death” means pestilence or plagues—“and with wild beasts” (Rev.6:8, paraphrased).

The most unfortunate creatures in the natural—the wild beasts—will be as hungry as the people. They will come out of the wild into the streets. They will also be enraged by demons—hungry wild beasts in the streets, emboldened with hunger and demons. Jesus says we can pray and the deadly serpents cannot not touch us. We will have authority over the wild beasts.

I am not saying that like a hot shot, as if nothing is going to touch us. I am saying that if we are connected to the Lamb, He is the one releasing this against the kingdom of darkness.

### **DEATH AND HADES**

Paragraph A. Death is released. Death is what happens to the physical body. The body dies and then Hades is where the spirit goes after the body dies. So the minute somebody is touched with death, the spirit of death kills the physical body. Then the disembodied spirit of the unbeliever is there and a demon comes and takes them straight to hell. Hades will come after them. So death relates to the dying of the physical body and Hades is what happens to the spirit. The spirit of an unbeliever goes into a prison, waiting until after the end of the Millennium. Then all of Hades is thrown into the lake of fire. When we die our spirit goes right to the presence of God.

One fourth of the earth will die. Look at the end of paragraph B. They estimate that in the year 2025 there will be about eight billion people on the earth, plus or minus a little bit. A fourth of eight billion is two billion. That is fifty times the death toll of WWII—fifty times.

My point is that we have no way of grasping the implications or the scope of this with our natural mind. Our natural mind just disconnects. We have to have the Holy Spirit connecting us to His heart in this and giving us understanding.

### **THE FIFTH SEAL**

The fifth seal. The fifth seal is one of the most misunderstood seals. Jesus opens the fifth seal. “I saw under the altar the souls of the martyrs who had been slain for the Word of God” (Rev. 6:9, paraphrased).

Verse 10-11 (paraphrased). They are crying out in prayer. “And they cried out 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?’ Then a white robe was given to each of them and they were told to rest.”

They are not being told to quit praying, but to continue in the state of heavenly blessedness. They are crying out for a solution and a resolution to the evil which is mounting in the earth. They want His kingdom to come and His will to be done, because when justice confronts the Antichrist kingdom in full measure, then the second coming will happen and they will get their resurrected bodies. And the dream and the hope of the kingdom of God on the earth, which all the saints have believed in, will come to pass.

This is what they are crying out for. When they are told to rest, do not misunderstand it and think that the Lord is saying, “Settle down and do not pray so much.” They are told that it will be a while before the full manifestation of the justice they are crying out for takes place. When Jesus comes they will get their resurrected bodies, and righteousness will triumph on the earth in every sphere of life. And that is what they are crying out for.

In essence, they are crying out night and day for the Luke 18 justice. That is the very passage this is relating to: the one which is on the wall in the global prayer room that says to cry out night and

day for justice. The Lord says that He will give it speedily. This is the companion passage to that verse.

### **THE JUDGEMENT INCREASES IN INTENSITY**

Paragraph A. This judgment—number one—is not a judgment of martyrdom on the church. Jesus is releasing it. It is a judgment against the kingdom of darkness. It is more severe than the first four seals because each seal is growing in intensity.

The judgment—which is often misunderstood—is not the martyrdom of the church. The martyrdom produces the judgement. The blood of the saints fuels the prayer movement which significantly increases the judgment against the Antichrist.

Paragraph B. The judgment of each seal increases in intensity. The second seal is worse than the first. The third is worse than the second. It builds. The fifth is more severe than the four before it. That is true of the seals, the trumpets and the bowls. The blood of the saints fuels the end time prayer movement. The shedding of righteous blood stirs God’s heart for vengeance.

The word vengeance is the identical word for justice. It is used interchangeably. There are several words which could be translated that way. One translation says justice, another says vengeance. Those words are interchangeable in the New Testament.

### **THE SAME PRAYERS ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN**

What happens is—paragraph C—that John sees the prayer movement in heaven which is a mirror and a reflection of the prayer movement on the earth. Because the two of them are going to come together into unity. The Spirit and the Bride will say, “Come!” Jesus is going to come in an eschatological revolution. He will openly confront darkness and take over all the nations of the earth.

Paragraph D. They are not crying for personal vengeance. They are in the presence of God. They have no bitterness. They have no personal or selfish agenda which is out of the will of God, concerning the earth. They are crying out that God would confront the reprobate minds and the demonized leadership of the planet so that justice would be released on the earth.

They have compassion because of what they went through and they see others still going through it on the earth. They are saying, “Lord Jesus!” He is saying, “My heart is stirred!” The prayer movement on the earth is crying out with the same prayers.

### **THE MOST RECORDED PRAYER IN SCRIPTURE**

Paragraph E. Now this prayer, “How long, oh Lord?” is one of the most repeated and most recorded prayers in the Bible—Old and New Testament.

It is a prayer for justice against the Antichrist cruelty and for the release of the kingdom of God. Luke 18 is the companion passage. Look at Luke 18 and remember that Jesus knew Revelation 6:10 when He gave this teaching.

He is teaching Luke 18 right before He goes to the cross. He is teaching them this at the end of His three and a half year ministry. Luke 18 is a passage which is true throughout church history, but it is an eschatological passage. It is a passage which teaches about the prayer movement at the end of the age. It is true all through history, but it has its full understanding in context to Revelation 6—the fifth seal.

Jesus said, “Shall not God avenge?” “Avenge” is the same word which the martyrs around the throne are using. It is the same word as “justice.” One translation says “justice,” another says “avenge.” It is the same word.

### **CRYING OUT FOR JUSTICE**

In Luke 18 He is talking about the saints on the earth. Revelation 6 is talking about the saints in heaven. They are doing the same thing, crying out with the same prayer night and day. It is not for vengeance for their own rights. It is in order that Satan’s dominion on the earth would be fully, finally and openly confronted and driven off the planet.

This is what Jesus says before the cross, “Shall God not avenge His elect who cry out night and day to Him, though He bears long with them” (Lk 18:7)? This is a hint of what He is going to tell the martyrs around the throne in Revelation 6.

They are saying, “How long?” He says in effect, “Almost.” Jesus is saying, “I am bearing long. Do not give up and do not give in” (v. 7, paraphrased). He is giving the same exhortation to the martyrs in heaven as to the end-time prayer movement on the earth: “I am bearing long. There is a plan which is unfolding and it will unfold fully. Do not give up. Trust me.” It says in verse 8, “I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.” He is saying in effect, “It will not be too late though it may seem late to the natural mind. It will be speedy. My vengeance will be open before all the nations.” He is talking about the book of Revelation.

### **WILL JESUS FIND FAITH ON THE EARTH**

And here is the question of the day. Here is the question we ask as a ministry, as a spiritual family, and as individuals. Jesus said, “However, I have one question: when the Son of Man comes, at the time of the second coming—that is the context—when I return, will I really find agreement with My people on the earth” (v. 8, paraphrased)? It is as if He says, “I know I will have agreement in heaven—Revelation 6—but will I really have agreement with My people on the earth when this scenario unfolds?” Of course Jesus knows that He is going to unfold the book of Revelation to John a little bit down the road.

This is a stunning passage. When it says, “Will He find faith,” He is not talking about people still being born again. He is saying, “Will My people be in agreement with what I am doing in the hour of My coming? Will I really find agreement?”

I say to the Lord, “Yes, I, by the grace of God, and the people I dwell with, we will be in agreement with You and we will cry out night and day and we will not back away from the cry for justice in line with the love and desire in Your heart to drive evil off the planet.”

### **YOU ARE HOLY AND TRUE**

Paragraph H. They said to Jesus the same thing we are going to say to Jesus, “Holy and true. Holy and true” ( Rev. 6:10). Much of the church today thinks that Jesus is less than holy and true to who He claims to be, when He confronts darkness at the level of the book of Revelation. They say that the Jesus they are imagining could never ever be the Jesus of the book of Revelation.

We are going to agree with the saints around the throne. We will say, “You are holy. You are true to who You are when You show Yourself in this kind of justice in the generation in which You return.” Jesus is true. His judgments are true to love and true to all of His promises.

The goal is not to get it all tonight. I do not even have one percent of this. The goal is to get you familiar with this so that you can read it on your own and think, “This is not that difficult. The broad strokes are quite straightforward.”

### **THE NEED TO GO DEEP**

I want to go deep in these things and not just have the broad strokes. You need to know addition before you can get multiplication. You need to know how to do nine plus six before you can do nine times six. It is not so complicated, but we are at the nine plus six stage. We say, “Wow, nine plus six, that is fifteen.” The Lord might say, “OK, you are getting it. Stay with it.” “Nine plus six.” “Nine plus seven.” “OK, that is sixteen.”

“OK, what is nine times seven?” I am going to leave that to one of you guys. Anyway, we are moving from the addition stage of the end times in the book of Revelation—from the basic facts—we are going to go up a notch in this next decade. I am talking about the body of Christ, not just us. We are going to learn multiplication. And then if the Lord tarries, and I think He will for another decade, we are going to go into algebra one. We are going to think that we are really awesome theologians. The angels will say, “Not so much. Not so much. It is still algebra one.”

We are at the addition stage, but you will never learn multiplication if you do not know addition. You just cannot go to the next level. I am not saying that we are going to be super theologians. This is for everybody to grasp and everyone can do multiplication. Most people can even do algebra one. I took algebra one in eighth grade. How many of you took algebra one in eighth grade? There you go. I am not going to tell you how I did. I am just telling you that I took it in eighth grade and I am leaving it there.

### **THE SIXTH SEAL**

The sixth seal. The sixth seal goes to a whole different level. Everything changes at the fifth seal when the blood fuels the end-time prayer movement. Things go from a natural dimension with demonic activity to a whole different level of supernatural activity, starting with the sixth seal.

The fifth seal prayer movement catapults the end-time move forward, linking it with the cry for justice in Luke 18:7, and with Jesus’ question, “Will My people be in agreement with Me” (v. 8 paraphrased)? That principle in the fifth seal thrusts the body of Christ and the prayer of faith to a whole different level, from the sixth seal all the way through the trumpets and the bowls.

There will be cosmic disturbances—signs in the heavens. Beloved, those signs in the heavens—the sun, the moon, and the stars—those signs are being released in relation to the prayer movement on the earth and the prayer movement in heaven which are both under Jesus’ leadership. Those signs in the heavens do not just show up one day.

### **WE NEED TO KNOW GOD’S PLAN**

We are in prayer meetings under the anointing of revelation. We have the broad strokes, we have the Bible verses, we know the main points of what He is doing. We know that He is going to give different parts of the body of Christ, in local and regional areas, insight into how to pray these in a local context.

Beloved, we cannot even imagine such things if we do not know the addition. We cannot even think about multiplication. We can never pray this in a local and regional way, in a particular and specific way, if we do not have the confidence of the broad stroke revelation, knowing that this is in God’s plan in the book of Revelation.

Again, do not start praying things on the microphone until the first seal opens. Because what I do not want, I do not want just enthusiasm without revelation. This is really serious. This is not one up-man-ship, or spiritual intercession showmanship: “You pray for the first one, I will pray for the second.” “Well, I will pray for the trumpets.” “I will go for the bowls.”

We do not want spiritual one-up-man-ship in the prayer room. This is very serious and it is critical that we do it in league and in unity with God’s heart.

### **JUDGEMENTS LOOSED BY THE PRAYER MOVEMENT**

The judgments which are being loosed by the prayer movement will go to a whole different level. Look at Revelation 6:12, “I looked when He opened the sixth seal.” Jesus, our Jesus, opened it—Jesus in unity with a praying church.

He said in Luke 18, “Will I really have people who have faith, who really agree with Me?” It is as if He said, “If you have faith, if you agree with Me, go to the book of Revelation and see what I am doing. I have given you a canonized prayer manual to unify you and get you on the right page. Will you take it seriously?” “Yes Lord.”

I look at these things and say, “We are going to pray for these?”

He says, “Yes.”

I say, “Ouch, the earthquake. I want to skip that one. The sun, I want to skip that one too. The moon. Oh, the stars, that one too. The kings of the earth, yes, I will pray that one. Lord, let the kings of the earth fall on their faces.”

We do not do it that way. Again, we want to understand this so that in the future, in local and specific ways, we can apply it in obedience to the Holy Spirit. It will all be in obedience to the master plan and the broad strokes are in the book of Revelation. It is a critical book.

By the way, the sixth seal is remarkable. I want to learn it so that I can pray it one day. I do not want to pray hit and miss. I want to pray it under the anointing so that it actually happens in a timely manner.

### **ANGELIC EXPLANATIONS**

At the end of the sixth seal, when all of these things are happening—all the cosmic disturbances—the great question is, “Who is able to stand?” The question of the hour is, “Who can stand in the midst of such disturbances” (Rev. 6:17, paraphrased)?

Now we enter into the first parenthetical section. Most of you taking this course, will know that the story line in the book of Revelation contains five segments within the one continuous storyline which unfolds in chronological, sequential order. The story line unfolds. There are five segments.

After each one of the segments, it is as if the angel tells John, “Let’s pause. John, how do you feel about those six seals?”

John says, “Man, I am a little shaken.”

“OK, let’s pause.”

The story line is put on pause five different times after five different segments of the continuous story line. I call these the pastoral sections. They are parenthetical. They are parenthesis within the overall story line.

It is as if the angel says, “John, come aside. How are you feeling?”

John is saying, “With all this turbulence, how is the church going to be doing?”

The angel says, “That is a good question.” So within the parenthetical sections, the Lord through the angel, gives us information about the details of how are we going to be doing. The angel says, “Good, I am glad you asked.”

### **THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION IN REVELATION 6**

Paragraph B. The question is going to be answered. Revelation 7 is answering the fundamental question which is at the end of Revelation 6, “Who can stand?”

The angel says in effect, “That is a good question. I am going to tell you who can stand.”

In Revelation 7:1-4 the angel shows John that God is going to put a seal upon people on the earth, a protective seal.

John says, “Oh, well that changes everything.”

The angel might say, “Well, that is why I am telling you this.”

“Oh, I see, we are releasing this. It is not being done to us by the devil. We are not passive victims. We are active agents loosing this on the kingdom of darkness.”

When Moses went into Egypt against Pharaoh, Pharaoh did not do it to him, he loosed it on Pharaoh. That is where this is going. We are doing it in the spirit of the Lamb with love for His purposes—for love and meekness and righteousness.

Psalm 45:3-4 ( paraphrased) says, “For righteousness, humility, and truth, Jesus is bringing His judgments across the earth.” There is a seal. I just want to point that out to you.

### **144,000 JEWISH BELIEVERS SEALED**

Paragraph D. Not only will they be 144,000 Jewish believers, they will be servants of the Lord. There may be twelve or thirteen million Jews in the earth. A couple hundred thousand, that is a really small number. Some people say, “That is such a huge number.” By the way, who knows who is from what tribe. I guarantee you that God’s data base is really accurate and up to date. I do not care if we know what tribe they are from. God knows. His books are completely up to date and accurate.

There will be 144,000 Jewish believers. Not only, but that is the guaranteed number. It might be thousands and thousands, and millions more. Who knows. We know others are sealed as well. God seals His people, we know it is in His heart to seal His people. He gives us one little insight into 144,000, but in essence He is saying, “This is how carefully I have thought through the whole program of redemption. I did not forget a thing. I remember the issue of sealing My people.” Revelation 9 talks about others who are sealed.

### **EZEKIEL 9**

Now Ezekiel 9 is one of the passages this is connected to, Ezekiel 9. Look what happens. This was at a time when the judgment of God was coming upon the city of Jerusalem in 586 BC. The judgment of God was coming on the city of Jerusalem and the Lord told the angel in Ezekiel 9:4 (paraphrased), “Go to the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of the intercessors, those who sigh over the sin of the land. Those who are saying, ‘O God, help! O God, help!’ Put a mark on their foreheads.”

He tells the angel. “The others in the city of Jerusalem who do not care about My word and My purposes, kill them.” “What?” “Kill them. Do not let your eye spare them. Not just the old men or the young men. Kill the children. Kill all of them who stand against My purposes and hate what I am doing” (v. 5-6, paraphrased).

You say, “Well, that does not sound right.” That is another subject for another time. It is right. It is holy and true. It is just, loving, and wise. The Lord is interested in preparing the nations for His glory to be on the earth forever, without violating anyone’s free will.

Look what He says in verse 6 (paraphrased). He goes to the angel and says, “Do not even come near anyone who has the mark of God, the seal of God on them. Do not release the sword of judgment against them.” Beloved, this same reality will be happening in that day.

### **PHYSICAL AN SPIRITUAL PROTECTION**

We will end with paragraph E. There are not just those who will be protected physically on the earth in the first part of Revelation 7. There are those who will be protected spiritually. There were those who died. You think, “Oh no, they died.” No, we are all going to live forever in a resurrected body. We are all going to leave this age. That is the goal. The goal is leave age in the will of God, in righteousness, in a way that is pleasing to Him.

Our goal is not to keep this age going. We are praying, “Thy kingdom come.” We are praying for the breaking in of the age to come. We have been praying that for 2000 year.

The Lord says to John in effect— verse 9—“Do not worry. There will be a company of believers from all the nations, a great multitude from every tribe. They will not deny Me. They will be faithful to the end. A multitude will stay true to the end. I will protect people spiritually and physically if they want to obey Me. There will be sufficient grace for My protection of their heart and their body to release them.”

There is the ability to be spiritually faithful to the end. Some people say, “Oh, I am so weak.” Well, all of those guys are weak too. This group in verse 9, they are not super saints, but they worship a super God. A God with a super grace. We do not look at them and say, “Oh my.” I look at that group and know that they are people like us, our friends, our children, and their children.

Verse 14 (paraphrased), “These are the ones who came out of the Great Tribulation with no compromise.” That is the point. Amen and amen.