**THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

**Opening the Seals, No. 4**

**6:1 – 7:17**

**The Text:** Rev. 6:1 – 17; Part One.

**The Background:** The Church Age ended when Jesus Christ took up the Church into heaven. In chapters 4-5, we had the privilege of peeking into heaven and experiencing John’s eyewitness account of what he seen and heard. The Church is worshipping the wondrous & awesome Lord Jesus Christ with Him in Glory.

Today, our focus is back on Planet Earth. God is beginning a Judgment like the Earth has never seen. This Judgment is the Great Tribulation that will span for seven years. This Bible Study will follow John MacArthur’s outline in **REVELATION: The Christian’s Ultimate Victory**, which includes: *Opening the Seals*, 6:1-7:17; *God’s Trumpets*, 8:1-9:21; *The Two Witnesses* 10:1-11:19; *The Terrible Triumvirate*, 12:1-13:18; *Victorious Voices*, 14:1-16:21; and *Destruction and Devastation*, 17:1-18:24.

**The Context:**

**Keys to the Text:**

 The Seals-

 Great Tribulation-

**The Exposition**:

Verses 1-2 White horse (2)

 He who sat on it (2)

 Who is the Rider? Scripture does not say, but some Scholars believe it is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Bow (2)

 Symbol of \_\_\_\_\_\_

 Crown (2)

 Like the Laurel Wreath’s awarded to winning athletes

Verses 3 - 4 Another horse, fiery red (4)

 Matt. 24:3-8

 ESVSBftn Matt. 3:8 on “Birth pains”

 People should kill one another (4)

 Unprecedented violence

 Like Harrisburg, Chicago, New York; only 1000 times worse.

 Sword (4)

Verse 5 - 6 Black horse (5). [Space is provided for you to write notes]

 Inflation / Famine / Starvation, like the conditions in Jerusalem when Babylon

 seiged & destroyed Jerusalem in 587 BC. Compare Lamentations 5:8-10 & 4:8-9.

 Pair of scales (5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Quart of wheat (6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Denarius (6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Three quarts of barley (6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Oil and wine (6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Verses 7 – 8 Pale horse (8)

 *Choloros* (Gk) “pale green”

 English word- Chlorophyll

 Compare 1:18 & 20:3

Verses 9 – 10 Fifth seal (9)

 Read & discuss “The Seals,” “REVELATION,” John MacArthur, p. 44.

**T R I B U L A T I O N**

Ω

Ω

**Seven Years**

Ω

Ω

[Seals 1 to 4 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .(Seal 5) . . . . . . . . . (Seals 6 – 7) . . . . . . . . . . . ]

 Beginning ----------------------------------Mid – Trib------------------------------------------End

Ω

Ω

Ω

 *Great Tribulation*

 Matthew 24:1-31 Read & discuss ESVSB, p. 1873 handout.

 1. 24:1-25:46 ESVSBftn.

 2. 24:1-14 ESVSBftn.

 3. 24:15-31 ESVSBftn.

 4. 24:15 ESVSBftn.

Verses 9 – 10 Fifth Seal (continued)

 Under the altar (9)

 The souls of those who had been slain (9)

 7:9-14

 17:6, Read 17:6 ESVSBftn.

Verse 11 Rest a little while longer

 Until . . . the number . . . was completed (11)

Verse 12 Sixth Seal (12)

 Luke 21:26

 Modern Examples of Horrific Weather & Earth’s Elements:

 Wild fires burning uncontrollably in 26% of America

 “Wildfires burning Sunday in 13 states torched more than

 1,800 square miles from Alaska to California and

 Minnesota to New Mexico. Almost 20,000 firefighters

 worked to keep the blazes at bay,” (*USA Today*, 7/18/21).

 Multiple Tsunami’s of Sea Waves & Mudslides in Japan

 2004, December 26

 2011, March 11 (*National Geographic*, June 12, 2011). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWzdgBNfhQU>

 2016, November 21

 2021, March 5

 Great earthquake (12)

 Matt. 24:7

 Moon became like blood

Verse 13 Stars of heaven fell

 A Modern, but small example: “Perseids meteor shower, July 17-Aug. 26 [ 2020].

 This will be another highlight of the year for meteor lovers. Peaking Aug. 11-12,

 the Perseids are the most popular meteor shower in North America.”

 “Normal rates seen from rural locations range from **50-75 shower members per**

 **hour at maximum,**” the International Meteor Organization reports. “The Perseids

 are particles released from comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle during its numerous returns

 to the inner solar system. They are called Perseids since the radiant (the area of

 the sky where the meteors seem to originate) is located near the prominent

 constellation of Perseus the hero when at maximum activity.”

 <https://theknow.denverpost.com/2020/01/03/meteor-showers-supermoons-astronomy-2020/231366/>

 Late (winter) figs

Verse 14 Sky receded as a scroll

 Isaiah 34:4

 Every mountain and island was moved

 Psalm 97:5

 Haggai 2:6-7

Verses 15–16 Wrath of the Lamb

Verse 17 Great Day . . . of Wrath

 Day of the Lord

 Isaiah 2:6-22

 Note especially vss. 19-21

 Hosea 10:8

 Who Can Stand?

 God is going to answer His own question in the next chapter.

Your Reflections & Responses?