

# REVELATION - THE FINAL VICTORY

## (Lesson 3)

### **Intro: Read Matthew chapter 24:4-14. What are the signs of the end times as Jesus describes them?**

- false Christs, wars & rumors of wars (nation vs. nation & kingdom vs. kingdom). famines. earthquakes, pestilence (Luke 21: 11), persecution & hatred many will turn away, false prophets will appear, increase of wickedness & love grow cold, worldwide spread of the gospel, the end will come

### **- The Second Vision: The Seven Seals**

#### **1. The Six Seals (6:1-17)**

##### **The First Seal: The White Horse**

- What are" some possible interpretations? - Christ himself (chapter 19), false christs - antichristian forces, preferable is worldwide spread of the gospel throughout the N. T.
- What is represented by the rider on the white horse? - Christ himself seems somewhat tenable as he is later identified in this way, false christs will be dealt with specifically in the seven trumpets, spread of gospel probably fits context best here of what goes out into the world

##### **The Second Seal: The Red Horse**

- What does the color red generally symbolize? - red is the color of bloodshed and war
- What is represented by the rider on the red horse? - it represents wars and rumors of wars which have taken place and continue to take place even today

##### **The Third Seal: The Black Horse**

- What is wrong with the prices mentioned? - a quart of wheat for a days wage and three quarts of barley for a days wage - a loaf of bread for 50 or 60 dollars; extremely high prices; also add water to wine, oil
- What is represented by the rider on the black horse? - it represents famine (Third World countries)

##### **The Fourth Seal: The Pale Horse**

- The Greek word for pale is chloros as in chlorophyll- meaning green. Significance? - doctors used it to describe color of a sick person, "green around the gills"
- What is represented by the rider on the pale horse? - death caused by calamities and diseases, includes the results of red and black horses too, even attacks by wild animals; the rider is identified as Death with Hades or hell seated behind him-- worse than temporal death is eternal death for those who reject the Lamb

##### **The Fifth Seal: The Soul under the altar**

- What happened to those under the altar? - souls under the altar in that they are now in God's temple in heaven (O.T. blood of sacrifices was poured out at base of the altar); slain because of their testimony, they wait for their blood to be avenged, wear white robes of forgiveness of sins, other to be slain
- What is represented by the souls under the altar? - those martyred for their faith and testimony of Christ

##### **The Sixth Seal: The Great Day**

- What will happen on the great day? - great earthquake, sun turned black, moon turned blood red (Acts 2: 19,20), stars fall from sky, sky rolled up, mountains removed - great upheaval of nature; unbelievers of all social standing will be afraid, unable to stand in the judgment; Father & Lamb's wrath poured out - Christ will come to judge
- What is represented by the events of the great day? - the final judgment when Christ returns

## 2. The 144,000: The Church on Earth (7:1-8)

- What is the responsibility of the four angels? – *holding back the four winds which when unleashed will destroy the world completely*
- Why do the servants of God receive a seal or mark on their foreheads? – *a seal is a mark of ownership, like cattle that are branded, this seal marks them as God's redeemed children*
- How does this sealing or marking take place? – *at our conversion through the gospel in baptism or through the preaching of the Word; world exists until the last of the elect are brought to faith (sealed)*
- What does the 144,000 represent? – *represents all true believers, the Holy Christian Church*
  - Compare this listing of the tribes of Israel with Number chapter 1. – *Levi is included, Dan omitted, Joseph always referred to through his sons – Ephraim and Manasseh, but Manasseh is included here*
  - Read Romans 4:16; 9:6-8; 11 :25-27. Who is the true Israel of God? – *the true Israel have the faith of Abraham – faith in the promised Savior, not physical descendants, Israel hardened*  
*(In 1979 the highest court in Israel handed down a ruling stating no one who accepted Jesus as the Messiah could be considered a Jew.)*
  - What is the significance of the number 144,000? – *12 is the number of the church, squared is 144, times 10 cubed which is the number of completeness – full number of the elect which are known to God*

## 3. The Great Multitude: The Church in Heaven (7:9-17)

- Where is this great multitude and what are they saying? – *from every nation, tribe, people, language before the throne and the Lamb, white robes – forgiveness, palm branches – festive occasion, symbols of victory*
- Who is also in at this scene? – *the angels, elders, and four living creatures of chapters 4 & 5*
- How is this group different from the previous one (v.13-14)? – *this is the church triumphant, came out of the great tribulation, robes washed in the blood of the Lamb – perfect, holy*
  - What is the great tribulation (see Matthew 24: 15-35,36-41)? – *great suffering, pain, heartache, and persecution of this life – problems of living in a world of wickedness and sin*
- Explain the blessings that this great multitude receive?
  1. They are before the throne of God – *in God's presence, living in glory*
  2. They serve him day and night in his temple – *spend eternity praising God (true fulfillment)*
  3. He who sits on the throne spreads his tent over them – *complete comfort and security*
  4. Never again will they hunger /5. Never again will they thirst – *no lack of contentment*
  6. The sun will not beat upon them! 7. Nor any scorching heat – *no discomfort, no burning evil*
  8. The Lamb will be their shepherd – *great care and love of our Great Shepherd (Psalm 23)*
  9. He will lead them to springs of living water – *symbols of salvation (John 4:14)*
  10. God will wipe away every tear from their eyes – *no sorrow or pain, unending joy*
  - Significance of the 10 blessings? – *10 is the number of completeness, perfect bliss of heaven*

**Conclusion: What comfort does Jesus give to his believers as he details the end times?**