



A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES

Week 34: The Seal Judgements, Part 2

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Review:

- Last week we began to study the Seal Judgements of *Revelation, Chapters 6-8*, and we took a running start to take in the big picture of this future time
- I mentioned last week that the book of *Revelation* generally follows a chronological sequence, it's basically A before B, B before C, and so on.
- We saw John supernaturally transported to heaven in a vision at the beginning of *Chapter 4*. This event in *Chapter 4* immediately followed the seven letters to the seven churches in *chapters 2 and 3*. Most scholars believe it represents The Rapture following the 2,000-year church age.
- We saw how John then sees a scene in heaven:
 - He sees the Throne Room of God.
 - He sees the 24 Elders representing the raptured and resurrected Church
 - He sees how all the throngs of heaven are rejoicing and celebrating their new presence with their Lord and Savior
- Then, immediately after John is taken to heaven in this picture of The Rapture, John watches events concerning a special scroll. We followed a four-point outline to better understand the issues around this special scroll:
 1. **The Scroll** – This is a scroll that was sealed seven times and written on front and back.
 - ✓ The greater counsel of God's Word, as well as historical precedent, suggests that this scroll is likely God's will and deed to give the earth to Jesus Christ.
 - ✓ The time has come for the Son to rightfully reign, and within this scroll are the details of HOW He will redeem His rightful possession.
 2. **The Search** – John watched as a comprehensive and universal search was mounted to see who was qualified, worthy, or able to open this scroll.
 - ✓ None were found worthy enough and able enough to overthrow Satan and to destroy sin and its curse on earth, except for the Lion of the tribe of Judah in *Revelation 5:5*
 - ✓ This, of course, is Jesus Christ, also pictured in the next verses as a Lamb that bore the marks of being slain.
 3. **The Savior** – We were led to our third point which was an assessment of Jesus Christ's worthiness and what was meant in the various details that describe Him as a Lamb.
 4. **The song** – We saw how a 'new song' was sung by the angels and by the church which are now in heaven.
 - ✓ We saw that this song specified 7 things that Jesus was worthy to receive: Power, Riches, Wisdom, Strength, Honor, Glory, and Blessing.

NOTE: At this point last week, I started to unpack the First Seal Judgement, but it was about here that we ran out of time in our lesson. So let me pick up at this same point and continue to move forward.

NOTE: I have received several questions related to my comments last week that – at present – I view the Seal Judgements as taking place within that timeframe BETWEEN the Rapture and the START of The Tribulation.

As I shared last week, my view is not the CONVENTIONAL position. However, as I also explained, I am not alone in seeing this matter this way. Increasingly, there are more folks that avidly study the prophetic Scriptures that see the matter this way. You need to arrive at your own conclusions.

For me, at this time anyway, this is the better way to view the timing of the Seal Judgements, as being between the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation. I will reinforce my position as various specific points about these Seal Judgements emerge over this lesson and those in the next few weeks.

I. Events of the First Seal Judgment: Let's look at some of the dynamics that the Bible mentions, and here we also have an opportunity to exercise some practical sense (Cf. Revelation 6:1-2)

A. This begins the rise of the political phase of the antichrist.

1. The rise of the antichrist and his political debut are generally accepted by most scholars as what is symbolized by the rider on the white horse
2. He is ushering in political stability and peace (according to the world's definition of it) but it is a false peace. No guessing; scripture affirms this:
 - a. **(Cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:3)** - *"When people say, "There is peace and security," destruction will strike them as suddenly as labor pains come to a pregnant woman, and they will not be able to escape."*
3. **Important! - This false peace is the direct result of spiritual deception, chiefly seen by the presence of false messiahs and deceptive leaders.**
4. There is a dual meaning here:
 - a. **First**, there will be an increase in the number of those who will claim to be the long-awaited Messiah. They will portray themselves as the singular solution to man's problems.
 - b. **Second**, there will be an increase in the number of those who claim to be "called of God."
 - c. In other words, they will falsely assert that they are qualified and deserving of ministry, of being listened to, and of being followed.

Certainly, we see MUCH of this in the sub-par pastors and teachers of our own time.

NOTE: All of this coincides with the precise details which are stated by Jesus – **Cf. Matthew 24:4-5**: “Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many.”

NOTE: Again, as I mentioned last week, the narrative of **Matthew 24:4+** precisely follows the chronology of the 7 seals, 7 trumpets, etc. (The same can be found in **Mark 13:5+ and Luke 21:8+**)

These three Gospel accounts provide some pre-Tribulation narratives. They all then move into the details of The Tribulation itself, offering details that are understood as being MOST relevant for the events of those 7 traumatic years.

5. Now, this false sense of peace masks the underlying ‘conquering’ intentions of the Antichrist – **(vs.3)**
6. He has a bow, representing power and aggression, but no arrows. He will conquer by diplomacy, by schemes, and by political ability rather than by open warfare,....at least initially!
7. Again, we studied the antichrist in depth in past lessons; we saw this very same process affirmed in greater detail in those lessons.
8. The world WILL see him as superman, who ‘promises’ great things and appears to have the ability to deliver all the solutions to the world’s problems – the world will believe him, and believe IN him.
9. That he will be victorious is seen by the fact that he “...was given a crown.” (One does not have a crown if one does not rule or is given the right to rule).
10. **So, the first Seal Judgement describes the initial ascent of the antichrist on the world stage.**

B. This sequence of events is also detailed in the content of 2 Thessalonians 2:1+ (READ vs. 1a). NOTE the following:

1. The debut of the antichrist is contingent on the Rapture. It cannot happen until the Rapture takes place FIRST **(Cf. vs. 1 and its implications)**
2. In this text, the rise of the antichrist appears to immediately follow the Rapture, and it capitalizes on the lawlessness that is already in active play in our own time **(Cf. vs. 6-8a)**
3. The conditions for the antichrist’s rise are being prepared now. However, he cannot arrive on the scene till the church is taken out of the way.
4. Keep in mind, the seven-year Tribulation does NOT begin with the Rapture; it begins instead with the confirmation of the covenant the antichrist makes with Israel and “with many” **(Cf. Daniel 9:27).**
5. This occasion will necessitate that Israel (and the rest of the world) regard the antichrist as a proven political superstar. This, in turn, will require that the

antichrist will have had some time to show he is precisely that sort of individual.

6. He needs to rise on the world stage. He needs to establish a track record of accomplishments. He will do that, and it will take some time to do so.

NOTE: This is one of the reasons I see the Seal Judgments preceding the start of the Tribulation.
Seal Judgement #1 – Within the larger counsel of the Scriptures it appears to take place immediately AFTER the Rapture. Conversely, the confirmation of the covenant with Israel, appears to take place sometime after that point and AFTER the antichrist has already gained international acclaim and recognition.

C. (Here is a common sense issue to consider): The world will willingly follow the Antichrist's leadership. (WHY?)

1. RECOGNIZE! The world already desires a one-world government; we see this now in our own time.
 - a. Key global leaders are ALREADY calling for one man to lead the world. They even refer to "him" and his "trillions of dollars" of budgetary needs.
 - b. All this plays into socialist ideals. Even though socialism has never worked, many will never be content until they have gained it.
 - c. Interdependence among nations today is increasing at rapid pace. One cannot have a major event in one part of the world without affecting other parts of the world.
 - d. Over it all, the UN is ineffective and very secular, however, most world leaders blindly feel the UN is the only solution to world peace. They want to 'fit in' and 'be a part of something' and so many small new nations now have same voting power that the USA has.
 - e. As a result 2/3 of UN voting power resides with 10% of world's population that own 5% of the global land mass
 - f. Mounting hysteria over nuclear warfare has persuaded many to believe that a one-world leadership is the only way to prevent global annihilation
 - g. Today, many of the wealthiest foundations and people in the US (NOTE: The World Economic Forum is a great example!) are doing everything possible to brainwash the population with the idea that the only solution is to give up personal rights, personal independence, and personal goals, and to subscribe to the idea that the government can take care of you > MANY ALREADY BELIEVE THIS AND WANT THIS!
2. Conclusion: "Conformity" will be priority over "individuality" (This includes people and nations).
 - a. **Happening NOW!** ONE EXAMPLE. (Law of the Sea Treaty / L.O.S.T.) - We are required to pay one-half of all royalties from off-shore oil drilling and mineral proceeds to the U.N. or its appointed Council. It is being increasingly implemented as we speak.

- h. Furthermore, we as a “rich” nation must give away all our proprietary technology about off-shore drilling. The international body will also decide where we can drill.
- i. This plays into socialist ideals we see sweeping the world even now (Including US).
- j. The stage is already being set...

D. World conditions (in the general chaos and confusion following the Rapture, the world will be seeking solutions and will be ripe for deception).

1. This is a post-rapture dynamic: the Rapture will create unprecedented chaos in world conditions.
 - a. Some nations will be severely affected (i.e. USA), while others not so much (i.e. Europe, Russia, and Middle East).
 - b. New political rules will likely be instituted so governments and social order can be supported and maintained
 - c. For many unsaved people, it will be their “appointed time” to die (**Cf. Hebrews 9:27**) when the rapture takes place, as their lives will hinge on the role of a believer at that time (planes, trains, autos, medical professionals, etc.)
 - d. Christians have become a part of every legitimate profession and every level of leadership; their sudden absence will likely initiate martial law and fundamental change in societies everywhere.
2. **We must consider the interpretation of the rapture event by those that remain.**
 - a. Many thoughtful individuals will be impressed by the event and will seek out answers in the Word of God
 - b. Likely, there will be a huge spike in numbers of people being saved. Churches will likely be packed, and serviced by those churchgoers who suddenly realize their faith was not a saving faith
 - c. However, there will be many of those who are susceptible to spiritual deception, (MANY OF THESE!) will be glad those backwards, fundamentalist Christians are gone.
 - d. These will immediately seek their own humanistic, secular, godless agenda. This serves the intentions and purposes of the antichrist well.
 - e. As we’ve already studied, I believe fallen angels will physically enter the sphere of human experience at this time and promote this deception thoroughly
 - f. LA Marzulli often says, “When we go up, they come down.” (Meaning: after we are taken up in the Rapture, the fallen angels come down)
 - g. They begin to actively “mingle themselves with the seed of men” (**Cf. Daniel 2:43**), returning the world conditions to those dynamics seen in the pre-flood “days of Noah” that Jesus also warned about (**Cf. Matthew 24:37**).
 - h. I believe this supernatural infusion is partly what is meant by **2 Thessalonians 2:9** which says:

“The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,”

E. A final point about this issue: The antichrist will arise from within a group of ten prominent individuals who hold vast resources and abilities.

NOTE: The debut of the antichrist seen in *Revelation 6:1-2*, is also mentioned elsewhere in Scripture. Specifically, in *Daniel 7:7-8*, and *Revelation 17:12-15*, he emerges from within 10 pre-existing individuals who have power “as kings” insofar as the world’s measures are concerned. They are not conventional kings or territorial rulers, but they basically have that same sort of sway and influence).

1. Gary Stearman of Prophecy Watchers has, over the last year or so, done yeoman’s work on this matter. He has researched out this specific issue extensively.
2. I concur with his conclusions, which follow:
 - a. These ten kings are most likely what we would call oligarchs or technocrats today in multiple different economic and technological arenas.
 - a. They each have massive resources and they actively do what they can to bring about the agenda of globalism, including assisting fraudulent elections, advancing deceptive narratives, and aiding corruption of the justice system.
 - b. It’s not hard to imagine that we may be seeing some of these people in action now: Klaus Schwab, Chairman of the WEF; Mark Zuckerberg, Founder of FaceBook; Jeff Bezos, Founder of Amazon; Elon Musk, and others like these.
 - c. I am strongly inclined to believe that the antichrist will emerge from within a collection or “club” (if you will) of such “elite globalist” people.
 - d. He will start ‘small,’ as *Daniel* says, but he will quickly rise in power and influence.
 - e. We cannot know who he is at this point in time. *2 Thessalonians 2:6* tells us that he cannot be revealed until “the proper time,” and that is AFTER the Rapture. The text makes that point very clear.
 - f. But at that future time, he will rise quickly in power and influence, and as *Daniel 7:8* specifies: he will “uproot” or somehow do away with or discard three of these ten kings.

IN SUMMARY: Seal Judgement #1 is about the political ascent of the antichrist. I believe the Bible makes the case he will debut on the world scene almost immediately AFTER the Rapture. He will rapidly rise in reputation and acclaim. He will be seen as the answer to the world’s profound dilemmas, and the world’s wealthiest and most influential globalists will throw all their support, reputation, and resources behind him.

NOTE: Now, moving on to Seal Judgement #2 (*Cf. Revelation 6:3-4*)

II. The Second Seal Judgement is about **WAR!**

A. **Horse is red: this symbolizes blood, war, carnage** (Red has always been equated with war, Mars, the Roman god of war, and the planet Mars itself, is red).

1. White horse of peace is now replaced by a new one (when we want peace, we wave a white flag); but the short-lived false ideal of peace has gone and war has now come
2. This is the point that the deceptive utopia disappears. In the timeline, war dominates from this point till the end of the Tribulation.

B. **Again - - the Revelation account here corresponds with the Gospel accounts** of the Olivet Discourse (aka 'Apocalyptic Discourse')

1. **Matthew 24:6 and Mark 13:7** "...you will hear of wars and rumors of wars..."
2. **Luke 21:9** "...you hear of wars and revolutions..."
3. NOTE: This is not the end, but the beginning. Here's another point to consider with the timing of the Seal Judgements. According to Jesus, the "end" or the time of the well-defined seven years of Tribulation judgement, has not yet arrived. (**Cf. Matthew 24:6** - "...the end is still to come," and **Cf. Matthew 24:8** - "...these are the beginning of birth pains")

C. **All three gospel accounts specifically add, "...nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom..."** (this is not a redundant statement but a revealing one - an important distinction):

1. Greek word for 'nation' is '**ethnos**' (i.e. ethnic, ethnicity) - 'a people' or more specifically, 'a group of people' (i.e. "What ethnicity are you?" > 'Canadian,' 'Norwegian,' 'Mexican,' etc.)
2. So 'nation against nation' means "white against black," "black against brown" and so on. It's largely a commentary on racial tensions (this is easy to understand in our time).
3. Greek word for 'kingdom' is '**basileia**' - meaning: "a territory ruled by a king" (can involve many nations; - i.e. former Soviet empire, United Europe, Polynesia, NATO, Warsaw Pact, etc.)
4. There's a progression: from nation ("ethnos") to empires ("basileia") and smaller conflicts become larger ones, and they are deadly events.
5. It's WWII perhaps. Things can escalate quickly, and I believe they will.
6. How do we transition here from peace to war? Perhaps some nations become dissatisfied with the domination of the antichrist, and skirmishes in one part of the world grow quickly to include other nations, etc.
7. We certainly see this sort of tension in our own time. We could be in a very different global dynamic two weeks from now than we are today....

D. **Three features to note about this war element (Cf. Revelation 6:4)**

1. One, to take peace from the earth. Sometime early in the post Rapture timeframe, still known as 'birth pangs' (**Cf. Matthew 24 and Mark 13 to gain further details**) world peace turns into world war.
 - a. That false peace, that counterfeit calm and prosperity, comes to a fast end. We don't know how long that peace will last, but long enough to 'provide a taste' though.
 - b. NOTE: It says, "To take peace from the earth." That means global peace becomes global war. War and conflict breaks out everywhere.
 - c. This provides some further insight into nature of Seal #1 (False 'peace' as well as true 'deception').
2. Second, men are going to slay one another. Public violence and murder becomes the norm. It starts early, it goes on for a long time. NOTE: We see the early signs of this trend already.
 - a. But, this takes place all over the world. We don't know the specifics of this except (a.) it is different than war between kingdoms, and (b.) mankind on a corporate level is no different than mankind on a personal level.
 - b. We need to accept exactly what Scripture says: There will be a slaughter all over the earth. As peace falls apart, blame and tensions will rise. It will not safe anywhere!
 - c. Likely Christians will bear much of the brunt of this as they reveal God's plan (**Cf. Revelation 6:9 – 'martyrdom'**); the world will not want to hear that it needs to repent!
3. Thirdly, "A great sword was given to him." A '**machaira megala**,' the word that is used for the soldier's large battle sword; also used for the assassin's weapon.
 - a. "megala" = HUGE! i.e. "Mega"
 - b. The idea here depicts widespread massacre: war and assassination, rebellion and revolt, entire swaths of humanity cut down.
 - c. Whatever positive things have been briefly going on in the world with the initial ascent of the antichrist, will abruptly change. It's "...every man for himself."
4. **It must be stated here, "God is in control."** NOTE: "...its rider was **given power...**" (**vs. 4**); **BY WHOM?**
 - a. Just like the white horse; its rider was 'given a crown.'
 - b. All these things that will be happening occur at the sovereign command of God. God remains firmly in control.
 - c. Things on a human level will get much worse than they are now, but God will never lose control. It's all part of His plan.
 - d. These events come from the throne, from the little scroll in the hand of God, and from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself who carries out the details. It is God's unfolding process of judgement: God granted the peace, and God granted the war.

- e. Any other position diminishes God and elevates man. Any other position seeks to affirm that God is not everything He says He is!
5. **Antichrist is obviously a key player in all this carnage and war.** We know that from... *(Cf. Daniel 8:24.)*
- a. Now, we don't exactly know what his role is going to be at this time, but we know he's going to be very involved in it, and just like the erosion of our culture and our laws today, it will all be very intentional.
 - b. We also know he's going to be very successful at warfare.
 - c. Perhaps when conflict starts to break out everywhere, to maintain his authority, he turns to war.
6. We have a bit more insight into his methods or style in **Daniel 11:36+**. Some general observations include:
- a. **UNACCOUNTABLE:** *"He will do as he pleases..." (vs. 36) – he gets what he wants when he wants it; he gets his way (this is a dictatorship)*
 - b. **(SAME)** *"He will exalt and magnify himself..." (vs. 36) – he answers to nobody on the human level*
 - c. **UNPRECEDENTED:** *"...he will say unheard-of things against the God of gods..." (vs. 36) - he is arrogant and proud (blasphemous)*
 - d. **UNSTOPPABLE:** *"he will be successful..." (vs. 36) – there is no stopping this guy; he will prosper in his goals*
 - e. **UNDETERRED:** *"he will show no regard for the gods of his fathers (et al, vs. 37)" – (much can be said here, but NOTE, he is not distracted)*
 - f. **(SAME)** *"he will honor a god of fortresses" (vs. 38) – his goal is power and might*
 - g. **(SAME)** *"...honor with gold and silver and precious stones, etc." (vs. 38) - he has incredible wealth to pursue his objectives*
7. Not everyone will willingly subject themselves to this tyrant and to his conquest agenda *(Cf. Daniel 11: 40-45)*
- a. Reference to 'king of the South' (likely Egypt and surrounding territories; **Cf. vs 42)**
 - b. Reference to 'king of the North' (provinces of Russia? Turkey? – NOTE: 'great fleet of ships' in **vs. 40)**
 - c. We could be seeing another mutinous uprising here - - a coalition of such countries that are trying to shake off the power and ego of the antichrist
 - d. It's possible that his base of military power will be based in Israel *(Cf. vs. 45)*