

Study #11ID 1301

Let's turn in our bibles this evening to Revelation Chapter 6, verse 1. We are working with Kauai Calvary in bringing Bethany Hamilton here to share her movie and her testimony, so we'll see if that will work out with her surfing schedule but we think we maybe can work it out. Tonight we continue in our study, our series of studies in this final book of the bible, it's such an exciting book, the Book of Revelation because it is the book that finishes everything off. It brings Jesus back in all of his glory, it brings His judgment to man and his sin, it brings a new heaven and a new earth, it brings all of the prophetic words about the Lord to bear and to be fulfilled. John was about 90 years old when he was exiled to the Island of Patmos by the Emperor Domitian and it was there that the Lord met this old man and gave him these glorious visions. So we want to go through them carefully and studiously, and I think Paul said to Timothy in his second letter last letter to him "you be diligent to present yourself as approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed who can rightly divide the word of truth." A lot of people stay away from this book altogether, they are worried about what it means and where it goes, but the book itself is pretty simple, it's straight forward it pretty much interprets itself and so we've committed to doing that with you. The outline is in Chapter 1 verse 19, Jesus said to John "write the things that you see, then write down the things that are, and then write down the things that shall be hereafter." And John in Chapter 1 sees Jesus in all of His glory because that's what the book's about and it puts the old guy on his face. He's not sure he can survive it. The Lord must have known he had a good heart.

In Chapter 2 and 3 the Lord then gives to John letters for the church, those things that are, the church age, God's word, Jesus' word to us as His people, the church. And then in Chapter 4 there is the rapture of the church, the gathering together of the saints around the throne of God and in Chapter 4 and 5 after the rapture we get all of these wonderful insights into what heaven looks like. Chapter 4 focuses primarily on the Father and on the throne, on the 24 elders that represent the church, as we've seen, the sea of glass, the 4 living creatures, we get to see everything through John's eyes. And then in Chapter 5 everyone's attention is shifted to Jesus the one who was a lamb that had been slain, but He looked like a lion now to John as well and He stood up at the right hand of the Father and He came to take the scroll, this title deed to the earth, from the right hand of the Father, He was the only one worthy to loose the seals, to open them, and John wept before he saw that it was he who could do that and it's such a, to me it's the most amazing thought that we will one day stand and watch all of these things be fulfilled. The prayers of the saints for thousands of years, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven on that day that will begin to happen.

So we look forward to what we're going to begin tonight. Now from Chapter 6 to Chapter 18 of this book, these are tough chapters they are tough to think about, they are tough to stomach, they are tough to look forward to, except that God wants us to know what is coming and I thought about it today, the worst ways to die you'll find in this book, but they will be nothing compared to eternal hell. So it's the worst that we can imagine, that's where sin and self and godlessness leaves us but that will be nothing

compared to what takes place thereafter. So I think that they're meant to wake us up and startle us maybe into shape to some extent, but at the same time during these times we're going to be in heaven with Jesus, so if you want to avoid Chapter 6 through 18, get saved tonight and you'll be sure to avoid these as well.

Now last time a week ago, 2 weeks ago I guess, we went over the chronology or the timeline of what will take place after the rapture of the church and we looked at this last 7-year period sometimes called the time of Jacob's trouble, sometimes called the 70th week of Daniel according to Daniel 9, the prophecy there in verse 27 and on, and so these last final years, and tonight if you weren't here for that I really encourage you get on the podcast, take a listen to it go through it so you'll have a good grasp of the timeframes, but tonight we're going to begin the great tribulation if you will in Chapter 6 verse 1 as Jesus takes the scroll as He begins to open the seals that are attached to it, and every time He does an action in heaven there is a corresponding action upon the earth. But know this, this is a time of God's judgment upon unbelieving man, it is the wrath of God poured out, all of this proceeds from heaven. This is God's word, last word to man who has taken his last stand against God. So we want to not forget the fact that the Lord is in charge here, and if you say "no" to the Lord long enough "I'd rather do it myself", you'll get that chance. We pointed out last time too, and I'll reiterate it tonight, most of the book from here on out is in chronological order. There are a couple of chapters that are called parenthetical and they're parenthesis in the sense that they don't take and move the story forward, they either stop and look back or they stop and look around, there's even a chapter that kind of rises up and looks at the whole picture and then goes back down and continues. So we'll point those out as we go, we think that will help you to kind of see what we're doing, but for the most part the 3 rounds of judgments, the seals lead to the trumpets, which leads to the bowl judgments. Generally speaking the seals focus primarily on the world that man has ruined. The trumpets focus primarily on the satanic hordes that are in rebellion against God, and the bowl judgments turn against the empire of the devil that has to fall, man's kingdoms and it is God who says "no more, now I rule forevermore."

Now as we anticipate these things to come, and don't lose sight of the fact that if these things are close at all, the rapture's closer. So these things happen after you are taken into glory by the Lord at the sound of the trumpet and in the twinkling of an eye. When Jesus in Matthew 24 began to speak to the Jews about what was coming, He said of these days "take heed that no man would deceive you for many will come in My name saying I'm the Christ, and they'll deceive many and you'll hear about wars and rumors of wars, don't be troubled, these are things that have to come to pass. The end is not yet, nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, there'll be famines and pestilence and earthquakes, all these things are just the beginnings of sorrows." And as we read that and then we look at our life the general signs of the times that would eventually become the focus of what God is doing and there have always been false Christ's, there have been wars since man has fallen, there has been pestilence and plagues and persecutions and earthquakes and death and that's nothing new to a man living in sin, we see it all the time. But, here we will find them in very sharp focus as the Holy Spirit who has been restraining evil dwelling in the lives of the people of God, the

church, is now removed. And He will continue His work, but not in the same manner and there will be that restraint against sin that is now holding back all of those things in the world through the lives of God's people, that will no longer be an issue and so you will find that the severity and the increase, if you will, exponentially you'll find them to be so, the earthquakes, the pestilence, the death, the suffering and now rather than them being the consequences of simply of sin upon the earth, there will be judgments that precede clearly from the hand of God as Jesus opens seals and things take place and God orchestrates them, if you will, to the point where the final world empire that Satan wants man to follow him in will be overthrown.

There are some great comparisons between Moses and his being sent to the children of Israel to bring them out of Egypt and the judgments that you find in Chapter 6 through 18 and when we get to them in a few weeks we'll point them out to you, but tonight we'd like to look just at the first 8 verses, the beginning of the great tribulation, the beginning of that final 7-year period which begins the day that the church is removed.

So tonight we come to these 4 horsemen of the apocalypse, they are riders who personify by imagery the appearance of the antichrist and the terror that he will bring upon the earth. And it would appear as we mentioned to you a few weeks ago that verse 1 and 2 takes place in the first 3½ years and that everything else in this book takes place afterwards. In other words the first 3½ years will be years when the antichrist will win himself a following, but after that at the half way mark when the temple is done and he demands to be worshipped, then real tribulation will begin as the world has never seen.

So let's begin in verse 1, Chapter 6 "now I saw", John wrote, "when the lamb opened one of the seals and I heard one of the 4 living creatures saying with a voice like thunder 'come and see' and I looked and behold there was a white horse and he who sat on it had a bow and a crown was given to him and he went out conquering and to conquer." Now a couple of things that I want you to pay attention to here in verse 1 beginning with the words "was given" you will find God constantly in charge here. The things take place as the Lord peels the seals away and the judgment of God begins you will find always this mention of God's sovereignty so you read "was given" in verse 2 and "was granted" in verse 4 and "was given" in verse 8 and throughout the book as John sees the results on the earth of Jesus removing the seals from the scroll in heaven and God's wrath begins to fall. Even those things that you say "well gosh the Lord couldn't approve of", no no no but now He allows them, He allows them because judgment is His issue and the redemption of man is still on the forefront of His understanding, of His desire. So here's the seal, the first seal and John hears a loud voice of one of the 4 living creatures, the cherubim if you will, crying out "come and look at this" and John does and we see a rider on a white horse, now who is this rider? At the end of the tribulation period, Jesus will come with the church according to Revelation 19:11 riding on a white horse. In fact you will read there that "he comes forth and He will be called Faithful and True and in righteousness He'll judge and He'll make war, His eyes will be like a flame of fire on His head, there will be many crowns, He has a name written that no one knew except Himself. He's clothed in a robe dipped in blood

and His name is called the Word of God. And the armies in heaven clothed in fine linen white and clean follow Him on white horses and out of His mouth goes a sharp sword that with it He should strike the nation, He himself will rule with a rod of iron, He will tread the winepress of the fierceness of the wrath of almighty God. He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written "King Of Kings, Lord Of Lords". That's Jesus, returning to take over, to make things His own. He will declare righteous judgment, He will make war with the antichrist and those gathered with him, He will defeat them simply according to the bible by the word of His mouth, it won't be a fight, you won't have to choose sides, the Lord will just say "look that's enough." I don't know if He'll use that word, stop it. I don't know, but one word from Him and that's pretty much the end of the fight. That's Jesus at the end.

But here as the tribulation begins and the clock begins to count down that final 7-year period of Jacob's trouble, on the heels of the rapture of the church in Chapter 4 and 5, it is the antichrist that now presents himself to the world. He's a counterfeit Jesus, he's the false Messiah, he's the imitator or the imposter, he will offer himself as savior to the world, but in reality he will be a deceiver. In Daniel Chapter 8, and Daniel spends a lot of time in prophecy speaking about these last days, Daniel in Chapter 8 is given by the Lord a prophecy about a kingdom of Greece that is to come and those that would follow. And as he describes this man of sin there was partial fulfillment as Antiochus Epiphanes in history came to be the lord if you will of the time, but the fullness and the fulfillment of all that he is seeing we will find in the antichrist. Here's what Daniel writes "and the male goat is the kingdom of Greece" he says as he explains his prophecy "and the large horn between his eyes is the first king and as for the broken horn and the 4 that stood up in its place 4 kingdoms will arise out of that nation but not with its power", and if you look at history Greece after Alexander the Great fell, 4 kings came and it divided up the kingdom, they had much less power and all, exactly as Daniel spoke and then he says "in the latter times of the kingdom when the transgression has reached its fullness a king will arise. He has fierce features, he understands sinister schemes, his power shall be mighty but not by his own power, he shall destroy fearfully and prosper and thrive and destroy the mighty and also the holy people and through his coming he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule, he shall exalt himself in his heart, he shall destroy many and their prosperity, he shall even rise against the prince of princes, but he shall be broken without human means and the vision of the evening and the morning which is told to you is true and the vision is sealed up for they refer to many days in the future."

So here comes the antichrist, Daniel has described him as clearly as anyone else. He will come as we read last time in Daniel 9, to broker peace and because Daniel 9 speaks solely of Israel, his relation with Israel is to make a covenant with them for one week, one 7-year period, Daniel 9:27. His intent is to promote himself in such a way that he will bring solution to the mid-east, imagine someone that could pull that off. He will initially win the hearts of the Jews as well as the people in the region through his charm, through his ability to make peace to no doubt facilitate the building or the rebuilding of the temple. There is by the way in Israel today an exponential growth in population amongst the Hassidic communities. The Hassidic communities have a very different relationship in the Israeli government, they can vote but most of them don't

work, they believe that they're to be cared for while they pray and study the bible and the way that they get their numbers is that 8 or 9 or 10 or 11, 12 children. And they begin to take by sheer numbers the population begins to be controlled governmentally by these religious Jews. And one of their greatest desires is to get that temple built. We want the temple built at all cost and there are very radical groups that would take the temple mount by force and the Israeli police sometimes are on guard simply for their own people because they have this extreme fanaticism for the temple and so already that's in place and for someone to come along and say "look here's what I can do," "oh you're our guy" and so will this antichrist, he'll ride in like a savior on a white horse but as we said he'll be a deceiver indeed.

We saw last week of his offer to bring peace to Israel he's called in the bible a man of peace, false as it is, and they will receive him for his wisdom. Jesus years ago in John 5 was speaking to the Jews and he said "I'm coming to you in my father's name and you won't receive me, another will come in his own name, him you will receive." And Daniel writes of this success of resolving conflict that this fella, the antichrist will bring this seeming redeemer. We know from scripture as we've looked at that it will only last 3½ years, it'll be short lived, it'll be self-serving, it'll be deceptive and the minute that the temple is finished in Jerusalem, at the 3½ year mark to the day, he will arrive there and cause the temple worship to cease and he will demand to be worshipped, the bible tells us as God and he will say that if you won't worship him, you'll die, and if you don't take his mark, you won't be able to sell or to eat or to buy or you'll be killed, you'll be beheaded, you'll be taken care of. So what he does in verse 1 and 2 is he rides in to conquer, but he does so with a bow that has no arrows he doesn't come for battle, he comes to win the war if you will. Notice that his conquests are far reaching, they're accomplished without bloodshed, his agenda is to control and to conquer and to conquer some more. His desire is to dominate the world he will be a world government because this will be the final world government that stands in the face of God and says "we'll do it ourselves." And he will find himself in Chapter 13 verse 4 having people say as they worship the dragon who gave the beast authority and who worshipped the beast, whose like the beast, who's able to make war with him, he's the guy, he's the one. Well he will be for 3½ years. By verse 4, however, he has laid aside his bow without arrows and he has picked up a sword and many are dying, but for the moment he comes across as being the messiah, he wears a crown, the Greek word is **Stephanus** it means it's a laurel wreath that was given to folks who ran in the Olympics and won, it was a reward given to someone who ran well, in fact the Lord uses that very word to tell us if we run and finish, race well there is waiting for us this crown. But Jesus doesn't wear this crown, Jesus wears the diadem the crown of royalty, He wears many crowns but the crowns distinguish Him as Lord or Lords as King of Kings. For now notice that this crown, verse 2, is given to him, he is allowed by the Lord to get to this place and much like Israel chose Saul for his looks while God chose David for his heart, this antichrist will be chosen while the messiah himself will be set aside. He may look like he's a man of peace, you be careful because he is not, and when Jesus comes with his crowns upon His head and His word being His sword, absolute irresistible King of Kings Lord of Lords now men will find real peace. But until that happens initially the world will be taken in by this antichrist who very well could be alive somewhere in

Europe today. Now who is he, I have no idea. I've read lots of books by the way people who've told me that they know who he is. I don't think we will ever know who he is, it is my personal opinion you'll be gone you won't care you'll just be enamored with Christ, you're not looking for the antichrist you're looking for Jesus Christ. So but he may be around, if the Lord is coming for us this month, this year, next year, he's around somewhere. But by the middle of this last 7-year period at that 3½ year mark the world will realize that he's a Trojan horse and that he won't be a blessing but he'll be the worst kind of curse and he'll rule by force and cruelty and he will bring forth upon all who follow him the continual judgments of God. We're going to get lots of details about this antichrist, especially in Chapter 13, 17 and 18. For now we just get to read of his introduction to the world's stage.

But even today I think we see a lot of preparations for this deception that is coming, even as we look at Israel being in the land as one of those prime indicators that we're living in the last days, because they really do need to be in the land for all of these things to take place. I think if you're much for reading the newspaper or watching the news and sometimes I wonder why I watch it at all because there's never any good news, but there's a real cry today for peace. Korea's at war, Pakistan's at war, Africa's at war, the middle east is still in trouble, Afghanistan, Iraq, you turn around you don't know where to turn, the nuclear threat out of Iran, the Arab summer of governments being overthrown, people crying out for human rights, dictators being chased out of their little holes, people want help and equality and they're not getting it, and then the useless United Nations who cry out for a one world government consisting of many representatives of many different nations, and yet if you've ever read anything about the UN, you know that more often than not the political leaders there are as corrupt as the nations they seek to supervise. But I think everyone would jump on the bandwagon if a guy came around going "here's some real things I can do" and actually pulled them off. It doesn't stretch your imagination much to know that this fellow would come, and especially as the Lord allows it, and the restraint of sin is removed and blindness falls even greater than it ever has, we jump to go to Libya because we've got no gain in Libya to overthrow it's dictator, we haven't done a thing yet about Syria yet they're killing hundreds of people a week in the streets. Because there is political gain there, financial benefit there, the world would love to see someone come and go "hey I've got an idea." You can just see the deception as the Lord told us in the epistles that he would give a powerful deception and this man of sin would rise to power and he would bring solutions and world leaders as they fall and injustices abound and the world cries for an answer and solution here comes a guy on a white horse and he has charm and he has wit and he can win without a war.

Now the UN as much as I dislike the whole system might very well be a perfect vehicle that's already in place to bring this coming world leader forth. I don't know if you know how the UN works but even very small emerging nations are given seats on the council of equal value and vote with larger ones like the U.S. for example in their structure, so as a result 2/3 of the voting power in the UN lies in the hands of 10% of the world's population who live on 5% of the world's land mass, it's ridiculous, it makes no sense. Yet when it comes time to pay for things they get it right. You get to foot the bill, so you

watch the landscape and you know the times of the antichrist follows the rapture and he wins by political charm and without bloodshed and the world gives him a crown as the Lord allows this to go on and they acknowledge him as king and for 3½ years they're pretty well convinced they've picked the right guy. But then you get to verse 3 and we read the words "and when he opened the second seal I heard a second living creature say 'come and see' and another horse fiery red this time went out and to it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth and that people should kill one another and there was given to him a great sword." So the second seal that John is now called upon to watch and invited by this living creature to watch and see seems to take place at the end of this 3½ year period when according to Matthew 24 there will be this abomination of desolation standing in the holy place, the place that they had longed for and hoped for and looked for now will turn on them and this antichrist will show his true colors, the great tribulation will begin then in earnest but it will begin in part by the reaction of the world to this man of sin, this deceiver. When Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, his second letter he said this in chapter 2 "let no one deceive you by any means for that day will not come unless the falling away comes first and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped so that he sits as God in the temple of God showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things, and now you know what is restraining that he may be revealed in his own time for the mystery of lawlessness is already at work only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way and then the lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will consume with the breath of his mouth, destroy with the brightness of his coming, the coming of this lawless one according to the working of Satan with powers and signs lying wonders and all unrighteous deception among those who perish they did not receive the love of the truth so that they might be saved and for this reason God will send them a strong delusion they should believe a lie." So here comes the antichrist, everybody's happy, he's got a crown he's been given power, he brings wit and wisdom and yet in the middle he shows himself and out of that revelation if you will this man of sin is revealed. Prophetically Daniel said in Chapter 11 of the antichrist "then the king shall do according to his own will he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, he shall speak blasphemy against the God of gods, he shall prosper until the wrath has been accomplished for what has been determined shall be done. He shall not regard neither the god of his father's nor the desire of women or regard any god for he shall exalt himself above them all. But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses and a god of which his father's did not know. He shall honor them with gold and silver and precious stones and pleasant things. This he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god which he shall acknowledge and advance its glory and he shall cause them to rule over many dividing the land for gain."

So the first 2 verses the rise of the antichrist in peace and in wisdom in winsomeness and the world will be deceived. In verse 3 at the second seal he reveals himself for who he is and a red, fiery horse comes forth and war breaks out with great ferocity. Now war has been with us since man sinned. It is Jesus said in Matthew 24 it would be a sign of the times. Paul writing to the Romans in Chapter 3 said the same thing that war and hatred and bitterness and our feet swift to shed blood and destruction and misery are in

the ways of man the peace they've not known. James I think in Chapter 4 said "where do wars and fighting come? From among us don't they come from your desire for pleasure that war in your members, you lust, you don't have, you murder and covet you can't obtain, you fight and you war, you do not have because you do not ask." Man by himself. And notice what happens here in the ultimate sense as God allows this antichrist to be raised up and has himself revealed and out of the response there comes war amongst man. And now it's unrestrained by the Holy Spirit and now it is influenced by the antichrist and man will find a new level of hate. It will be something that you've not seen before. Peace is taken we read from the earth. Now there are various wars and battles that will continue right up to this final gathering at the fields of Megiddo as the bible teaches the battle of Armageddon, but there Jesus will intervene and put an end to the annihilation, but up through these next 3½ years, peace is taken out of the earth and killing begins in earnest. Behind it, as in everything, Satan is the one who more than willing to do these things as God would allow him and the red is the color always in the bible of bloodshed or wickedness you'll see the red dragon in Chapter 12 of Revelation, you'll see the red beast in Revelation 17:3, but the Lord is in control, notice in verse 3 "when he opened the second seal." It's the Lord's judgment that is falling now. And then you read "people shall kill one another," or the word for kill is the word for butcher. It is not going to be a clean mess if you will, but the brutality that is found in the hearts of men separated from God will bring tremendous destruction.

Revelation Chapter 6 verse 8 will tell us that a fourth of the world will die during this time. So it could very well be that over a billion people will die in this time of these seal judgments. Now you begin to say to yourself well how is that possible. Well think about what you've faced just in the last several years, the slaughter of a million plus people in Rwanda and nobody did a thing, the slaughter of the people in Chechnya and Bosnia and Kosovo and Iraq and China and Haiti and the Philippines and Libya and Syria and Egypt. Saddam Hussein killed hundreds of thousands, Hitler 6 million. It's just going to get worse, why, because people don't want the Lord and so they are left to their own devices and God allows them to have what they want in life apart from Him. Very different for you and I, we're in the world we have tribulation, but we have the Holy Spirit to protect us, "my peace I leave with you, not as the world gives, don't be afraid and I've overcome the world." Not here—this antichrist has given no one any relief, this is what he wants, destruction of man, this is what he wants you dead, you destroyed, you here under his thumb. So war breaks out, verse 3 and 4, verse 5 "and when he opened the third seal I heard the third living creature say 'come and see' and so I looked and behold a black horse and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hands and I heard a voice in the midst of the 4 living creatures say 'a quart of wheat for a denarius and 3 quarts for barley for a denarius and do not harm the oil or the wine.'" So the third seal is opened, the third of the 4 living creatures calls to John "come and see." The red stands for war and bloodshed and here the color black, which is used figuratively in the bible almost always for the same thing, famine leads to more death. There's a verse there in Lamentations Chapter 4 that speak about their appearance being blacker than soot going unrecognized in the streets, their skin clinging to their bones becoming dry as wood, slain by the sword, are better off than those who die of hunger. Well here's the result of the war that breaks out upon the earth in this final 3½ years and one of the

results or the aftermath is a lack of food, lack of fuel, rampant disease. They all seem to follow, but notice here that famine is personified as carrying a pair of scales one that is apparently necessary to ration food or to measure food because of the severity at the time and the voice from the throne in verse 6 declares the poverty. The cost and the difficulty that the world faces because of the war and its fallout. And in verse 6 the angel declares a quart of wheat for a denarius, now in at least John's day a denarius was about the average income of a day laborer. You'd get one denarius a day, Mathew 20 kind of bears that out as well. But here for a day's wage you could only get 2 pints of wheat or 3 times as much barely, but barley was kind of an inferior grain that you didn't eat unless you had to, usually the animals ate it, you didn't. So you could get very little for your money and it was becoming scarcer as you go and as the war breaks out and as this judgment of God goes forward, inflation becomes rampant, food becomes scarce, poverty is everywhere.

It is exactly what you'd find in much of the world today. The benefit of traveling if you get an opportunity to travel is that you'll come home and say "man I'm so glad to live in America." There are very few places that you're going to go that you'll go "I wish I lived there." Alright Kauai maybe, but only for a few weeks and then there's no work - 40% unemployment, if it wasn't for the tourists who they don't necessarily want to see they probably wouldn't survive at all. But you look around today, our western lifestyle is not typical of the world at large. Imagine spending your entire income just to eat and then not having enough to eat. Did you know that according to statistics that 12% of the world's population lives in north America and Europe, western Europe, and they account for 60% of the consumption of goods—12% of the people 60% of the goods. In 1950, which was 61 years ago, Americans ate 144 pounds a meat a year now they're up to 222, and half the world, literally half the world, lives on under \$2 a day, half the world. We have how many people we're real close to 7 billion – 3 ½ billion people live on 2 bucks a day and yet then there's us the west. And it looks like the stage is being set again there is great disparity between the wealthy and the rest of the world and the reality is half of the world's preschool-age kids go to bed hungry every night. In fact I read a weird statistic a couple of years ago that the U.S. throws away more edible food, in fact so much that 15% of our total trash volume is edible food, that's how much we have. "I don't want to finish that, I'm sorry I ordered it." And there's little hope of significant change, the guys who study cultivation they say that the deserts are growing at an enormous rate, the Sahara is now bigger than the U.S. is, so windstorms and forest removal for fuel and grasslands farmed to extinction and pollution and all you need to have is throw another world war in there and pretty soon no one has anything to eat and so you look at what the Lord is going to allow to come, the time is ripe and I think we need to be looking up. But here's this judgment, there's not enough food to get around.

Interestingly enough notice that you read here don't touch the oil and the wine, which by the way were items of the rich, in other words the wealthy will be fine, luxury will be left alone but the middle class will be gone and they'll barely eke out an existence. This is just the third seal. By the time you get to Revelation 13 the antichrist will run every dollar that you have through his own fingers. So I don't want to be around here then.

I'm glad the Lord's coming for me, but if you want a life without God look what you get. Who would want that? How terrifying is that. And then when he opened the fourth seal, John writes "I heard the voice of the 4th living creature say 'well come and see' and so I looked and behold there was a pale horse and the name of him who sat on it was death and hades followed with him and power was given to them, death and hades, over a fourth of the earth to kill with the sword and hunger and death and by the beasts of the earth. And the word death there is the word for pestilence. So here's the fourth seal and the final living creature called John to come and see at what looks to be a corpse. The word for pale in Greek is the word **chloros** where we get our word chlorophyll from so I guess you could say green, but it is usually the word for just pale, without much life. Death now rides upon the scene with hades; hades is the destination in the bible of the unsaved when they pass through the gates of death. The saved used to go to hades too, but Jesus then came in Luke 16 to Abraham's bosom, that one side where the redeemed were kept, or the faithful who had died believing were kept, and he delivered them captive, but hades today still gathers the unbelieving dead until the final judgment. Heaven gathers the believing dead, so here comes death and hades, why, because the people upon the earth that are finding these judgments in many ways are not walking with God. There is that judgment to come and as a result a fourth of the earth dies by the sword by hunger by disease or by the overwhelming effect of beasts upon the earth. I think it is in Revelation 20 where hades finally gives up there dead and they get thrown into Gahenna, the final not resting place but the final place of those who would die without Christ.

I read today that world population experts believe that by 2050 so what is that 39 years from now the planet will have 9.2 billion people on it. If that's true then 2.25 billion people die by the removal of the fourth seal, all because man refuses the ways of God and wants his own way, and one of the deaths that we mentioned there was pestilence. I think Jesus said in Matthew 24 verse 7 "you'll see nation rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom, there will be famines and pestilence and then earthquakes in various places." Ezekiel Chapter 14 said "for thus sayeth the Lord how much more shall it be when I send my 4 severe judgments upon Jerusalem the sword and famine, wild beasts and pestilence to cut off man and beast from it. So here's the fourth seal if you will and out comes pestilence. I think it was World War I, 6 million people died of typhus, 20 million more died of influenza. We've seen in our world some pretty horrific things. We have flesh-eating bacteria now and resistant strains of bacterial infections, the immunodeficiency diseases, the AIDS virus, Ebola, the Marburg virus, and every year you've got the bird flu finding its way into human beings, infectious diseases are still according to the World Health Organization the leading cause of death worldwide, in fact 7 years ago 53 million deaths, or 30% of all deaths were infectious diseases or parasitic in nature. So I don't think it takes a big stretch to go "oh my goodness." War and as the war then death becomes an issue and people begin to lose their ability to eat or eat well and then you add the words chemical weapons and warfare to it. By the way did you know we have enough chemical warfare stored now to destroy the entire earth without any trouble? Now we've banned those since the late 70's but we've got plenty, thank you very much. I guess the wicked have little respect for rulings. And I think that the words "beasts of the earth" here might very well refer to Satan's work through the world

leaders at the time. Daniel whenever he spoke about God's point of view of world leadership he viewed them as beasts. When Daniel saw them from his point of view they were beautiful, a head of gold and shoulders of bronze, he always held value in them, but the Lord said yeah these are animals and he saw them as beasts so the beasts will keep fighting and killing and seeking power while millions pay for their lives.

Now later on in the judgments of God by the time we get to Revelation 9 which is the sixth trumpet judgment, another 1/3 of the population left upon the earth will die, so if you add those 2 together, that's 50% of the world population at the time of the beginning of God's judgment will die. That's horrendous isn't it? Horrifying, it should get you out witnessing to your neighbors every day, you don't want them to be here. I wouldn't even want my enemies to be here, serious. So what a time of horror don't you think, all we've did, see this is why we can only do 8 verses, who can take much more of this and it will all happen in 42 months, 42 30-day months, exactly 42 30-day months, 1260 days, exactly.

Now Jesus in Matthew 24 as He was sharing what was coming said to His disciples "unless those days were shortened no flesh would be saved but for the elect sake," for His sake for the sake of the Jews, these days will be shortened. So I don't know it's startling to me, we have modern methods of warfare we can kill a fly from 10,000 miles away, we can fly a plane into a drone, we can sit in Long Beach and fly the drone in Iraq. So I can just imagine what is coming, the world is becoming smaller, our stock market goes down and Europe panics, Europe's stock market goes down and Japan freaks out, we're a much smaller world than we used to be. There is tremendous wickedness in men in power I don't think anybody needs to convince you of that. And the church gets this great job we get to tell the people that Jesus is coming, right? And we have a very bright future. People go "oh did you see the stock market?" "Yeah, I don't know." "Yeah we're losing dough." "Great Jesus is coming." I really I can't stop to worry about stuff, people are dying and going to hell, so I think as we realize the times in which we live and the remarkable future we have and that we have rapture coming and the deliverance from God's wrath and that's God's promise to us, we should be motivated, because if the signs of the tribulation are close, then the rapture of the church is even closer. Are you ready? Are you ready? Next week we will look at Chapter 5, no not Chapter 5, we will look at seal 5 and 6 so I want you to study ahead kind of read ahead, read through it. Through the end of Chapter 6 verse 17 and then in Chapter 7, if you want to read ahead, you'll get to read about the 144,000 JWs, the Jewish witnesses, it'll be good. And look what if Jesus comes before our next meeting? Alright, amen.