

Revelation 6:9-17
Study ID#111D1302

Let's open our Bibles this evening to Revelation Chapter 6, verse 9 as we continue our verse by verse study through this wonderful last book of the Bible that gives to us as Pastor Chris mentioned in his introduction tonight really the Lord high and lifted up. It's really the culmination of all that we read up to this point. Now we've looked at John's vision that he got of Christ. We looked at the letters that Jesus sent to the churches to direct our paths as we wait for His return. We looked at the church in heaven after the rapture there in Chapter 4 and 5. And then we had an introduction to Chapter 6 just to look at how this chronology of this last seven-year period of the great tribulation works. And we spent a lot of time in Daniel Chapter 9 looking at the prophecy there in particular. And then we looked last time at these first four horsemen of the apocalypse, those first four seals that Jesus began to remove from that title deed and that sealed up that document that John saw there in heaven in the hand of the Father and Jesus came to take the scroll and to open its seals.

The first seal, we mentioned to you last week, was the introduction of the Antichrist to the world scene. He will be revealed after the church is removed. I really don't think we'll ever know who it is, but you can read somebody else's book, they'll tell you otherwise. But, I just figure we're looking for Jesus and then we're out of here. He'll be revealed when that which restrains, the Holy Spirit in the lives of the saints, is gone, in that regard. He won't be gone, but in that work that He will be different than it is now.

We mentioned to you last week that the Antichrist's first three and a half years of the great tribulation seems to be a time of relative peace and prosperity and he wins the hearts of men through his deceit. But at the halfway mark, at the three and a half year mark, when there's 42 months left, the temple in Jerusalem will be done and the Antichrist will come and demand to be worshiped. Jesus called it the abomination that will make or leave us desolate. And it is from that day forward as he demands worship and threatens lives and demands that people take his mark or else they die, they can't buy, they can't sell, from that time forward everything that follows from Chapter 6 verse 3. So all we know of that first three and a half years is what we read in Ezekiel. We talked about it here in Chapter 6 verses 1 and 2.

But we did go over the second and third and the fourth seal last week and we looked at the fallout of the Antichrist really coming to demand to be worshiped. There was war breaks out at a time of tremendous suffering. Famine follows as a result. And disease. And then there is tremendous death. No food. Great war. Much antagonism. Man at his worst. Satan stirring it all up. And then death. Death from the sword and from hunger and from disease and all. And we finished there at verse 8 just looking at the first four seals and realizing as we were told there that one-fourth of the population of the earth will have died, just by the time these four seals are opened.

The prophecies of the Old Testament that look at this time of horror and judgment are legion. I wanted to spend a couple of minutes tonight with you looking at a few of them so that we might get a feel for what the Lord has said in the years that have passed in the Old Testament, especially about this time. Zephaniah in Chapter 1 of his short little book written in about 600 BC or so, some time before the fall of the Southern Kingdom to the Babylonians, writes this: "The great day of the LORD is near; it is near and it hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; mighty men will cry out. That day is a day of wrath and of trouble and of distress, it is a day of devastation and desolation. A day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, of a trumpet and an alarm against the fortified cities and the high towers. I will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like blind men

because they have sinned against the LORD and their blood will be poured out like dust and their flesh like refuse and neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD's wrath, but the land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy, and He will make speedy riddance of all those who dwell in the land."

Pretty powerful stuff. And then we as the church, we get to the Bible and we read, "God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." Or, Paul writing to the Romans in Chapter 5, verse 9 says, "Much more now being justified by His blood we have been saved from His wrath through Him."

Tonight we would like to look at verses 9 through 17. We call this portion of the Scripture the Martyr's Rest and the World's Distress as we look at the fifth and sixth seals tonight.

Verse 9. "And when He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell upon the earth??' And a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed."

Now, this fifth seal takes us back from the earth and all of the disaster and destruction, back to the heavenly scene. And John now looks and he sees under the altar the souls of those who had been slain here in the obviously those first four seals, but they had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony that they held. Back on earth as the toll mounts of the four horsemen if you will, it is the suffering and the dying and the martyrdom that Jesus describes in very clear words there in Matthew Chapter 24 beginning in verse 15. And John sees them under the altar.

When Aaron and his sons were consecrated to be priests, after the blood of the bulls were placed on the horns of the altar of sacrifice, the burnt offering, the rest of the blood was poured beside or next to the altar. You read there in Exodus Chapter 29, "Take some of the blood of the bull, put it on the horns of the altar and with your finger, and then pour the rest at the base of the altar." And the same is true for the sin offering that was brought. The blood of the martyred saints is considered in the Bible an offering before God, and here it accumulates during this tribulation time. As a sacrifice, they had been slain for their testimony. It wasn't a sacrifice of atonement. It was a sacrifice of devotion. As you read through the book of Revelation and especially as you get to Chapter 6 forward, you read these disastrous and your heart is heavy and you just want the Lord to save many. You don't want to even be a part of this. But it is interesting that like tonight and again at the end of Chapter 7, again in Chapter 14, a couple of other places, the Lord stops and He says to John, "Hey check out what I'm doing also." Here's all the judgment being poured out, but then He stops and he goes, "Look at all the saints. Look at all the salvations. Look at all the repentance," and you just see the disaster, but even in the midst of judgment, God is very merciful. God is very gracious. His intent is always the same. He wants to win us, not lose us. He wants to save us. And even at this time when man will virtually almost have to die to get in. I don't see much wiggle room in the Scriptures for making through it alive. I guess you could. But most folks are going to die. And John, as he begins to watch, and he looks under the altar he sees these folks gathered together there under the altar of God. They came in because they died for their faith. They wouldn't follow the beast. They wouldn't take the mark. They wouldn't stand to worship this false god. They were killed for their faith.

In Chapter 7 verse 9 you will read that John said he saw this great multitude with white robes. I mean this number continues to grow, and every once in awhile John gets taken to the earth to see what's going on and then back to heaven, "Hey John, look, more people. More saved. More loving God. More giving their life to serve Him. And there are wonderful respites of like, "Oh good." It isn't just destruction, because man will be judged, but it is still the work of God and His Spirit in bringing folks to Christ. When Paul was writing in the New Testament about his life, and the sacrifices he had had to make for his faith, he wrote to Timothy, or no no no, he didn't write to Timothy, he wrote to the, he wrote to Timothy, no it was Timothy. Don't interrupt me, I know it was Timothy. 2 Timothy Chapter 4, he said, "I'm poured out like a drink offering." He really saw his life as being that life that was laid down for the Lord. "I led, my time is at hand." He said to the Philippians, "I am poured out as a drink offering and my service is of faith. I'm glad to do it." But here, these folks gave the ultimate sacrifice. Here, the lives of many coming out after this fourth seal who stood for Jesus and they were killed. They were martyrs. They were sacrificed for their faith and for their testimony. There's a Psalm 44, verse 22, it's also quoted later, but it says, "For your sake we are killed all day long. And we're accounted sheep for the slaughter." And it is certainly the most true during the great tribulation time. Those who would come to know the Lord will pay a great price. And I want you to notice here in verse 9 that he saw the souls of those who had been slain.

As we go through and as we get to the point especially where we want to discuss it in detail, we will discover that the tribulation saints when they die aren't given their glorified bodies yet. You will get yours the day of the rapture. The dead in Christ will rise first and then those who are alive and remain will be transformed in a twinkling of an eye. Metamorphosis. That's when your heavenly body will come. Now they're in heaven, they're waiting with the Lord. Their souls, if you will, are with Christ. But one day, glorified bodies. That's the church's experience. The tribulation saints, they won't get their glorified bodies until the Lord comes. So they're gathering the souls of the saints, are gathering together and right prior to the millennial kingdom when Jesus returns, they'll get their glorified body. But, here they died, and they died for the truth, and they fulfill the very thing that we know--absent from the body, present with the Lord. That's not going to change. You die, even during the tribulation, you're going to go be with the Lord. And despite all of the mayhem which we studied last week, and I said to one of the pastors last week, "Man, how are we going to keep people here for 12 weeks talking about this stuff?" Who's going to want to come back? And I think the Lord's answer is every once in awhile He's going to go, "Check this out. Look what I'm doing. Alright." Let's go back to what's going on. But there's always that encouraging word from the Lord. The fruit of the gospel is still pouring forth. And the hearts of many people, even during that time, will turn to God with such conviction that they will die for their faith. Some people say to you, "Well, I'll die for Christ." No, no, you don't have to die for Him, just live for Him. People are just, "Oh, I could be a martyr." Really? How about you just go to church during the week. How about you share your faith once a month. That'll be a martyr enough for him. So, but here it is.

And notice that in verse 10 they cry out to the Lord from under the altar, "God, when are you going to intervene against those upon the earth who have taken our lives?" "How long?" is their cry, right? How long, O Lord, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth? You're holy God, You're true. How long are they going to get away with this? Now we don't know how long the seals two, three, and four took as that final three and a half year period begins. Certainly it takes some time for war to produce famine, to produce this kind of death. But it doesn't take that long. And here they are standing before the Lord. And imagine what these martyred saints have faced for their faith and the cruelty, not only of a world that's devoid now of the resistance of the...or the restraining work of the Spirit, but being influenced by the Antichrist himself. And everything in the world is at his disposal. So,

before we continue looking at these folks, I want to take you just to a couple of places in prophecy that talk about the time after the rapture but after also those first three and a half years where these four seals have been loosened and the Antichrist and all that follows leads to these saints dying and then appearing in heaven with only one question, "Are you going to get them Lord? Are you going to get them?" Now, have you never prayed like that? I have. "Lord, when are you going to deal with them guys in Washington? Lord, when?" All of them, Lord.

So I wanted to look at a few verses and get a sense of time especially how costly this time will be in the sense that this is what we receive. Now, keep your hand here so we can get back here quickly. I just tore my Bible. Look at this. Someone needs to buy me a new Bible. Look. I know. That's a sin and I will repent....later.

Alright, Daniel...I know you know where it is...Daniel Chapter 7, yeah it's in your notes, I know, you got notes, I know, I know.....That's the bad thing about handing out notes. If it's wrong? I apparently put a wrong verse in a lot of them. I got 27 e-mails. So, I'm hoping those same 27 people when I make no mistakes today will send me a nice letter. "Very well, Pastor Jack. No mistakes."

Daniel 7, verse 15. Now listen to this. "I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all of these things. And he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:" Now in Daniel Chapter 7 Daniel is given several visions. One of them of four beasts because when God looks at man's government He doesn't see beautiful images like Nebuchadnezzar, He sees animals that are out of control. And the four beasts represent the four world kingdoms that would follow the Babylonian kingdom--the Medo-Persian, the Greek, the Roman, and then from the Roman till today there has not been a world government, but there will be one more, the world government of the Antichrist, the final kingdom of man that will arise, we are told, out of the ashes of the former Roman empire. So here the last days kingdom of the Antichrist. So that's what Daniel has seen in his mind's eye. And it troubled him, and so he seeks interpretation. In fact, it grieved him, verse 15, and it troubled him. "And I came near to the one who stood by, and I asked him the truth of all these things. And so he told me." And then he said, this is what he's told, verse 17, "These four," sorry, "Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which will arise upon the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive a kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever. And so I wished to know the truth about that fourth beast, so different from all the rest, exceedingly dreadful with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, devouring, breaking in pieces, trampling the residue with its feet; and the ten horns that were on its head. And that other horn which came up before which three fell, namely that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous things, whose appearance was greater than his fellows. And as I was watching; that same horn made war against the saints and prevailed against them until the Ancient of Days would come, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom. And this he said: 'The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, it shall trample it and break it in pieces. Those ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, subduing three kings. He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, he shall persecute the saints of the Most High, he shall intend to change times and laws. And then the saints shall be given into his hand,' for how long? "time one, times two and half a time," for three and a half times. 'But the court shall be seated, and they shall take his dominion away and consume it and destroy it forever. And then the kingdom and dominion, and greatness of the kingdom under all of heaven shall be given to the people, the saints of

the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and dominions shall serve, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him."

Sounds just like what we're studying here doesn't it? And you see the big time gap here between the Roman Empire to this final one that is coming, and it tells us in verse 26 and verse 27 that at the end the Lord is going to stop the slaughter of the saints. And the kingdom of the saints forever will belong to the saints of the people of God. But verse 28 says, "This is the end of the account. And as for me, Daniel, my thoughts troubled me, my countenance changed; and I kept the matter in my heart." It just left Daniel just, "Oh, man, that's more than I can handle." But that's exactly what we read last week in verses 1 through 8. The destruction that was coming and the power of this wicked man of sin who is going to have the permission of the Lord to kill the saints. Now the saints get delivered, and in the end, they'll be judged, he will, as will those who stand with him. But for a time, and times, and half a time, the saints will be given into his hand.

Alright, flip back to Revelation 6, and instead of stopping there, let's go all the way to Chapter 13. This is music in heaven by the way, Bible rustling pages. The angels, "Ahhhhh!" 13, verse 1. "Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns," ah, there are those horns again, "and on his horns ten crowns, and on his head a blasphemous name. And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him power, his throne, and great authority. And I saw one of its heads as if it had been mortally wounded, his deadly wound was healed. And all of the world marveled following the beast. And so they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; they worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast? And who is able to make war with him?'" Now, the dragon is Satan, as we will get here eventually. He gives power to the Antichrist, the beast. The man becomes, in Chapter 13, the devil incarnate, or totally possessed, the devil has taken on flesh. Again, we read in verse 5, "And he was given a mouth to speak great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue," now here's the same thing, "forty-two months," three and a half years, time, times, half a time, the last half of the seven years of tribulation. "He opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. And if anyone has an ear to hear, then let him hear." So those who are not saved are going to worship the beast, but the beast is going to speak blasphemies against God and he's going to be allowed to prevail against the saints, and then verse 10 says this, "He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. But here is the patience and the faith of the saints." So the issue becomes one of standing fast and standing upon the power of God and standing in His power and being able to overcome by faith.

And so you're going to either have a commitment to Christ in those days, or you're going to take the mark of the beast, which is the rest of the chapter, which will seal your eternal fate, even as the angel will be declaring, there'll be an angel flying through the sky during this time, Chapter 14 if you'll just flip over, verse 9. I know we're a little out of order tonight, but it's good that we know what's going on. It says, "Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will ascend forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast

and his image, whoever receives the mark of his name.' Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and faith of Jesus."

Again, it appears from the book itself that after the rapture of the church there will be an amazing time of tremendous revival that will probably rival all of the folks that have gotten saved since the day that Jesus gave His life. Now we'll in a couple of weeks when we get to the numbers try to set before you the picture of how many folks are alive today as opposed to collectively how many people have been alive since the day that Jesus ascended. And it could very well be that 25% of the total population's still alive today. So, it's going to be quite a revival. And if John says, "I couldn't count them all." That's a good thing. Praise the Lord he couldn't count them all. Without number. And today many are sitting on the fence. In that day they will not be able to sit on the fence. You can't, "Are you for the Antichrist?" "Well, I'm sort of for the Lord, but I could be switched and moved." No, no. Take the mark or die. You really don't get an option. It's kind of like shotgun evangelism. "Yes sir!" Or shotgun wedding. Well, you're going to have to either decide and you're going to have to decide now, and you're going to see Satan for who he is. You're going to have to turn to Jesus and probably die for Him rather than living here under the Antichrist.

Additionally, besides this angel flying through the heavens, we will have these 144,000 JW's, which we'll see next week. That's what they are, Jewish believer....Jewish witnesses, JW's, bearing much fruit among the world because God is going to again, because He's done with the church, work through Israel. Remember it's the 70th week of Jacob, the 70th week there of Daniel. It's God's dealing with Israel. And then this revival comes unprecedented numbers. Let me show you, since you're in Revelation, are you in 16? You are I think. Look at verse 8, no, no, look at verse 6. It says in Chapter 16, verse 6, or verse 5, "I heard the angel of the waters saying: 'You are righteous, O Lord, the One who is and who was, who is to be. You have judged these things and they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. It is their just due.'" God will bring judgment.

In Chapter 18, just next page over, verse 21, we read, "Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone throwing it into the sea and said, 'Thus with violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, shall not be found anymore. And the sound of the harpists and musicians and flutists, flautists, trumpeters, shall not be heard in any of you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, the sound of the millstone shall not heard in you anymore. The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of the bridegroom and the bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. And in her was found the blood of the prophets and the saints of all who were slain upon the earth.'" And so, great judgment and yet tremendous, it seems like revival.

Now, mass persecution I guess is not unheard of in our world. There were six million Jews killed in the Holocaust, which I think at the time was sixty percent of all of the Jews who lived in Nazi-occupied Europe. So that's a lot. Today, over fifty-five percent of every Jew alive lives in Israel. And they are constantly working to increase that number.

Nearly six million Christians were killed under the Roman persecution through the time of Constantine. So the only way you could get out in the first century was to confess Caesar as being Lord. So we're going to see it again during the great time of the great tribulation. Chapter 12, verse 11 here in Revelation says, "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death." So that's a pretty big commitment, and yet many will make it.

Chapter 14, verse 13, "Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, 'Write: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." 'Yes,' saith the Spirit, 'they may rest from their labors, and their works will follow them.'" So, it's going to be quite a revival. Now, one more passage of Scripture. Let's go to Chapter 7, verse 9, where we are given some more insight and information into this growing number of salvations that John, as the fifth seal is being opened, sees for the first time. Up to now he's just seen destruction and mayhem and war and famine and death, but then he gets to look under the altar, and there where the blood was poured out, those bought by the blood, those who depending in the blood of Christ are gathering one upon another. Verse 9 says this, of Chapter 7, "After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of every nation, tribe, people, and tongue, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and having palm branches in their hands," Wow! "and crying with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels around the throne, the elders, the four living creatures, everyone on their face." You'll find that a lot in here too. There's lots of worship going on.

Verse 13, "One of the elders answered and said to me, 'Who are these arrayed in white robes, where did they come from?' And I said to him," John said, 'Sir, you know.' And he said to me, 'These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, serving Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell amongst them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living waters living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

Wow! So, John, John doesn't know. "Where do these guys come from?" "I don't know. But I'll bet you know. And I'll bet you're going to tell me." And it's not the church. It is the tribulation saints and they are redeemed just as we are by the blood of the Lamb, but their function in the kingdom of God seems to be that of hovering about the things of God and worship and all, and you will be ruling and reigning.

In verse 15 we're told of the position of these martyrs, that they serve God day and night. You're going to go to the marriage supper of the Lamb. And you begin to see the distinction John is given between the church and the tribulation martyrs. I think there's a passage there in Revelation 20 as well, verse 4, I'll read it to you that says this, "And I saw thrones, and they who sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And now I saw the souls of those....and then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, those who hadn't worshiped the beast or his image, had not received the mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection." And so there's a place of rulership and then there's a place of fellowship with God, and there does seem to be a distinction made in the Scriptures. Between the roles that the church has and the unique position as the bride of Christ and those who come out of the great tribulation and the place that they have, no better or worse mind you, but just a different place that God gives them. Saved in the same manner.

Alright, let's go back to where we started, verse 9 of Chapter 6. And then verse 10. Let's go to verse 10, and we hear the cry, "How long? Lord, when will You avenge us Lord? You're the only one who can make this right." And I thought as I was reading through these passages, I think every generation must pray this don't you think? "Lord, how long are you going to put with us? How long are you going to suffer with us? How long is our nation going to survive putting you aside? How long am I going to have to suffer at the hands of these wicked people? And Lord, You do nothing about it. You're my, You're

the, vengeance is Mine, when Lord? When will You break their teeth in their mouths? When will You give them what they deserve? No, don't give me what I deserve. Give them what they deserve."

Verse 9 of Psalm 74, the psalmist writes, "We do not see our signs; There is no longer any prophet.; There is...Nor is there any among us who knows how long. O God, how long will the adversary reproach us? And will the enemy blaspheme Your name forever?"

Psalm 94, "O LORD, how long will the wicked, how long will the wicked triumph? They utter speech, and speak insolent things; all the workers of iniquity they boast in themselves." Habakkuk gets met by the Lord and he says first thing to the Lord, "O LORD, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear? Even cry out of 'Violence!' and You will not save."

And then you get to Leviticus and the Lord teaches it throughout the Bible, "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I'm the LORD. Vengeance is mine." And so we say, "How long?" And these folks have died and they're in the glory of God in God's presence and they cry out for God to make right what is not yet right upon the earth. Life is not always filled with justice, you know that. And I think the longer you live, the longer, the more you know that. Things aren't fair. I remember as a little kid, "That's not fair!" I finally figured out with my kids, when you had like enough food, or you had like something you had to cut in two that I'd let one of them cut it, and the other one pick first. And then they'd like micrometer it, "Okay," making allowances for the wind. And they try to cut that little piece of cake exactly in half cause one will get to cut and the other one had to pick. Perfect idea. It saved me years of trouble. But there doesn't seem to be any, "He got the bigger piece." "How's that possible? You cut, and you picked." "Oh, I didn't cut it right." "Tough! You lose." "I should've picked the other one. I didn't see the little back frosting on there like I thought." Lord, how long?

Life is not just. Not all scores are settled quickly. But look, not all scores are settled yet. The great tribulation is at hand. The church is in heaven. Glory! We're worshiping God. Still things have not been settled yet. The Lord will have to come for that. But trust me, when He comes, in one day all of the accounts are going to be settled. Every one of them. "Rejoice, O Gentiles," Deuteronomy 32, "with His people; He will avenge the blood of His servants. He will render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for His land and for His people."

And Isaiah writes this, awesome chapter, chapter 63, "Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?--'I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.' Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? 'I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the people no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, ZI have stained all of my robes. For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come. I looked, there was none to help, and I wondered that there was no one to uphold; therefore My arm has brought salvation for Me; and My own fury has sustained Me. I have trodden down the people in My anger, made them drunk in My fury, and brought them down in their strength to the earth." Pretty heavy.

So God's going to fix it. When you say to somebody, "You're gonna get yours," they will. It's just going to be awhile. But it's coming. And I tell you, I take great confidence and great rest in knowing that eventually God's going to fix things, don't you? When you're falsely accused, when people misunderstand you, and they think of you as something that's absolutely wrong. Yeah, one day. Paul

said to the Corinthians, "I don't even judge myself, but one day the Lord is going to come. And He's going to judge every heart. He's going to know every intent. And then every man's going to have his reward from Him. It's going to be a good day when the Lord returns. But notice here the gathering of the saints who are suffering so much at the hands of the Antichrist during this final period when so many come to know the Lord. And, "How long?" is what their cry is. And God's response is, "Here, put this on. Here's a white robe, put this on. And you're going to have to wait awhile." Back in, or forward in Chapter 7 verse 14, it is that same, "Who are these? These are the ones who came out of the great tribulation and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Put this on." Here's your righteousness, put this on. Here's what protects you. Here's how you got in. Here's what covers you. Here's why you're here. Jesus died. Put this on. And you're going to have to wait awhile. "Why?" There's many more coming. There's many more coming.

In Numbers Chapter 15 there is the description of the *goel* (GOH-el), or of the kinsman redeemer, and one of his jobs was to avenge the blood of someone in his family who had been killed. And so we read there in Numbers 35 that he has to go and find and then judge and put to death the murderer when he meets him. And Jesus is our *goel*, our Kinsman Redeemer, but He said, "Wait, more gotta come." If you ever wondered why the Lord hasn't returned yet, know this, He hasn't returned yet because He wants more to come. You see it even in the great tribulation. "Is it time to wipe them out Lord? Are you gonna get 'em now?" Not today. Put this on. There'll be more coming.

Verse 12, "And then I looked," John says, "and He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, moon became like blood." Notice the word "as" and "like," simile, metaphor, John's trying to describe in first century terms what he sees. "And the stars of heaven fell to the sky as a fig tree would drop its late figs when shaken by a mighty wind. And the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place."

From the glory in heaven back to the terror upon the earth, the sixth seal brings these catastrophic events to a world now turned upside down. And this is no longer the general signs of the times. This is now with an intensification that is such that it is global and it is divine and no one can refuse it. Right? The Lord said, "Look, you're going to see earthquakes and rumors of war, but the end is not yet." There have been all kinds of signs that God can pretty much shake your life if He wants. You live in Southern California. You know about earthquakes. You don't know about it like the people in Japan do. Or the folks in Indonesia do. But you know about earthquakes. And you know there's nothing you can do. And the Lord says, "Well, that's just a little local Whittier quake. Wait till I shake the whole earth." Then it becomes, "Man, God is speaking! And God is moving." When every mountain and every island moves out of its place and the sun darkens to black and there's a blood red moon and stars fall out of the sky like unpicked figs, and the skies tend to roll up, and that's a world turned upside down. And that's the sixth seal.

Paul writing to the Hebrews in Chapter 12 wrote this, "whose voice then shook the earth; but now has promised, saying, 'Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but of heaven as well.' 'Once more,' indicating the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of those things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we're receiving a kingdom which can't be shaken, let us have grace, by which we can serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."

The prophecy in Psalm 18 said this, "The earth shook and trembled; the foundations of the earth quaked and were shaken, because He was angry." Now this is the first of three huge earthquakes found in the judgments in Revelation. The next one in Chapter 11 is a localized quake. The final one, or the big one

in Chapter 16 beginning in verse 18 finds the earth losing every mountain range and every island altogether. I don't want to be here then either. It seems to be this third and final huge earthquake which the prophets mostly speak about. Job, Joel writes about, "I will show wonders in the heaven and in the earth, blood and fire and pillars of smoke, the sun turned to darkness, the moon to blood, before the coming of the great and awesome Day of the Lord. And it will come to pass whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved, for in Mount Zion in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance as the LORD has said, among the remnant whom the LORD calls." Jesus said the same thing, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be dark and the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, the powers of heaven will be shaken and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven. And all of the tribes of the earth will mourn. They'll see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

But this isn't the final one. This is just the first one. Like I said, we know about earthquakes. We haven't seen an earthquake here like they saw in Haiti, or in Japan, or the one, a couple they've had in New Zealand or the horrific one in the Indian Ocean. I don't know if you ever went and looked at the Indian Ocean earthquake the one that caused that tsunami that killed a quarter of a million people in fourteen different countries. They have pictures now, some of 98-foot waves. And that was just in one place. It was one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history. I think Indonesia got hit the hardest, then Sri Lanka, and then India, and then I think Thailand. And they estimate the earthquake 9.3. Third largest earthquake ever recorded. And it shook for ten minutes. The seismic duration of the fault move was for ten minutes. It vibrated the entire planet a half an inch and triggered earthquakes as far away as Alaska. And that was just a local earthquake. So when I start reading earthquake, great earthquake, I...eeee. Just another reason to get saved folks. Give your life to Jesus. I can't even imagine.

We hear a lot about the San Andreas fault here and the destruction, and if you take it to heart, I think people take that to heart more than they take to heart the fact that the Lord wants them to be saved. But I think that the cool thing about earthquakes is they reveal your helplessness. Everybody's a tough guy until the earth starts moving. And then grown men cry. And there's really no place to turn and it exposes you to the terror and to the fear and to the fact that there lots of things beyond your control, and every earthquake that we've ever had in our world has been local. There haven't been any worldwide earthquakes. Some of them have been felt for a hundred miles away, but then what happens when there's this worldwide shaking? Here's what the prophet Isaiah wrote in Chapter 24, "Fear and the pit and the snare are upon you, O inhabitants of the earth. And it shall be that he who flees from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit, and he who comes up from the midst of the pit shall be caught in the snare; for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth are shaken. And the earth is violently broken, the earth is split open, the earth is shaken exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, tottering like a hut; its transgression heavy upon it, and it will fall, and not rise again. It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones and on the earth the kings of the earth. Who will be gathered together as prisoners are gathered in a pit, and will be shut up in the prison; and many days they will go...after many days they will be punished. And then the moon will be disgraced and the sun will be ashamed; for the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion in Jerusalem, gloriously."

So, it's throughout the Scriptures. Now whether it is this quake or maybe because of it that the sun is blackened and the moon is made red, if there's a correlation between those two earthquakes and volcanoes, there certainly is usually. Mount St. Helens exploded. I think people in Seattle had their headlights on at noon. **Mount Pinatubo**, was that the one in the Philippines that went off and for three days people never saw the sky. They drove with their lights on. They couldn't distinguish night from

day. We were stuck in Israel and wondering if we were going to get home in the latest of that Iceland eruption where it was interrupting, in fact, the day before we left, the flight was cancelled because of the soot coming from these volcanoes. I think when...did you ever see that movie "Krakatoa?" East of Java, that Dutch East Indies earthquake that went off in August of 1883. I think it killed like 36,000 people, but the tidal wave went all the way to Cape Horn, 700 miles away. Just from a volcanic eruption.

If you add to this quake the meteor or asteroid shower...I read somewhere, and I'm not sure how true it is cause I'm not a professional asteroid studier, but they said if an asteroid that was ten miles wide would hit the earth it would have enough force to create a worldwide earthquake and stop the rotation of the earth for several minutes. I don't know. I just don't want to be here. I just want to read it, say, "Thank You Lord for not leaving me here," and just get out of here. Personally, this is my whole response to all of this.

I do not know what the words "heavens rolled up" mean. I've worked for years. I'm trying to figure it out. I've asked everyone I know. I remember calling David Hocking at home Monday, and I said, "Hey David," and "Hi, Jack, how you doing?" I said, "Hey, I got a question." "All right." So I tell him, and he says, "Have you read my book?" I go, "Yeah, I read the book." He said, "What's in there?" I said, "Nothing." He goes, "That's cause I don't know." Thank you. Well, I don't know either. It's a hard phrase to properly interpret. I've read all of the books. I don't know what it means. I come to the conclusion it's not good. But I clearly understand that as the sixth seal is broken that catastrophic changes come to the earth. Fear replaces every man's hope and forces him to realize he's messing with God and no one else. That's certainly the conclusion.

Verse 15 tells us that, let's read this, "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the commanders, and the mighty men, every slave, every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us. Hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne, from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, who is able to stand?'" So there is a guilty fear, but unfortunately, at least in this in looking at many men, there's no repentance. Chapter 34 of Isaiah, Isaiah predicts this 700 BC. "Come near, you nations, to hear; heed, you people! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, the world and all the things that come forth from it. The indignation of the LORD is against all nations, His fury against all their enemies; He has utterly destroyed them, and given them over to the slaughter. Their slain shall be thrown out; their stench shall rise from their corpse, as the mountains shall be melted with their blood. All of the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll;" there it is again, "All their hosts shall fall down as the leaf falls from the vine, and as fruit falls from a fig tree."

So, the rich, the poor, the leader, the slave, it does amaze me if I get through to the end of Chapter 6 to think that anyone left alive would not repent. It's hard-hearted. And you'll see it again in Chapter 16, there'll be dying or wishing to die, but they won't repent. You'll read it in verse 9, verse 11, verse 21. The only exception is in Chapter 11, verse 13 where there's a great earthquake and a tenth of the city falls and 7,000 people are killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. It's the only place you see where there's an immediate repentance it seems. But here like so often....I bring this up because people, I've heard the old expression "there's no atheists in fox holes." The Bible would say that's not true, that there were plenty of people who even in the place of death refused to believe, who even in great terror will hide from God, but not repent and turn to God. That's how blinding sin is. I think that's what Nahum said, he said in Chapter 1, "The mountains quake, the hills melt, the earth heaves at His presence, yes, the world and all who dwell in it. Who can stand before His indignation?"

And endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, the rocks are thrown down by Him. The LORD is good, He's a stronghold in the day of trouble; but He knows those who trust in Him." So, there'll still be folks even in that last moment who refuse.

Notice in verse 15, "the kings," you can find them in Psalm 2. Remember that verse said, "Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little." These are the kings that don't kiss the Son. The great man, rich man, commanders, I suspect as we go through especially to Babylon representative anyway are the captains of industry, world movers and shakers who are strong men in the world. But not when the Lord speaks. And they hide in caves and they hide in rocks. It's the classic action of hiding your sin and yet it's the great...they know it's the great day of His wrath.

Today you live in a world that is not for Jesus, but your persecution comes from Satan. It comes from the flesh. It comes from the world. In the days of the tribulation the persecution will come from God. He will give to the rider on the white horse power. He will allow him to overcome the saints. God is in charge, but it is He who has his hand upon all that takes place. Wrath is coming. Tonight there's a real easy way to get to heaven. You just get saved. Confess my sins, turn to Jesus. Thank You Lord for dying. You live for Him. When the judgment comes, God takes you out of the way. You're not a part of it. Come with Me. You've been delivered from it. You come with Me. And then this gets poured out. It seems to me during the great tribulation there's only way to get saved, and it's the hard way. But I still worry about people who say they'll...."If I have to die for Jesus, I will." But they won't live for Him. I think you're fooling yourself. But you can let Him be the Lord tonight.

Next week, 144,000 JW's. You gotta be here cause we want to be sure to figure out if the JW's are right or these JW's are right. I say the Bible wins.

End of transcription