

12. Opening the seals - continued

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

(Revelation 1:3)

How long do YOU have?

Revelation so far...

1:1-8

Prologue

Behold, He is coming with clouds (Revelation 1:7)

The first section...

I know your works...

1:9 - 3:22

The vision of Christ, then His messages to the seven churches

The second section...

4:1-8:1

The vision of God's throne and of the Lamb and the opening of the seven seals



How can we read this second section?

- ✓ From the triumph of the Lamb through to the great day of God's wrath
- ✓ An unveiling of the truth of things in heaven in chapters 4 & 5
- ✓ An unveiling of the truth of things on earth in chapters 6 & 7

The second section... (Part 1)

4:1-8:1

The vision of God's throne and of the Lamb and the opening of the seven seals

- > The throne of God
- > The scroll in God's right hand
- > The Lion and the slain Lamb

The second section... (Part 2)

4:1 - 8:1

The vision of God's throne and of the Lamb and the opening of the seven seals

6:1-8

➤ The first seal — a white horse (Revelation 6:2)



The second seal – a red horse (Revelation 6:4)



Warfare, people killing one another

➤ The third seal — a black horse
(Revelation 6:5)



Famine and plenty, rich and poor

➤ The fourth seal — a pale horse (Revelation 6:8)



Disease, famine, untimely death



The second section... (Part 3)

Revelation 6:9-17

➤ The fifth seal — The cry of the martyrs

➤ The sixth seal — The great day of His wrath

The fifth seal – The cry of the martyrs

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 witness they had borne.

They cried out with a loud voice,

"O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before You will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.

...

Even the hairs of your head are all numbered.
Fear not, therefore;
you are of more value
than many sparrows.

(Matthew 10:28,30-31)

(Revelation 6:9-11)

The Lord's teaching about the last days on the Mount of Olives...



Matthew 24:9-14

⁹ Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. ¹⁰ And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Mark 13:9-13

⁹ But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. ¹⁰ And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. ¹¹ And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. 12 And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. ¹³ And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Luke 21:12-19

¹² But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. 13 This will be your opportunity to bear witness. ¹⁴ Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. 16 You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all for my name's sake. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your lives.

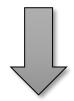
The Lord's teaching about the last days on the Mount of Olives...

- 1. Hatred
- 2. Perseverance
- 3. Division
- 4. Witness
- 5. Testimony

1. Hatred

Matthew 24:9

Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.



All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted... (2 Timothy 3:12)

Mark 13:9,13

But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them.

And you will be hated by all for my name's sake.

Luke 21:12-13,17

But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness.

You will be hated by all for my name's sake.

2. Perseverance

Matthew 24:13

But the one who endures to the end will be saved. Mark 13:13

But the one who endures to the end will be saved. Luke 21:18-19

But not a hair of your head will perish.

By your patient endurance you will gain your lives.

You have persevered and have patience ... and have not become weary. (Revelation 2:3)

Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Revelation 2:10)

We also glory in tribulations, knowing that **tribulation produces perseverance**... (Romans 5:3)

Because you have kept my word about patient endurance,
I will keep you... (Revelation 3:10)

3. Division

Matthew 24:10-12

And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.

Mark 13:12

And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death.

Luke 21:16

You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death.

Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but **a sword**.

(Matthew 10:34)

4. Witness

Mark 13:11

And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

Luke 21:14-15

Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.



Then there arose some ... disputing with **Stephen**.

And they were not able to resist

the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.

(Acts 6:9-10)

5. Testimony

Matthew 24:14

And this **gospel of the kingdom** will be proclaimed throughout the whole world **as a testimony to all nations**, and then the end will come.

You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

(Acts 1:8)

Mark 13:10

And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations.

The Lord is ... not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

(2 Peter 3:9)

The second section... (Part 3)

Revelation 6:9-17

➤ The fifth seal — The cry of the martyrs

➤ The sixth seal — The great day of His wrath

The sixth seal – The great day of His wrath

When he opened the sixth seal,
I looked, and behold,
there was a great earthquake,
and the sun became black as sackcloth,
the full moon became like blood,
and the stars of the sky fell to the earth
as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit
when shaken by a gale.

The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

(Revelation 6:12-14)

Immediately after the tribulation of those days

- the sun will be darkened, and
- the moon will not give its light;
- the stars will fall from heaven, and
- the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

(Matthew 24:29)

The sixth seal – The great day of His wrath

Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks,

"Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of His wrath has come, and who can stand?"

(Revelation 6:15-17)

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life;
whoever does not believe in the Son shall not see life,
but the wrath of God
remains on him.
(John 3:36)

He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of Almighty God.

(Revelation 19:15)

Let both grow together until the harvest...

(The Parable of the wheat and the weeds)

Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers,

"Gather **the weeds** first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather **the wheat** into my barn."

(Matthew 13:30)

There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

(Matthew 13:42)

The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. (Matthew 13:39)

He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

(Matthew 13:43)

He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

(Matthew 13:43)



Revelation chapter 6:9-17

What can we see and hold to from this?

- To overcome we cannot be attached to this world
- Justice is coming righteousness matters
- In God's eternal wisdom it must be this way

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!

(Revelation 5:12)