

Pentwater Bible Church

Revelation Message 19

January 7, 2024



Four Horses of The Apocalypse, By Sharlene Lindskog

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Pentwater Bible Church

Revelation Message Nineteen

THE TRIBULATION BEGINS

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THE OTHER SEALS:

Revelation 6:3–4

³And when he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, Come.⁴And another [horse] came forth, a red horse: and to him that sat thereon it was given to take peace from the earth, and that they should slay one another: and there was given unto him a great sword (KJV).

The next three seals expose the world to great and desolating judgments with which God punishes those who either refuse or abuse the everlasting gospel. This represent God's terrible judgments, by which he avenges the quarrel of His covenant upon those who refused or made light of it. Moreover, it seems likely that this is not just judgment that is being poured out. Rather, God is allowing the full condition of human depravity to come to its maximum strength. Each horse represents an aspect of depravity, and each one leads into the other. In the second horse the lust for conquest turns to civil war, as human depravity turns upon itself and becomes self-destructive.

The second horse takes peace from the earth. This is indicative of a greater amount of unrest than the world has ever seen before. The constant competitive, prideful relationships among the ambitions of men, and nations have reached their climax here. This speaks of internal strife, class wars, civil wars, the breaking of all established order on the earth. There will be no peace at all in any part of the earth. All peace efforts of the past will be over as the peace completely is taken from the earth. This is much worse than a war. It is total anarchy. Worse is that it will happen when the Antichrist has spoken of and promised peace and safety.

In these four different horses and horsemen, we see four different forms of the coming of the judgmental power of God which He will finally bring upon all the inhabitants of the earth. It is now that He will be breaking up wickedness, and providing His punishment.

I Thessalonians 5:2–3

²For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.³For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape (KJV).

In other words, no segment of the world can avoid this. We must believe that this is going to happen and tell others. If you find that you can't tell others about this so they have the opportunity to avoid this, ask yourself if you really believe it or not. If you don't really believe it ask yourself why? Perhaps you have not been taught properly and these things were not conveyed accurately to you. There is only one interpretation of Scripture. God has spoken. He did not speak with multiple meanings such as the differing theologies or denominational teachings would imply.

Some believe that there are many differing good opinions about these things. That is simply not true. Believing that will cause you to think the facts of this coming on the earth are not settled

truth and avoid sharing these events with others. Satan has then achieved his goal of keeping many out of the Kingdom.

The divine control of these events is evident in this scene, and the sovereignty of God obvious as the Lord takes back His earth. Moreover, it is not just direct judgment that is being poured out. Rather, God is allowing human depravity to completely consume the creation. There is a distinct progression here in the movement from one living creature to the next. Moreover, the details fit this progression. Each horse represents an aspect of depravity, and each one leads into the other. In the second horse the lust for conquest turns to civil war, as human depravity turns upon itself and becomes self-destructive.

The second horse is a fiery red, symbolizing the extensive bloodshed and that is coming upon the world. This same color appears again in 12:3, where it is the color of the “great dragon,” and there the significance is also the dragon’s hatred and murder of the people of God. The rider is allowed to do three things:

1. Take peace from the earth,
2. Cause people to kill each other
3. Use a sword to accomplish this bloody purpose.

With the sword, the lust for conquest in the first seal turns to civil war. First, God allows the rider to “take peace from the earth.” This describes humanity’s propensity for war and for killing one another. The civil war view is seen in the next clause, as people slaughter one another. It does not simply mean to “kill” one another but to “slaughter” each other indicating a hatred for one another that is so descriptive of war. The order follows Mark 13:7, as “wars and rumors of war” lead to “nation rising against nation and kingdom against kingdom.” This was the great fear of all ancient (and modern) empires. Alexander the Great’s empire split at his death into four empires (built on his four primary generals), which spent the next two hundred years fighting against one another. Rome was paranoid about civil war, and with good reason. It had endured several, such as the one led by Sulla (88 B.C.) and the one following the assassination of Julius Caesar (which effectively ended the Roman Republic). In A.D. 68–69 there were four different emperors, and the last, Vespasian, saved the empire from self-destruction. This was an oft-repeated tragedy

Belief in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only way for an individual to avoid this Tribulation which is coming on the earth.

Luke 21:34–37

³⁴But take heed to yourselves, lest haply your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that day come on you suddenly as a snare:³⁵for [so] shall it come upon all them that dwell on the face of all the earth.³⁶But watch ye at every season, making supplication, that ye may prevail to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.³⁷And every day he was teaching in the temple; and every night he went out, and lodged in the mount that is called Olivet (KJV).

What Christ is saying here is the only way to avoid these things is to be off the earth! This means to be taken off the earth at the Rapture and Resurrection (I Thessalonians 4:13–18; I Corinthians 15:50–54).

Revelation 6:5-6

⁵And when he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, Come. And I saw, and behold, a black horse; and he that sat thereon had a balance in his hand.⁶And I heard as it were a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, A measure of wheat for a shilling, and three measures of barley for a shilling; and the oil and the wine hurt thou not (KJV).

Famine is the inevitable aftermath of war. What soldiers do not eat is destroyed in warfare. The civilians suffer much. The sign of the black horse is indicative of famine. The following quote from Lamentations is a personal experience that prophet Jeremiah saw in Jerusalem of the Jews who endured the 586 B.C. invasion of the Babylonians.

Lamentations 4:4

⁴The tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst: the young children ask bread, [and] no man breaketh [it] unto them (KJV).

What is worse is that a measure (a day's wages) is only enough for one meal for one person. Rationing will not provide enough food to meet the demand. To eat bread by weight is a Jewish expression indicating that food is scarce. (Leviticus 26:25-33; Ezekiel 4:10, 11, 16) The global rationing and controls will be exercised by the Antichrist to control the economy. (Revelation 12:17; Amos 8:11) The Lord is actually bringing this about.

Revelation 6:7-8

⁷And when he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, Come.⁸And I saw, and behold, a pale horse: and he that sat upon him, his name was Death; and Hades followed with him. And there was given unto them authority over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with famine, and with death, and by the wild beasts of the earth (KJV).

The Greek word for pale is Chloros from which we get the word chlorine. It is Strong's # 5515 and it means a pale color of green or yellowish in nature. The Hebrew equaling word in the Old Testament means the color of leprosy. It signifies disease. This is also the inevitable outcome of war. Disease follows war. John saw the disease going out into the earth coupled with the instruments of war followed by hunger, death and the wild beasts turning away from their natural fear of man and attacking him. (Genesis 1:28; 9:2) Further, the rats and lice will accelerate at unprecedented growth rates.

Genesis 1:28

²⁸And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth (KJV).

Genesis 9:2

And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth [upon] the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered (KJV).

Remember God said that he is taking peace from the earth. That is all peace. When civilization crumbles mankind's defenses against disease crumble as well. All sanitary measures such as safeguards for drinking water and the spread of disease like cholera, typhoid and dysentery disappear allowing disease to spread at a rapid rate. This does not even include the biological warfare that is inevitable.

The number of World War I casualties, both military and civilian, was over 40 million — 20 million deaths and 21 million wounded. This includes 9.7 million military deaths and about 10 million civilian deaths. Most civilian deaths during World War I were due to war related famine and disease. The Entente Powers (also known as the Allies) lost more than 5 million soldiers and the Central Powers about 4 million.

The total estimated human loss of life caused by World War II was roughly 72 million people. The civilian toll was around 47 million, including 20 million deaths due to war related famine and disease. The military toll was about 25 million, including the deaths of about 5 million prisoners of war in captivity. The Allies lost about 61 million people, and the Axis lost 11 million.

The world population is the total number of humans on Earth at a given time. In September 2007, the world's population is believed to have reached over 6.6 billion. Verse 8 says that one-fourth of the world's population will succumb to the first of the tribulations war disasters; famine disease and animals. This is about 1.65 billion and the Tribulation is just starting with these verses.

THE FIFTH SEAL:

Revelation 6:9–11

⁹And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:¹⁰And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?¹¹And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they [were], should be fulfilled. (KJV)

These people are the martyrs of the first half of the Tribulation. The tribulation has martyrs in the early moments of its seven-year duration. This is not the church since it is already in heaven so this group is not those saints. These saints came to be believers during the Tribulation because of the preaching of the 144,000 anointed Jews. This is explained in chapter seven. Any believer who was persecuted to death prior to the Great Tribulation went up in the Rapture. 1 Thessalonians 4 tells us that the dead in Christ will rise first then we which remain will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with Him. So clearly the martyrs of the Tribulation who became believers through the preaching of the 144,000 Jews are under the throne/alter of God in heaven requesting justice. The persecuting is being done by The False Prophet as we will see in Revelation 17 namely, Ecclesiastical Babylon.

If a person heard a clear presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ on this side of heaven there is no way they will be in heaven with us. They won't get another chance after the Rapture. Consider II Thessalonians 2:8-12.

II Thessalonians 2:8–12

⁸And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:⁹[Even him], whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,¹⁰And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.¹¹And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:¹²That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness (KJV).

So, the martyrs of the Tribulation period didn't hear the Gospel prior to the start of the Great Tribulation. They heard it through the preaching of the 144,000 Jews who God anointed to bring the Gospel to the world in His final evangelical missionary movement in all of human history. They who hear the Gospel and convert during the Tribulation will most likely be killed for their faith. They will be hunted down and murdered. They will not take the seal of the Antichrist on their right hand or forehead to protect them on this earth. Their belief in Christ will protect them for eternity.

Future events of the Great Tribulation cast a shadow before themselves. So the events of the Tribulation are happening today to a lesser intense degree. Disease is present. Famine and war are too. Christians are also being persecuted today in various parts of the earth. Many Churches and Synagogues around the world have experienced religious persecution.

- Nigeria: Ten Killed, Three Churches Set Ablaze in Bauchi

Ten persons have been killed and three churches set on fire after Muslim high school students in this northern Nigerian city began a rampage on Tuesday (December 11) that spilled into the city. Today tensions were still high in the area.

Added: Dec 14th, 2007 3:33 AM

- Pakistan Church Leader Kidnapped; Christians Killed

A search continued Thursday, December 13, for the General Secretary of the Churches of Pakistan, Dr. Rejinald Humayun, who was kidnapped last week following clashes in the country involving Islamic militants that killed at least three Christians.

Added: Dec 14th, 2007 3:19 AM

- Indonesia Police Prevents Attack On Church

Indonesian security forces have prevented an attack by about 50 Muslim militants on the troubled Pasundan Christian Church in West Java Province, the second act of violence against the Protestant congregation in two weeks, a well-informed Christian rights group said Thursday, December 13.

Added: Dec 14th, 2007 3:18 AM

- China Detains Hundreds Of House Church Pastors In Massive Operation

At least 150 house church pastors were believed to be behind bars Tuesday, December 11, after Chinese security forces broke up a Christian meeting in China's Shandong Province, fellow believers said.

Added: Dec 13th, 2007 3:51 AM

- Hundreds Of Attacks Against India Missionaries

An advocacy group representing churches and mission organizations says Hindu militants backed by political parties and groups have carried out at least 500 attacks against mainly Christian missionaries in the past 23 months, and urged the central government to halt the violence.

Added: Dec 10th, 2007 3:22 AM

- Baptist Pastors Face Uncertain Future In Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan

Two Baptist pastors in two neighboring former Soviet republics faced detention and deportation Tuesday, December 4, amid an increased crackdown on evangelical churches in the region, BosNewsLife learned.

Added: Dec 5th, 2007 5:00 AM

- Indonesia: Islamic Groups Secure Closure of Two Churches

Attacking the house of a Baptist pastor and protesting the presence of a Catholic temple, radical Muslim groups got authorities to close down two churches in the past two weeks.

Added: Dec 4th, 2007 2:17 AM

- Sudan Releases British Teacher Amid International Pressure

A British teacher was on her way home Monday, December 3, after being released in Sudan where she was sentenced to 15 days in prison for letting her students name a teddy bear Muhammad.

Added: Dec 4th, 2007 2:06 AM

- China "Detains" 40 House Church Leaders; Jails Pastor

About 40 leaders of one of China's largest house church groups have been detained while at least one pastor received a prison term for writing and distributing Christian publications among Muslims, a major advocacy organization said Wednesday, November 28.

Added: Nov 29th, 2007 3:35 AM

- India Pastors Released Amid Hindu Crackdown On "Forced Conversions"

Two Indian evangelical pastors were free on bail Tuesday, November 27, after being detained over the weekend for allegedly "forcing" Hindus to accept Christianity, amid reports that India's most influential Hindu organization has stepped up efforts to crackdown on devoted Christians.

Added: Nov 28th, 2007 3:13 AM

- Indonesia Church Destroyed By Muslim Militants In West Java, Christians say

Hundreds of Muslim militants stormed and destroyed a Protestant church in Indonesia's province of West Java amid growing religious tensions in the region; a Netherlands-based Christian rights group reported Tuesday, November 27.

Added: Nov 28th, 2007 3:10 AM

- Egypt: Police Detain Convert Who Wedded Christian

Police detained an Egyptian convert to Christianity on her wedding anniversary in Upper Egypt last week, her husband said.

Christ warned us of such a worldview:

John 15:18–21

¹⁸If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before [it hated] you.¹⁹If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.²⁰Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.²¹But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me (KJV).

The persecution will continue to escalate beyond our imagination into the Great Tribulation. We must expect that some of this will happen to us. This is especially true of those who stand up for Christ as pastors and teachers. They are targets. We must not be naïve in the sense that it can't happen to us and the Rapture will save us. It will save us from the Great Tribulation but not necessarily persecution prior to the Rapture for embracing the truth. We must remember Christ's Words regarding this issue:

Matthew 10:28

²⁸And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell (KJV).

Revelation 6:12–17

¹²And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;¹³And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.¹⁴And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.¹⁵And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;¹⁶And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:¹⁷For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand (KJV)?

It is important to point out here that verse seventeen is a summary verse concluding what has been presented in the first six seals. That is the wrath of God. The wrath of God does not start with verse seventeen and continue from there.

The bold and underlined verb is what grammarians call a historical present; this is a verb in the present tense-form that is describing a past action. John the Apostle use this break from normal usage to help the reader or hearer slow down and get ready for some important piece of information. We do this as English speakers when we tell stories and want to emphasize something important. So, Why, does John use this tense-form? He is grabbing our attention to the tragic truth that those who are going through this judgment scene of all six seals would rather run and hide, or die from being crushed by rocks or mountains, than face the wrath of the Lamb. This is a direct quote from the experiencers of the terrible events. Then in vs 17, the explanation comes with a subordinate clause, because the great day of the wrath of them came, and as a result who is able to stand? This is a rhetorical question playing off of the falling down of the rocks on the people. The answer is no one. It does not seem possible that this could be the church because

Jesus took the punishment for all our sins, past, present, and future (Colossians 2:13-14; Hebrews 10:12–14). Finally, the first six seals culminate with the Greek expression in verse 17 as *came* or the seals are the great day of they (Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb) who are bringing their wrath on this earth.¹

Other examples of the Bible using this *came or is come* as a summary of events preceding it are as follows:

Luke 10:11

*Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God **is come** nigh unto you (ASV, 1901).*

Jesus who came to the people says that He *is come*, past tense summarizing His appearances.

Luke 11:20

*But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God **is come** upon you (ASV, 1901).*

Jesus cast out demons in the past tense and summarizes the preceding events with a summary statement of *is come*.

Romans 11:11

*I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation **is come** unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy (ASV, 1901).*

Salvation, past tense, *is come* to the Gentiles.

2 John 1:7

*For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ **is come** in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist (ASV, 1901).*

Each series of judgments ends with convulsions of nature and the sixth seal ends the first series of judgments with nature convulsing. It starts with an earthquake then that is followed by a blackout of the sun and the moon. This is followed by a meteor shower. The Bible speaks of five blackouts during the end times and this is the second. The first is prophesied by Joel to occur sometime prior to the Great Tribulation. (Joel 2:31) It will have the same characteristics as the blackout, which happened while Christ, was on the cross.

Anarchy begins as men begin to flee from God's wrath rather than turn to Him in faith. Some simply will not be saved. Some refuse no matter how strong the evidence is. The unbelievers clearly realize that this is the wrath of God being poured out. The wrath of God does not start with the sixth seal it is being recognized as such by unbelievers at this time.

¹ Peters, Jason MDIV, MATS, Masters New Testament Greek, Adjunct Professor - Grace Bible Seminary, Scofield Biblical Institute.

We have progressed in our study of The Revelation of Jesus the Christ to the point where the first through the sixth seals of seven on the Scroll have occurred. Christ is in the process of taking back the title of the earth through the Great Tribulation. We saw that the three reasons for the Tribulation are:

To make an end of wickedness and wicked ones. (sin and sinfulness)
To break the will of the Jewish people and have them turn to Christ
To bring about the final worldwide evangelization.

The antichrist has entered the scene taking peace from the earth with his conquering. The economy has been severely disrupted causing famine and disease. The martyrs who died during the beginning of the Tribulation cry out to God for vengeance. White robes were given to them and they were told to wait until the rest of the people who will become believers during the Tribulation should die as they have. Finally, during the sixth seal judgment the earth is in chaos due to blackouts, earthquakes, and meteor showers. The sixth seal judgment ends with the heaven rolling up like a scroll and unsaved men speaking to rocks requesting them to fall on them so as to avoid God's wrath.

One of the reasons that God gave us the book of Revelation is to codify and arrange all the Old Testament prophecies into a chronological order, which reveals the order of the end time events. They are put into a systematic arrangement in this book whereas in the OT they are scattered throughout the thirty-nine books in the Old Testament. There are at least 550 direct references or allusions to prophetic passages in the Old Testament within the first twenty chapters of the Revelation. The only real new material about the Tribulation and Kingdom, if you will, in the Revelation is chapters 21 and 22. We learn there about Christ's second coming, the establishment, after the Tribulation and duration of the Kingdom 1000 years, and the establishment of the Eternal Order.

Israel is the centerpiece of the Old Testament (The apple of God's eye even through apostate) and is to be brought back to God during the Tribulation. They are about to be instrumental in the greatest evangelistic effort the world has ever seen under the most stressful conditions that have ever been on the earth.

NEXT WEEK: REVELATION MSG. XX

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS

The musical score is arranged in three systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and accidentals. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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