

Study Notes – Revelation 6

Yeshua initiates the 70th week of Daniel by breaking open the 1st seal. This is for Israel's salvation (Rom 11:26-29) and to test "earth dwellers" (Rev 3:10-11) Dan 9:26-27) Note: Chapter 6 -22 follows chronologically.

Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

Revelation 6:1 ¹Then I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!"

- ✓ Then – indicates a progressive order of events. As each seal is opened a new judgement comes upon the earth.
- ✓ voice like thunder – let the judgements begin!
- ✓ Come – erchomai (grk): to come, to go, a command.

6:2 ²I looked, and behold, there was a white horse. The one riding on it had a bow, and a crown was given to him. He went out as a conqueror so he might conquer. **Note: 1st seal introduces the antichrist.**

- ✓ white horse – Peace; he comes under the pretense of bringing peace to a shaken world. He will negotiate a covenant/treaty with Israel that allows their Temple to be built in Jerusalem – it is for 7 years. (Dan 9:27)
 - He is victorious in all his political endeavors.
 - He is given a crown (stephanos, grk): a position of great authority, triumph, a victor. Dan 7: 24-25
 - He will be charismatic leader able to solve issues no one else has been able to do.
- ✓ a bow – no arrows; strength. No arrows mean he is gaining in popularity as a world leader without war at this time, using intrigue & deception. He is a conqueror, a political savior of the world gone crazy.
 - Antiochus Epiphanes is a foreshadow. Dan 11:21-35 (verse 36 begins antichrist prophesy).
 - He will break the 7 year treaty with Israel at the mid mark of 3.5 years and wage war against the Jews. Dan 9:27, Rev 13, Matt 24:15-25 (Matt 24 was written for the Jews)
 - God has specific purposes for bring the antichrist onto the world scene:
 - Punish Israel for rejecting her Messiah. John 5:43
 - Repentance of Israel; he plays a major role in shattering their rebellion. Dan 12:7
 - Judgement of the Earth Dwellers.
 - Expose Earth Dwellers unbelief. The antichrist will be permitted to claim to be God and they will worship him.

6:3-4 ³When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come!" ⁴Then another horse came out, fiery red. The one riding on it was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another. He was given a great sword.

- ✓ fiery red – Red Horse (purrhos-grk): fire colored like. The rider was permitted to remove peace from the earth.
- ✓ great sword – great (megas-grk): exceedingly great. Sword (machaira-grk): war judicial punishment, worldwide.
 - Humans killing each other
 - Nation against nation. Psa 2
 - Revolution, rebellion, Riots, hatred, suffering & great sorrow.

6:5-6 ⁵ When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come!" And behold, I saw a black horse. The one riding on it held a balance scale in his hand. ⁶ Then I heard something like a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius—but do no harm to the oil and wine!"

- ✓ black horse – black (melas-grk): “bad”, represents famine in the Bible, food shortage due to on-going wars, “of clothing used in mourning”
- ✓ balance scale – zugos (grk): pair of balances, inflation beyond reason
 - People will work all day for barely enough to stay alive.
 - 1 qt wheat for a denarius
 - 3 qts barley for a denarius (poor man’s wheat, usually fed to animals).
 - A denarius was standard daily wage for ancient laborers.
 - Food will be in short supply – barely enough to stay alive.
 - Later in the Tribulation the antichrist will require people to get the “mark” to receive food.
- ✓ do no harm to the oil and wine – Luxuries only the wealthy can afford are allowed to remain untouched for now.
 - Both oil & wine are listed among the commercial wealth of the city of Babylon at the time of its’ destruction. Rev 18:13

6:7-8 ⁷ When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the fourth living creature saying, "Come!" ⁸ Behold, I saw a horse, pale greenish gray. The name of the one riding on it was Death, and Sheol was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill by sword and by famine and by plague and by the wild beasts of the earth.

- ✓ pale greenish gray – chloros (grk): Pallor of death, sickness and devastation.
- ✓ Death – people worldwide are dying.
- ✓ Sheol was following – place of non-believers souls.
- ✓ Authority was given – given power by God & authority by Yeshua to kill over ¼ of the earth’s population – billions. Eze 5:15-17, 14:21, Amos 5:18-20
 - Sword – war
 - Hunger & starvation
 - Pestilence, Plagues
 - Wild animals
- ✓ Yeshua holds the keys to Death & Sheol (Rev 1:18) and at the end of the Millennial Kingdom will throw them into the Lake of Fire. Rev 20:13-14

6:9 ⁹ When the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those slaughtered for the sake of the word of God and for the witness they had.

- ✓ under the altar – thysiasteriou (grk): means place of sacrifice, denotes an altar for the sacrifice of victims. Ex 29:12, Lev 4:17, 8:15
 - the blood of the martyred / sacrificed saints is considered as an “offering” before God as it accumulates at the base of the altar during this time of great persecution.
 - These are a separate group of people from the “Church Age Saints”. They came to belief in Yeshua after the tribulation began and were murdered by the earth dwellers.

- ✓ Souls – psychas (grk): life, mind, soul (heb – nepes): the moving creature that has life; soul, inner person.
 - The Church Saints, including martyrs, have received their redeemed bodies at the rapture. **These martyrs have not received their resurrection bodies yet.**
- ✓ Slaughtered – spazo (grk): to butcher, violently maim, to slay, kill.
 - When peace is removed from the earth.
 - Why were they killed?
 - Word of God
 - Testimony (witness).

6:10 ¹⁰ And they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "O Sovereign Master, holy and true, how long before You judge those who dwell on the earth and avenge our blood?"

- ✓ They – They are **not** the Church age Saints, this is a different group of people in Heaven. Yeshua allowed their slaughter as a testimony of their faith to the unsaved.
- ✓ cried out – krazo (grk): to croak as a raven, scream, shriek.
- ✓ Loud – megas (grk): exceedingly great, mighty loud
- ✓ how long – despotes (grk): emphasizes His ownership of the saints, like master of slaves, ruler of household. Tts 2:9
- ✓ judge – krino (grk): decide judicially, condemn, call in question, to try, condemn, punish.
- ✓ those who dwell on the earth – Rev 3:10; the persecutors of the martyrs under the alter who currently are living on the earth at the time the seals are opened.
 - They refuse salvation
 - Persecute the Saints
 - Continue to blaspheme God in the midst of His judgements.
 - Their names are not written in the Book of Life. Rev 17:8
- ✓ Avenge – ekdikeo (grk): vindicate, retaliate, punish.
 - They are crying out for the Blood Avenger to vindicate their deaths on the Earth Dwellers.
- ✓ Blood Avenger; a person legally responsible for carrying out vengeance when a family member has been unlawfully killed or murdered. It is usually the nearest male relative of the murdered person. Mosiac Law allowed this. Num 35: 19-21, 26-27, Deut 19: 6, 11-12
 - It became the duty of the Avenger of Blood to restore justice to the family and land by pursuing & ultimately carrying out the death penalty on the one responsible. Used only in deliberate taking of an innocent life (a goel).

6:11 ¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them, and they were told to rest a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants was complete—their brothers and sisters who were to be killed as they had been.

- ✓ Rest – anapauo (grk): to refresh, to enjoy rest from labor, take ease. Rom 12:19
- ✓ Until – the blood avenger seals the fate of their murders. Martyrdom will continue until a predetermined number of their brothers & sisters (those who come to faith in Yeshua) are allowed to be killed.

Note: So far in the first 3 ½ years we have had: False Peace treaty (Temple built), war & bloodshed, famine, disease & death, and Martyrdom.

6:12 ¹² I saw when the Lamb opened the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake. The sun became as black as sackcloth made of goat's hair, and the full moon became like blood.

- ✓ Great – megas(grk): exceedingly great.
- ✓ Earthquake – seismos(grk): a shaking, shock, to move to & fro, a gale of the ground, Heaven trembling. Hag 2:6-7, Joel 2:10-12
- ✓ Sun – Helios(grk): natural light, the sun, used as a means of judgement.
- ✓ Black – melas(grk): dark like ink.
- ✓ Sackcloth – sakkos(grk): a warm material woven from goat's or camel's hair with a dark color. A goat with black hair is used, worn as garments for mourning and grief.
- ✓ full moon became like blood – selene(grk): brightness, wandering.

Note: Sun & Moon were created for signs (Gen 1:14), now symbolize the supreme authority over the world and authority at the time of the execution of divine judgement upon the nations. The darkening of the Sun and red color of the Moon may be due to the large amount of material ejected into the atmosphere from the earthquake – as from volcanos. Ps 18:8, Isa 13:13, Luk 21:25-26

6:13 ¹³ The stars of heaven fell to the earth like a fig tree drops unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.

- ✓ stars of heaven fell to the earth – asteres(grk): asteroid – meteors, a meteor shower of immense proportion.
 - A great disturbance of nature. Isa 13:9-13
 - Earth worshippers take notice: Heb 12:25-28. Put your hope in the Lord recognize the Creator and worship Him!
- ✓ like a fig tree – olunthos(grk): unripe fig which grows in winter and usually falls off in Spring.

6:14 ¹⁴ The heaven ripped apart like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from their places.

- ✓ heaven ripped apart – apechoristhe(grk): receded. Isa 34:1-4 the meaning is unexplainable. The Creator of this universe is causing an enormous and terrifying sight in the heavens (sky). It will look like the universe is coming apart.
- ✓ every mountain and island was moved – all of them, mountain & island. So great is the shaking of the earth. Such a violent shaking will create unprecedented destruction and loss of life. If mountains are moved so will all the tall buildings on the earth – calamity everywhere.

6:15 ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the military commanders and the rich and the mighty and everyone—slave and free—hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains.

- ✓ Kings – basileus(grk): King, monarch, emperor, sovereign, president.
- ✓ great men – megastanes(grk): mighty men, strong ones
 - These men don't occupy official positions of rulership or military command, but who influence & control the affairs of men from behind the screen (board rooms, golf courses, leaders of multinational corporations). Rich men.
- ✓ military commanders – chiliarchos(grk): chief captain, a commander of thousand soldiers, generals.

6:16 ¹⁶ And they tell the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb.

- ✓ They – every slave & free man. The magnitude of the disturbances coming upon the earth is so great that every human is affected.
- ✓ mountains and the rocks – hid themselves in caves; mountains (oros) and rocks (petra) – a reactionary response. A vain attempt to hide from the Almighty One who is now getting their attention, terrifying judgements.
- ✓ Fall on us – they want to die. There is no hiding place from the Omnipresent One. Job 34:22
- ✓ the One seated on the throne – thronos(grk): seat of power.
- ✓ wrath of the Lamb – orge (grk): violent passion, justifiable abhorrence, anger, indignation, vengeance.
 - Those covered by the blood of the Lamb, his bride, prior to this day are exempt. 1 Pet 1:17-19
 - With the 6th seal unbelievers are finally recognizing that wrath.
 - These cataclysmic events on earth are coming from God's wrath / judgement and from Yeshua.

6:17 ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?

- ✓ the great day of their wrath – The Day of the Lord. Isa 2:10-22, 13:6-13, 19:21, Ezk 13:59, 32:7-8, Hos 10:8, Joel 2:11, Zep 1:14-17, Mal 3:19(TLV).
 - God pours out his wrath on the Gentile nations and Israel. The world will undergo a period of unparalleled trouble.
 - The purpose is to purge the rebels and turn the remnant of Israel back to God. Jer 30:4-7 The dread of **Jacob's Trouble**.
- ✓ has come – elthen(grk): the day has already come in the opening of the 6th seal. His wrath is being poured out prior to the 7th seal, which initiates the 7 trumpet judgements.
- ✓ who is able to stand – the Earth Dwellers will continue to shake their fists at Yeshua.