

# Note

## Revelation – Part 4 of 15

### Summary

The slain Lamb proceeds to reveal two of the three series of judgment – the 7 seals and 7 trumpets – to signify Its divine authority to guide human history to its conclusion. The three series depict God's justice, the beginning of the end, and the advent of God's Kingdom.

Who can stand before the wrath of God and the Lamb? The apocalypse unfolds, every action is scaled up in its magnitude and severity in an unprecedented way; war, conquest, famine and death will cripple mankind. This time, the plagues of Egypt will be unleashed on the world. Even in the face of such adversities, like Pharaoh, the stiffened hearts of wicked man will continue to reject Christ the Lamb and martyr His faithful followers. Take heart, as the world has rejected Christ, so will it reject His followers – But those who lose life, will gain life in Him. Salvation belongs to God and the Lamb. Amen!

# Transcript

## Revelation – Part 4 of 15

We've come now to Revelation Chapter 6. In Chapter 5, we saw the whole of creation worshipping God the Father and God the Son, the Lamb. Now the Lamb has taken the scroll and is ready to unseal the scroll which contains the events leading to the end of this present world, and inauguration of a beautiful new heaven and new earth.

John hears a loud voice and the first seal was opened and John hears one of the living creature say, "Come!" and John sees a white horse coming out. He looks at the white horse which is always a symbol of a general coming, a conqueror coming, and on the horse sat someone who had a bow and a crown. It's a picture of a warrior King.

Then, the Lamb opens a second seal. He heard another voice saying "Come out!" and a red horse comes out this time. The red horse may signify blood/bloodshed. The white horse speaks of a conquering King coming and next would be bloodshed. On this red horse, he saw someone with a great sword. And the Bible goes on to say this one was "permitted" to take peace from the world. In other words, all these events are controlled by God.

Then the Lamb opens the third seal and again he shouts "Come!" Out comes a black horse and on the horse is a man with a weighing scale. And then, he hears a voice saying, "Come and buy barley at such a price. Oh, it's very expensive." So this black horse signifies food shortage/famine which is a natural result when there is chaos and war.

Then the fourth seal is broken and the voice shouts, "Come out!" This time, a pale weak horse comes out and the name of the rider is called Death. He's got nothing on him, no sword, no scale, no bow – just a name called Death. It says, following this man are graves with live people are being buried. They are dying from the sword, famine, pestilences or diseases, and even from wild beasts.

So we see these four events taking place. A warrior coming out who is allowed to make war, taking away peace from the earth. When you take away peace from the earth, there's bloodshed and nobody's planting anything. And so there is famine. Whenever there is famine, there is pestilence. And then what happens after pestilences? Even wild animals are coming out because as people die, the fields are left empty and wild beasts start coming out. He has given authority to take one quarter of the lives on earth away. Assuming there are 6 or 8 billion people, 2 billion people will die.

The events described here in the first four seals are not new. There has always been war. After war, there's bloodshed and there is famine, diseases, death from starvation, wild animals coming in. So what's new about this? The only difference is the scale of it all. Here we see one quarter of the earth is affected. In every World War a tiny fraction of the world's population dies, never 25%. The first four seals are quite easy to understand. The Bible is introducing these things telling us that in the last days there will be this intensification. There is going to be a war you've never seen before.

Then when the fifth seal is broken, John sees martyrs. People under the altar of God, a massive number of people under the altar of God and they're dressed in white and they say to God, "How long more? Why are you delaying all this? So many are being killed." And the answer is – just rest a little while. The number of martyrs is not yet complete. When the number is complete then it will stop.

You see, God allows martyrdom. It's not that God cannot control it. God is giving Christians the opportunity to be martyrs. How do you like that? The opportunity to be martyrs! We always see the opposite-God wants to protect us. But you know, God allows us to be His war heroes-to die for our faith. To die reaching out to the poor, the dying out there. Preaching the gospel to those who are probably starving and then in the process being martyred for helping and sharing the gospel. We always wonder why all these events in the last days. God is raising up heroes for His new earth.

So God says, "Wait! Wait!" and then the sixth seal is opened and a massive earthquake like never before. Earthquakes, nothing new; always been martyrs, but the numbers and the scale like never before. See, in the last days everything scales up.

If you read 2nd Timothy Chapter 3 about the signs of the last days, you will realize that actually they're just the same thing - disobedient to parents, boasters, blasphemers, but in the last days it scales up and this is the last of the last days. Everything scales up at a fierce pace. Then there's an earthquake. This is a great earthquake and it's accompanied by signs that we have never seen before. The sun turns black, a sackcloth blackened out. Then we see the moon turning red and we see the stars falling down. Meteorites have come down but the stars start falling down. Then the sky seems to be removed like a scroll being rolled back, the sky is gone. Up there, everything seems to be removed and down on the earth, the mountains and the islands start to move. It's as if there's a renovation team coming to clear all the old stuff. Imagine you have an old house and it's getting so rundown, so termite eaten, you start removing everything. The lights are turned off, and the roof is pulled off and then the walls are taken away. That's the picture of it.

Then all the people of the world, from the kings and all those mighty men and even down to the poorest men, flee from the wrath of God and the Lamb. They say, "This is the great day of the wrath of the Lamb." They realize that this is the Christ we rejected, laughed and mocked at. Now all of them run to hide in the caves of the mountains, and plead with the mountains, the rocks to fall on them, to spare them from the wrath of the Lamb.

This chapter ends with who can stand before this wrath of the Lamb. I want you to note that - "Who can stand?" A few words you would want to notice is they were permitted to take peace. The guy on the red horse was permitted to take peace from the earth. The guy on the pale horse was given authority to take one quarter of the world away. All this is controlled destruction. I hope you see here now, the beginning of the destruction of the end of the world as we know it. Nothing complicated so far in the symbols. Every symbol you've already read in the newspaper except that intensification of it.

Chapter 6 showed a huge massive destruction on the world caused by the four horsemen of the Apocalypse. One quarter of the world died during this time, many would be injured and traumatized. Chapter 6 ends with this question, "Who can stand the wrath of God?" Chapter 7 answers that question.

Chapter 7 begins by saying John saw

v1: four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth....

I think these winds are symbolic – the winds of destruction. Then he saw an angel rising from the east, holding the seal of God in his hand. This angel cried out to the four angels holding back the four winds of the earth, saying, (v3) Do not harm the earth or the sea until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.

Then John heard the number of the sealed-144,000; 12,000 from each tribe of Israel. So 12,000 from each tribe, 12 tribes equals 144,000. Again, remember the number 12 represents God's people. So in other words, the 12 tribes will be protected, sealed by God at this time.

A little bit of detail here: the 12 tribes are mentioned, the tribe of Dan, one of the original 12 tribes is missing from this. Dan had gone into severe idolatry – turned away from God. Remember, of the 12 apostles, one was also removed, Judas Iscariot. So Dan is removed from the Old Testament group, replaced; and Judas Iscariot was replaced by Matthias. So we see this interesting detail. Also, we need to realize that we thought 10 tribes of Israel have disappeared from the face of the earth. The Assyrians came in at BC seven hundred something and then 10 tribes were taken away and there is no mention of them for almost 3000 years.

What happened to these 10 tribes? We have no idea. They are called “The Lost Tribes of Israel”. We only know the tribe of Judah, that's why they're called Jews today, not Israelites anymore. We call the people Jews from the word “Judah”. But God knows, God knows who these people are. So Israel is not forgotten.

After this, he looked around and he saw another great multitude, besides the sealing of the 12,000 from each tribe. He saw a great multitude which cannot be numbered, from every nation, every color, every language of the world. But they have one thing in common, they all wore white and they had palm branches in their hands. This massive multitude which cannot be numbered, unlike the 144,000, are singing “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb! (v10)

Then John sees all the angels, probably millions of them plus the 24 elders on their throne plus the four living creatures all fall down and worship God, and all of them say, “Amen”. The group that says, “Salvation belongs to

God and the land.” and then this choir in heaven, this massive choir says, “Amen, Glory, Honor to God forever!”

Then one of the elders asks John, “Who are these people? Who are this great multitude of people? From where did they come?” John says, “You know, I don't know.” And the elder says, “From the Great Tribulation. These are those who have washed themselves white in the blood of Lamb”.

So who are these? People who died for Christ. People who trusted Christ maybe during this crisis, and then who preached Christ during this crisis, and who died for Christ during this horrible time on earth. They are martyrs. Few of them? No. These are the martyrs and the Bible here in Chapter 7 says, “which cannot be numbered.” God is allowing people to be heroes in the last days. The very thing we fear as Christians today is to die for Christ, but the greatest honor you can have is to die for Christ.

Today we fight for honors so we can be somebody in this world. We labor hard, we sacrifice. People literally sacrifice everything to be a president's scholar or a top performer in something-sports, music or whatever, to be somebody in this world. But the Bible tells us, there's another high accolade for the new earth like never before - the martyr's crown, not the president's scholarship. And so he tells us, these were martyrs during the Great Tribulation, and now they're in God's presence, waiting for the new heaven and the new earth.

We've come to Revelation Chapter 8. In the previous chapter, we saw how God had sealed His children-144,000 Israelites, and the martyrs up already with God.

Now we come to Chapter 8 and the seventh seal is opened. Remember the sixth seal was opened previously and these horrendous thing had happened, that massive earthquake and the sun darkened, the moon turned to blood and things seem to be falling down. Now the seventh seal is opened and there was silence for half an hour, almost like helping you to recover your breath. Then after 30 minutes of seeing nothing happening, John saw seven angels being given seven trumpets.

The seventh seal now opens into another set of judgments. So the first set were called “The Seven Sealed Judgments” and on the seventh when it opens, it opens up to another set called “The Seven Trumpet Judgments.”

Later, we'll see when the seventh trumpet is blown, it opens up into the seven bowl of flask judgments.

So there are three sets of seven –  
-seven sealed judgments  
-seven trumpet judgments  
-seven bowl of flask judgments

Now the question is, “Are these seven, then followed by another seven followed by another seven? Is it like in a linear thing?” If you read it carefully, you know that they're actually not linear. They are actually describing different aspects of the judgment on the earth taking place at the same time.

You will find the first set of judgments, the sealed judgments were basically man made. God allowed men to go to war and to slaughter one and another, so that was really man-made but there was another aspect during this time. In the trumpet judgment, it was not man-made, but God sent it directly, as you will see very soon.

While all of the war was going on, other things were also happening. The seven trumpet judgments were not following the war, it could be during, sometime during this war these things were also happening. So we are seeing from another angle. God doing certain things in the seven seal, men were doing to each other war, fighting each other, but God was also doing something.

Let's look at it and try to understand. In other words, the catastrophes are more than we can think at one time. Can you imagine, God just describes, while there's war, there's this happening, we'll be all confused. So in the seventh seal, what we see is quite straightforward – the four horsemen, the Apocalypse, typical war. Hope my mind can still grasp it. Then now he puts on an overlay to what's happening on the earth. Something's happening from God. He is throwing things down from heaven, so to speak.

Let's look at this. In chapter 8, it says there was quiet for 30 minutes and then he saw seven angels being given seven trumpets. But before they could blow, he saw another angel who was given an incense burner. Priest had an incense burner, kind of something that a container there and they put incense into the container part. And he was given an incense burner with lots of incense. And this angel went up and offered the incense on the

altar because incense rises up to God. Then after he offered up this incense, he took fire from the altar and then he threw it on the earth from heaven. Then there were lightnings, thunders, and an earthquake. This is always how God introduces His presence. In other words, God is also involved, not just conquerors are fighting each other and killing each other. This is also God's war against this present evil world. And then after the fire is thrown down, the lightning, the thunder, the second set of divine judgments called "The Trumpet Judgments" begins.

John hears the first trumpet being blown by the angel and hail and fire, mingled with blood were cast down on the earth. Remember, during Pharaoh's time in Egypt when Pharaoh was hardened? Same thing on a bigger scale. That was in Egypt. Now, it's the world.

Remember in Chapter 6, once the sixth seal was opened, there was massive earthquake, the sun became dark, the moon became bloody, the stars started to fall, the earth, mountains moved, island shook. You thought people will repent but many were still stubborn just like Pharaoh, refused to accept. They say, this is just war, it's just earthquakes, it's some natural calamity, this is climate change. They refuse to accept God.

So God now is dealing with them as He dealt with a hardened, stubborn Pharaoh who refused to acknowledge that it was God. So God sends hail, fire mingled with blood and one third of the earth, trees and grass burned up, hailstones with fire. Egypt was ravaged. This time the world is ravaged.

Then the second angel blew his trumpet and John saw a great mountain on fire thrown into the sea, and one-third of the sea became blood. One third of all the creatures in the sea died, and one third of all the ships were destroyed by this catastrophe in the sea. The Nile River was turned to blood, the fish died but that was only one river.

Then the third trumpet sounded, and a great star fell on the rivers and all the water sources – springs, reservoirs, the lakes, and the fresh water became bitter and poisonous, and whoever drank died.

Then the fourth trumpet was blown, and the lights of one third of the sun, one third of the moon, and one third of the stars go out. It's as if the electricity was shut down, turning off the lights around. So while the war was going on, I don't know at which point of this massive catastrophe, God was getting rid of the evil world.



These ones, given thousands of years, and thousands of opportunities to acknowledge they are sinners, acknowledge there is a Creator, acknowledge they are responsible to a Creator but they would not. So God allowed those wars and in the midst of it, as they keep hardening their hearts, God not only removes the evil people, He removes the messed up world that this evil people had destroyed.

Today, people talk about Mother Nature, not Father God. We need to take care of Mother Earth but yet the world's rivers, seas, farmlands, are more polluted than ever. So what do you do with these places? It's just rundown after thousands of years of abuse. What is God going to do with it? He is going to remove it. It's like a house so termite-eaten, so rotten, instead of trying to renovate it, you totally demolish it; and this is what God is doing.

So we're seeing all these things in Revelation. We're actually not seeing it as if it's something new. Nothing here is new. It's already read in the Bible or we've seen it in life. It's just the scale of it. Many people will say you cannot understand Revelation. It's understandable, it's not that complicated. I hope that you will see all these things and just take it at face value as you read it. If you can understand the Exodus story, why can't you understand this story? It's just a bigger scale.

You know there was a World War One, World War Two; why can't you see a world war three or five. The devil wants you to think the book of Revelation is a big mystery. It is not. It is quite simple. Finally John sees an eagle flying with a loud voice saying, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth...." (v13). There are three more woes coming. We had only 4 here. Three more are coming, the 7 trumpets destructions of the earth.