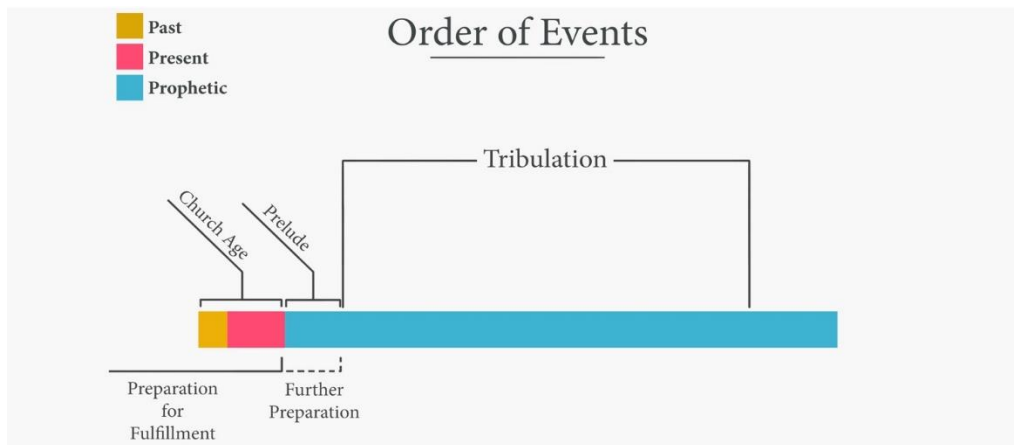


Revelation 5 – The Opening Of The Scroll By The Lord



Rev.5:1-2: *“Then I saw in the right hand of Him Who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a might angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”*

** Identity Of The Seven-Sealed Scroll:

- A seal denotes authority, confirmation, ownership, evidence, or security. Here it denotes ownership and security. To unravel the scroll, the seals must be broken.
- In John’s day, a scroll was rolled up a little, sealed, rolled a little more, sealed, and so on. Thus, when a seal was broken, the scrolled unrolled to the next seal.
- What is this scroll or book? Here are some thoughts:
 - A) The title deed to the earth (most common view)
 - B) Book of the New Covenant
 - C) Book of judgment
 - D) God’s counsel and purpose for the world
 - E) A testament of God concerning the promise of the future kingdom.
 - F) An unfolding of church history – similar to letter D

Vss. 5-6: *“And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that He can open the scroll and its seven seals. And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”*

- Vs. 5 is an obvious reference to Christ. He has conquered death, hell, the enemy, and sin. He is the Lion (power, strength) from the tribe of Judah and from the line of David (Isa. 11:1,10).
- The title “Lamb” is found 26x in Revelation and refers to Christ. He died a violent death to bring us salvation. That is seen in the word “slain.” See Heb. 7-10.

- The “seven horns” speak of Christ’s power and strength (1 Kings 11:11; Dan. 7:24; Rev. 13:1). The idea of rulership and authority are seen in this.
- The “seven spirits” we saw last week. It could refer to the complete work of the Holy Spirit, His work with Christ (Isa. 11), and God’s Omniscience and Omnipresence. The Lord knows all and is everywhere.
- Note the song of redemption sung and words of praise in Rev. 5:8-14.

The Seal Judgments Of Revelation 6

**** The judgments we are going to see in Revelation are sequential.** First, the seal judgments. Next, the trumpet judgments. And then, the bowl judgments. Here is why I favor this view:

- A) The contents of the judgments are not parallel.
- B) The seventh seal introduces/contains the seven trumpets.
- C) The interlude between the sixth and seventh seal and sixth and seventh trumpet are different.
- D) The seven bowls are called the seven last plagues.
- E) The seventh bowl is introduced with the words, “It is done.”

**** The following chart shows the parallel between Revelation 6 and Matthew 24:**

The Olivet Discourse and the First 6 Seals

Olivet Discourse		The First 6 Seals	
24:4-5	False Christs	6:1-2	White Horse
24:6-7	War	6:3-4	Red Horse
24:7	Famine	6:5-6	Black Horse
24:9	Death	6:7-8	Pale Horse
24:9-13	Martyrdom	6:9-11	5th Seal
Luke 21:11	Signs	6:12-17	6th Seal

Vss.1-2: *“Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals...And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.”*

- I do not believe it is Christ. He will return in Rev. 19:11-14 with His saints. Christ has a sword, not a bow. Christ wears many crowns, not just one. Plus, the Greek word that describes the crowns of Christ is different than here in vs. 2.
- When the Lord returns, that is it. No more judgments on the earth.

- Who is the rider on the white horse? A bow without an arrow indicates peace. His conquering would be by peaceful means (Rev. 13:4). He makes peace with Israel through a covenant (Dan. 9:27), through diplomacy. This most likely refers to the Antichrist.
- Others think it is the Gospel message being preached or imperialism, desire of man for power.

Vss. 3-4: *“When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.”*

- This may be Mt. 24:6-9 where we read of “wars and rumors of wars.”
- The rider is the picture of wars on the earth (Zech. 1:8; Zech. 6:2).
- There is a brief time of peace (first seal) on the earth and then peace is gone.
- Red often refers to war and bloodshed (2 Kings 3:22; Nah. 2:3).

Vss. 5-6: *“When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard what seemed to be 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, and do not harm the oil and wine.”*

- This deals with the scarcity of goods on earth. This is famine, hyperinflation. See Mt. 24:7. This include financial recession, a financial depression.
- Note the scales. God expects honesty in judgment and weighing (Pr. 16:11). Food will be rationed.
- Black designates death, famine, and mourning (Lam. 4:8-9; Jer. 4:28). Note the famine follows war.
- One denarius was a day’s wage. Note that to buy food to live on it will take a day’s earnings. A quart of wheat is what was needed for one day or enough barley to feed three people for a day.
- In Christ’s day, a denarius would buy 8 measures of wheat and 24 of barley. In the tribulation, only 1/8 of these will be available.

Vss. 7-8: *“When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider’s name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and famine, and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.”*

- Notice that one quarter of the earth’s inhabitants are killed. The sword may represent death by war, hunger, beasts, and death in general.
- Matt. 24:7 talks about pestilences and earthquakes.
- Hades is walking behind the writer and taking people to Hades as they die.
- Pestilence and plagues follow famine (Jer. 14:12; Eze. 5:17).

- There are various views on who the wild beasts are. One thought is animals going crazy. Some see this as the diseases that come from animals. Some think it refers to military/political rulers.
- In Revelation, the word for “beast” is used to describe the antichrist with the exception of Rev. 6:8. That is why some see this as a military/political ruler.
- Note the words of praise the elders bring to the One on the throne (vs. 11). He is worthy to receive glory, honor, and power because He is the Creator of all things. All things exist only because of the will of God.

Practical Application:

- Note that God is in control. Jesus is the One unrolling the scroll. These judgments are coming from God. He is total control of what is happening.
- As we read of the future judgments on the world, it should move us to pray for the lost world and share the hope that Christ offers.
- No matter our view on the rapture of the church, Revelation should, as part of God’s Word, challenge us as followers of Christ to be holy in all we say and do so we can be salt and light in the world around us (Matt. 5:13-16).