

PRELUDE TO WAR

Revelation 6:1-17

Introduction:

- A. Keep in mind that the seven sealed book contains the battle plans for the war to end all wars.
- B. The time has come to open the seven sealed book; when all have been opened and fulfilled, the Little Lamb of God will have completed His work and shall be seated upon His throne ruling over His redeemed creation.
- C. It needs to be noted that God uses His creatures and His creation to accomplish His purpose in bringing about a victory over this rebellious world of mankind that has so corrupted His creation that it has become an unbearable stench in His nostrils.
- D. Also, we must take note that many things shall be going on at the same time. The activity of one seal does not begin and end before another is opened. Like a seven ring circus, the action of the first act may be continuing even as the seventh act begins. Also, the action will much like the old movies revealed the story being played out with the words “Meanwhile, back at the ranch.”
- E. BEFORE looking to the opening of the seven sealed book, it seems wise to review some things leading up to this event.
- F. We must review God’s dealing with man if we are to understand much about this most intriguing book.
- G. Chapters 2 and 3 covered the 2000 years of the Church Age – the time when the church institution served as God’s Kingdom witness to the world. Chapter 3 ended with the church of the Laodiceans revealing the church institution failing God.
- H. In chapter 4 the scene shifts to heaven and God’s throne room which shall be in charge of the last great conflict to end all wars. I have called it the Command Headquarters.
- I. It seems that the shift back to the heavenly abode of God from which the earthly tabernacle was patterned that God has turned His primary interest to reclaiming His blighted creation to include His covenanted people – Israel. Romans chapter 11 foretold this being done.
- J. God’s kingdom business had been given to the Jews when she was called out of the bondage in Egypt. God made a covenant with them based on the blood of the Lamb of God – Jesus Christ.
- K. Matthew 21:33-45 records Jesus Christ as declaring that God was taking this kingdom business from the Jews and giving it to His church.
- L. The Prophet Daniel wrote about the time of our present lesson – the opening of the seals of the seven sealed book. The Book of Daniel is the Old Testament companion to the Book of Revelation.
- M. Daniel 9:24-27 outlines God’s dealing with Israel in the city of Jerusalem – including the crucifixion of Jesus, the destruction of Jerusalem and the desolation determined against Israel and prosecuted against Israel by the people of the prince that shall come.
- N. This prince shall confirm a covenant of peace with Israel for a week (seven years) and in the middle of the week (3 ½ years) he shall break the covenant. Daniel 11:21, 24 reveals this prince to be a vile person who shall come in peaceably and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

- O. Now, as we turn our attention to what is revealed in chapter 6, we need to keep in mind that the Lord God uses His creatures to accomplish His purpose. As He used Nebuchadnezzar as His servant, He will use the Antichrist.

I. LEARN HOW THE OPENING OF THE FIRST SEAL FULFILLS THE PROPHECY OF DANIEL CONCERNING THE END.

Daniel 9:26, 27

- A. The people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. This prince is the antichrist.
- B. He shall confirm a covenant with the Jews for one week of years – seven years. This shall be a time of peace.
- C. The white horse rider has a bow but no arrows which signify peace established by a person of war.
- D. In the middle of the week this antichrist prince shall break the covenant and begin a reign of horror.

II. LEARN HOW THE OPENING OF SEALS 2 THROUGH 6 FULFILL THE PROPHECY OF OUR LORD CONCERNING THE END.

- A. Verse 3 records the opening of the second seal and reveals a RED horse rider that takes peace from the earth. Jesus spoke of this in Matthew 24:6, 7 *And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars and nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.*
- B. Verse 5 records the opening of the third seal and reveals a BLACK horse rider with a pair of balances in his hand which speaks of the high cost of food for the general public – a day's wages will only buy food for one person. And at the same time the rich shall continue to eat well. Matthew 24:7 Jesus prophesied of famines.
- C. Verses 7 and 8 record the opening of the fourth seal which reveals a PALE horse rider whose name was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth of the earth – to kill in many ways. Jesus prophesied of famines and pestilences and fearful things.
- D. Verse 12 records the opening of the sixth seal which reveals the great power of the Antichrist in relation to the created universe vs. 12-14. Jesus prophesied of this as recorded in Matthew 24:29; Mark 13:24, 25 and Luke 21:25, 26.
- E. Verses 15 and 16 record the action and the language of the people on earth. They think of this as the wrath of God. God's permissive will permits all this to take place, but it is not God's work. It is the work of the antichrist. God's wrath is yet to come.

III. LEARN WHAT IS REVEALED BY THE OPENING OF THE FIFTH SEAL.

- A. The opening of the fifth seal reveals the souls of them who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held safely under the altar of God – that is in paradise.
- B. It reveals them still crying for God to avenge their blood on them on the earth.
- C. It also reveals these being given white robes and informed that they were to rest for a little season.
- D. It also reveals that these in paradise still have fellowservants and brethren on the earth who will be killed as they had been killed.

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. All this is a prelude to THE WAR that shall end all wars.**
- B. God's people shall still be living on the earth when the antichrist is permitted to exercise his power over the physical creation and the people who live here.**
- C. The rapture has not come and we yet have time to prepare for the coming of our Lord.**
- D. Will you be taken up? Only if you have repented of your sin and trusted the saving of your soul to Jesus Christ.**
- E. Will you be ashamed before Him at His coming? That depends on how dedicated you are to living your life in harmony to His expressed will.**

