

Revelation 6:1-17

Sovereign Lord, Holy and True, How Long Before You Will Judge and Avenge our Blood

Matthew 24:3-42

Signs of the End of the Age

*3 As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" 4 And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. (These appear like the 1<sup>st</sup> four seals)*

*9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. 15 "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, 18 and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. 19 And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! 20 Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. 22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. 23 Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. 24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. (These look like the 5<sup>th</sup> seal) 25 See, I have told you beforehand. 26 So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. 27 For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28 Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.*

The Coming of the Son of Man

*29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other..... (These look like the 6<sup>th</sup> seal)*

No One Knows That Day and Hour

*36 "But concerning that day and hour **no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.** 37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. 42 Therefore, **stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.***

Gather ~ Praise ~ Pray ~ Grow ~ Serve

**What does it mean to “stay awake”? Jesus tells His disciples this before He goes to heaven. Jesus opens the seals, and all of this will happen. To stay awake means to trust in Jesus now; it means to tell others about Jesus now; it means to stand firm in your faith in Jesus until He comes back!**

**Jesus is the only one worthy to open the scrolls. It appears that there are seven visions.**

- 1. These visions are what Jesus uses to bring His enemies to justice seals 1-4**
- 2. His righteous wrath seals 5-7**
- 3. Judgement at histories end seal 6**

Some say that the opening of the 1<sup>st</sup> seal starts the great tribulation. (I honestly don't know)

**Vs 1-2** The rider of the white horse has a bow and crown. He is sent to conquer.

All of this is under Jesus' power and command.

This powerful horse and rider come to conquer.

**Vs 3-4** The second rider is on a red horse. This rider will take away peace.

This rider is given a great sword, but it is the people who will fight and war against each other.

In times where we are being conquered, or in a time of war where we are unsafe or scared for our lives, Christians have two (2) options. (1) They can seek God and live for Him, (2) or they can be hopeless killers.

**When things get very tough in your life, or in your world, how do you respond? Do you seek Jesus, trust in Jesus, and tell people about Jesus, or do you get angry, scared and seek revenge?**

**As Christians we are told that Christ is coming back for His people, and He will establish a new kingdom in heaven for us for eternity. We must suffer in a way that people will see Christ! We must keep our faith!**

**Vs 5-6** When the third seal is opened, a black horse comes and its rider has scales in his hand. These scales measure grains and their prices. Prices will go way up.

This could mean war increases the prices of food and necessities.

**Vs 7-8** A pale horse comes and its rider was Death and hades followed him. God gives them authority to kill 25% with sword, with famine, and with pests and beasts.

**This is judgement, but it is also meant to turn people to the Lord. When things are perfect, we get prideful and lazy. When things are bad, we seek out a Savior. Are you lazy now or seeking Jesus?**

**Vs 9-11** God knows that there will be people who live for Him, and they will suffer for their faith and life in Jesus. Though we mourn those, God is just and He will divinely punish those who kill Christians.

**We do not need to get revenge on those who rage against God and His people. God has this. We need to live Jesus and preach Jesus. God uses these sensitive times to save some!**

As Christians who know and care about right and wrong, it is okay to yearn for justice. God will bring it.

God already knows the number of those who will fall for the name of Jesus. Then God will bring justice.

**Vs 12-17** Once all the martyrs have died for their faith in Jesus, there will be such a horrific and scary time where the earth trembles and crumbles that all who inhabit the earth seek refuge. The earth will be destroyed, and for those who are living in it, it will be very scary.

All rebellious humanity whether powerful or ordinary, rich or poor, slave or free, who have not turned to Christ will seek cover from the Triune God.

HIDE US FROM THE FACE OF HIM WHO IS SEATED ON THE THRONE.... THE LION OF JUDAH AND THE LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN. JESUS!

**Christian, stand firm in Jesus and wait for Jesus!**

**Galatians 5:1** *For freedom Christ has set us free; **stand firm** therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.*

**Philippians 4:1** *Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, **stand firm** thus in the Lord, my beloved.*

**2 Thessalonians 2:15** *So then, brothers, **stand firm** and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter*

**2 Corinthians 1:24** *Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you **stand firm in your faith.***

**Ephesians 6:13** *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand firm.** 14 Stand therefore*

1. **God promises to deliver and avenge His people.**
2. **Life is hard, but if we trust in Jesus, He will deliver us.**
3. **Christians need to endure even in hard times until Jesus comes to rescue us.**
4. **If you are living for the world or a false God, you should turn to Jesus now.**
5. **If someone mocks, kills, or persecutes Christians, there will be scary powerful justice and judgement!**