

As we begin Chapter 6 the future is being unfolded and revealed... things that had been kept secret.

'Eye has not seen, nor e ar heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.' 1 Cor 2:9

'The secret *things belong* to the LORD our God, but those *things which are* revealed *belong* to us and to our children forever...' Duet 29:29

Those things which are **revealed**... this whole book is called **the revealing... the revelation**. None of this is too hard to understand because **He is revealing it to us**.

Satan has tried to keep these things hidden; he's the one who has convinced these many generations that it's all too much to understand... allegories, symbols, beasts and dragons... just too much for our little minds to understand... we must have a prophecy teacher... a pastor... a theologian... anyone but the Holy Spirit in us.

We've talked about, 'Set your mind on the things above...' using our imagination... letting God's Spirit reveal to us things that are hidden to those unwilling to think on these things...

For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.' 1 Cor 2

We have the mind of Christ... and here it is... Christ... the Lord Jesus Christ revealing these things to John... and to us. John is not revealing this to us... the Lord Jesus Christ Himself... by His Holy Spirit is revealing them to us now.

Here's our background history up until Chapter 6... five things have just happened...

1. the Great Apostasy... the turning away from truth within the Church...
2. the brief 'war' of Ezekiel 38-39... where God destroys, on the mountains of Northern Israel, an invading force of Russia, Iran, Turkey and several other Muslim nations...
3. the 'revealing' of Antichrist... his revealing... his appearance, not his full coming to power...
4. the Rapture...
5. the Holy Spirit has removed His restraint of evil...

And all of these are set up... ready to happen... right now.

The Apostasy in the Church has been going full bore for many years.

Russia, Iran, Turkey and others are camped across the border from Israel right now.

The Antichrist is probably a national leader on the world stage now.

The Rapture could happen before I finish my next sentence.

Even now we see evil abound more and more... and so much more will soon be unleashed.

Revelation Chapter 6 is ready to begin now. The only thing left to happen is for God to take His Holy Spirit out of the way. Before the Rapture, the Holy Spirit's restraint of Antichrist... His keeping him from being revealed... His restraint of the events of the Tribulation... His restraint of evil will be removed. He will be taken out of the way.

2 Thes 2... 'Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, (the Rapture) we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled... for *that Day will not come* unless the

falling away (the Apostasy) comes first and the man of sin (Antichrist) is revealed...<sup>6</sup> And now you know what is restraining (the Holy Spirit is restraining), that he (the Antichrist) may be revealed in his own time... He who now restrains (the Holy Spirit) *will do so* until He is taken out of the way.<sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one (Antichrist) will be revealed...'

Revelation chapter 6: ***'Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."'<sup>2</sup> And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.'***

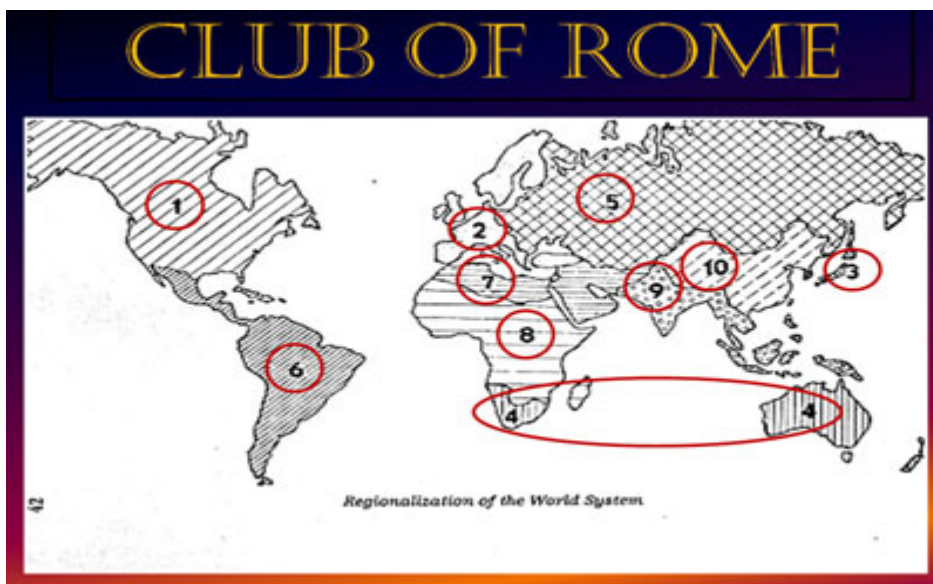
This is the Antichrist coming to power. He is riding a white horse, the symbol of a conquering general. He has a bow, but notice what is missing... no arrows. He goes out conquering and to conquer but he does it by *the threat of power, not the use of power.*

This makes sense in light of Ezekiel 38, 39... God Himself will destroy the armies of Russia, Iran, Turkey etc. on the mountains of Israel... it looks like it could involve stray nuclear weapons. The World will be in panic and turmoil. The Antichrist will claim to have been the one to rescue and protect Israel. Therefore even Israel will trust him and believe in him so as to sign a 7 year peace treaty brokered by Him.

Then he will turn his attention to the rest of Europe and conquer it by threat alone. Remember... his kingdom begins first and foremost within the old Roman Empire but eventually swallows up the entire World.

The World will be divided up into 10 super-nation states. 7 of the leaders of these areas will willingly give the Antichrist their loyalty... the other 3 will be forcibly brought under submission. We see that in Daniel.

This is set up now. The United Nations has already divided the World up into 10 super-nation states, see the map:



Paul-Henri Spaak (1899 - 1972) was a former Belgian Prime Minister and one of the principal architects of the European Union. In 1945, he was chosen to chair the first session of the General Assembly of the new United Nations and he played an influential role in preparing the 1957 Treaty of Rome which established the European Economic Community, the beginning of the European Union. He was a principal architect of the United Nations and the European Union... both of which have been groomed, from their inception, to eventually comprise the heart of the Antichrist's Earthly kingdom. Here is what he said...***"We do not want another committee, we have too many already. What we want is a man of sufficient stature to hold the allegiance of all people, and to lift us out of the economic morass into which we are sinking. Send us such a man, and be he god or devil, we will receive him."*** Most will see him as a god... few will recognize him as a devil.

Back to chapter 6... A crown is given to him. He doesn't take it... they offer it... they'll beg him to be their king. Remember from last week... in Daniel he is referred to as the 'Prince who is to come' whose 'people' are the Roman Empire.

Remember in Isaiah 14:14... Lucifer says, 'I will be like the Most High.'

This will be the Antichrist's imitation of Jesus' Triumphal Entry but he won't be rejected... in fact he will be made king of the new Roman Empire and eventually king of the World... king of kings... he will shake his fist at Heaven and cry out... 'See! I told you so!' Even Israel accepts and welcomes me... You they crucified... Not me! They welcome me! I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will be like the Most High.' He will call himself the Prince of Peace. In Dan 11:21 it says... 'but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue.' He'll use a bow without arrows. He will be a brilliant politician and military strategist. With lightning speed he will conquer all of the old Roman Empire, the European Union and move on to the United Nations. He will imitate the Lord Jesus Christ in every way he can. Eventually the World will worship him as god. But the supposed peace of his kingdom's beginning... will not last.

Second Seal: Conflict on Earth

**<sup>3</sup> When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." <sup>4</sup> Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.**

When Jesus Christ opens the Second Seal there will be resistance to the Antichrist's reign before he takes full dominion over all the Earth. Not every country will be ready yet to follow and worship him. Since the Russian and Iranian militaries were destroyed at the beginning of the Tribulation in the Ezekiel 38 war, and we're not told what has become of the United States, the next most powerful military force on the planet is... **Red** China. That might be the significance of this horse being red... or the color of blood from so many being killed. Perhaps the rider of this horse is none other than Xi Jinping, the current, most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong.

This rider is given a great weapon and he uses it. He is able to take peace from the Earth so that many are killed.

This is the time of which Jesus spoke in Matt 24... And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these *are* the **beginning** of sorrows.

Third Seal: Scarcity on Earth

<sup>5</sup> When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. <sup>6</sup> And I heard 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 the wine."

Now we are somewhere into the seven year Tribulation. The Antichrist has begun taking and consolidating power. Another powerful military force, probably Red China, resists his advance and fights back. Again... we use common sense... where else in the world is there a military powerful enough to challenge the Antichrist? We have no indication from Scripture that the US still exists as a power to oppose him.

Remember... Christians... the true Church is gone. That will have caused a greater disruption in the government of the United States than with any other nation on Earth. The US today is far from perfect and yet there are more Christians **throughout every strata** of society here than anywhere else... and when they are suddenly gone... there will be greater upheaval from the Rapture here than anywhere else. Many will come to faith in Christ, but they will be hunted, persecuted and killed... they will try to be in hiding.

What does common sense tell us will happen along with this global conflict? As armies advance, they use and eat everything in their paths like clouds of locusts; the most difficult part of waging war is keeping supply lines open from rear to front. Armies destroy houses and buildings... anywhere an enemy might hide... they move through the land... they consume and destroy, causing even more deaths to the surrounding population.

Food has become so scarce, so precious that people must pay a full day's wages for just a mason jar of wheat or 3 jars of barley, a cheaper, coarser grain... work all day just to barely have enough to eat. The wine and oil are unharmed... perhaps only those affected are the common people. The rich are still protected; the rich send regular people out to war, they send regular people out to grow the food.

#### Fourth Seal: Widespread Death on Earth

<sup>7</sup> When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

Because of conquest and war, people will die by the hundreds of millions... 1/4 of the world's population will die at this time... that will be well over one billion people... left to rot in the sun... bodies everywhere... people starving... disease, plague, wild animals eating the wounded...

Death itself is personified... roaming... followed by Hades, the place of the dead... 'Hell and Destruction are never full... Hell is never satisfied...' Prov 27, 30

Therefore Hell has enlarged itself and opened its mouth beyond measure... Isa 5:14

This is what awaits those who are not saved now... those left after the Rapture of the Church... and this is not the worst of it... as Jesus said... this is just the beginning of sorrows.

#### Fifth Seal: The Cry of the Martyrs

<sup>9</sup> When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the **souls** of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. <sup>10</sup> And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" <sup>11</sup> Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they *were*, was completed.

Many will come to faith in Christ right after the Rapture and they will be hunted down, persecuted and killed... these are the **souls** of those people.

The millions now who are being prayed for... friends, family, neighbors... as soon as the Rapture occurs... we will leave behind millions of empty homes. Others will enter our homes hunting for food, shelter, water, medicine, gasoline, guns, ammunition... anything to help them survive this time of chaos, death and destruction.

One of the things they'll find in our homes is our Bibles, Christian books... and notes that we write now... explaining the Rapture and the terrible times they'll face under the Antichrist.

Many will remember the things we said to them before we disappeared. They'll remember the things TV preachers or their own pastors said... Millions will come to faith then and they will be killed for the faith.

Notice that it says here that John saw under the altar the **souls** of those slain... not their physical bodies and not their spirits. We and all those resurrected at the Rapture will have received new, eternal, glorified bodies at the moment of the Rapture. At the moment of salvation... we received from God new, alive spirits which are one with His Spirit... that's why we can know we have eternal life, that we are born again... never to die and never to be rejected by God... His Holy Spirit lives in us, never to leave.

These people, at this time... only their souls are alive... their physical bodies have been killed and not yet resurrected... When they come to faith... God does not create in them a spirit... and they are not fully resurrected until Jesus returns to Earth at the end of the Tribulation.

We see them later in Rev 20:4... Then (after Jesus' return) *I saw* the **souls** of those (the rest of their fellow servants) who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they **lived and reigned** with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> ***But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.***

These are 'Tribulation Saints.' These are not part of the Church... they are not part of the Bride of Christ. We'll see that the Marriage of the Lamb happened just before this... just before His return to Earth, at the end of the Tribulation... at Armageddon.

These are the ones of whom Jesus said in Matt 24... 'Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. <sup>10</sup> And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. <sup>11</sup> Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold... **but he who endures to the end shall be saved.'**

These who come to faith in Christ during the Tribulation, are not born again... they don't have the assurance of salvation and eternal life as we do. **They must endure and stay strong in their faith until the end...** whether they are killed for their faith or they remain alive until Jesus' return.

Realize... our physical self... is a body. Our soul self is a body. Our spirit self is a body...

Adam had all three at the beginning, but his spirit self died when he sinned. Then, all people after that were only 2 selves... a soul self inside a physical self.

Not until Jesus' resurrection, not until He sent His Holy Spirit to live within us, the true Church, not until we are born again... do we alone, the true Church, now possess 3 parts again like Adam did at the beginning.

Paul wrote, 'And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.' 1 Thes 5:23

These here, under the altar... these are Tribulation Saints... with their bodies killed, they are only a soul self, but their souls are still bodies though not physical... they can cry out to God and say, 'How long, O Lord?' They can wear a robe... but they are not yet physical again until their resurrection at Jesus' return.

Sixth Seal: Cosmic Disturbances

<sup>12</sup> I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. <sup>13</sup> And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. <sup>14</sup> Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. <sup>15</sup> And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, <sup>16</sup> and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! <sup>17</sup> For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

A great earthquake... and perhaps nuclear detonations which cause so much fallout into the atmosphere that the Sun and Moon are darkened. God probably sends great meteor storms. People are terrified but rather than repent and turn to God in prayer... they pray to the rocks and mountains to fall on them.

Next week we'll go to chapter 7. The opening of the 7th Seal will cover the 7 Trumpet Judgments and the 7th Trumpet Judgment will include the 7 Bowl Judgments.

But first we'll examine how all of this directly corresponds with Jesus' 'Olivet Discourse' in Matt 24 and Luke 21.

The opening of the first 6 seals on the Scroll which God the Father handed to the Lord Jesus Christ have covered a panorama of the Tribulation and now He'll begin to go back and fill in details and then enter the second half... the Great Tribulation, the time of God's Wrath poured out on the Antichrist, his kingdom and on the unbelieving, Christ rejecting World. Jesus doesn't just tell us things in perfect step by step order... He combines messages... He speaks to different groups at the same time... it's only by careful examination that we begin to see who He is addressing at any given moment. Sometimes it's His disciples... sometimes it's Tribulation saints and sometimes it's the Church. We'll see some obvious clues He gives that clearly differentiate between the 3.

**So before next week... be sure to read chapter 7 and also Matthew 24 and Luke 21**