

Hoof Beats-02

THE BLESSED HOPE OF THE CHURCH: THE ANY MOMENT RAPTURE

What did those who lived in the 1st Century hear the Apostles say? Those who walked with Jesus, turned in faith and began following Him? What did the men and women of New Testament churches planted directly by Paul understand him to say when he taught them theology? They caught that he was saying Jesus is coming at any moment.

This expectancy fired the early church into a prophetic purity. Note 1 John 3:3 *And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

The purpose of prophecy is worship.

The focus of prophecy is Jesus.

The result of prophecy is purity.

Revelation 19: 10 *And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*

GOD HAS A WEEK OF PROPHETIC HISTORY LEFT FOR THE JEWS

THE EVENTS OF THE 70TH WEEK - Israel has seven years left to fulfill this prophecy, and it just so happens that the Tribulation is seven years. Verse

27 gives us some of the details of this 70th week: "And he (Antichrist) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week (here's the last week); and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate (CF. Matt. 24:15), even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate." Beloved, the 70th week of Daniel is the Tribulation. And the gap between the 69th and 70th is an undefined period of time. Now, according to verse 27, at the beginning of the Tribulation the Antichrist is going to make a covenant with Israel, and give them back their temple and their worship. But after three and one-half years, he will suddenly violate the covenant and violently persecute Israel.

THE TRIBULATION IS FOR GOD TO REGATHER AND SAVE THE JEWS NOT THE CHURCH

There are 7 reasons I believe we do not go through the Tribulation. These reasons have to do with Jewish evangelists, witnesses, temple scenes, national covenants, geography and revivals in Jerusalem. All point to Jews as God's Word focus, not us. They all have to do with the clear and constant distinction between the plan of God for Israel as compared to the church.

1. The Tribulation profiles Jewish evangelists (Revelation 7,14)
2. The Tribulation profiles Jewish Prophets or Witnesses (Zech. 3-4; Rev. 11)
3. The Tribulation profiles Jewish Temple Scenes Dan 9:27; 12:4; Mt. 24:15; II Th. 2:4; Rev. 11:1)
4. The Tribulation profiles Jewish National Covenants (Dan. 9:26; 2 Th. 2:4)
5. The Tribulation profiles Jewish Geography (Mk. 13:14)
6. The Tribulation profiles Jewish Designations (Jer. 30:7)
7. The Tribulation profiles Jewish Revivals (Zech 12:9)

WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE RAPTURE NOT THE SECOND COMING

So, 69 sevens down – one to go – the 2,000 years marks the church age – Church Age ends at Rapture, but you may ask – How can we differentiate between Second Coming/Rapture. There are eight contrasts between the two.

THE NATURE OF THE SECOND COMING – The fact that the Rapture and the Second Coming are seen as two separate events, shows that they can't be

simultaneous. This destroys the post-tribulational Rapture theory. Let's look at these differences:

- ✓ RAPTURE (I Thess. 4): The saints meet Christ in the air.
- ✓ 2ND COMING: Christ returns to earth. (Zech.)
- ✓ RAPTURE: The Mount of Olives is untouched.
- ✓ 2ND COMING: The Mount of Olives splits
- ✓ RAPTURE: Living saints are translated.
- ✓ 2ND COMING: No saints are translated.
- ✓ RAPTURE: The body goes to heaven.
- ✓ 2ND COMING: The body comes to earth.
- ✓ RAPTURE: Christ comes for His saints. (I Thess. 4)
- ✓ 2ND COMING: Christ comes with His saints. (Rev. 19)
- ✓ RAPTURE: The world is not judged and sin gets worse.
- ✓ 2ND COMING: The world is judged and sin is dealt with.
- ✓ RAPTURE: Is not preceded by detailed signs or warnings.
- ✓ 2ND COMING: Is preceded by specific detailed signs.
- ✓ RAPTURE: Concerns only the saved.
- ✓ 2nd COMING: Concerns the saved and the lost.

THE EARLY CHURCH WAS LOOKING FOR JESUS

John 14:1-3 *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

Acts 1:11 *who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*

1 Corinthians 1:7

7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Corinthians 4:5

5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Corinthians 16:22

22 If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! Aramaic Mar (Lord) ana (our) tha (come)

Philippians 3:20

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Philippians 4:5

5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

1 Thessalonians 1:10

10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 5:9

9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 What did the people who heard Paul teaching in person understand him to say? Jesus was coming any moment!

10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. 11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

Titus 2:13

13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

James 5:7-9

7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

Revelation 3:11

11 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

Revelation 22:7

7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Revelation 22:12

12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

Revelation 22:20

20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

THE BEGINNING OF THE TRIBULATION

(Matt. 24:4–14)

The events described in this section are “the beginning of birth-pangs” (Matt. 24:8). The image of a woman in travail is a picture of the Tribulation period (Isa. 13:6–11; 1 Thes. 5:5). Let’s consider some of the significant events that will occur at the beginning of this period.

- ✓ *GLOBAL FALSE TEACHING* (vv. 4–5). The Jews have often been led astray by false prophets and false christs. The rider on the white horse in Revelation 6:1–2 is the Antichrist, that final world dictator who will lead the nations astray. He will begin his career as a peacemaker, signing a covenant with Israel to protect her from her enemies (Dan. 9:27). Israel will welcome this man as their great benefactor (John 5:43).
- ✓ *GLOBAL WARFARE* (v. 6). Note that wars are not a sign of the end. There have always been wars in the world, and will be until the very end. Wars of themselves do not announce the end of the age or the coming of the Lord.
- ✓ *GLOBAL FAMINES* (v. 7a). War and famine usually go together. Revelation 6:6 suggests terribly high prices for staple foods, for a “penny” was a day’s wages.
- ✓ *GLOBAL EPIDEMICS* (vv. 7b-8). Earthquakes help to create famines, and both help to cause epidemics that take many lives.
- ✓ *GLOBAL PERSECUTIONS* (v. 9). Christians have always been hated by the world, but here we have an acceleration of persecutions and murders. All nations will be involved. This certainly was not true in the history of the early church.
- ✓ *GLOBAL CHAOS* (vv. 10–13). Those who once were true to each other will betray each other. This suggests that marriages, homes, and nations will be torn asunder because of lack of loyalty. Lawlessness will abound (Matt. 24:12), for even the law enforcement agencies will not be able to keep the peace.
- ✓ Matthew 24:13 has nothing to do with personal salvation in this present age of grace. “The end” does not mean the end of this life; it refers to the end of the age (Matt. 24:14). Those believers on earth during this terrible period, who endure in their faith, will be saved when the Lord comes at the end and delivers them.
- ✓ *GLOBAL EVANGELISM* (v. 14). Revelation 7:1–8 teaches that God will choose and seal 144,000 Jewish evangelists who will carry the kingdom message to the ends of the earth. This verse does not teach that the Gospel of God’s grace must be spread to every nation today before Jesus

can return for His church. It is the Lord's return *at the end of the age* that is in view here.

The greatest mystery in the world today is the patience of God in allowing sin to run ravagingly through this world.

- ✓ There is no village or town without its seething, and there is no human heart without its caliginous, black drop.
- ✓ There is no life without its tears and its sorrows.
- ✓ There is no home that ultimately does not break up, and there is no family that does not see the circle of the home dissolve in the depths of the grave.
- ✓ There is no life that does not end in the grave.
- ✓ The pages of history, from the time of the first murder until this present hour, are written in blood, tears and death.

Why God delays in taking, the kingdom unto Himself. That is the most inexplicable mystery that mind could dream of, the mystery of the presence of evil. For these thousands of years, God has allowed Satan to wrap his vicious, slimy, filthy, cruel tentacles around human life and around this earth. Does God know it? Is He indifferent to it? Is He not able to cope with it? Oh, the mystery of the delay of God!

- ✓ That mystery has brought more stumbling to the faith of God's people than any other experience in all life. The infidel, the atheist, the agnostic and the unbeliever laugh and mock us, and God lets them mock and laugh.
- ✓ Our missionaries are slain, our churches are burned to the ground, people in this earth by uncounted millions and millions are oppressed, living in despair, and God just looks. He seemingly does not intervene; He does not say anything, and He does not move. Sin just develops. It goes on and on. Oh, the mystery of the delay of the Lord God!

But somewhere beyond the starry sky there stands a herald angel with a trumpet in his hand, and by the decree of the Lord God Almighty, there is a day, there is an hour, there is a moment, there is an elected time when the angel shall sound and the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our God and of His Christ." ¹

Open with me to that moment when the trumpet sounds and the Lord takes back His world:

¹ Adapted from W. A. Criswell, *Expository Sermons on Revelation* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1961-66), p. 190. Used by permission,

PLEASE STAND AND LISTEN TO REVELATION 6
AS I READ IT TO YOU!

This chapter opens the Tribulation, the first step in Christ's taking back the earth, which is rightfully His. One by one Christ unrolls the seals. As each seal is broken, He takes further possession and control of His inheritance. Finally, "the seventh angel sounded; and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever'" (11:15). When He unrolls the seventh seal and the seventh trumpet blows, the earth is His.²

Walk with me through the pages of Revelation chapters six, eight, nine, and sixteen. Briefly, may I describe the living hell you can avoid if you are a part of the Rapture. Here are only a few of the dreadful disasters that take place during the Tribulation:

1. One out of every four people will die (see Rev. 6:8), some through the ravages of war, others by starvation, and amazingly many others by the 'beasts of the earth'. So, whether by death that come instantly and thus less dreaded or a slow and painful death that is lingering and agonizing- 25 percent of all people will die. The world's population was 5,733,687,096 in 1995, so that means at least 1,433,421,774 will die. That amounts to just about five times the current population of the United States-can you imagine that? And remember that the population of the world is doubling every 39.5 years. So every day the number of people who will die becomes larger and larger.
2. One third of all vegetation will be burned up. All grass, every tree, everything green will be destroyed (see Rev. 8:7).
3. The sun and the moon will be darkened as nature goes into revolt (see Rev. 8:12).
4. The gates of hell will open and hordes of locusts, the size of horses, will come upon the earth. Those locusts will be allowed to sting men like scorpions and the pain will last for five months. The Bible says men will beg God to let them die but they will not die (see Rev. 9:3-6).
5. There will be worldwide famine unlike anything the world has ever seen (see Rev. 18:8).
6. There will be a world war so bloody that the blood of those killed in battle will flow for two hundred miles up to the bridle of a horse in the valley of Jezreel. This will be the Battle of Armageddon (see Rev. 14:20).
7. All told, during the Great Tribulation, as many as half of all the people on the earth will be killed. Now do you see why God refers to the Rapture as a 'blessed hope'? Because the Tribulation to come is so horrible!

²MacArthur, John F., *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*, (Chicago: Moody Press) 1983.

But that means we are gone and will escape everything, right? Yes, exactly, we will miss every part of the TRIBULATION, but we will probably go through some of the worst days we have ever seen before it starts. Take for instance the following scenario:

What will this be like on earth. Have you ever thought about it? In Revelation 18: 23 we find some amazing words: "The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore . . . In 20th century terms, this verse says the power grid is shut down. It says no power, no electricity, no technology that uses There is a day in the very near future when we may all get to see just how much we have come to depend upon computers, electricity, technology and conveniences. The question is, are you ready for the lights to go out? When the power goes off, how well will you survive? From the newspapers and news magazines of America (like the NY Times, LA Times, Chicago Tribune, Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, Time, and so on) let me read you these lines. You can quietly answer them in your mind.

Well, back to Revelation 6 and the times that are so bad no one could survive if God didn't shorten it.

REVELATION 6 THE FIRST SIX SEALS OPENED

JESUS' DESCRIPTION of the Tribulation in (Matt. 24: 3-34) exactly parallels the seals of Rev. 6!

SEAL #1 FALSE PEACE (vv. 1-2)

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."2 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.

- ✓ Without Jesus the WAY, TRUTH & LIFE (14: 6) - He guides us, apart from Him is only endless lostness.
- ✓ This is a picture of the release of Antichrist into the world scene; a white horse; its rider has a bow and crown, and he goes forth to conquer.

SEAL #2 WAR (vv. 3-4)

When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."⁴ 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.

- ✓ Without Jesus the DOOR OF SHEEP (10:7,9) - He admits us to life, apart from Him is only hopeless exclusion.
- ✓ a red horse; a great sword given to the rider; peace taken from the earth (vs. 3-4) speaks of the unmasking of Antichrist who brings a false, superficial peace. But at this point, peace is removed from the earth and the time of killing begins (cf. Ezk. 38:21)
- ✓ One estimate counts 143 separate wars and more than 12 million dead since 1945.

WAR ITSELF HAS INTENSIFIED³: Moreover, the lethality of modern conventional weapons is virtually incomprehensible. In World War II, the standard infantry rifle, the M-1, fired an eight-round clip.

- ✓ Today's M-16 fires a 30-round magazine of far more devastating projectiles.
- ✓ The A-10 attack aircraft, a jet used to support ground troops, carries a heavier bomb payload than the largest World War II strategic bomber, the B-29.
- ✓ An AC-130 gunship, a transport aircraft configured for fire support, carries four 20mm Vulcan cannons with six barrels each, four multibarreled 7.62mm miniguns, a 40mm Bofors cannon and a 105mm automatic howitzer. In other words, one plane delivers the firepower of a World War I infantry battalion.
- ✓ Tanks and artillery shoot twice as far, several times more rapidly and much more accurately than in 1945. Or, as Professor Richard A. Gabriel of St. Anselm's College notes in his newly published book, *"No More Heroes"*: "A Soviet motorized rifle division can deliver ten times the firepower at three times the rate of a similar World War II division. The same is true of NATO divisions." His conclusion: High-intensity conventional warfare, like nuclear war, may now be too terrible to fight.

SEAL #3 FAMINE (vv. 5-6)

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.⁶ And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living

³ Insight, 6/1/87.

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."

- ✓ Without Jesus the BREAD OF LIFE (6: 35) - He sustains us, apart from Him is only unsatisfied hunger.
- ✓ A denarius was one day's wage (or fifteen cents). A slave would work a whole day and earn fifteen cents. Here we see that one meal of wheat or three meals of barley will cost an entire day's wages. Now that's famine! All a man's money will go to buy food. A terrible famine is going to hit the earth.

STARVATION⁴ – (By Anastasia Toufexis) Close to the Zocalo, Mexico City's great central square, lies the barrio of Morelos, a vast warren of dusty, potholed streets and narrow entryways. The passages lead to a gloomy world. On each side of a roofless patio is a ten-room jumble. Each room holds a family; each family averages five people. The only bathrooms-two to serve 100 people-are located at the back of the patio. The odor of grease and sewage permeates the air. Flies buzz relentlessly. The people who live here are considered lucky.

In the shantytowns on Mexico City's outskirts, tens of thousands of people shelter in huts made of cardboard with aluminum roofs. There is no running water and no sanitation. The stench is overpowering: garbage and human waste heap up in piles. Rats roam freely, like stray domestic animals.

To the more privileged, those scenes look like a science-fiction vision of civilization's breakdown, perhaps after a nuclear war. In fact, Mexico City has been described as the anteroom to an ecological Hiroshima. With 20 million residents-up from 9 million only 20 years ago-the Mexican capital is considered the most populous urban center on earth. Mexico capital has been struck not by military weapons but by a population bomb.

SEAL⁵ #4
DEATH
(vv.7-8)

When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."⁸ 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.

⁴ Time, 1/2/89.

⁵ MacArthur, p.

- ✓ Without Jesus the RESURRECTION AND LIFE (11:25) - He provides us life, apart from Him is only endless dying.
- ✓ With the breaking of this seal, one-fourth of the population of the world is going to die. As a green (greek chloros as in chlorine) horse: death, and hades follows. Death receives the bodies and hades the souls of unbelievers. Death may refer to pestilence (Scott, Ironside, Gaebelein).
- ✓ beasties of leuwenhook microscope Think for a moment of the vast legions of deadly agents surrounding you this morning:
 - ✓ TB: once thought conquered has reemerged in highly resistant strains that have even known to piggyback with HIV to be contagious in an airborne infection.
 - ✓ STAPH: causing a fifth of the hospital systems two million infections a year has just shown up as staphylococcus aureus which is resistant to vancomycin, the final gun in the antibiotic arsenal. At present 60 to 80,000 die of staph annually but if aureus comes out it is so deadly the numbers will skyrocket.
 - ✓ EBOLA: with a mortality rate of 90% + in less than a week, ebola is horrible. Connective tissues of the body liquifies and every orifice of the body bleeds as the infected individual convulses and splashes deadly contaminated blood in every direction. There is no known cure, no treatment, infact no awareness of how it is transmitted. Chilling to say the least if it started in a populated area.
 - ✓ BIOLOGICAL WARFARE: anthrax is a cheaply produced poor man's atom bomb. Once infected the area is persistently a problem for decades. If Berlin had been hit with anthrax in WWII it would still be uninhabitable today!
 - ✓ YERSINIA PESTIS: or to us non-doctor types bubonic plague is (rod-shaped, non-motile, non-sporulating, gram-negative, aerobic bacterium) in other words it killed tens of millions of Europeans in the Middle Ages and it is being cultivated in terrorist counties laboratories this morning! Black Death as it was called in the 1400's goes from rats to fleas to humans to hemorrhages, to suffocation and/or general toxemia.
 - ✓ BOTULINUM TOXIN: this is the most powerful poison known to man. Nausea, diarrhea, dizziness, respiratory paralysis and death . . . all from a cultured bacteria called clostridium botulinum anyone can grow in their home lab with \$10,000 worth of equipment in a room 15 feet square. In 1986 Ma Anan Sheela confessed to growing and spreading trillions salmonella bacteria in four restaurant salad bars of Oregon as a biological terrorist. 750 people became seriously ill in that one town!
 - ✓ Up until 40 years ago there was no way anyone could kill one-fourth of the world. Today "beasts of the earth" are multiplying by the trillions in laboratories boiling in the cauldron of hatred in the Middle East and before long, they will spill out into the deadliest hour of the palnet. So dadly are these beasts that Jesus said in Mark 13:20 "And unless the

Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days."

**SEAL⁶ #5
MARTYRS
(vv.9-11)**

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.¹⁰ 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?"¹¹ 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.

- ✓ Without Jesus the LIGHT OF WORLD (8:12) - He illumines us, apart from Him is only impenetrable darkness.
- ✓ When the fifth seal is broken, martyrs who died because of their faith during the Tribulation are seen under the altar in heaven, praying for Christ to take back the earth and avenge their blood.
- ✓ These are the souls of those who are slain during the Tribulation period on account of their testimony to the Word of God.
- ✓ The terrible martyrdom of Rev. 6 are much clearer to us who have lived through or pondered the horrors of World War II.

The atrocities of Nazi war criminals' discrimination -- ghettos concentration camps -- mass extermination; In 10 years, 60% of Jews in Europe, 6 million, were butchered. G. M. Gilbert wrote in his history of the criminal trials of those criminals called the Nuremburg Diary: "...the torture, the starvation, the mass murder, the diabolical experiments on live human guinea pigs. 'History,' he said, 'does not record a crime perpetuated against so many victims or ever carried out with such calculated cruelty.' 'Mass murder,' he said, 'was becoming a State industry, with byproducts.' That is only one page from the sordid story of modern persecution. There are many pages more. The world is getting ready for the breaking of this seal.

What is shown here, under the breaking of the fifth seal, is elaborated further in chapter seven, where the great tribulation is introduced. Here only a preview is given of the terrible persecutions which will engulf the globe in a coming day." What leads to such faithfulness even to death? One thing: Faithfulness to Christ in life.

⁶ MacArthur.

Jesus Christ calls all of us to walk in faithfulness to Him each day....
In fact, we are called to be in living crucifixion, Gal. 2:20, that equals:

- ✓ Christ is our high priest and we are His priests (Heb. 8:1; Rev. 1:6 who offer Him:
 1. Our lives as a daily sacrifice (Rom. 12:1; 15; 16; Darby);
 2. Our devotion as continual burnt offerings (Mk. 12:33)
 3. Our service poured out to Him as a drink offering (II Tim. 4:6, R. V. mgn; Phil. 2:17);
 4. Our deeds as intentional spiritual sacrifices (I Pet. 2:5; Heb. 13:16);
 5. Our prayers constantly ascending as an incense offering (Ps. 141:2; Rev. 8:3, 4);
 6. Our earnest worship poured out at His feet as a praise offering (Heb. 13:15).

SEAL # 6
CHAOS
(vv. 12-13)

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.¹³ 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.

- ✓ Without Jesus the GOOD SHEPHERD (10:11) - He cares for us, apart from Him is only aimless wandering.
- ✓ a great shaking; signs in the heavens, terror on earth.
- ✓ This means earthquake, sun darkened, moon red as blood, meteors, disturbances in the atmosphere and on earth, terror on rich and poor alike.
- ✓ The great day of the wrath of the Lamb came; this clearly identifies the Tribulation period as the wrath of God.

In Revelation 6:15-17, John describes for us the greatest prayer meeting in the history of the world: "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every slave, and every free man (that covers everybody) hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of His wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand?"

- GOD HAS GIVEN TO US THE CONCLUSION TO HUMAN HISTORY- THE BIBLE! Trust Him completely. If people are the only investment that lasts.... invest heavily in disciple making.

- GOD HAS GIVEN TO US A JOB TO DO FOR HIM WHILE HE IS AWAY- SOULWINNING! Therefore, obey Him now. If you haven't started to give out the good news, start today.
- GOD HAS GIVEN TO US A WAY TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH HIM – TIME IN THE WORD! If you haven't started start daily contact in the word and prayer today!
- GOD HAS GIVEN TO US A MEANS TO START AN INVESTMENT ACCOUNT IN HEAVEN – SACRIFICIAL GIVING! Give sacrificially to support His church. God has indicated the earth is doomed so start today.

Pleasing God and making disciples must be a priority!

REMEMBER WE ARE A SPIRIT WITH A BODY

Hebrews 12:23

23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

SEE BEYOND MERE PHYSICAL LIFE

2 Corinthians 4:17

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

I WILL NOT FEAR. WHY?

Psalms 23:3-5

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Eye on sparrow

Graves in body bags

747 India creaking, groaning at takeoff

How survive? Be on God's side

God will take out of harms way

God will take through harm unscathed (fire furnace/etc)

God will take home (A 12 James; A 7 Stephen)

So what's the bottom line? There are seven years of history left for Israel to complete in God's program. It's a time like never before – demonic creatures ravage the earth; one-half of the population is horribly murdered; earth is a wasteland; mankind fiercely fights against God and tries one last time to destroy Christ – and in that moment, He returns.