

Calvary Chapel Bible College

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NT377 The Revelation: 'Heavy Revy'

Spring 2014

Class #7-April 3 chapters 6-9

6:1 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."

-Thunder often announces a coming storm, here a storm of judgment is about to begin

Walvoord: The seven-sealed scroll ...is the comprehensive program of God's judgments culminating in the second coming of Christ.

-the first six seals will be opened in the 1st quarter of the first half of the first 3.5 years of the Tribulation

-The seventh seal and the ensuing six Trumpets will occur in the 2nd quarter of the 7 year tribulation or the last half of the first 3.5 years in chapters 8 & 9.

-The last 7 bowl judgments of the Tribulation will come after the mid point of the tribulation and be contained in the 7th Trumpet. The Bowl judgments are in chapters 15 & 16.

-a total of 19 judgments

First Seal

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.

Horses = judgments (**see** Jer. 46:9-10; Joel 2:3-11; Nahum 3:1-7).

- "And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow...": Bow: Darts (arrows), (**see** Eph.6:16 versus **see** Eph. 6:17) vs. sword (Rev 19:15; Mt 10:34).

- 'Bow' Same word as signified the promise to Noah (this seems to be missed by most commentators)

- 'Bow without arrows or darts' a false sense of bringing peace, 'a promise of peace' by diplomacy, at least at first.

- 'Crown': Victors crown not Diadem, a Royal rulers crown. Jesus' on the white horse in Rev. 19 is wearing the diadem crown, and He does have a sword coming out of His mouth versus a bow

-His 'conquering and to conquer' will be complete at the mid point of the Tribulation

-He who sat is the seed of the serpent, Gen. 3:16

-There will be a future reenactment of Gen. 6. Satan will impregnate a woman of perhaps Roman origin who will give birth to the Antichrist; the counterfeit son who will be a member of the false trinity comprising a father, Satan, a son, the Antichrist, and a false prophet or false Holy Spirit (**see** Rev. 19:20). ('Rosemary's Baby' vs. Mary's Baby is close to what will happen).

-He will have an earthly or natural origin, Dan. 9:26, of Roman Origin and a supernatural origin, a false son energized by Satan according to **see** 2Thes. 2:9

-He has many names and titles just as the Son of God has.

-Seed of Satan, Gen. 3:15, Dan. 8:23 King of Fierce Countenance, Dan. 7:7, The Little Horn, Dan. 9:26 The Prince that shall come, in Is. 16:4 the Spoiler or Desolator, Dan. 11:36 the willful king. Paul: 2Thes.

2:3, The Man of Sin, Son of Perdition, 2:8 The Lawless one, 1 John 2:22 The Antichrist,
Rev. 11:7 the Beast

-His general character: **see** Dan. 8:23-25; **see** Dan 11:36-39

Second Seal

3 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,

-2nd Seal: Red Horse—War

-opposite of 'peace' here is 'war'; 'red, bloody war'

-permission from above was given, and readily received on earth

and that people should kill (*slay, not the word for murder*) one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

-A first he will conquer by smooth words, diplomacy, but then he will revert to war, there will be a period of peace as in **see** 1Thes. 5:3

-The crown, and a great sword were given Him by his Father, the serpent, the Devil, Satan, all done under the sovereign permission of our Father, for all that they do are contained in the Seals of the Scroll

-First of 3 World Wars in the seven year tribulation.

Third Seal

5 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 (*for measured rationing*). **6** 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."

-3rd Seal: Black Horse—Famine, concurrent and following world wide war

-“To eat bread by weight” is a Jewish expression indicating that food is scarce (**see** Lev 26:25-33; Ezek 4:16).

-“Denarius”: Mt 20:2, 9-11; a day’s wage.

-1/8 of the normal buying power of a Denarius at this time of writing

-This is more than famine alone. It describes global rationing and controls. The Coming World Leader will control the economy (Rev 13:17).

-“Oil and wine”: equivalent, in our culture, to toiletries, beauty aids and liquor. Luxuries.

-**OR** ‘Oil and wine’ are medicinal, and therefore there is a measure of mercy granted in judgment: **see** Luke 10:34

Fourth Seal

7 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.

-4th Seal: pale green Horse ('chloros', green)—Death. 'Chloros', pale, ghastly green; from which we get 'chlorine'.

And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them (*the four horses*) over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

Death: Devil Heb. 2:14 (vs. Rev 1:18). Two personages: Death claims the body; Hades claims the soul.

-John saw these enemies going forth to claim their prey, armed with the weapons of the sword, hunger, pestilence (death) and wild beasts (with a shortage of food, mankind will be preyed upon).

-These four judgments are also mentioned in **see** Ezek 14:21.

-All these are but “Beginnings of Birthpangs.” (Cf. Isa 13:6-13; Zeph. 1:14-18; 1 Thess. 5:1-3.)

McIlvaine makes the penetrating observation that the authority given to the riders of the four horses to kill with sword, famine, death, and wild beasts extends to all four equally or as a group. This would make impossible identifying the first rider as Christ and the succeeding riders as forces of evil, but would tie them together.

Fifth Seal

9 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.

“under the altar”: The altar is in heaven (**see** Heb 9:23-24). Note: “bottom of the altar” **see** Lev. 4:4, 17, 18, 25, 30.

- Their escape is only by death
- How did they get saved? Chapter 7 will answer this question
- Who is killing them? That will be answered in chapter 17:6

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord (*despot*), holy and true,

-“Lord” = ‘despotes’. The ancient Greeks used this word politically to refer to people who intruded into a land already occupied by someone else in order to take possession of it, and also to refer to an absolute ruler who had an unlimited possibility of the exercise of unchecked power. So it will be with our Lord in Judgment and vengeance!

-note the similarities with usage in: **see** Acts 4:23-27

-It is not personal revenge they seek, but vindication of God’s holiness and the establishment of God’s justice.

until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

- Vengeance vs. Stephen’s attitude?.
- This signals a change of dispensation: from grace to vengeance/judgment.

11 Then a white robe (*add and compare see Rev. 7:14*) 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 (*see Rev. 7:9 for this completion*).

Sixth Seal

12 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.

-Earthquakes and sun turning dark. (**See** Is. 13:6-13) (Joel 2:10, 30-31;)

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. **14** Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

-Stars of Heaven, great meteor showers on the earth

-Nahum 1:5: “The mountains quake before Him, The hills melt, And the earth heaves at His presence, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it.”

-Stars of Heaven and the Heavens departing as a scroll, Isa 34:4

15 And the kings of the earth, (*what follows is a description of those 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, **16** 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!

-The martyrs cry, “Avenge us!” The unbelievers on the earth say, “Hide Us!”

- “Wrath of the Lamb” sounds like a paradox. (Can you see a bumper sticker: “Beware of the Lamb”!) God’s wrath is the evidence of His holy love for all that is right and His holy hatred of all that is evil. He will not compromise. There was not a compromise but love and justice mingled together!
- They would rather run and hide than run to Him in faith. They are proof that judgment by itself does not change the human heart. They will not only seek to hide from God, but will blaspheme Him as well (16:9,11,21).

17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

- They clearly know that all of this is judgment, wrath from God and the Lamb. These are not recurring wars, disasters that have always accompanied mankind since sin entered into the world. This is the wrath of the Lamb!!
- Chapter 6 concludes with the statement, “For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” This next chapter seems to respond to that question.

Chapter 7 preview:

- Matthew 24:14 introduces the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom throughout the world, and this brings us to Revelation 7. God will “seal” 144,000 Jews to share His Word with the world. The world will then witness the greatest revival ever yet seen.
- ‘Gospel of the Kingdom’ takes on 2 implications post cross: The Blood shed for sins and the coming of the Lamb to the earth to set up His earthly kingdom
- Chapter 7 pauses for some amplification before we continue with the 7th seal in Chapter 8. Israel is the center piece in the OT; and it now re-emerges as the centerpiece of God’s climax in Revelation. (It is also the centerpiece in the New Testament, but there is a lot of misunderstanding just how.)
- Three purposes for the Tribulation:**
 - 1-To make an end of wicked ones, ‘to make an end of sins’, Dan. 9:24, Is. 13:9
 - 2-To bring about a world wide revival, as per this chapter 7
 - 3-Break or shatter the power of the holy people, **see** Dan.12:5-7, fulfilled in chapters 12 and 13

Chapter 7 Breakdown

Verses 1-8 ‘The means’ of the World Wide Revival

Verses 9-17 ‘The results’

Judgments Paused Until Sealing Complete

7:1 After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth,

-“Four corners of the earth”: **see** Is. 11:12, **see** Rev. 20:8; Jer. 49:36.

-seems to stand for the entire earth, N, S, E, and W.

holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

-“Winds”: **see** Jer. 49:36; 51:1; (judgments)

-Holding back further judgment until the sealing of the 144,000 is complete, v.3 seems to make this clear

2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

-This angel ascends to speak to the four angels holding the four winds to pause in Judgment

-“Seals”: Ezek 9:4,6,26; 10:23; 11:7. Sealed by the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 1:22; Eph 1:13; 4:30);

-Here, sealed are protected (Rev 9:4). Note: Counterfeit in Rev 13:16-18, the Mark of the Beast.

-Sealed for protection and service (servants of our God!)

144,000 Sealed

4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed: **5** of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;
- Judah listed first in 1 Chr. 5:1,2, though he was not the 'firstborn'

6 of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed; **7** of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed; **8** of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.

-Why list each tribe? To anticipate future heresy and claims of being the 144,000: J.W.s, Mormons, British Israelism

-Two Tribes Missing: Dan and Ephraim.

- Dan - Why Omitted? We don't know, but Dan is included in the Millennial Roll Call **see** Ezek. 48:1

- Ephraim (also)

Ephraim is also referred to only elliptically: Joseph, minus Manasseh = Ephraim.

-Ephraim is Joseph and vice versa, thus Ephraim is included. **See** Josh. 18:11,

Great Harvest following the Sealing of the 144,000

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

- Here, the greatest harvest of souls the world has ever seen will take place in such a short period of time!
(Written in? **see** Is. 49:10-12)

- Joel 2:28-32 (quoted in Acts 2:16-21) links with these prophecies of the Great Tribulation. Palm branches: as on "Palm Sunday," John 12:13.

10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" **11** All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **12** saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Identification of these

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

-The elders representing the church could not identify these

14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of 'the great tribulation', and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb and now they stand before Him.

Church vs. the Fruits of the 144,000

-Church is kept out of the tribulation, 3:10. These came out of the tribulation, (John/Elders didn't recognize them!)

-Church will sit on thrones (1 Cor. 6:2,3; 1 Pet 2:9; Rev 1:6) These stand before the throne, Church is crowned; these are uncrowned. Harps vs. Palms; church sings a new song vs. their cry, loud voice

15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who

sits on the throne will dwell among them. **16** They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; **17** for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

-Truly a fulfillment of **see** Is. 26:9

-A second group of sheep not from the original fold?? **See** John 10:16. So not just the church, but the tribulation Saints as well.

Seventh Seal Contains Seven Trumpets

8:1 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

-an ominous pause, a dreadful pause before judgments continue, a deadly silence

2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

-Out of the seventh seal come 7 Trumpet judgments

-7 trumpets at 'the Judgment' of Jericho (Josh 6:13-16)

Walvoord: The use of trumpets by the angels has considerable background in the Scriptures. Trumpets were used in various phases of Israel's economy. They were sounded at times of public assembly, used to direct soldiers in war and to signal important events on the calendar. Trumpets were used on the occasion of the giving of the law, were sounded on the first of the month, and served to announce almost every important occasion (cf. Exodus 19:19; Lev. 23:24; 25:9; Num. 10:2-10; Joel 2:1).

3 Then another (*similar*) angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

-Incense was symbolic of worship and prayer and a reminder that intercession to the Lord has the character of sweet incense.

-The most recent prayers **see** Rev. 6:9-10

4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before (*in the sight and presence of*) God from the angel's hand. **5** Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. **6** So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

-The throwing of the incense to the earth signifies the beginning of the second phase of judgments, The Trumpet judgments and these judgments are of God and are answer to the prayers of the saints as well

The First Angel Sounds

7 The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood,

-“Hail” = always used of judgment (**see** Isa 28:2; **see** Job 38:22,23)

and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the *fruit* trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

“Trees”: Greek word, ‘dendron’ = “fruit trees.”

The Second Angel Sounds

8 Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea (*great burning meteor?*), and a third of the sea became blood.

-1st Egyptian plague (**see** Ex 7:19-21)

-More than 3/4 earth's surface is ocean. [Atlantic = prox. 1/3]

9 And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

-there are now over 87,000 ocean-going merchant ships; **see** Zeph. 1:3.

The Third Angel Sounds

10 Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.

-Star here = Angel? (**see** Job. 38:7, **see** Rev. 9:1), fell from Heaven: a fallen angel

11 The name of the star is Wormwood.

-[Russian word for “wormwood” = Chernobyl? (per Ray Stedman)]

A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

-So first 1/3 of the salt waters turned to blood

-Now 1/3 of the drinking water is bitter

The Fourth Angel Sounded

12 Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

-16 hour days instead of 24 hour days? Perplexity in the Heavens perhaps?, **see** Luke 21:25-26.

13 And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

-The First four Trumpet Judgments (1st four are “natural”; the next two are “demonic” ...)

-The last three will be worse than the first four

“Judgment of the Thirds”

- 1st Trumpet: Aimed at the earth; 1/3 trees, grass dies.
- 2nd Trumpet: Aimed at the Sea; 1/3 of fish, ships destroyed.
- 3rd Trumpet: Aimed at the waters; 1/3 part dies. Fallen Star (angel) called “Wormwood.”
- 4th Trumpet: Aimed at the Sun, moon, stars: 1/3 sky darkened. The final 3 Trumpets are also called “3 Woes.” [Chapter 9.]

The Fifth Angel Sounds

9:1 Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen (*or fallen star*) from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.

-Abouso: “bottomless pit”; 9X in NT; 30X in Old Testament; 7 times in Rev (9:1,2,11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1,3).

-Angels that sinned (Gen 6:2,4; 2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6)

-Demons beg to avoid abouso (Lk. 8:31); after “many days,” the abouso will be visited (Isa 24:21, 22); - Satan is imprisoned there in **see** Rev. 20:1-2.

2 And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

“Smoke”: Sodom and Gomorrah (**see** Gen 19:28); Giving of the Law (Ex 19:18)

3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. **4** They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

-Locusts: (8th plague of Egypt (Ex 10:14,15); those locusts were after herbs; no king; never to be

repeated.) These locusts here are not normal locusts: they have no king (Prov. 30:27).
- The Sealed of God, cannot be touched. He knows those who are His: 2 Tim 2:19.

5 And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.

-in general scorpion bites do not kill but inflict intense pain

6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them (*instead of life fleeing from them*). **7** The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.

-Even natural locusts have the appearance of horses equipped with armor: the German term is 'Heupferd': "hay-horse"; the Italian, 'cavaletta': "little horse."

8 They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. **9** And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle (*the sound alone would be terrifying*). **10** They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.

-(see Amos 5:18-20).

11 And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

-Abaddon (Hebrew), Apollyon (Greek). Abaddon: 6 X in OT (Job 26:6; 28:22; 31:12; Ps 88:11; Prov. 15:11; 27:30). Apollyon: "destroyer," Jn. 10:10. "Prince of the Air": Eph 2:2; Jn. 14:30; Isa 14:15.

Locusts and the Book of Joel: 3 Invasions in the Book of Joel

#1-chapter 1:2-14 (a locust invasion in Joel's day)

#2-chapter 1:15-2:14 Second Type of invasion in the Tribulation, neither locust or men, but both, **see** Joel 2:2-11. Sometimes like locust, sometimes like men = Demonic

#3-chapter 2:15-3:17 Invasion of the Campaign of Armageddon (a man invasion)

12 One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

The Sixth Angel Sounds

13 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, **14** saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

-Eastern boundary of Israel (Gen 15:18; cf. Deut 1:7; Josh 1:4; 1 Kgs 4:21,24). Also, it's the traditional boundary of east and west (e.g., Roman Empire). The Romans lived in constant fear of the Parthian Empire on the other side of the Euphrates River.

-Reference to this river dates from Eden! (Garden: east of Eden.) Sin began here (Gen 2:14,15; 3:6,7); the first murder, (Gen 4:8); Nimrod ("We will rebel") Gen 10, 11; Tower of Babel = Babylon: The fountainhead of idolatry and false worship.

15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

-God has a specific time for each judgment, nothing is done in randomness

-Since 1/4 were killed already (Rev 6:8), this means that over half of the world's population will be dead by the time the 6th trumpet is completed.

16 Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

-not a human army of 200 million, this a demonic army

-China once claimed to be able to field an army of 200 Million

Description of the army of 200 Million

17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. **18** By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed--by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.

-now over half of mankind has been killed by the seal and trumpet judgments

19 For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

20 **But** the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. **21** And they did not repent of their murders (*not the same as kill, 3 times only in Rev.*) or their sorceries (*use of drugs opening up the spirit/demonic world*) or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

-These judgments are not remedial, but retributive. Men persist in their sins. "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeks after God" (Rom 3:11).

Next week: Chapters 10 and 11

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Spring 2014

Class #7-April 3. Homework: Besides doing all of the reading for chapters 10 & 11 make a list of the good and bad attributes of the Messengers of the seven churches of chapters 2 & 3