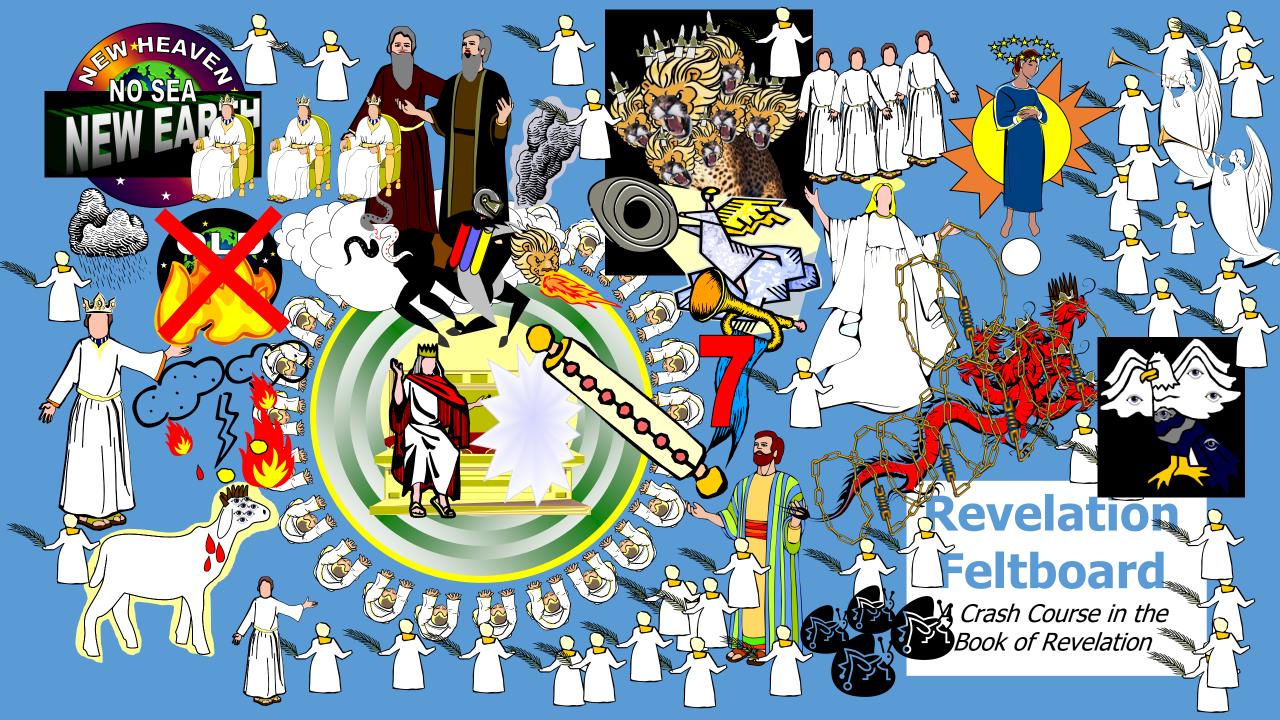
# Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see. **Revelation 6:1**

### Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad Baruch Shem k'vod malchutto, I'olam va'ed

Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God. The LORD is One. Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever.





<sup>1</sup> 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.

<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.

<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."

<sup>7</sup> When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<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.

 <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?"



#### **Judgment Begins** First Set (Seals) of Judgments is Opened

- Ch 4 + 5 throne room, praise/worship, preparation for revealing "time of Jacob's trouble."
- Reveals God is justified in His judgment.
- Chapter 6 opens first set of judgments (seals)
- Begins <u>perfectly complete sets of judgments</u> God has pre-planned for earth in last days.
- Judgments continue through chapter 18, part of 19

- Some see ch 6 as "overview" of <u>final outcome of</u> judgment, but also individual judgments.
- Important: judgments are "cumulative"
- "Church" not mentioned again until chapter 19. Does not seem present during period of judgment.
- Church, the <u>Bride of Messiah</u>, a separate entity from others in scripture, and others in Revelation.
- 4 groups of people: 1) Old Testament saints,
  2) Bride of Messiah (NT saints), 3) Tribulation Saints, and 4) the LOST (*"inhabitants of the earth"*)

- Bride of Messiah = believers from Day of Pentecost (appointed time [feast] of Weeks, Shavuot] to the time it is "caught up" to be with the Messiah.
- Believers are present in Revelation, but are called *"Tribulation Saints"* and many will be martyred.
   This true of both Jews and Gentiles. (not "Bride")
- Yes, people will be saved in this time. Greatest
   "soul harvest" of all time during Tribulation.

<sup>1</sup> 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.





- When <u>heaven</u> discussed, *elders* speak. When <u>earth</u> discussed, *four living creatures* speak.
- "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" common phrase to describe first 4 seals
- "Come and see" can also mean "Go!" To John, "perceive" or "see"—also command to horseman (some manuscripts omit "see") ("Go and perceive, understand, take heed")
- White horse <u>customary symbol for a victor</u>



- 1<sup>st</sup> seal about a conqueror and conquest
- "Had a bow..." Bow sign of (military/war) power. Notice no arrows! May imply conquering through diplomacy, not actual war.
- First half of Tribulation may be *somewhat peaceful* during initial acquisition of power. (2nd half NOT peaceful!)
- Crown sign of authority/power, victor's crown ("stephanos") not diadema (king's crown, wears diadema!)

- Who is on the horse? <u>Don't</u> make mistake here. NOT JESUS!
- <u>Living creatures do not</u> <u>command our King!</u>
- Keeps very bad company (war, famine, economic woes, death)
- Goes out to conquer = final world ruler, we call "Antichrist"
- "Antichrist" NOT in Revelation
- May be seen as "messiah" initially – not later!



<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.



- Horse "fiery red" = literally "flame colored, like fire." Red = symbol for war and violence.
- "take peace from the earth" –global, not merely territorial. <u>Entire earth will be at war</u>.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> seal = war, bloodshed, violence. More than local, more than mere war. A <u>warring spirit</u>.
- People will be <u>killing one another</u>. Hard to imagine but will get even worse than now.
- "great sword" symbol of warfare and bloodshed.

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- Involves more than mere war among nations.
- About a <u>warring spirit</u> in hearts of all mankind against one another.
- Warfare everywhere **may be result of first rider's actions**. *War often accompanies political conquest*.







- Final world ruler <u>will not</u> bring real peace.
- Many will think he is a peaceful man, but all a sham.
- Keep in mind, all judgments are cumulative. One does not go away when another is sent.

<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."



- 3<sup>rd</sup> seal about scarcity, famine, economic collapse (but also great wealth)
- **Black** often symbol of darkness, dark times, famine.
- "Pair of scales" symbol of economy, here = scarcity, difficult times.
- Denarius = <u>a day's wage</u>.
- About daily sustenance. <u>Work all day merely to</u> <u>eat and survive</u> from day to day.



- Oil and wine = **symbols for luxuries**. Only rich could afford.
- Now famine, but rich will still get their luxuries, and get richer.
- May indicate a great "polarization" of wealth and position. <u>So-called</u> <u>"middle class" will disappear</u>. *People either scrape to survive, or so rich can still afford "niceties"* (oil and wine).



- During/following war, economic collapse and/or depression can result.
- Seems <u>progression here</u>. White rider goes out to <u>conquer</u>, <u>warfare</u> breaks out then <u>economic collapse</u>.
- Already earth in big trouble.
   Lives will drastically change.
   <u>Remember, this is global</u>.



<sup>7</sup> When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." <sup>8</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> seal about physical and spiritual death, pestilence, plagues, etc.
- "pale" = chloros, sickly pale green color of death.
- In Leviticus = color of leprosy (death of body in bits and pieces)
- Rider has a name....Death. Greek = thanatos, = either literal or figurative death.



- Also has co-rider...Hades. Hades following Death. Two "personages" (but, one is a place). Personified.
- Death + Hades **frequently linked** in Revelation.
- Greek Hades = Hebrew Sheol (refer to notes for chapter 1 regarding hell, Sheol, Hades, Lake of Fire, etc.)
- Rider has power *"over a fourth of the earth…"* (to kill). Population currently almost <u>8 BILLION</u>.
   <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> = 2,000,000,000 people!



## **4<sup>th</sup> SEAL Judgment**

- Could be geographic area, or literal # of deaths.
- Killed people by...
  - 1) **sword** (any kind of violence)
  - 2) famine
  - 3) plague
  - 4) wild beasts (could include microscopic "beasts" such as found during plagues)





- Same "killing forces" also mentioned in Ezekiel: "For thus says the Lord God: "How much more it shall be when I send My four severe judgments on Jerusalem—the sword and famine and wild beasts and pestilence—to cut off man and beast from it?" (14:21) Amazing how Revelation ties everything together!
- Reminder: our <u>God controls all forces of nature</u>, entire universe. All things are created by Him, and *He has authority and commands all things*.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> SEAL Judgment

- "Four Horsemen," first 4 judgments, now unleashed. Massive change in earthly conditions (global, not just regional –no place free of these):
  - Political conquests (sovereign countries no longer exist – move toward one world government)
  - Wars
  - Economic disaster, famines
  - Widespread violence, death
- These alone make survival difficult. But it gets much, much worse.



 <u>Chronology of ch 6, and how it</u> <u>fits into entire revelation difficult</u>.
 Seal judgments begin entire set of judgments (*seals, trumpets, bowls*), so logical these come first.



- But we will see that the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> seals are somewhat different.
- Why many believe is "overview," to <u>preview</u>
   <u>conditions on earth throughout this time</u>.

## **4<sup>th</sup> SEAL Judgment**

- First four seals most likely beginnings of "birthpangs." (or "beginning of sorrows")
- Great Tribulation hasn't even started. Last 3½ years of 7-year Tribulation considered "Great Tribulation." (Jesus, Matthew 24)
- Revelation <u>never mentions 7-year period of time</u>.
   Only 3½ years (42 months).
- Assume 7 years = Daniel's "70th week," a "week" or set of 7 years.



- Remember, judgments cumulative. They, and <u>consequences</u>, remain even when moving onto next one.
- Earth will become more and more "unlivable."

#### PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL DEATH, PESTILENCE, PLAGUES

SEAL Judgment

<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?" 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.





- 5<sup>th</sup> seal about persecution/massive martyrdom of believers
- Those *"under the altar"* those who have <u>died for</u> <u>their faith during Tribulation</u>. Referred to as *"Tribulation saints."*
- Completely separate "group" of believers from "Body of Messiah." Notice <u>NOT referenced as</u> <u>the Church</u> in any way.



- "For the word of God" <u>Yeshua is the Word of</u> <u>God!</u> (John 1:1) Killed because of unwavering faith in Him, <u>and their testimony</u>. *Didn't shy away from openly claiming allegiance to Him*.
- Scene in heaven. Martyred saints quite conscious, alert and aware. "Under altar" may indicate heavenly protection after their deaths.
- They want vengeance! Know God has promised it. *When will He finally do it?*



- Don't want <u>personal vengeance</u>/revenge. Calling for <u>God's vindication</u>, completion of His plan.
- Same cry "How long" through centuries by other believers. Most of us today asking the same thing! [Habakkuk's cry: "O LORD, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, And You will not save." (1:1)]

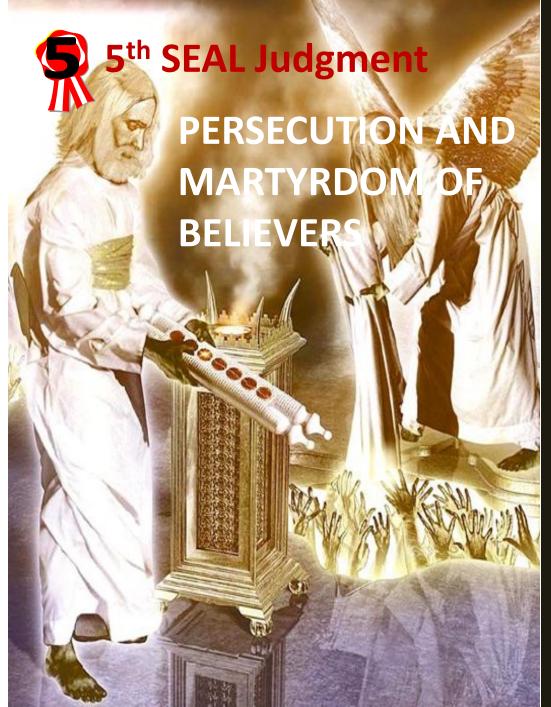
JUDGMENT





- "those who dwell on the earth" literally, "inhabitants of the earth." 20X in Revelation.
- Does not refer to those who *live* on earth, but to those who have made <u>earth their final home</u>. They do not hope for heaven. *Have rejected God's* offer of eternity with Him. Used only of lost.
- Great harvest of souls during Tribulation. Unfortunately, many, perhaps most, <u>martyred</u>.

- "white robe" = symbol of believer's righteousness (Messiah's righteousness covering us). Given only after belief in Jesus.
- <u>Many more martyrs</u> will join souls under altar.
- <u>Many</u> scriptures in OT support theme of persecution in end times.



## **5th SEAL Judgment**

<sup>21</sup> "I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, ...<sup>25</sup> He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,...And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time." (Daniel 7:21, 25)

*It was granted to him to <u>make war with the saints</u> <u>and to overcome them</u>. (Revelation 13:7)* 



Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the <u>dead who die in the Lord</u> from now on."" (Revelation 14:13)

And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the LORD, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the onethird through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, *(The LORD is my God.'"* (Zechariah 13:8-9)



• NOTICE Daniel's reference to "For a time and times and *half a time."* (7:25) Time = 1 year Times = 2 years Half a time =  $\frac{1}{2}$ year TOTAL? 3 ½ years!

<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. 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. <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.



- 6<sup>th</sup> seal about hardness of human hearts, God's subsequent wrath
- Great earthquake, sun black, moon like blood – first of 3 earthquakes in Revelation
- 1883, Krakatoa, killed 36,000, global temps > 5 years, weather chaotic. Sun + moon dark/ash – moon appeared as "blood"

#### Lithograph of Krakatoa erupting



- Stars of heaven fall to earth like "late figs" (untimely, hard as rocks) reference to meteors, other things falling from heavens?
- Planet's weather, environment decaying. More of this in next judgments. <u>Becomes harder to survive</u>.
- "sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up" wait a minute!....can we survive past this? Merely 6<sup>th</sup> judgment, or preview of final one??
- Easy to see why some believe this is **OVERVIEW**.

## **6<sup>th</sup> SEAL Judgment**

It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who <u>stretches out the</u> <u>heavens like a curtain</u>, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. <u>He brings the princes to nothing; He makes</u> <u>the judges of the earth useless</u>. (Isaiah 40:22-23)

Plenty of evidence that One who "stretched out the heavens" is El Shaddai. *No one more powerful…*No one with more authority and strength. **At His will, those same heavens will indeed be "rolled up like a scroll…"** 



Thus says God the Lord, Who created the heavens and <u>stretched them out</u>, ...(Isaiah 42:5a)

I have made the earth, And created man on it. I—My <u>hands—stretched out the heavens</u>, And all their host I have commanded. (Isaiah 45:12)

And you forget the LORD your Maker, Who <u>stretched</u> out the heavens... (Isaiah 51:13a)





<u>But when does this happen</u>? Now, at 6<sup>th</sup> seal, or at end of judgment period, before earth is rejuvenated?

WE DON'T KNOW. But it will surely happen.



## 6<sup>th</sup> SEAL Judgment

MAJOR catastrophic things happening to earth now (6<sup>th</sup> seal).

- great earthquake
- sun became black as sackcloth of hair
- moon became like blood
- stars of heaven fell to the earth (like hard figs)
- sky receded as a scroll
- every mountain and island moved

6<sup>th</sup> SEAL Judgment Look how people respond... <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?'

### **6**<sup>th</sup> SEAL Judgment

The mountains quake before Him, The hills melt, And the earth heaves at His presence, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it. <u>Who can stand before His</u> <u>indignation</u>? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, And the <u>rocks</u> <u>are thrown down by Him</u>. (Nahum 1:5-6)

All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, And the <u>heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll</u>; All their <u>host</u> <u>shall fall down</u> As the leaf falls from the vine, And as <u>fruit falling from a fig tree</u>. (Isaiah 34:4)



- Sound familiar? Amazing how <u>Revelation ties</u> <u>together everything else</u> in scripture.
- Inhabitants of the earth would rather beg hills and mountains to fall on them instead of running and falling down before the only One who can save them.
- Truly unregenerate heart of mankind. LAMB they are terrified of would <u>rather</u> save them!



- Mountains often symbol for nations and governments.
- Mountains being moved here may be a <u>literal reference</u>, or symbolic of God wiping away resistance to Him in <u>nations and governments</u>.
- Question remains, is this the end... or just the beginning of the end? Prelude perhaps, a "sneak peak?" An overview? Stay tuned...



- Either way, <u>dramatic changes</u> on earth and in heavens as judgments continue. Creation in chaos.
- "Kings of the earth, great men, rich men, commanders, mighty men, every slave, every free man..." all-inclusive list...government, powerful, rich, military, influential, and just ordinary folks.
- Group of 7 types = entire unsaved population of earth.



- Terrified of "Him who sits on the throne, and the wrath of the Lamb" – any question WHO this is???
- Note! They KNOW who is causing total chaos on earth. Revelation 9:21..."And they did not repent..." Hard hearts!
- Major differences between 2 groups of people Chapter 5, <u>martyrs</u> crying out to <u>God</u> ("avenge us!"), in chapter 6 the <u>wicked</u> crying out to the <u>earth</u>, "Hide us." Who is listening?

## **6th SEAL Judgment**

- Reveals truly hardened hearts against God.
- "What sinners dread most is not death, but the revealed presence of God." (Swete)

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True paradox: "The <u>wrath</u> of the <u>Lamb</u>" This gentle creature? Yes!
"Who is able to stand?" NO ONE! Who can hide? NO ONE!



- Wicked of earth ("inhabitants of the earth") later will blaspheme God and attempt to go to war against Him. <u>Talk about a "vain thing</u>!" (Psalm 2)
- "the great day of His wrath" most likely not a literal day, <u>but a season</u>.
- The period of time in the OT referenced as the "Day of the Lord." (not a good day!) "season" or time of judgment.
- What, exactly, is "the Day of the Lord?"

The book of Revelation IS that day... want a good idea of what will happen during Tribulation and return of Messiah? Read about the "day of the LORD" in scripture.

Look up Scriptures containing the phrase "the day of the LORD" (literally, Day of YHWH) [NOTE: It is also referenced in other terms like "that great day" or merely "the Day," etc.]

"The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome <u>day of the LORD</u>." (Joel 2:31)

"Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the <u>day of the LORD</u> is near in the valley of decision." (Joel 3:14)

If you take time to read the dozens of scriptures that address the **"day of YHVH"** you will note, once again, <u>Revelation ties all scripture together</u>. There are other references to "this day" and all of them bear the same descriptions. Is this a good day? Well, it depends on whose side you are on!

Want to know what will happen during the Tribulation? Scriptures use following descriptions...

- Destruction
- Fear
- Pain
- Sorrow
- Cruelty
- Wrath
- Fierce anger
- Desolation
- Vengeance
- Blood, warfare
- Devastation
- Alarm

- Clouds, darkness
- Sword
- Gloominess
- Thick darkness
- Great, very terrible
- Awesome
- Battle,
- captivity
- Wailing
- No brightness

### The Day of the LORD (YHWH)

- Bitter
- Dreadful
- No escape

*To name a few....* **In general this is what will happen:** 

• Man will be <u>humbled</u>

• YHWH will be <u>exalted</u>

- "Day of the LORD, God now in charge, not man.
- Day of the <u>LORD</u> (day of YHWH) <u>no longer the day</u> of man!
- End of "man's day" will be when final world ruler appears, but even that <u>at direction and in control</u> <u>our Almighty God</u>.
- Eventually the Lamb will reign, forever!

**COMMENTARY:** "The "Day of the Lord" is the Biblical term describing the culmination of the last days of world history as we have known it — specifically, it refers to the actual, physical, literal Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the time when Jesus Christ wins the Battle of Armageddon and the Battle of Jerusalem and then His feet literally touch down on the Mount of Olives, splitting the mountain into two, as foretold by the Prophet Zechariah. The Day of the Lord is described throughout the Scriptures as a day of darkness, gloom, distress and judgment for the nations. ...

The Day of the Lord sets into motion the setting up of the Millennial Kingdom in which Jesus Christ will reign from a new Temple in Jerusalem for a literal 1,000 year period, as described in the Book of Revelation." (Joel Rosenberg)



- Everything in 6<sup>th</sup> seal = familiar OT prophecies. Amos, Ezekiel, Joel, Isaiah, even Psalms, filled with last days prophecies, some of which happen here.
- Everything unsaved mankind worshipped, trusted, knew and exalted in this earth is now **dissolving**.
- Remember, we interpret God's word in a literal sense. 10 literal plagues in Egypt (Exodus), and events here also literal.

# **6<sup>th</sup> SEAL Judgment**

#### HARDNESS OF HUMAN HEARTS, GOD'S SUBSEQUENT WRATH

- Likely all **literal**
- <u>Overview</u> conditions throughout:
  - Conquest
  - Wars, Bloodshed
  - Economic disaster
  - Pestilences,
     Disease, Death
  - Martyred saints
- ENDING with lost being destroyed, earth and heaven recreated

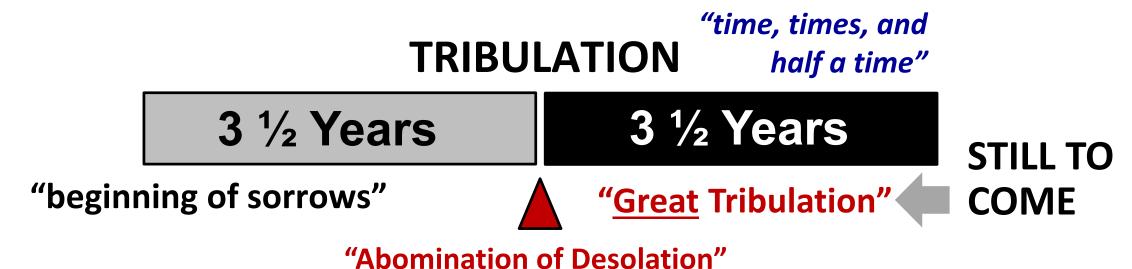
 Jesus spoke to disciples about end time: "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. <u>All these are the beginning of sorrows</u>." (Matthew 24:7-8 entire chapter)

### He predicted:

- World conquests
- Wars
- Famines
- Pestilences
- Earthquakes
- Martyrdom
- Signs in the heavens

Precisely what we see in opening of seal judgments.

First part of Tribulation has begun. How much time it covers is not clear.



Jesus' words in Matt 24:7-8

- World conquests
- Wars
- Famines
- Pestilences
- Earthquakes
- Martyrdom
- Signs in the heavens

"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains... For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. (Matthew 24: 15-16, 21)



#### Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha May the LORD bless you and keep you

#### Ya'er Adonai panav elekha vihunneka May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

### Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyasem Jekha shalom

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.