

CHAPTER SIX – THE SEALS ARE OPENED

TROUBLE ON THE EARTH – PART THREE

As we enter chapter 6 we see our Lord Jesus Christ in heaven opening the seals of a book that no man, or heavenly being, could open. As he opens each seal horrific circumstances unfold on the earth below. These horrific events take place during the _____ period. (Last week we saw why this tribulation period must take place and have gained a deeper appreciation for the plans and purposes of Almighty God.) The opening of the first seal clearly marks the start of this ominous time. As we saw in **PART ONE – TROUBLE ON EARTH – THE LEAD HORSEMAN**, the prevailing theme is deception...

1. The first seal is opened – verses 1-2
The first horseman is revealed – the great _____, the _____

Today, through prophetic revelation of scripture, we will witness future events and with ears to hear we will learn of...

THE OTHER HORSEMEN AND THE OTHER SEALS – REVELATION 6:3-17

2. The second seal is opened – verses 3-4
 - The second horseman is revealed – worldwide _____
 - He is riding a _____ horse...
 - Power was given to him to take _____ from the earth, and that they should kill one another...
 - There was given unto him a great _____...
 - During this time the entire world is at _____ with each other. These wars make all other wars throughout human history look like a Sunday school picnic.
 - We have previously seen the following list... and this very short list only concerns recent American wars (*the last 100 years or so*). Yet they are a _____ of the trouble this second horseman brings upon the planet:

Spanish-American War, US-Philippine War, Boxer Rebellion, US Occupation of Vera Cruz, Mexican War, World War I, World War II, Cold War, Korean War, Vietnam War, US Intervention in Lebanon, Dominican Intervention, Iranian Hostage Crisis – US-Libya Conflict, US Invasion of Grenada, The Tanker War, US Invasion of Panama, No-Fly-Zone War, US Intervention in Somalia, Operation Deliberate Force – NATO/US Intervention in Bosnia, US Occupation of Haiti, Operation Desert Fox, Operation Desert Storm, Philippine Insurgent Neutralization, Afghanistan War, Operation Iraqi Freedom

3. The third seal is opened – verses 5-6
 - The third horseman is revealed – worldwide _____
 - He is riding a _____ horse...
 - He has a pair of _____ in his hand...
 - During this time the entire world is experiencing a _____. All the necessities will be scarce, while luxury items that cannot sustain life will be in abundance...
 - A _____ of the trouble this third horseman brings: According to 2007 statistics, 1.2 billion people do not have daily access to pure water, 815 million people will go to bed hungry tonight, and 5.5 million people will die this year of starvation.

4. The fourth seal is opened – verses 7-8

- The fourth horseman is revealed – worldwide _____
 - He is riding a _____ horse...
 - His name is Death, and Hell _____ with him...
 - Power was given them over ¼ of the earth's population...
 - They _____ them with sword, hunger, death, and beasts...
- During this time the entire world is devastated by an escalation of _____ and violence, accompanied by plagues and epidemics, with _____ animals ravenously roaming about the landscape wreaking havoc...
- The shadows of the trouble brought in by this horseman are seen today: Strains of incurable diseases and pandemics, drastic increases in crime and personal aggression, use of _____ and biological weapons, a sharp rise in terrorist activity upon _____ populations, an unusual rise in rabies and mortal animal attacks worldwide.

5. The fifth seal is opened – verses 9-11

- The _____ of martyrs appear in heaven – worldwide _____
 - They were slain for the _____ of God and their personal testimony...
 - They cry aloud unto God for vengeance...
 - They are given _____ robes...
 - They are told to rest a little season until they are joined by their fellow-servants...
- During this time those that will _____ worship the antichrist or receive the mark of his beast will be murdered.
- The shadow of this trouble has been marked with a trail of blood. According to Hebrews 11:36-37 the faithful saints of old were persecuted and killed; throughout church history over 50 million saints were murdered, and here in modern day it is estimated that approximately 350,000 men, women and children are martyred every year for the word of God and their personal _____ testimony.

6. The sixth seal is opened – verses 12-16

- Catastrophic natural event occur – worldwide _____ and the great day of the Lord's _____
 - A great earthquake...
 - Sun blackened, moon red, stars fall to earth, and heaven departed as a scroll...
 - Every mountain and island moved out of their places...
 - Every _____ human on earth acknowledges that Almighty God is responsible...
 - Every _____ human on earth acknowledges that this is the wrath of the Lamb...
 - Every _____ human on earth acknowledges that no one can stand up to Jesus Christ...

- This time marks the _____ of the tribulation period, as our glorious Lord and Saviour returns to the earth to make all things right. This is the day when he takes control of the earth by force. The end begins with natural disasters marking his _____ return.
- The shadow of this time is seen by the lukewarm state of Christianity, the compromising of the church with the world, the lack of Bible preaching, the effeminizing of men worldwide, and the lack of good Christian character. All these traits are demonic and ungodly; they necessitate _____ and the second advent of Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION

Chapters 4-6 are _____ of four descriptions of the seven year tribulation period. As there are four gospels explaining Jesus' first coming, there are four explanations of the events surrounding his second coming.

The Word of God is so powerful. It never contradicts itself. It always confirms the truth it speaks. A comparison of Jesus' description in Matthew 24 with Revelation 6 is astounding:

Matthew 24 – six signs of the end times

First sign... False Christs – vs. 4-5

Second sign... Wars and rumors of wars – vs. 6

Third sign... Famines – vs. 7

Fourth sign... Pestilences – vs. 7

Fifth sign... Martyrdom – vs. 8-9

Sixth sign... Natural disasters, second coming – vs. 29-30

Revelation 6 – six seals of the ends times

First seal... False Christ – vs. 6:1-2

Second seal... World war – vs. 3-4

Third seal... Famines – vs. 5-6

Fourth seal... Pestilences – vs. 7-8

Fifth seal... Martyrdom – vs. 9-11

Sixth seal... Natural disasters, second coming – vs. 12-16