

## I. Introduction to Revelation's Structure

We are starting to come through Revelation chapters 5 through 19, which all deal with the Tribulation period. Remember last week I told you that most of the teaching you find on the book of Revelation today is not only very shallow, but much of it is wrong. I showed you last week how that when you come to Revelation chapters 5 through 19, which all deal with the Tribulation, you remember the church gets raptured out in chapter 4, and then the Second Coming takes place in chapter 19 with all the corresponding events on each side of that.

The Bible says the Tribulation is a time that there is no time on Earth that is worse than this period of time. It is a time when the inhabitants of the planet have never experienced in all the history of this planet the devastation and atrocity that is going to take place in the last three and a half years, which is commonly called the Great Tribulation in your Bible.

I showed you last week how that you have four accounts of the First Coming of Christ: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Each one portrays the Lord Jesus Christ and His coming from a different aspect. For months now, if not years, I have told you and tried to show you that the key to the Bible is its consistency. I showed you last week how that just as God was consistent through His Holy Spirit in giving us four accounts of the First Coming of Christ, in Revelation chapters 5 through 19, He gives you four accounts of the Second Coming of Christ. I detailed them out for you last week.

Now, what we are going to do this week is we are going to start coming through each one of these sections. I am going to show you the major aspects of it. We are going to start defining all the sevens that are in it. This is going to kind of put the finalization of the book of Revelation together for us. Once we get through this in the next couple of weeks, we will have pretty much broken the whole book down.

I told you when we started that if there is any book in the Bible that everybody tries to put out as being the hardest book in the Bible, it is the book of Revelation. You should be well seeing it now that it is really the easiest book in the Bible. As we get into this, you are going to see today how that just following the simplistic way that we are following it through and taking the Word of God and letting it define itself, it all unfolds itself.

So I want to begin reading here in Revelation chapter 5. We are going to take today the first time through the Tribulation period that brings us up to the first recording of the Second Coming. We are going to talk about that emphasis and how it all goes together.

## II. The Lamb Worthy to Open the Book

Let us pick it up in Revelation 5:1.

*And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside sealed with seven seals.*

*And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?*

*And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.*

*And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.*

*And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.*

*And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.*

*And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.*

*And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.*

*And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*

*And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

*And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;*

*Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*

*And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.*

*And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.*

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You. We thank You, Lord, for all that You have given us. We thank You for the men and women in our church that desire to learn more about You every day, to desire to learn Your Word, to desire to be used. I thank You for the men and women, Lord, in their life, with their families, and their jobs, and all that they have going on. Lord, they have seen their purpose and their perspective, and they are not caught up in just their career or what they do. They know that their job, along with everything else in their life, is just a means to an end.

They know, Father, that their real calling and their real purpose is to be used of You and to serve You. Lord, in the midst of the busyness of their life in this world, they have made themselves available to be chosen vessels unto You. Lord, I pray today that You will continue to bless them as they work with people, as they grow in Your Word. We pray You will take the Word of God as it goes forth today, and that You will clear up and show them and help them understand this great book, that through all the things that we talk about today, that You may have the honor and glory and whatever the need is here today in somebody's life, that they may find it today in this dear book and the message that You have given us. We love You. We thank You for all that You do now. In Jesus' name, for His sake, we ask it. Amen.

If you have been following the book of Revelation as you have been coming week by week, you know here is what we have got. We have now in the beginning of Revelation, chapters 1, 2, and 3. We have seen now that John writes to seven churches. Those seven churches we know now represent the seven periods of the church age, which start around the book of Acts, around 33-66 AD, wherever you want to put it, and run right up to the last church, which is Laodicea. This is the one we are living in right now, and it brings us right up to the rapture of the church. In your first three chapters of Revelation, you cover the course of about 2,000 years.

We now know from our past studies, and you can get the material online on the internet and go back and study it if you would like. But you know now that these seven churches cover all the periods of church history. We put all the corresponding historical events in the right perspective as you are coming through the book. It is all there, and you should have that down now as you are week by week detailing this out.

Then we know in chapter 4 that the Bible says a door opens up in heaven, and a voice like a trumpet says, "Come up hither." We find there that John, who represents it as a type of the church, gets taken out. I think I remember I told you that in the first three chapters of the book of Revelation, you probably find the word "church" something like 21 or 22 times. But after Revelation chapter 4, you never find the word "church" again in the book of Revelation until the last chapter, when he is just kind of saying goodbye to everybody. But the church is gone, and it is gone because it was raptured out.

Now that it is raptured out in chapter 5, we begin to see the events that take place up in heaven, and we begin to see all these sevens begin to come into view here that we are going to talk about today. We begin to see what takes place here. Once the rapture takes place, it opens up in heaven and then moves us through the first period of the Tribulation period we are going to study, which is Revelation 5, 6, and 7, with the emphasis on the first time through the Second Coming of Christ, which is going to deal with all the corresponding material.

Next week, we will study the next one, and we will see how that this is not happening. As I said earlier, it is not happening. This happens, and this happens, and this happens. It is all falling on Planet Earth at the same time.

### III. Understanding the Seven Horns and Seven Eyes

The first thing I want to draw your attention to in what I just read is a couple of things. We are going to kind of work through these, maybe not in the order they are, but the order that I want to show them to you. You have two things:

1. Seven horns
2. Seven eyes, which the Bible says are the seven spirits of God.

The reason why I picked these two things first is because you see how spooky that makes the book of Revelation? What are these seven eyes looking at you? What are these seven horns and all of this stuff? This is where, when you get into the book of Revelation, men who do not know the Bible get caught up in the aspect that the book of Revelation is some mystical, magical book that you can unlock the secrets to. We have the other side of it, where they try to go back to the Greek and show you all these things.

Let me tell you something. There is not any Greek lexicon on Planet Earth that is going to tell you what the seven horns are and what the seven eyes are. You do not need it. If you have a King James 1611 Authorized Version, it takes the mystery away from it. I think that is what the Bible does when you approach any book of the Bible, and certainly the book of Revelation. I think what the Bible does with every book in the Bible is it makes it very plain and very clear. I think that the theme of the church of Jesus Christ ought to be the simplicity that is in Christ.

I think when you find it in the Word of God, how the Bible looks to be complicated, but in actuality, it is very simplistic and very easy once you just follow the basic rules. That is what we are going through here and trying to show you. It gives the impression of being very spooky and all these deep things. But once you follow 2 Peter 1:20, that we talked about last week, that the Bible has no private interpretation on its own, that you let the Word of God interpret for you what it is saying, then the mystique of the book of Revelation, as all of the books of the Bible, completely goes away, and you see them the way God wanted you to see it.

Now, let us talk about the seven horns for a moment. If anybody understood the Bible at all, even a little bit, if anybody had ever read the Psalms, I do not know how they could miss this. Horns in your Bible, the seven horns or any horns in your Bible, will always be a reference to somebody being exalted. I do not know how anybody misses that. I do not know how you read Psalms 18, 75, 89, 17, 89, 24, 92, 10 and not come away with that a horn in the Bible is something that exalts somebody.

In the real world, do we not say, when somebody starts to talk about how good they are, "You do not need to be blowing your own horn"? What does that mean? That means you are exalting yourself, you are picking up your own horn and blowing it. Horns in the Bible are always a picture of exaltation, always they are. You are going to find that the Lord has an exaltation, and so it is likened to the seven horns. You are going to find that when the Antichrist comes on the scene, he has seven horns, and he gets exalted as the false Christ. But nevertheless, horns in your Bible always stand for exaltation. You could go to the Greek for the rest of your life and never get that out of it. God never intended you to. God intends you to read your Bible, compare scripture with scripture. When you see something in the book of Revelation that looks mysteriously like seven horns, "Whoa, what is all that?" It is exaltation defined in the Bible.

Somebody asked me one time years ago, "Why does it say seven horns?" This is not our message today, but if you want to come through the Bible, there are seven exaltations of Christ in the Word of God. Seven times in the Bible, He is exalted. So when it talks about seven horns and it is making a reference to Christ here in this chapter, Revelation 5, He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. He is the one that is worthy to open the seals. If you would go back in your Bible, you will find that in the Word of God from Genesis to Revelation, there are seven times that the Lord Jesus Christ gets exalted.

3. One time in Genesis 1:1.
4. You find that again in Deuteronomy 32.
5. You find that under David and Solomon.
6. You find that at the First Coming of Christ.
7. You find it once you get saved in the church age.
8. You find that at the Second Coming of Christ.
9. You find that in the Millennium.

Seven times from Genesis to Revelation that He is exalted. So when it talks about this, it talks about seven horns. See how simple that is? I did not go anywhere but a Bible. You just let the Bible interpret itself for you. You will learn these things. It is the way it works.

Now the next thing it talks about here, it says the seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God. There again, very spooky. The seven eyes are the seven spirits of God. You could have a field day with that where people do not know the Bible. But yet for those of us that study the Bible and know the Bible, again, we find the answer to this very clear. It is a very great study and a very deep study. It is probably a real key to understanding the whole Bible.

## IV. The Holy Spirit's Operation: Old vs. New Testament

The first thing I want you to see here is in Revelation chapter 5, after the rapture of the church, after the church is taken out. Again, we are living in a day and age. I got another phone call this week about a lady down south and her husband that are going to a church, and the church is now messed up with just about everything to be messed up on. Now they are getting the idea that the church is going to go through the Tribulation period, and that there is no rapture and all that stuff. That stuff is just prevalent in churches.

The reason I know that God's people are so shallow and we are in the Laodicean church period and they absolutely know nothing about the Bible is the great doctrines that 100 years ago that Baptists were believing and standing on that were the rule of the day have now become heresy today. It happens because God's people do not know what they believe anymore. There has been a breakdown in a chain of events that have preserved the teachings of the true church. Today, nobody knows why they believe what they believe.

How in the world can you know your Bible even a little bit and absolutely think that the church, there is going to be no rapture in the Bible? It is ludicrous. As I told you when we talked about this before, a guy said to me one time, "Show me the word 'rapture' in the Bible. I will believe it." That is stupid. Show me the word "Bible" in the Bible and I will believe it. Just because the

word is not in there does not mean that the teaching is not true. A guy like that will talk like that. He does not even know where the word "rapture" began to be used. He does not even know why it would be. I will tell you something else: he does not know what the word "rapture" means. He could not tie it to the book in the Bible where it started to come from if his life depended on it.

It is really dangerous to pretend you know the Bible when you do not, especially around somebody who knows it. You may fool yourself with your little friends that run around, they do not know any better than you do. But you run up against some of the people in here who know their Bible, and you are going to come away with your tail between your legs.

It does not take a rocket scientist to read down through here and see that immediately when the rapture takes place, there is a change in the operation of the Holy Spirit of God. It does not take anybody with a PhD to see that. The first thing I look at after the rapture takes place in chapter 4, and I find that at the end of chapter 4 and chapter 5, the first thing I find is after the rapture, an immediate change in the operation of the Holy Spirit of God. All of Revelation chapter 5 takes place up in heaven after the rapture.

You are going to find that nowhere, nowhere in Paul's writings—and Paul writes to the church—you are never going to find in any of Paul's writings where he ever refers to the Spirit of God as "seven spirits." He does not, never does. I do not know how anybody misses that. In the New Testament, Paul always refers to the Holy Spirit of God as a person. It is one of the main differences between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

I do not know if you know this or not, but in the Old Testament, well, let me just say this: when you got saved, here is what really changed about you the day you got saved in a very basic form. When you got saved, the Holy Spirit of God came inside you and took up residency inside your body. If you are saved this morning, the Holy Spirit of God is living in every one of you this morning. He is living inside of you. The Bible says that He is the one who leads and guides you. The Bible says that He will teach you the Bible. He will commune with your spirit. It is your avenue to fellowship with God through the Holy Spirit of God. It is why before you were saved and you were in an unsaved condition, you could not have a relationship with God.

The moment you got saved, the Holy Spirit of God comes inside you as a person. Now the Bible says you are a new creature in Christ Jesus, old things are passed away, all things become new, and now because of a new birth, you are a new creature in Christ Jesus, and now you are called a Son of God. When the Holy Spirit of God comes in you, He seals you. When you get sealed, that means He can never leave you. He comes in you as a person. What you do with God or the Word of God, or the mission of God, or the ministry of God, the rest of your life depends on what you do with Him once you get saved. Once you trust Christ as your own personal Savior, you have all the power within you to do whatever you want to do.

Most Christians remind me of a story I read one time where a guy died in poverty, and he did not have enough money to bury him. They got looking around and going through his papers. His house was just a ramshackle, and he had newspapers and boxes of stuff. When they got sorting it all out, they found that the guy had inherited like \$4 million 30 years ago, had been sitting in the bank for 30 years. He never knew it because he never opened the letter. He died in poverty not

knowing that he had \$4 million, which by that time was probably \$40 million, sitting in the bank. I thought to myself, "Wow, what a waste that must have been." But the truth of the matter is, the day you got saved, you got \$50 billion sitting in your spiritual bank account. But you and I, just like that dear guy over there who died in poverty, we die in spiritual poverty because we never realize what we have inside us. We are not willing to do anything with it.

Now, that did not happen in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, God did not indwell anybody. He did not unseal anybody. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit of God comes and goes on a man. In the New Testament, when you got saved, you have the ability to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament, they did not have that ability. You do not find that the average Jew back there in the Bible could just go to God and pray and get his sins forgiven. He had to go through a structure that God had set up that is much different than the structure we have.

Today in the New Testament, when you and I want to talk with God or you sin in your life or I sin in my life, we want to get it right. You know what we do? We walk in boldly to the throne room. We walk right in the throne room before the throne of God, and we lay our petitions down at God's feet, and He hears our petition. There is nobody in the Old Testament on an individual basis that could do that. You know what they had to do? They had to work through the structure. You will find isolated cases in the Bible where God comes down and reveals Himself to a woman or a man, but it is always an isolated case to what God is doing. The average Jew in the Old Testament had no such thing as a personal relationship with God. You know what he had? He had the law.

Now there are some advantages and disadvantages to it. He did not have what you and I had. If you and I have a right kind of relationship with God, we get all the spiritual blessings that God has for us. Follow me? In the Old Testament, it was not about spiritual blessings, was it? It was about physical blessings. So if you did what was right with the law in the Old Testament, you know what God did? God dumped on you physical possessions. He dumped on you riches. In fact, in the Old Testament, being rich and having a lot of riches was a sign of a good relationship with God.

Do you not remember over there in the Gospels when Jesus is talking to the disciples and He is talking about the riches, and He says, "It is harder for a rich man, it is easier for a camel to go through an eye of a needle than a rich man to enter into heaven"? What did the disciples say? They said, "Well then who can be saved?" You know why? Because in an Old Testament scenario, riches was a sign of godliness. That is why Job had all that he had. He was a man who feared God and eschewed evil. That is why Abraham was the greatest man in his day, and he had all that he had. In the Old Testament, if you did what was right with a physical law, God blessed you physically. He gave you cattle, He gave you sheep, He gave you land, He gave you riches. It was proof in a physical sense that you were keeping the law before God.

In the New Testament, it is not about flesh and blood. We are not in a physical kingdom. We are in a spiritual kingdom. So when you do what is right in your relationship with God, you do not

get the physical things necessarily, though God meets all your needs, you get the riches in Christ Jesus that are spiritual in the Word of God. You see how it works?

In the Old Testament, when a Jew did something wrong, he did not have the ability to go to God and say, "Father, I should not have done that, I should not have thought that, I should not have said that, I want You to forgive me." He could not do that. You know what he did when he transgressed the law? He went out and got an animal, and then he brought that animal down to the priest at the tabernacle. He brought it in there, and that priest said, "What is this for?" He said, "Well, I have sinned. I got mad at my wife and threw it down the stairs or something. I have sinned, I should not have done it. I want to bring this animal as an offering to get my sins clean." You know what the high priest said or the priest said? He says, "Fine, here, put your hand on this lamb with me, and I am going to put my hands on it, we are going to kill it." When he put his hands on it, he was identifying that "I have sinned," and he is touching the sacrifice. When the high priest—that guy could not do it—when the high priest killed that animal and offered it up on the altar, God appeased that man of his sin.

Are you not glad you do not have to go through a system like that? You know what the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament is? He did not have the process in the Old Testament. You and I, we screw up, we just walk right into the throne room. When you walk into the throne room, I do not care what is going on. God says, "Bob is here. What do you need, Bob? Shut up, Michael. I do not want to hear about you fighting with the devil right now. Bob, what do you need? Cherubims, quiet Cherubims, quit banging those tongs. Bob, what do you need?" No Old Testament saint could get that. He could not get that. If he got anything from God, he got it through a structure that had three things in it:

10. He either got it from the priest.
11. He got it from the prophet, the man that God sent: Elijah, Moses, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, those guys.
12. Or he got it from the king.

It was one of the three. God worked through that structure. He did not have the ability to get what you and I have. The reason for it is, he did not have the Holy Spirit of God. You know why? In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit of God is not a person. It is never revealed as a person in the Old Testament. Never is. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit of God is revealed in seven spirits.

Come back to Isaiah chapter 11. I am going to show it to you. In the Old Testament, men and women did not have the relationship that you and I have with God. God spoke through the leader, and those leaders did not have it either. They are the men that God picked. That is why when you start to look at guys like David, when David got into trouble with Uriah the Hittite and Bathsheba, and he is out of fellowship with God, you know what he prays to God? He says, "Oh Lord, take not thy spirit from me." You know what it says about Saul? The Bible says that Saul had the Spirit of the Lord, and then the Spirit of the Lord left Saul, and an evil spirit came to Saul. In the Old Testament, it is nothing like what we have in the New Testament.

Most people do not understand that. You probably could not find 20 preachers in this town that understand what I am just talking to you about. It is not the fact that they have a better idea. If you would ask them, they would just scratch their head. They do not know. They do not have a clue. They would berate you for asking them simply because of the fact that, "You know what? You should not be asking questions they do not have answers to." But you know what? As God's people, you deserve answers. You need to know. You need to ask. That is how you learn.

All right, now when you come over here, you want to look at Isaiah chapter 11. It says here:

*And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:*

*And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;*

*And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:*

Seven spirits in the Old Testament:

13. The Spirit of the Lord
14. The Spirit of wisdom
15. The Spirit of understanding
16. The Spirit of counsel
17. The Spirit of might
18. The Spirit of knowledge
19. The Spirit of the fear of the Lord

Look at verse 3:

*But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.*

All right, in the Old Testament, when God dealt with man, He dealt with man through the Holy Spirit of God in the concept of seven spirits. It is not a person in the Old Testament, and a man in the Old Testament was not sealed like you and I are. He was not spiritually circumcised. He was not part of the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit of God came not in the form of a person; it came in the form of whatever spirit He needed of the Lord at that point to do the job that He wanted to do. Of course, you see that used all through the Word of God.

In the New Testament, it does not work that way with you. If you are saved this morning, you have all of God that there is. There is nothing to be added. You do not have to pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit. You do not have to pray for some other coming of the Holy Spirit of God. You have God, if you are saved this morning, the Holy Spirit of God living inside you, and you get these in the person of Christ the day you got saved, and you have all seven spirits in one body, the body of the Holy Spirit of God, a person of the New Testament that is living inside you today that is sealed.

So when the rapture of the church goes out in chapter 4, and God begins to turn His attention back to the nation of Israel in the Tribulation period, which is under the Old Testament setup, the first thing you see is the Spirit of God changes in its mode of operation. It is no longer now a person. It is reverting back to the nation of Israel with a literal kingdom of heaven. So it goes back to the way that operated in the Old Testament, and seven spirits are before that throne. That is how God works with the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, one of the greatest things that you will ever learn.

The thing that is different between what you have got and what they have got is you have got it all. The day you get saved, you have got everything that God wants you to have. The moment you get saved, you have the ability to overcome every issue in your life. Every issue. You have the ability at that point to overcome every problem you have got. I do not care if you are a drug addict, an alcoholic. I do not care what your problem is. I do not care what it is. The moment you get saved, you now at that moment have the ability to overcome every problem in your life. You now have the same power in you that God used when He created the universe in Psalms 33, the same power that He used in Genesis chapter 1. You have everything you need to overcome everything in your life.

The problem is you just do not want to do that. That is it. That is your problem. That is why some people make it and some people do not. You take Joe Blow here and Joe Blow here and Joe Blow here gets saved. They get saved the same day. One makes it and one does not. Somebody says, "Well, he had a tough life and he did not." "Well, he did not have an education. He did." "Well, he never had any money. He did." It is not about any of that stuff. It is about one wanted to do it and the other one did not. One was tired of a life of sin. The other one was still enjoying a life of sin. It is that simple.

But at the moment you get saved, you have the ability to overcome every problem in your life. You do not have any excuse. The only excuse you have is, "I do not want to. I like the lifestyle I am living." That is the only excuse you have. What makes you a good counselor, what makes you a good minister, what makes you a good Christian is once you get saved, you start allowing the Holy Spirit of God to take over your life.

I met with the kids the other night, and we were talking about leadership with our young people, and I was going through some things, and I said, "You know what? Every Christian ought to be an addict." You should. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 16:15, Paul is talking about those people who were addicted to the ministry. You ought to be addicted to the ministry.

I want you to know as a Christian this morning, and as a preacher—forget the preacher—as a Christian, I have an addiction, and I am an addict, and I am not a recovering addict. I have no plans to recover from my addiction. I am addicted to the ministry of the Word of God, and that is the addiction you need in your life.

I will do the same with him with drinking. Some of you guys like to drink it up and booze it up. I am with you. We just do not drink out of the same bottle. My Bible says in the book of Ephesians, "Do not be drunk with wine and excess, but be filled with the Spirit." You get drunk on your stuff, I get drunk on mine. You like Captain Morgan? I like the Captain of my salvation.

It is all right. You drink Jack Daniels, I drink King James. What is your point? What is your problem?

You see, you are addicted to your stuff, I am addicted to my stuff. You get drunk on your stuff, I get drunk on my stuff. There is not a real difference between addicts and drunks and real Bible-believing, Spirit-filled Christians. There is not. An addict, he gets a habit, and he has to satisfy that habit every day. I have a habit, and I have to satisfy it all day. You get an addict, and you can tell when he needs what he needs, he needs a fix. His nose runs, he starts to get the shakes, he starts to get irritable, he gets all these things. That is the same way I get, except my nose does not run. That is the same way I get when I get out of that book. There is no difference between the two. He is addicted to what he is addicted to. I am addicted to what I am addicted to.

You know what is wrong with preachers? Preachers get up there in the pulpit, and they try to get you off of drugs, and they should. They tell you you need to get rid of drugs, and you should. They preach against it, and they should, but they do not fail to hook you up with another mainstream pusher that will fix whatever problem you have got. It is the same way with booze. All night after work, everybody out there, they want to get down there for happy hour. On Thursday night, our happy hour starts here at seven o'clock.

I do not know what to tell you. You get a guy that drinks. When he gets a couple drinks in him, he is friends with everybody. My Bible says, "He that hath friends must show himself friendly." I get a couple of belts of that thing in me, and I am friendly too. I will tell you something else. I have never been a drunk in my life that once he got going on the thing, did not want to share the bottle with his friends. I want to share my bottle with my friends.

I will tell you something else. I never saw a guy when he got good, downfall, and staggering drunk that the first thing it did is it affected his walk. When you get filled with that thing, the first thing it does, it affects your walk. I will tell you something. You get so elaborated and so out of control that you need to get home. You need a designated driver. I will tell you what. When I got saved, got that book, the first thing I realized that I needed a designated driver, and He is driving it for me, man. He is driving it.

I was driving that road one day, and I saw a little bumper sticker in the back of the car, and it said, "God is my co-pilot." I looked at the guy driving, and I said, "Well, no way. God should be the pilot." I do not want God to be my co-pilot. I want Him to be my designated driver in life. I want to be so filled with the Spirit of God that I do not know how to drive and do not know how to walk. Everybody can walk down the street, and you spot a drunk. He is staggering everywhere. He is going everywhere. You know what? The world has to look at you and see you out of step with them. There is no difference between the two. There is no difference between the two.

When you get filled with the Spirit of God, you have the power to overcome everything you have got in your life. You just have to trade one bottle for the other bottle. You have to get rid of one addiction and get hooked up on the other one. You think I am a pastor? I am a drug dealer. I am a pusher. That is all I am in a spiritual sense. That is all I am. I am trying to get you hooked on my drugs.

Years and years ago, I had a lady, she came in to see me, and she says, she came in because her son was worldly, and she wanted her son to get out of the world. So she came into me, and she said, "Bob, you do a lot of good work with a lot of young men. Would you kind of help me with my son?" I said, "I would be glad to." So I met the kid, liked the kid. He liked me. In two months, I had that kid. He was not drinking anymore, was not around with the crowd anymore. He was coming to Bible study. I was discipling him. He was involved in everything in the world. He was coming to church every time the door was open, and he was hitting all eight cylinders. I got another phone call. She was mad at me now. "All he wants to do is study his Bible!"

Well, I do not know how to keep you on half drugs and the other half drugs. I know there are some Christians that think you can take Prozac and all that stuff and still get the Word of God and work it out. I have not figured out how to do that yet. It is either one or the other for me. I do not know. I have never been an alcoholic. I have never drank. I am like Charles Spurgeon. When somebody asked him one time, "How do you like your whiskey?" He says, "I like it straight." I do not know how else to tell you. I do not know those things, but I know that that book will give you the power to overcome every problem you have got, every problem you have got.

When you realize that the Holy Spirit of God is working inside you, you have no excuse this morning if you are a saved man or a woman for not being plugged into God and God getting everything out of you, except you will not make yourself available. You have got another addiction in your life that is overriding this addiction. You are drunk with the wrong things instead of the right things. I am telling you, it is what makes the difference between you and me. It is what makes the difference between a child of God who makes it and a child of God who does not.

In the Old Testament, they did not have that. They did not have the ability to have the power of God like you. The Holy Spirit of God came, and the Holy Spirit of God left. In the Old Testament, He manifests Himself by seven spirits of God. Those seven spirits of God are what He gave them in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, in the church, we have the complete body of Christ to do everything that God wants us to do. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 6:19:

*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

You are bought with a price. When the rapture takes place, out He goes. He is no longer here because He is in you. If you go, He has to go. See how that little piece of theology just blows right out the window, the fact that there is no rapture? Why is there a change in the operation of the Holy Spirit of God? Why do you never find the word "church" again after chapter 4? Let me tell you something. When the Holy Spirit goes out, He is in you. You have to go out. But again, trying to teach your Bible before you know the Bible is like walking through a minefield with snowshoes on. You are going to blow yourself up.

## V. The Seven-Sealed Book: God's Word

In Revelation chapter 5, when we open this thing up, we see it takes place up in heaven. Verses 1 and 6 say there is a throne. Third heaven. The next thing we see is a seven-sealed book, a seven-

sealed book. This seven-sealed book, they are crying because nobody can open it. No man is worthy to open this book, Revelation 5:3-4. Then in Revelation 5:5, the Lamb of God, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Lord Jesus Christ, He opens that book. We have a seven-sealed book.

Ladies and gentlemen, there is only one seven-sealed book in the history of the world that I know of. It is this book right here. For 400 years, when they printed King James Bibles, they put seven seals on the back. You have one across the bottom, one across the top, and one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Every other Bible on this planet had six, had five, had four, had three. There was one Bible on the face of this planet that had on the back of the cover. That is why when I tell you I believe the Word of God, the Bible is the Word of God from cover to cover, including the cover. Amen.

We get our wide margin Bibles from Milford. When you get down here in Milford, you have a New Testament local church that believes the King James Bible is the Word of God. Was it God came down and inspired and said and led the men to say, "Okay, without you knowing it, you put seven seals"? No, no, no, no, no. Those men knew the Bible. Those men knew the Bible, and they knew what Bible that seven-sealed was. So when they printed that thing, there was no doubt in their mind. Now you may find a counterfeit today out today that has them on, but I am telling you what, for 300 years of all the Bibles that were printed, there was only one Bible on the face of this planet that had one, two, three, four, five, six, seven seals on the back.

When he is talking about that seven-sealed book, it is the Word of God and the judgments it contains that God's Son is going to open up and dump on this planet. It is that simple. You get an American King James Bible from Thomas Nelson or one of those other ones, it probably will not have them on. You get a Cambridge or an Oxford to come out of Cambridge and Oxford in England, whether standard, those guys over there, they do not know why they do it today, but when they get it, they understood what they were doing. They know there is only one, there is only one seven-sealed book in this world. It is a King James 1611 Authorized Version that contains the judgments. These are the same books that are opened in Revelation chapter 20 at the Great White Throne Judgment when it says the books were opened. There is only one book on the planet that has the judgments contained in it, and it is the Word of God. There is only one book that is the Word of God.

You are going to come down through here, and it says, "No one was found worthy," and the Lamb of God opens it in Revelation 5:5. The seals contain the judgment of God in the form of these seals. Now this is what we are going to tackle first here, and we are going to look at it. I want to look at seal number one. Seal number one is found in Revelation chapter 6. So we have kind of got Revelation 5 out of the way, and we have dealt with the things there.

## VI. The First Four Seals: The Four Horsemen

Let us come over here to Revelation chapter 6, and let us read down here Revelation 6:1-2.

*And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.*

*And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.*

You are going to find in your Bible in the book of Revelation two white horse riders. You are going to find one in Revelation chapter 6 and one in Revelation chapter 19. If you would go to the average pastor in this city, you have to try it. If you would go to the average seminary in this country—I do not recommend you try it—and every college and seminary and every commentary you are going to get your hands on, they are going to tell you the white horse rider in Revelation chapter 6 is the Lord Jesus Christ. I have never seen it fail other than about four or five. I have heard preachers preach all my life. When they get to Revelation chapter 6, they make it the Lord Jesus Christ.

You know what? It is not the Lord Jesus Christ. What you have got coming in Revelation chapter 6 is a counterfeit Christ. We have already studied the Antichrist. Why in the world—and I know the answer, but I am going to say it anyhow, because it is part of my message—why in the world could somebody confuse the rider in Revelation chapter 6 with the rider in Revelation chapter 19? How could you do that other than you do not pay attention to the Word of God? A quick glance at comparing them shows you they are not the same.

In Revelation chapter 19, with that white horse rider, heaven opens up. Heaven does not open up in Revelation chapter 6. The white horse rider in Revelation chapter 19 is called Faithful and True, not called that in Revelation chapter 6. In Revelation chapter 19, "in righteousness does he make war." In Revelation chapter 6, he makes war with the saints. In Revelation chapter 6, the white horse rider has a bow but no arrows. You know what that is a picture of? That is 2 Thessalonians 2, 1 Thessalonians 5, Daniel 9, Zechariah 11. He comes with peace. He has a bow, but no arrows. He comes in relative peace. He puts everybody to peace like the verses say. The one in Revelation chapter 19, he does not come in peace. He comes with a sharp sword out of his mouth by which he smites the nations. There is no deception to it. They are not the same. They are not the same.

In Revelation chapter 6, he has got a crown. In Revelation chapter 19, he has got many crowns. In Revelation chapter 6, four horsemen follow him. In Revelation chapter 19, a whole army follows him. It is not the same. Once you do not follow the breakdown of the book of Revelation, once you refuse for whatever reason—your education or your arrogance or whatever it may be your problem—once you go against the Bible and you take the position that that Bible is not innocent till proven guilty and it lays out the truth and you start to get another agenda, you are not getting nothing out of the Bible, and you will come to those passages, and you will not be able to see a thing, and you will wind up being deceived thinking the white horse rider of Revelation chapter 6 is the Second Coming of Christ and the Lord, when in actuality it is the Antichrist. He is coming as an Antichrist, false Christ, imitator of Christ to deceive the world. All it takes is anybody with a dime store Bible to compare the two and see that the two riders are not the same. This is the Antichrist showing up.

All right, seal number two. This will be Revelation 6:3-4.

*And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.*

*And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.*

All right, the next horse is a red horse, and this horse represents war, red because of blood. The planet Mars, years and years and centuries ago, before they even knew what they were all doing, there were no telescopes made, they could see the ancients made Mars, called it the red planet. They saw Mars, Mars being the god of war, and because of the oxidation of its soil, it is red. You look at it, and it will be all the other stars, and you cannot miss it. It is red as red can be, and it is red because of the surface of it. So when they saw it, they made that the god of war. Red always signifies blood.

So we have got the red horse that shows up, and it says in Revelation 13:7, "And it was given unto him to make war with the saints." Of course, we find this all through the Tribulation period. This happens when he comes, Revelation 6:1, the white horse rider with a bow but no arrows. He comes and sets up the false peace. That false peace lasts for about three and a half years, we studied it, and then it begins to turn away from it, and we begin to see it go down, and we begin to see the other riders come in, and then we have war. We have the red horse showing up, and this is when he breaks the covenant with Israel back in Zechariah chapter 11 we talked about. All this death and destruction leads up to the greatest bloodbath the world has ever seen, which is called the Battle of Armageddon.

If you know anything about it at all, you know that that battle is such a graphic battle that Ezekiel 39:12 says that after that battle, when the Lord comes back, it takes seven months to bury all the dead people. It is one battle. So we have the white horse rider that shows up, that is the Antichrist. Following him is the red horse rider, which is war and bloodshed.

Then the third seal, Revelation 6:5-6.

*And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.*

*And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.*

All right, this black horse represents the great famine that is going to come during that period of time. Notice he has got a balance in his hand. That is the old-time way of measuring out food. You want to compare these references here with Hosea 12:1 and Ezekiel 4:11, 16. I will tell you something else you want to do: every famine you have got in your Bible, and there is a number of them, you want to go back and you want to get a picture of this. Every famine in your Bible, take Joseph when he is down there at the end of the book of Genesis. There is famine in Egypt for seven years, all a picture of this famine. You are going to find it in Ruth 1:1, it is why Ruth goes back. You are going to find it in 2 Samuel 24. You are going to find it in 1 Kings 18.

Every place you get into an old story in the Bible where there is a famine and people are starving to death, there is one place that is back there that is so bad that they are eating their own children. What happens back in the Old Testament is when a king wants to take Jerusalem or any city, he

just takes his army and he surrounds that city, and he does not let anybody come out, does not let anybody come in. What he does is he starves them out. Some of those sieges back there lasted for three years before the city fell. They may have a storage of food for a while, but after a while, they do not have anything. Nobody comes in, nobody comes out. He takes the city. Time is on his side. He does not lose a man in doing it. He just starves the city out.

We did the same thing in World War II. That is what we did. We blockaded the Japanese islands so they could not get any supplies, and they starved to death. Well, they give up. We pull out with the same plan. That is a standard battle procedure all the way down through the history of warfare. You do not want to lose any men, just cut off their supplies. No water, no food, they are not going to last very long. That is what happens. So every one of those in the Old Testament, every one of those famines, every one of those pictures of somebody starving to death back there is going to be a picture of what is going to take place in the Tribulation period. It is just that simple.

As I said, you will find it. Then Revelation 6:6, I have got to just give you this. What a strange verse this is. What a strange verse. I have been asked this many, many times where it says, "hurt not the oil and the wine." Strange verse. Of course, that verse becomes more understandable now in the last 20 years of things. We know that, and for years and years and years, anybody who has done the investigative work knows there has been a connection between the Muslims and the Roman Catholic Church. Anybody who knows anything about anything at all that does any work knows that the Pope has long ago been behind Arafat and the group behind the Palestine Liberation Army. It is public knowledge for anybody who wants to deal with it.

There are only two nations in the world that I know that are going to be key figures in the Tribulation period. They are one of them represented by wine, the Roman Catholic Church, the other represented by oil, the Muslims. You have got a key verse right there that shows you, for anybody that is paying attention, that there is a connection between the two, and it is going to lead to the Tribulation period. In the Tribulation period, those two somehow, some shape, some form, are going to bond together. It is already bonding behind the scenes, and it has already been done. They would not have the power that they have if Rome would not have gone along with the things that they did. If you think Rome is for the nation of Israel, you are sadly mistaken. She is for the Palestinians. She is for the PLO. She is for a Palestinian state, and she is against the nation of Israel. She has killed them all down through history, and she would kill them today if she could get away with it. So she just has somebody else kill them for her. We do not have time to get into that this morning.

So we see there that as you come down through here with a black horse, it represents famine. During this time, there is going to be a great famine. Of course, all these things are falling on the Earth. The Earth is not going to be able to produce its food. There is going to be a catastrophe upon catastrophe, and the whole Earth is going to dry up as far as the food supply is, and the grocery stores are going to run out, and there is going to be nothing to eat.

Then the fourth seal, Revelation chapter 6, pick it up in verses 7 and 8.

*And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.*

*And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.*

Here is the first one, if you are paying any kind of attention, and this is kind of what I am talking about. When you read things like this, you should have noticed something when you read this one. This is the first time, and this is the fourth one, but this is the first time that the rider is named. His name is Death, and so is Hell, personified. This brings up a tremendous study to go through the Word of God.

God has a destroying angel. Somebody says, "Well, God will come down and kill you." God does not come down and kill anybody. He has an angel that kills them. You find that over in Exodus 12:23. When the children of Israel were told to put the blood on the door, the Bible tells you in that verse that at night, at midnight, if you did not have the blood on the door, God sent through His destroying angel, called a destroyer angel in Exodus 12. Sometimes we call it the death angel. You will find over there in 2 Kings 19:35, on one night, one angel killed 186,000 men. God has an angel which takes care of death, and that angel is not one of God's angels. It is one of the... but all the spirits, all the angels are subject to God, whether they are God's or the devil's. They all have to obey Him.

When God met with Job back in the book of Job, it was not the devil that brought God Job's name up, it was God. The first time they met, the devil said, "You know what? You have given him everything he has got. Why would he not love You?" God said, "Okay, take everything he has got." The devil said, "I will do it." As he is walking out the door, the Lord said, "Oh, by the way, you can take what he has got, but you cannot touch him." The devil said, "No, why?" He went, "Huh?" Because now he knew he could not touch him. The devil could have stayed up all night long trying to touch Job's flesh, and he could not touch him. You know why? Because even who he is, he is in control of God, for God is in control of him. God says, "You can take what he has got, but you cannot touch him." He goes back in the next time, and he says, "Well, how did he do?" He said, "Well, but You did not touch him. Let me touch him, and he will curse You to Your face." God said, "Okay, now you can touch him." The guy walked out the door, "But you cannot kill him." You know why? The devil would have loved to kill him. The devil is subject to what God tells him. The devil cannot move one inch outside what God allows him to do. That is another whole study in itself. We do not have time to get into this morning. We have been through it before, especially on Thursday night.

But you know what you have here? You have a death angel, and when God says that that death angel, "Go down and wipe them out," he goes down and wipes them out. In Exodus 12, he says, "Go through the land of Egypt and kill all the firstborn." Back there in 2 Kings, he is ending down there, and he wiped out 186,000 of them. What I want you to see here is the Bible says that Death is personified, and they come onto this Earth. I guess this is where we get the phrase, "All hell breaks loose," because that is what happens.

If you compare this with Revelation chapter 9, you find out of the bottomless pit comes all of these absolute monstrosities that are described in such a way that it is hard to even explain. I am

telling you this, and I know you get so desensitized to things that it does not bother you anymore, but I am telling you something, every movie you go and see, everything you ever watch, everything that has ever been put together by an unsaved man has—he only gets, he has his source, and it is only one source—it has to come from the Bible. All these horror movies you watch and you like to see, they are all the same. They all have the same thing. They all do. You have this monster, whether it is Freddy or whether it is the terror on Elm Street or whether it is Terminator or whether it is Jason or whatever the case, and it is always the same: they are going after people, and you cannot get away from them, and you kill them a hundred thousand times in the movie, and they keep getting up, and they keep coming after you. You know why? Because they are already dead.

We go to the movies, and we see so much of that, we think, "Oh, just a movie." That is exactly what you have got in the Tribulation period. They come out of the bottomless pit. They come out of hell, and they stalk this Earth, and for a while, men want to die. They torment them. They sting them. They do whatever they do to them, and the Bible says death flees from them. But in time, they wind up killing them. It is just like any horror movie you ever saw in your life. It is Night of the Living Dead Part 3. It is anything you ever watched in your life, anything that ever terrified you, anything that you cannot get away from in your worst nightmare that keeps coming after you and coming after you, and there is no place to hide, and there is no place to go, and there is no place to rest, and there is no place. That is the Tribulation period when all hell breaks loose.

There is a great side to hell, my friend, that most of God's people either never knew or forgotten a long time ago. I am telling you, when I read in the Bible and I read about hell, it is the fact that it talks about hellfire, and then there is another word that always bothered me: it is the word "torment." We think of dying and going to hell as just down there like in Luke chapter 16. Yet the Bible says there are degrees in hell. The Bible talks about a lower hell or the lowest hell. Why does God have these absolute incredible monstrosities, beasts down there in the lake of fire and in hell? What are they doing? What is the definition of a man's torment in hell? What is all this stuff we see around us today that the unsaved world puts out, and we go and watch it, and we think it is science fiction or we think it is just a movie? In actuality, the false bottom line of everything in this world that every unsaved man ever gets has to go back to the final authority as a source material. He will twist it. He will cover it. He will shine it up. He will package it up. He will redo it, and he will put it out as some goofy movie. We go to watch it. In reality, it is all going back to there.

There is coming a day when on this Earth dead men will walk. There is coming a day when men like Freddy will be on this Earth. There is coming a day when men who are your worst nightmare will travel up and down this Earth seeking where they go, killing anybody, tormenting anybody they can find, and there is not a thing you can do about it. So enjoy it now in the theaters because if you do not get saved, it is coming. Remember, he that laughs last, laughs best. You get your shot to laugh at God now. Go ahead. You get your shot to laugh at me and I preaching now. Go ahead. There is coming a day where He is the last. God always gets the last laugh. Always does. Always does.

There is some strange stuff about hell. There is some strange stuff in that place about torment, and I do not begin to understand it all, but I am telling you right now, it is more than just being a lake of fire burning. Where do you think all this mythology comes from? Where do you think all this Greek and Roman mythology comes from? That guy, what was his name? Sisyphus. They chained him to a rock every day. Every morning a big vulture came while he was alive, chained to the rock. It ate his intestines out, then flew off. He healed up. Next morning, it came back for eternity, chained to a rock with some gigantic carnivorous bird eating your intestines while you are alive, and then you heal up at night, and he comes back for seconds, third, fourth, fifth, sixth for eternity. You think somebody just made that up? You think some Plato, Aristotle guy, some Greek philosopher said, "Oh, that sounds like a nice story"? You see, every year, every century has these Freddy Kruegers. That just happened to be the third century BC. Where do you think they get that from?

I am not saying that that is what hell is going to be. I am telling you, you and I do not have an idea of what torment is. You and I do not have an idea of how, when the devil gets you down to the lake of fire, he has got control. That is his kingdom. God is not there anymore. The man in hell says what Christ said on the cross, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" There is no God in hell. There is nothing to stop the devil from doing whatever he wants to do, and he takes one pleasure in life, and that is watching you suffer. You have to get that. I do not understand it all, but if you think this hell is going to be "oh, warming," it is going to be more than that. There is something in there. There is something down there that is going to guarantee when God pulls His presence out, and we are in His kingdom, and we are in the heavenly bliss of everything that God is doing, it has prepared for us. When you are in a lake of fire, when you are there, and you are in eternity there, the torment goes on forever and ever.

We have been so desensitized because of all the things that we hear and we see. There are actually unsaved people, maybe in this room, they are certainly out where you work, and they just think hell is no big deal. They think they will skirt through that just like they skirt through everything in life. My dear friend, does God have a brick wall with your name on it? Are you going to come to a crashing end and realize that it is not about God? He is not there. You scream your lungs out for God, and nobody will hear. You will be in a place where day is not there, where night is not there. We are afraid of the dark. You are in total darkness, and all through that darkness is everything that is evil that now you are their main objective. I am telling you, and that is what comes out on Planet Earth during the Tribulation period. That is what comes out during that period of time. Man says, "I believe your hell is on Earth." Not yet, my friend, but it is coming.

I did not mean to get this far into it, but here I am. So what I do now, I read over there in Luke chapter 16 where the rich man died and Lazarus died, Lazarus being God's man and the rich man being the devil's man. The Bible says an interesting phrase there. The Bible says that Lazarus died and was carried by the angels of God into Abraham's bosom. Then it says the rich man also died and in hell. I have often looked at that absence of words there, and obviously many, many times thought to myself, "There is a reason why the angels of God have to carry you when you die into the presence of God there." We do not have time to get into that this morning. The

answer is found in the book of Daniel, but we do not have time to get into it. There is a reason why that has to be, because on your own, you would never find your way there. Because I know most people think that heaven is a state of mind. It is not. Heaven is a real place. If we got in a rocket ship and blasted off and had the time to do it and go fast there, we would get there in time.

Now I know the direction that I am going. If you and I died, we would probably split up. You would say, "Well, I think it is this way." I say, "No, Bible says it is this way." "Well, but my, you know, when I went to seminary..." "Okay, see you later. I am going. I know where I am going." Thank God that when you die, you do not have those options. Your seminary education is cut short, and God gives you an angel that carries you into the presence of God. I have often thought to myself, "How does a man when he dies get to hell?"

There is a book out, I do not know, long out of print. I think it is coming at Todd to find it. It is a book by Oswald J. Smith called *God's Madhouse of the Universe*. I read it about 30 years ago. I had a copy, but somebody borrowed it and never gave it back. You know what this book was? It was one of the greatest books I ever read. It was a combination of how the great unsaved atheists died versus how godly saints died. In almost every case, when the men were dying that all their life had took a stand against God, hated God and everything about God, made fun of God, in almost every case—because back then they did not dope you up, they did not have any stuff to give you—you just died. In almost every case, before they died, they went out screaming at what was standing at the end of the bed or standing on their bed or pulling at their feet or pulling at their arms, and all of the doctors and their relatives thought they were delusional.

I am telling you right now, friend, if you know the Bible, there is a fourth dimension out there that is a spiritual dimension that not only does God's angels live in, but the devil's angels live in. You can mark it down: if God's angels carry you into the presence of God, then the devil's angels are going to carry you into his presence. Oh, my dear friend, there is more to that Bible, and I am so sorry that in the world that we live in, preachers have lost sight of that, and all they want to do is talk about this and that. If they ever preach on hell, it is a very subtle thing because they do not want to offend your refined sensibilities. But I am telling you, my friend, that is real, and it is hellfire, and it is torment.

## VII. The Fifth Seal: The Martyrs' Cry

All right, the fifth seal, Revelation 6:9-11.

*And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:*

*And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*

*And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.*

Here is a great passage, and this is where you begin to see why he divides the Tribulation into four sections. This is where you begin to see that there are four emphases to this Second Coming. He wants you to see because now we see in this fifth seal, or seal number five, we now see that there are some people here that are under the altar, and the Bible says that they are slain for the Word of God's sake, and they are now saying, "Lord, how long? How long? How long before we get avenged?"

I do not know if you know it or not, but a third of the book of Psalms is made up with these prayers. The book of Psalms doctrinally is three things, and I am going to give this to you, and you can begin to work on it. We are not anywhere near Psalms yet on our church Bible book by book, but I will give it to you anyhow. Doctrinally, the book of Psalms is three things:

20. David, who typifies the nation of Israel out of fellowship with God in the Tribulation period, running from the Antichrist.
21. The second doctrinal explanation is David, who typifies Israel praying to God for deliverance. That will be your prayers that we are looking at right here.
22. Then the third aspect of it will be the Second Coming of Christ and the Millennium.

You will find doctrinally whenever you are reading in the book of Psalms, you are reading one of three things: you are reading David as a type of the nation of Israel running from God during the Tribulation, praying for God's Second Coming like he is here, souls under the altar, and then the Second Coming in the Millennium. Historically, it is David in three phases: David right with God, David out of fellowship with God, David trying to get right with God, and then David restored to God. It is basically you and me in three phases:

23. You and me running from God.
24. You and me praying for God's forgiveness to get back and restore.
25. Then God restoring us.

That is how it works. Wherever you go in the book of Psalms, it will be one of those three things. Mark it down. You want a little project? Break the book of Psalms down that way, and you will have it. It is that simple.

But here is what you have got to see: here are the souls under the altar. They are typified by the Psalms in the prayers in the Psalms of God. "How long before You send me deliverance, God? How long will my enemies oppress me, God? How long do I have to do this before You come and get me out of this mess?" A third of the Psalms is built around these prayers right here. In the Tribulation period, God does not answer that prayer because the Tribulation period is God's dealing with the nation of Israel, and they have to go through their chastisement.

Remember now, the nation of Israel goes into the Tribulation period because they rejected the Lord Jesus Christ and then killed Him and then made fun of it and said, "Oh, put His blood on our account." God said, "No problem, with compound interest." For the next 2,000 years, the Jews paid for that price. They have never paid for it like they are going to pay for it in the Tribulation, and this is what brings them back to God.

A man asked me one time, "Why does God wipe down the Jews to a remnant in the Tribulation period when they are trying to get right with God?" Because it is not the same as it is with me and you. I accepted the Messiah. I accepted Him as my Savior. They rejected Him and killed Him. You know what story you have got this in the Bible here? It is again, book of Judges, Samson. You want to know why God says, "I cannot stop the bloodshed yet," because your brethren have got to get killed just like you were. You know how they get killed in the Tribulation? They get their head cut off. Revelation 20:9. They burn their bodies in a living sacrifice, and then the Antichrist and his people drink their blood and eat their bodies. Yeah, go to Psalms 16. Do not take my word for it.

You know why they have to die that way? You know why God says, "I cannot go down just yet"? They have to die too. If you ever look how the Old Testament sacrifices were killed in Leviticus chapter 5, they cut their heads off, then they burn them. You know the story you have got here? You want a story that illustrates why this is the way it is? It is Samson. Samson is a type of the nation of Israel who cares nothing about God, who cares nothing about God's sacrifice. All Samson cares about is the woman he is hanging out with, which is the type of the whore, Revelation chapters 17 and 18, called Delilah. That is all he is caring about. He is caring about the good times of life, and he is involved with her, and she is a Baalite worshiper out of the Midianites. She is a perfect example of the religion of the Antichrist during the Tribulation, and he is knee deep and neck deep in with her, and he is just all about her and forgot about God.

So he did not bring a he-lamb. He did not bring a ewe-lamb. He never got a haircut, and he never got a ram. Picture of the nation of Israel who forsook God's sacrifice. So you know what God did? God always gets His due. God killed his father-in-law and his wife, thereby getting the he-lamb and the ewe-lamb. Delilah gave him his haircut, and then Delilah turns him over to the Philistines. They take him and they bind him to a grist mill, and there he is naked, the aristocracy of the nation of Israel. There he is, a picture of Israel bound to a worldly Philistine system, naked, abused, made fun of, just like the Jews down through history, and under the bondage of the Philistines, the world system making their food for them. Finally, they are going to have a little fun with it, kind of like the Holocaust.

So they take him over there, and they bind him between two pillars, and he is down there, and now he knows he is, it is one of these times where he is having to come to Jesus meeting. Why does it take that long for you and me? Why do we have to get ourselves so bound up with the world before we see our way is not the right way? Why is it that, I mean, forget Israel for a minute, I just have to ask, why do we as human beings let sin bind us, let sin grind us, and let sin just beat us senseless, and then at some point after we really have nothing left to give to God, we fry our brains on drugs, we have cirrhosis of our liver? I do not know if that is the right way to say it, but you know what I am talking about. Why in the world, when we have got nothing left to give to God, our brain cells are dead, our liver is gone, and now we say, "Oh God, I want to serve You"? I do not understand it.

He is now bound between the pillars, and he says to God, "Oh Lord, I screwed it up." Israel in the Tribulation is going to say, "Oh God, I screwed it up." And God is going to say, "You did screw it up." And he says, "What am I going to do? We killed the Messiah, man." Acts chapter 1,

Acts chapter 2, Acts chapter 3, Acts chapter 4, Acts chapter 5, Acts chapter 6, Acts chapter 7. Every sermon we got preached to was about, "We, this same Lord that you have made Christ and made Lord, we have crucified." Every sermon. "We did not see it, but here we are. He is trying to kill us. We are bound by the Antichrist. He is wiping us out. I am between these two pillars. I cannot get a ram." God said, "No problem, Samson, you be the ram. You be the ram."

You know why those Jews get killed out to a remnant? They cannot get a lamb. They cannot appease the sacrifice. They cannot get the way they need to get to do what they have got to do. So God says, "Okay, we will cut your head off as a sacrifice. We will burn you as a sacrifice. You become, you rejected My Lamb, you become the lamb." That is what happens. That is what happens. Oh, my dear friend, the price of sin is overwhelming, and I know that even in our own personal lives and our own taking this thing back to a practical application, I am going to tell you something, there comes a point when you put yourself in so deep that there is no other way out. I am telling you, with Israel, they have got themselves so deep, and they cannot, when they get to this point, and they finally figured out there is nothing they can do, and now they have to be killed just like the sacrificial lambs were killed because they killed the only sacrificial Lamb that could have atoned them, and now they become the lamb.

## VIII. The Sixth Seal: Cosmic Catastrophe

Seal number six, moving through here. We have done a second. Revelation 6:12-17.

*And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;*

*And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.*

*And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.*

*And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, 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?*

Getting ready for the Second Coming. You see now what you have got here is what I have read about in the last four months and watched on TV. You ever notice Revelation 6:12, these things, stars falling from heaven? I just read a report last week that any day now we are going to get hit with a rogue asteroid. They are scared to death that a star is going to come out of heaven and smack down and hit us. What killed the dinosaurs? Do you not know Revelation 6:12 says sun turns black? You know the next thing happens after we have a catastrophic collision? They call it nuclear winter. You know what happens in nuclear winter? The turmoil from the cataclysmic

explosion all takes place, and it blocks out the sun. The sun cannot get through, and everything dies on Planet Earth. In other words, the sun goes black. It is called nuclear winter. That is outdoors camp.

Then Revelation 6:12 also says, "great earthquakes." I read a thing here just a couple of weeks ago, or and watched it on TV. It was on for like three or four months in a row. It was really interesting. I do not remember the name of it, but it was a made-up story about what they think is going to happen at some point, built on the Yellowstone National Park with the geysers out there, Old Faithful. Old Faithful is sitting right on top of a gigantic magma chamber volcano, which says they call it a chain reaction of sevens. I like that Bible. They say it is connected to seven volcanoes that will just about cover the whole course of the Midwest, the United States, and when one goes, it sets a chain reaction, they all go, and it says it is going to cover the United States and all of Europe in a black soot, and everybody is going to die. That is what they are talking about. All of those things are going to happen in the Tribulation period.

You see, unsaved man gets the concept, he does not get the timing of it. There is no man on this world that has any sense at all that knows that this whole world is reeking and racking with all of the pain that it has got. It cannot take much more. It is like a '57 Chevy with a rebuilt engine four or five times. The plugs are shot, the rings are gone, the pistons are gone, and whatever else they have got in an engine is going out on it, and it is just, it is on its last leg. It chugs down the street. It burns oil for six miles. If NASA had it, they could land spaceships on it. It is shot. It is gone. But it just keeps chugging. That is the whole Earth. The whole Earth has been abused. It has been busted. It has been broken. We have ripped it from its natural resources. We have polluted its air. We have brought our sin into it. We have done everything we know how to do to destroy this planet, and now God is going to come down and finish it off. Yet every unsaved man out there sees the coming and pending disaster, but they cannot put it in the right context. I will tell you the right context: yes, the Day of the Lord. Yes, the Day of the Lord.

## IX. The Seventh Seal and the 144,000

Then the seventh seal, and this is in Revelation 7:1-8. He says in Revelation 7:9, "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne." These are the ones that come out of the Great Tribulation. The seventh seal is the sealing of the 144,000. The Bible tells you that 12,000 from each tribe of the nation of Israel God calls out, and He is in the midst of all this, and God protects these people. The plagues do not fall on these people. They are protected. They are the great evangelists during this period of time that go out and tell everybody that wants to listen that God is a God that will bring them and save them in spite of the fact that the way they have got to die. When you come down through Revelation 7:1-8, you will find that there are 12,000 from each tribe. The twelve tribes are listed.

You see that our first time through the Tribulation runs Revelation chapter 5, chapter 6, chapter 7, and it ends with the Second Coming of Christ in Revelation 7:9-17. Pick it up in Revelation 7:9.

*After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;*

*And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.*

*And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,*

*Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.*

*And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?*

*And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

*Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.*

*They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.*

*For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

## X. Conclusion and Application

See how it ends? This one here deals with the fact that it brings you through and shows you the aspect of Israel's prayer and Tribulation. It starts out by showing you the coming in. I cry. You start to opening up the seals and showing you the disaster that is following: the starvation, the death, and all the war. Then it brings you and shows the nation of Israel as they are killed and why they are killed. Then it brings you and shows you the 144,000. Then it brings you back to the Second Coming of Christ where God then brings them before the throne. He has come back. They are now going to go into His kingdom, and Israel is restored.

The key is this first seal. Seven seals opens up the whole book of Psalms for you. It really opens up the whole book of Psalms. You understand now what the prayers of the saints under the altars are all about, and it opens up the Old Testament to show you that new song that we talked about. And they sang a new song. That is the song of Moses found in Deuteronomy chapter 32. It is also found in Judges chapter 5 with Deborah. Everything opens up here. It opens up the Old Testament. So the first time through, the emphasis is on the nation of Israel and then becoming the sacrifice, the sacrificial lamb, because they rejected God's sacrificial Lamb, and it shows you point by point.

Next week, we are going to get into the second Tribulation period, and we are going to show you how it all falls right on top of what is happening here, and we will break down the next series of seven, detailing them out through the scriptures.

Every head bowed, every eye closed. Now let me ask you very quickly today, maybe you are here this morning, and you have never trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior. I do not know where you are.