

Revelation 6 The Seven Seals – Judgment Begins

Introduction:

The 70 Weeks of Daniel 9:24-27

1. Daniel was told that a 490 year period would begin 'from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem' (Dan. 9:24-25).

2. When did this happen?

- In Nehemiah 2:1-8, is the first time permission is granted to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. This then becomes the beginning of the prophetic time appointed by God in his prophecy. This edict to rebuild Jerusalem occurred on March 14, B.C. 445.

- The date that Christ entered into Jerusalem on a donkey was April 6 A.D. 32.

- The intervening period was 476 years and 24 days.

- Therefore:

O $476 \times 365 = \dots\dots\dots 173,740$ days

O Add (March 14 to April 6, both inclusive).....24 days

O Add for leap years.....116 days

Total.....173,880 days

O Therefore 69 weeks of prophetic years (of 360 days) or $69 \times 7 \times 360 = 173,880$ days!

- Thus the sixty-nine weeks began with the decree to rebuild Jerusalem and terminated at the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on the Sunday of the week of the Lord's death.

3. The 70th week will begin when the Antichrist “confirms a covenant with many for one seven” or for seven years. (Dan 9:27)

References:

1. Things to Come by J. Dwight Pentecost, Zondervan, p.246

2. The Coming Prince by Sir Robert Anderson, pp.121-123, Kregel

The worship described in Revelation 4-5 is preparation for the wrath described in Revelation 6-19. It seems strange to us that worship and judgment should go together, but this is because we do not fully understand either the holiness of God or the sinfulness of man. Nor do we grasp the total picture of what God wants to accomplish and how the forces of evil have opposed Him. God is long-suffering, but eventually He must judge sin and vindicate His servants. (Wiersbe)

6:1-2 He will very likely come to the forefront of the world scene as one who promotes peace. At this stage he will still be one of many prominent world leaders. He may be recognized, however, by the role he plays in the agreement with Israel. The covenant involving Israel will be signed at this point. This will start the clock in motion for the final seven years in Israel's prophetic plan leading up to the reign of the Messiah.

6:3-4 In stark contrast to the peace and safety that men will long for, war will come early in the Tribulation. The antichrist will be powerless to prevent it. He may even cause it.

6:5-6 Famine often follows war as farming is disrupted and food supplies are cut off. The prices indicate that a day's wage will only be enough to purchase food for that day with nothing left over.

6:7-8 Epidemics frequently accompany war and famine. This judgment will already have killed 25% of the earth's population.

6:9-11 Those Slain for the Word of God and for the Testimony Which They Held. As the human race begins a process of rapid self-destruction, the ungodly will turn on the godly in full force. As God pours out wrath upon a rebellious earth, the wicked will increasingly pour out their wrath upon the just.

Notice, however, that this seal judgment has to do with their prayer rather than their death. Martyrdom has not been unusual in the history of the church, even if the numbers will increase at this time. The prayer is imprecatory rather than one for forgiveness and reminds us that the judgments that are coming upon earth are totally just.

6:12-17 There will be confusion on Earth and in the Sky. People will know that they are experiencing the "Wrath of the Lamb". Nonetheless, the majority try to hide from Him rather than repent. They don't realize that death will not provide an ultimate escape.

6:15 Robert L. Thomas points out that it's

"not rational to hide in the very mountains that were being shaken by earthquake, but rationality was no longer an option. This was the only place they could think of."

8:1-2 Following the silence seven trumpets are given to the seven angels who stand before God. The Seven Trumpet Judgments all come under the heading of the Seventh Seal.

1. The Certainty of History's Direction:

- Though our lives may seem chaotic, the ultimate course of history is not. It is all moving toward an end already anticipated in this book of Revelation.
- We can be confident at all times that God has things under control.

2. The Results of Gospel Ministry:

- While the good news of Jesus Christ needs to go out into all the world, we should not anticipate that the entire world will ever become "Christianized."
- It is the sustained rejection of Christ by those who dwell on the earth that ultimately brings judgment upon them.
- Still, there will always be some who believe.
- Throughout this book of Revelation we will find a remnant of faithful believers, many of which will die for their faith.
- Our mission is to proclaim Jesus until all have heard, know for a fact that some will be converted, but not expect that all will be converted.

3. The Absolute Justice of God:

- Our present cultural climate allows only for a God of love – or maybe a God who is distant.
- A God of justice – one who can actually judge humans and be just in so doing – is no longer acceptable to most people.
- The God of the Bible who is both loving and just is, therefore, controversial. It may take us time to wrap our hearts and minds around the biblical idea of God's character.
- Even the prayers offered up in the fifth seal are imprecatory – asking God to exercise judgment. Such prayers may not be appropriate for us – think of Jesus or Stephen who prayed for God to forgive those who were killing them.
- These saints are now in heaven, so there is no reason to believe that there is anything selfish in their prayers. They simply see the need for God to reveal the justice inherent in his nature – and he answers with further judgment.