

DATE: January 22, 2012

TEXT: Revelation 6: 1-8

TITLE: The Four Horseman



We are continuing this morning looking at the opening of the Seals. Each of the first four seals are a horseman. Last week we looked at the first horseman. We saw that this was either a symbol of Christ and the Gospel entering the world or a symbol of deception and the anti Christ entering the world. The new 3 horsemen are much easier and most agree on the symbolism of each horseman. The Red horseman is war. The Black horseman is famine and disease. The Pale horseman is death. These are all pictured as judgements from God.

As I said last week, I believe we are already experiencing the judgements of God. We are already experiencing deception, war, famine and disease and death. However, it is clear that these judgements will increase when we are close to the return of Christ. Some believe we are near that time now.... others disagree.

I have time this morning for one and only one topic. I believe John is explaining to the churches in his day and to churches in our day why there is so much suffering in the world. In

order to understand what John is teaching in Revelation we need to understand what Moses was teaching in Genesis. We must return to the Garden of Eden to understand Revelation. I am going to share 5 truths taught in the Garden of Eden. Hold onto your hats I am going to make these statements very quickly.

Truth # 1 Men and women were created in the image of God to enjoy His creation for ever. God desires intimate fellowship with His creation. God desires unity between humanity and His creation. This desire will be fulfilled in the new heaven and the new earth upon the return of Christ.

Truth # 2 Part of being created in the image of God is creating man with a free will. Adam and Eve had the ability to choose to maintain this intimate relationship with God for every and every.

Truth # 3 Adam and Ever chose to break this intimacy with God. They chose to try to be “gods” themselves. They wanted the “knowledge fo good and evil.” Do you understand what a betrayal this is. God is God. We are his creation. But we said “We want to be our own gods.”

We said “we want to decide what is right and wrong.” We said “God keep your distance from us.”

Truth # 4 The choice of Adam and Eve destroyed every persons desire to walk in intimacy with God. *Romans 3: 10-12 states...*

“There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

The only way a person can overcome this is by the adoption of God. He changes our desires. He places within us the desire to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. He restores to us a free will to choose Him.

Truth # 5 Not only did Adam and Eve break our fellowship with God, they broke our unity with each other and with creation. The 4 horsemen of Revelation are symbols of this broken relationships. War is caused by our pride and greed. Famine is caused by our selfishness. Disease is caused by our pollution and our broken relationship with God. And death is caused by our sin. And we are not talking only about physical death... we are talking about Spiritual death. Eternal separation from God.

Genesis is clear..... because man chose separation from God... Because man chose to be their own god... god honored that choice and drove them out of the Garden of Eden. Disease, famine, death, deception are a result of human choice to break intimacy with God.

John is clear..... this judgement is just... this judgement is right... and this judgement is coming to an end for believers. Remember... Revelation is Good news for Christians. Yes, we are part of the Fall of creation. Yes, we will experience disease, famine, persecution, physical death. But the new garden is coming. I close with these words of Jesus. He too promised his return. I read from *Mark 13*

5 Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. 6 Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many. 7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 8 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

9 “You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. 10 And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. 11 Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

12 “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. 13 Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

20 “If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has shortened them. 21 At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. 22 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even

the elect. 23 So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.

26 “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 27 And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. 34 It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

35 “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

The Good news is this. We have been adopted by the Lord Jesus Christ. We have surrendered our life to Christ. He is our God. We are not our own gods. He is Lord. Yes, we will suffer as a result of the Fall on this earth... but we have victory. We have Good news. Christ is returning. We will be with Him when he returns. We will be part of the new Heaven and the new Earth. Trust in Jesus... now and forever. Watch and prepare!

AMEN