

REVELATION 6:1-6

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Revelation chapter 6 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

As we have seen in our study of Revelation, chapter 4 begins the last division of the book or the things that will take place after the Church Age comes to a close.

Thus, Revelation chapters 4 and 5 are focused on heaven, as John, being a type or picture of the church, is caught up to heaven.

And I realize that many people are focused on the judgment of God being poured out upon a Christ rejecting world, Revelation 6 through 19, but keep in mind that the focus of the book of Revelation is – ***THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST!***

We will be looking at these chapters closely as we go through them, but again, these are the birth pains leading up to the birth of the – ***KINGDOM AGE!***

Professor Renald Showers wrote the following regarding the start of the Tribulation, the start of the birth pains, that once they start, they will conclude with the birth of the Kingdom Age, as I have said. This is what he wrote,

Once a woman's birth pangs begin, those pangs cause her the stress of being hemmed into a trying, painful, and unavoidable circumstance of life. She has no alternative but to pass through all of the pangs involved in giving birth to a child.

In light of this fact, Christ's teaching to the effect that the beginning of birth pangs will be experienced during the first half of the seventieth week (of Daniel) indicated the following truths.

Once the birth pangs start at the beginning of the seventieth week, those pangs will cause the world the stress of being hemmed into a trying, painful, and unavoidable seven-year circumstance of life.

The world will have no alternative but to pass through all of the birth pangs involved in giving birth to the Messianic Age. Because tribulation will be experienced during the first half of the seventieth week - to apply the word tribulation to that 3 ½ year period of time is not wrong.

- Renald Showers

Now, back in heaven with John, we see that as John looks, he sees the throne of God and God the Father seated upon that throne.

And as he looks closer, he sees God the Father with a scroll in His right hand and a strong angel proclaiming, **“Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loosen its seals?”**

And as John watched and saw no one stepping forward he began to weep uncontrollably! Why?

Because the scroll is the title deed to the earth given to the usurper, Satan, when Adam sinned.

And now it looked like this world was doomed to be in the hand of the oppressor forever. But one of the elders encourages John by telling him, **“Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”** Revelation 5:5.

As John turned and looked, he saw a little lamb as though it were slain, Jesus, and He is worthy to take the scroll and loosen the seals of judgment that will come upon the earth-dwellers or those who have rejected Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

And as Jesus steps forward and takes the scroll out of God the Father's right hand, the church beings to worship Him, the angelic beings worship Him and all of creation praise Him for what He is about to do – taking back this world from the usurper – Satan!

Now some may wonder about God pouring out His wrath upon the earth dwellers, the unbelievers and they don't see that as fair.

Make no mistake about it. Everything that God does is fair, it is righteous, He does not give out judgment more than what the person had coming to them. He gives them exactly what is due them.

And what we are going to be seeing in this wrath of God is something that has never happened upon this planet before. These are cataclysmic events starting out slowly but as time goes by, they are being fired off in rapid succession. The death and destruction are beyond belief. This occurs during seven years!

And thus, because of that some believe God would never do something like that.

Remember the warning that Peter gave in II Peter 3:3-7, **“knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.’ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”**

To the mockers, those who reject that the Lord is coming back, those that reject the fact that the Lord is going to pour out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world, Peter reminds them of a judgment that came in time past, the flood. And just as God poured out His wrath upon mankind then, He is coming to do that once again because this judgment is for **“ungodly men.”**

In other words, this judgment is for those who have rejected Jesus Christ and that means the church will not be here during that seven-year Tribulation Period!

In Isaiah 26:21 we are told, **“For behold, the Lord comes out of His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; The earth will also disclose her blood, And will no more cover her slain.”**

Also, in Isaiah 13:11-13 we are told, **“I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold, A man more than the golden wedge of Ophir. Therefore I will shake the heavens, And the earth will move out of her place, In the wrath of the Lord of hosts And in the day of His fierce anger.”**

Make no mistake about it, God is going to judge this world once again whether men believe it or not!

Let me say this, God gives man plenty of warnings of what is coming, and man laughs, shuts his eyes, doesn't want to hear it.

You may remember what happened back on May 18, 1980, as Mt. Saint Helens exploded with such great force that it flattened everything in 150 square miles.

The blast was 500 times stronger than the nuclear bomb that leveled the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

Millions of tons of rock disintegrated and disappeared into a cloud reaching 10 miles into the sky.

A wall of mud and ash some 50 feet high came crashing down this mountain.

And in this was a terrible tragedy, as several people lost their lives.

Now please understand, there was plenty of warning. The explosion of Mt. Saint Helens came as no surprise.

Police cars and helicopters warned the people to evacuate the area. At every major crossroad around Mt. Saint Helens was a warning that flashed on battery-powered signs. On the radio and television people were being warned of the danger. Shortwave and citizens-band operators were also warning the people to leave the area because something terrible was going to happen.

This mountain is going to explode!

And most of the people heeded those warnings, except a few who refused to listen even though the signs were everywhere of the danger that was growing inside of this volcano.

One of those people who refused to leave was Harry Truman, not the president, but the caretaker of a recreation lodge on Spirit Lake, 5 miles north of Mt. Saint Helens.

The park rangers tried to warn Harry of the coming explosion. His neighbors begged him to join them as they left the area. Even his own sister tried to talk some sense into this stubborn and rebellious old man.

But Harry refused to listen, he ignored the warnings. In fact, on television Harry grinned and said, "*Nobody knows more about this mountain than Harry and it don't dare blow up on him . . .*"

Then, at 8:31 am on May 18, 1980, Mt. Saint Helens blew up despite Harry's claims, and he lost his life.

Many today are like Harry; they refuse to heed God's warnings of coming judgment even though the signs are everywhere. You can hear the approaching hoof beats of the four horsemen of the apocalypse coming! And yet people continue on, living like they want, almost daring God do to something.

Again, it is like the time of Noah before the flood and Jesus compares our day to that day as He said in Matthew 24:38-39, "**For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.**"

In other words, Jesus is saying that life will just go on. People will ignore the warnings and just like in the days of Noah, as he went into the Ark, the judgment came and so too will those who reject Jesus, they will find themselves in the midst of the Tribulation Period.

Zephaniah describes this period of God's judgment against a Christ rejecting world, in this manner.

He said beginning in verse 14 of Zephaniah chapter 1, **“The great day of the LORD is near; it is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; there the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers. ‘I will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like refuse.’ Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD’S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy, for He will make speedy riddance of all those who dwell in the land.”** Zephaniah 1:14-18.

This period of time is known as the *Day of the LORD*, and it speaks of God’s wrath being poured out upon the earth dwellers because of their sin.

In Numbers 32:23 we are told. **“...your sin will find you out.”**

The reason they have sin is because they have rejected the Messiah, Jesus Christ. They are standing in their own righteousness which is like filthy rags before a Holy God.

Therefore, it doesn’t matter how rich or influential you are, because that will not cause you to escape God’s wrath that is coming!

This evening we will first go through the first three of these seven seal judgments, and we will finish up next time looking at the rest of these seal judgements.

And as we go through this you will see how these seal judgments fit into the Tribulation Period or that last 7-year period of time where the Lord pours out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world.

Keep in mind that Jesus has taken this scroll out of God the Father's right hand and He is about to loosen the seals and as He does, the wrath of God will begin to be poured out upon a Christ rejecting world!

With that said, let's begin reading in Revelation chapter 6 starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us this evening as the Lord steps forward and begins to open these seals that are upon this scroll!

REVELATION 6

VERSES 1-2

This begins that start of God's wrath being poured out upon a Christ rejecting world, as I have said. He is going to take possession of the earth but before He does there is a little unfinished business that He needs to take care of. You see, He has to dispossess the earth of the usurpers – Satan, the Antichrist and all of his followers!

That is what we will see in the culmination of all these things as we get to the end of this book. In fact, that is what Revelation chapters 6 through 19 are all about!

In these verses we just read we see that as John watches he sees Jesus open one of the seven seals that are upon this scroll.

And as he sees that we also see that one of the living creatures or Cherubim invite John to watch what happens when this first seal is opened.

As this first judgment is unleashed, a rider on a white horse goes forth! This is the wrath of God as Jesus opened this seal judgment!

Now who is this rider on the white horse.

It is interesting because there are those who believe it is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let me be clear on that. It is not Jesus, this is an imposter, a deceiver, it is the Antichrist!

Paul makes that point as he speaks of those that are in opposition to God and yet, by their actions, by their behavior, they seem to follow the Lord, but they are nothing more than deceivers!

Paul put it this way in II Corinthians 11:13-15, **“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”**

You see, not only is Satan a deceiver but so are those who follow Him!

And as this Antichrist comes on the scene he does so as a man of peace.

You see, he does not gain power, he does not gain this world leadership position by force, but the world ushers him in.

The reason I say that is because he has a bow but no arrows. He rises to power without bloodshed, without force as the people welcome him with open arms to head this one-world government.

And I believe it will be the False Prophet, the religious system that the False Prophet oversees, that will usher in this man of sin, the Antichrist.

We see that in Revelation 13:11-14, **“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.”**

One writer summed it up like this. He wrote, *“His conquest will be a ‘cold war’ victory, a peace won by agreement, not conflict (Dan. 9:24–27). Even as the final doom of the world approaches - Antichrist will promise a golden age of peace and prosperity. In gratitude, the world will honor him and elevate him to the position of supreme leadership - but both the accolades and the peace will be short-lived.”*

And notice that he is not wearing a crown of a King, a *DIADEMA*, but a victor’s crown or a *STEPHANOS*.

Why is that?

Because only Jesus is worthy to wear the crown of a King and thus, this is not Jesus!

Now I believe this man of sin, the Antichrist is alive today, but he will not become a world leader until after the Church is removed and the Tribulation Period begins.

How do I know that? Is there Scripture to support it? You bet there is.

Paul makes this point in II Thessalonians 2:1-8, **“Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.”**

The **“falling away”** speaks of the Rapture and this man of sin will not be revealed until the Church is removed. Keep in mind that Paul is answering the questions, the concerns that the Thessalonian believers had about the end times. They thought that they missed the Rapture, and this information came by a letter that was supposedly by Paul, it wasn't, by teachers who came and told them these things, and-so-on. It was not true and Paul is telling them that before the Antichrist is revealed, the Church will be taken away, the Rapture!

Still not sure.

Then let's talk about the restraining force.

I know that some that hold onto the Pre-wrath Rapture of the church believe that this is speaking of Michael the Archangel, but Michael is not omnipresent and thus, how can he restrain evil all over the world? He can't only God can!

That restraining force is the Holy Spirit at work in this world through the lives of believers and once the Holy Spirit is removed, then this man of sin will be revealed.

Now, how can the Holy Spirit be removed, I thought He was in us once we got saved and He will never leave us? Yes, we can grieve the holy Spirit, we can hinder what the Holy Spirit wants to do in our lives, but can He leave us as Christians?

He can't and thus, the only way this can happen is if we are taken home to be with the Lord and it is then this restraining force is removed.

And if you think it is bad with Christians in the world, imagine what it will be like when we are removed!

How is this man of sin driven into this position?

I believe the world will be on the brink of destruction. The war in the Middle East spoken of in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, I believe, will include nuclear weapons. Thus, the world will be on the brink of a nuclear holocaust.

Is that possible today?

You bet it is. Look at the nations that have or are developing nuclear weapons and look at what they want to do with them, destroy Israel, just as the Bible says! Iran continues to work towards gaining nuclear weapons and they are clear on this; they will use them to destroy Israel.

And maybe it will be Syria that starts this conflict because the Bible tells us that Damascus will be destroyed, it will be a ruinous heap, and that has not happened yet. (Isaiah 17)

If Israel nukes Syria, I think that will bring those nations, including Russia, into a battle with Israel. It is very possible.

There will be an economic collapse. And you look at what is happening in nations around the world today, after this COVID event, they are on the brink of collapse!

There will be environmental disasters. Again, be they real or made up, they will use these things to cause turmoil, and people will be looking for a leader to lead them!

Man will not give up his freedom unless there are huge problems that mankind will not be able to solve individually. Thus, like with COVID, the call from the leaders of the world is for a world government because these problems need to be handled globally, with the right man in power, and they believe it can be done.

Thus, this man of peace brings about a pseudo-peace and he controls the world.

Again, I know that there are those who feel that God's wrath is not poured out until much later in the Tribulation Period, somewhere at the half-way mark or just a little after, but who is pouring out this judgment?

JESUS IS AS THE ANTICHRIST IS PLACED ON THE SCENE; THIS IS A JUDGMENT OF GOD!

I think that is very clear, this is a judgment of God, the rider on the white horse who comes on the scene at the beginning of the Tribulation Period with a false peace – the first seal is – ***THE ANTICHRIST!***

VERSES 3-4

Now we see Jesus open the second seal as this second horseman of the Apocalypse comes riding a red horse and this represents war in the world.

Even during this time of so-called peace, people will war with each other, why?

James tells us, **“Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?”** James 4:1.

You see, wars come from our desire, our lusting after things we don't have, and we want. We want property, we want possessions, and we will do whatever it takes to obtain them. The heart of man is evil, and it is only the Lord that can change that!

Also notice that this rider has with him a great sword or *MACHAIRA* in the Greek, and it speaks of a small dagger or sword that is used in hand-to-hand combat.

Thus, these wars deal with assassinations, massacres, all kinds of rebellion as this false peace dissolves quickly into battles!

What changed?

What caused this man who was riding on a white horse to now come down and destroy lives?

I think that there is an assassination attempt on his life and as he recovers, he comes out as a man of wrath!

In Revelation 13:3 we are told, "**And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.**"

Also, we are told in the Old Testament, in Zechariah 11:17, "**Woe to the worthless shepherd, who leaves the flock! A sword shall be against his arm and against his right eye; His arm shall completely wither, and his right eye shall be totally blinded.**"

Again, peace is what begins his reign, you might say, but now things have changed. Listen to what one writer had to say about all of this. He wrote,

It may seem incredible that the world, hovering on the brink of final disaster, could be so totally deceived. Yet that is precisely what happened on a smaller scale before the outbreak of the most devastating war to date, World War II.

Adolf Hitler spelled out in detail his plans for conquest in his book *Mein Kampf*, published more than a decade before World War II began.

Yet, incredibly, the Western allies (particularly Britain and France) persisted in believing Hitler's false claim to be a man of peace. They stood idly by as he re-occupied the Rhineland (demilitarized after World War I), thus abrogating the Versailles Treaty, then annexed Austria, the Sudetenland, and Czechoslovakia.

Desperate to appease Hitler and avoid war, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain met with the Nazi dictator at Munich in 1938. Upon his return to England, Chamberlain triumphantly waved a piece of paper (containing a worthless pledge of peace from Hitler) which he claimed guaranteed "peace with honor . . . peace for our time."

When Winston Churchill (one of the few never taken in by Hitler) rose in the House of Commons to declare that England had suffered a total, unmitigated defeat he was shouted down by angry members of Parliament.

The deception was nearly universal; almost everyone misread Hitler's intentions.

Only after he invaded Poland in September 1939 did the allies finally acknowledge the truth. By then it was too late to avoid the catastrophe of the Second World War.

- John MacArthur, *Revelation 1-11*, p. 179

You see, the deception promoted by Hitler, his false peace plan, seems to parallel what the Antichrist is going to do as he now exercises his strength upon the nations and by the time we get to the midpoint of the Tribulation Period, he is a man out of control, his true colors are seen.

We see nations fighting against themselves and he will try to stop it, but there will come a point when he crushes them into subjection. This passive man is not passive any longer!

May people learn the lesson of learning from the past, from our mistakes as Winston Churchill said, *“Those who fail to learn from the mistakes of the past are doomed to repeat them.”*

I don't think America has learned the lessons or they have forgotten about them and have become blind to what is going on.

Let me share this with you from an article that I read recently. This is the title of that article: *“Gina Carano Was Right: The Disturbing Parallels Between 2021 America and 1932 Germany.”*

This is what we are told and listen carefully because, as you will see, we did not learn from what happened in Germany, it is happening now in America! We are told,

America's political situation right now carries disturbing similarities to Germany just before the Third Reich. And it isn't people on the right who resemble Nazis.

1. Politicizing Everything

To the Nazi Party, everything was political. The party subordinated every sector of society and every human endeavor to its broader political and social agenda.

2. Violence as a political tool, bolstered by the State

Even when they did not officially hold power or command an electoral majority, Nazis were able to use violence to hurt their enemies and help themselves, benefiting from friends in high places - bureaucrats, judges, and business leaders - who, critically, helped them avoid consequences for breaking the law.

3. Group guilt, conspiracy theories, and blood libel

A central myth for the Nazis was the “stab in the back,” claim that Germany’s defeat in World War I and all its subsequent problems were due to treason from within, especially by Jews. [Don’t we see that with BLM, with being white is evil and a male, that is even worse!]

The myth was false, but crucially, it exploited real facts to exert a hold on the public. The leaders of the 1919 Communist uprisings in Germany, like the Spartacist uprising in Berlin and the short-lived Bavarian Soviet Republic - were substantially Jewish, which Nazis exploited to promote the idea of a “Jewist plot” that led to the loss of World War I.

For the Nazis, it was never enough to oppose Communism. The party routinely blasted the concept of “Judeo-Bolshevism,” conveniently merging its most-hated ideology with a scapegoat ethnic group.

From this, it’s easy to draw a parallel to the endless witch hunt for “white supremacy” in every sector of American life. Jim Crow was real, and for a century after the Civil War racism was a very real part of American law and American society.

By now, though, “institutional (and systemic) racism” is little more than a conspiracy theory. Laws at all levels of government prohibit racial discrimination against blacks, often with severe penalties for doing so . . .

- <https://bit.ly/3x5QaB3>

That is just a short synopsis of what is going on in America and how they are working to bring it down. I hope you see the parallels with Germany and what was done during Hitler’s day!

Now you may be thinking, ***“What in the world does this have to do with the Antichrist and the violence that he is going to perpetrate upon mankind?”***

First of all, for the Antichrist to unite the world into a one-world government, the America we know will have to fall and be replaced with a “*global America.*” That is the goal right now!

How close are we to our demise?

In his book, written in 1788, Edward Gibbons wrote in *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* five basic reasons why that great empire withered and died. They are,

1. The undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis for human society.

2. Higher and higher taxes; the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace.

3. The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting, more brutal, more immoral.

4. The building of great armaments when the real enemy was within—the decay of individual responsibility.

5. The decay of religion; faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life, losing power to guide the people.

Thus, “*The oft-heard warning that history repeats itself has an ominous meaning in the light of the above.*”

Now keep in mind that at this point his fury is not fully unleashed, that is coming!

This too is a judgment of God, this rider on a red horse representing these wars – the second seal!

VERSE 5-6

The third horseman of the Apocalypse is riding a black horse, and this represents devastating famine that will take place in the world.

Now let's think about what the rider on the red horse represented. It represented war and death and what happens during times of war and during times when dictators are in control?

Famine and when this world leader of this one-world government is in control, there is worldwide famine!

Now you may be thinking why I am so sure that this speaks of a famine. The reason is simple.

First of all, we are told in Lamentations 4:8-9 about what it is like during a time of war. We read, "**Now their appearance is blacker than soot; They go unrecognized in the streets; Their skin clings to their bones, It has become as dry as wood. Those slain by the sword are better off Than those who die of hunger; For these pine away, Stricken for lack of the fruits of the field.**"

Notice the color, black and notice what it represented – *FAMINE!*

And thus, this judgment is that of famine, a global famine upon the land!

Now, let's look at this verse a little closer and you will see how this plays out because not everyone is affected by this.

This rider on this black horse has a pair of scales in his hand and we are told that the cost to obtain just the basic necessities of life, food, is going to be very high.

It would cost a denarius for a quart of wheat and a denarius for three quarts of barley.

Now why did it cost more for wheat?

Because it was better for you and barely had a lower nutritional value than the wheat.

Barley was often fed to the livestock but if you had a family, you could purchase more barley than wheat and you needed to do what you could to feed your family.

To put this in perspective, a denarius was the daily wage for the workingman.

So it would cost you a day's pay to buy 3 quarts of barley that could feed a family of three. A quart of wheat could feed one person.

Let me put that in perspective for you. Say you make \$100,000 per year, just an example and easier for me to figure this out.

There are about 261 workdays in the year 2021. Thus, you would make, on average, \$383 per day.

That sounds great but look at how that plays out. It would cost you \$383 just to buy food for one day, just for you, if you ate wheat. You could also feed three people a day's rations of barley for \$383 per day!

So what we see here is hyper-inflation and it affects the average person! Nothing more than a worldwide Communism state as they will be controlling who gets food and the cost for food!

Look at the farms that are being bought today, not by farmers but by people like Bill Gates and others. Why? To control the distribution of food!

This is just one report of what is going on. This is from January 2021, and we are told,

According to the *Tri-City Herald*, a 14,500-acre swath of choice eastern Washington farmland in the Horse Heaven Hills of Benton County had just traded hands for almost \$171 million.

That's a ginormous deal, one that pencils out to almost \$12,000 per acre for a whole lot of acres. Pretty pricey dirt, right? That's exactly what I thought. Especially when it comes to row crops like sweet corn and wheat, which were grown in rotation with potatoes on 100 Circles, which is the name of the property that changed hands.

Then again, farmers and investors in the Mid-Columbia River market expect to pay \$10,000 to \$15,000 for good ground. Anyone who has ever studied the Columbia River Basin knows that the tillable acreage there is coveted ground, a geologic wonder. The soil profile and underlying silty loess are in a league of their own. . . .

In 1994, the Gateses hired the former Putnam Investments bond-fund manager to diversify the couple's portfolio away from the Microsoft cofounder's 45% stake in the technology giant while maintaining comparable or better returns.

According to a 2014 profile of Larson in the *Wall Street Journal*, these investments include a substantial stake in AutoNation, hospitality interests such as the Charles Hotel in Cambridge and the Four Seasons in San Francisco, and "at least 100,000 acres of farmland in California, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, and other states . . ."

According to the Land Report 100 Research Team, that figure is currently more than twice that amount, which means Bill Gates, cofounder of Microsoft, has an alter ego: Farmer Bill, the guy who owns more farmland than anyone else in America.

The Gateses' largest single block of dirt was acquired in 2017: a group of farmland assets owned by the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board. Based in Toronto, the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board began assembling an agricultural portfolio in 2013, when it acquired AgCoA, aka, Agricultural Company of America. This private U.S. farmland REIT was a joint venture between Duquesne Capital Management and Goldman Sachs that launched in 2007. Over the next five years, AgCoA acquired more than 100,000 acres in nine states.

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Farmers are hurting and to get that kind of money, they are willing to sell, and family farms are becoming a thing of the past and big corporations and wealthy people, like Gill Gates are buying them.

And again, they can control what is planted and the cost and who gets the food!

Now, in saying all that, John also tells us that there are some who are doing very well during this time.

He tells us, “**. . . do not harm the oil and the wine.**”

Some will be living the good life and that is the very rich, the very powerful.

We see that today, go to North Korea or even Russia and most of the people are in poverty, except the wealthy and they live in luxury and have whatever they want!

On the other hand, the poor are having a hard time getting enough food to feed and sustain themselves and their families.

Let me tell you what I see going on here, something the world leaders are trying to do right now.

They are trying to equal the wealth of the world and during this period of time there are only going to be two classes of people, the rich and the poor.

I don't believe we will have a middle class any longer and the wealth of this nation will dwindle down to nothing.

The middle class will be absorbed in with the poor.

Leaders today talk about balancing the world's wealth but in the end, there is no balance. You have the rich and you will have the poor! And so, this too is a judgment of God, the black horse and his rider bringing about a devastating famine upon the earth – the third seal!

Now let me touch on this as well because the United Nations has said that the United States will no longer be a world power and that the people of this world will own nothing, and they will be happy. If you don't believe me, then watch our Prophecy Update from last year because it is their own words on a video that they put out.

We are getting closer to 2030 and the United Nations 2030 program. This is from their web site and what they are saying sounds great, but we can see here in Revelation it will not play out because the rich will continue to be rich and everyone else will suffer.

You doubt that! Then think about the Democratic Party and their push for Socialism. I am not saying that they are the only problem, but they are Socialists!

And how many of you own as many homes as they own? I am certain none of you do. The mansions, and not just one, that they have. The cars and so on. It works well for those in power, and, again, for the rest, it doesn't work.

Here is the what the United Nations is saying. We read,

This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet.

We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which we are announcing today demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. . . .

We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.

We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

- <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

And you can read of this from their web site, just click on to the web page I have listed in our notes.

Make no mistake about it, the push is going forward as famine continues to grow. Listen to this report. We are told,

At least 155 million people in 55 countries faced acute hunger in 2020 — 20 million more than 2019, according to figures from the 2021 Global Report on Food Crises, released today.

This marks a five-year high for people facing life-threatening acute food security, accompanied by a breakdown in livelihoods. It comes after aid organizations issued a joint warning about the very real prospect of famine this year. . . .

Yemen: Girls at a camp for internally displaced people in Mokha, in March - 400,000 children aged under-5 suffering severe acute malnutrition could die, while 2.3 million are on the brink.

Arif Husain, chief economist at WFP said: “Our worst fears are coming true. Needs are nowhere near subsiding - acute hunger is up, chronic hunger is up and extreme poverty is up.

Million remains on the verge of famine due to conflict. There is no end in sight unless we resolve conflict. Till then, without immediate action, millions will starve - the window to avert famine is closing fast.”

In a joint statement, the EU, USAID, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization and WFP, said: "The outlook for 2021 and beyond is grim." . . .

Africa is disproportionately affected by acute food insecurity, according to the report.

While Afghanistan, Haiti and Syria are among the ten countries worst-affected by hunger, two-thirds of close to 155 million people who faced acute food insecurity around the world in 2020 were in African countries. . . .

In a press release, the organization said: "The price of doing nothing in the face of these growing hunger needs will inevitably be measured in terms of lost lives. Famine has a long-term economic impact, from lost productivity to spiking healthcare costs - not to mention the incalculable cost of losing the human potential of whole generations and crippling a nation's future." . . .

"Every day, we work with people who are fully capable of producing or earning enough to feed themselves and their families," the letter said. "These people are not starving, they are being starved. These girls and boys, men and women are being starved by conflict and violence; by inequality; by the impacts of climate change; by the loss of land, jobs or prospects; by a fight against COVID-19 that has left them even further behind." . . .

- <https://bit.ly/3qGdMtz>

These are the pre-labor pains, the Braxton Hicks contractions that are preparing the mother for true labor and we see here the preparation of the world for the seven-year Tribulation Period!

We are going to stop here because there is too much for me to cover, even just to go through this fourth seal and the fourth horseman of the Apocalypse! And I do want to spend some time talking about when these events are occurring during the Tribulation Period.

I know that we have covered the fact that the Antichrist or that first seal that is opened is the start of the Tribulation Period, but when do these other events occur? That is part of what we will cover next time.

As I close, let me leave you with these words of comfort from Jesus as He said in Revelation 3:10, **“Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”**