1Thess #15

The imminency of the Rapture.

I ask that we keep our veterans in prayer this week.

Tomorrow is veteran’s day. I often remind my congregation - please don’t allow a whole year to go by without acknowledging those who serve our country.

There are good programs and charity events that honor our troops and those who have served, please give to those events and charities when you can.

We will open up in Revelation chapter six today.

We are going to take a bird’s eye view on what the beginning of the Tribulation will look like. Because if you discern it properly you can see what is being constructed all around us in the CA, prior to the Rapture of the church.

First let me speak to the imminency of the coming rapture of the church.

/No prophecy needs to be fulfilled for the Rapture to occur. This is why historical trends are the only signs and symbols the CA Bels will have to see what is on the horizon. The Rapture is imminent meaning it will happen and it has no time or date placed upon it. It means the possibility of immediate is real, yet it does not hold firm as to exactly when.\

Remember God’s timing and our timing are never on the same scale.

Imminency means impending, or threatening to occur immediately. It does not mean immediately, just that it is a possibility.

The Rapture could occur this afternoon just as it could happen 10 years from now in the middle of the night.

The more spiritual discernment you gain the easier it is to see what is on the horizon.

/Most theologians who understand the Tribulation believe the Rapture will occur when the last member of the body of Christ is saved. The time of the Rapture and beginning of the Tribulation are completely in the hands of GOD. We as positive Bels, cannot manipulate the time table of God’s divine plan. We can participate as the positive pivot (remnant) to evangelize. Perhaps, extending the time of the CA dispensation, ultimately it is God’s hand working all the details.\

As we open up in Revelation chapter six one thing needs to remain in the forefront of your mind, this chapter is a large overview of future events.

It is what the historical trends will look like once the Tribulation is underway.

For these historical trends or future events to unfold exactly like we will read them, certain historical circumstances need to happen during the last years of the CA before the Rapture.

 REPEAT

What we will look at today is the four horsemen of the apocalypse as the first four seals of the Doomsday book of the Tribulation is highlighted.

Rev 6:1 Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as *with* a voice of thunder, “Come!”

TLJC is in control of history.

HE is LAMB who breaks the seals, which is a reference to a military call to arms or the igniting of the trends and activity in the 7 years of Tribulation.

These seals will not be broken until the Rapture of the bride of Christ occurs.

/[Rev 6:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/6/2/s_1173002) I looked, and behold, **a white horse**, and the one who sat on it had **a bow**; and **a crown was given to him**, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

The white horse was symbolic in the ancient Roman military for the General to ride upon.\

The bow and crown are symbols of authority and military strength.

He goes out to conquer means he brings forth victories and makes alliances along the way.

The crown was given to him – means the population of a nation or several nations decided to trust this man’s authority.

/Rev 6:2 - This is believed to be the Anti-Christ. He will be highly regarded as a strong and valiant leader yet it will later be revealed he is evil. The rise to power of the Anti-Christ may begin before the Tribulation but it will not culminate until the 7 years kicks off. He will have great influence over the military and government, becoming a welcomed dictator to resolve world issues.\

The Anti-Christ needs to first appear as a leader and type of savior before he reveals himself to be Satan’s pawn.

This verse may well point to the first few years of the Tribulation period.

In fact, it is believed that the build up to the Tribulation - before the Rapture there will be a rise of a few very powerful dictators and a shifting of alliances across the world will occur.

We have many countries or leaders taking sides for or against Russia and America in recent months and that may well be a trend like what I am teaching on today.

Russia and China are believed to be found in end time prophecy. America is not found in end time prophecy, unless you believe as I do - that America becomes an intricate part of the beast system for one world dominance.  REPEAT

The Anti-Christ first needs to establish a coalition of nations and power under a one world system.

This will probably be during the course of the first few years of the Tribulation.

The Second Seal: points us to War.

[Rev 6:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/6/3/s_1173003) When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come!”

Again, I remind you, it is TLJC in control of history and HE is allowing this to play out all under the divine power and timing of the Triune God.

/[Rev 6:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/6/4/s_1173004) And another, **a red**(*pyrros*) **horse, went out**; and to him who sat on it, it was granted **to take peace from the earth**, and that *people* would kill one another; and **a large sword was given to him.**

This speaks to fiery destruction, military fire power, the large sword also speaks to the vast army under his authority.\

PIE-ROSS, is where we get our English word pyro from (pyromaniac), a person who lights fires and sits back to watch the death and destruction.

This will be the build up to the war of Armeggedon. So this points us to at least the half mark or longer inside the 7 years of Tribulation.

Satan will have military and government leaders under his influence and some will be demon possessed.

There will be opposition to his power and his push for a one world government, that is why there is a build up to war. It is believed the last half of the 7 years is a time of warfare and destruction which will increase across the landscape.

The warfare will be contained for a period of time within the Middle East but it eventually spreads across other countries and regions.

At one point in the last few years of the Tribulation - Satan is revealed and fallen angels and demonic forces are also visible and physically attacking mankind.

The Third Seal: brings upon the famine across many countries.

It becomes a world-wide famine in the last two years of the Tribulation.

The reality is when war breaks out on a large scale, supplies and fuel are destroyed or reallocated.

The cities and towns go without food, gas and supplies.

Farming & Small business collapse and supply chain breakdown will begin to happen in rapid fashion after the midway point of the Tribulation.

For these things to happen in such a rapid fashion it would mean they were already in a weaken state and had not been built up strong enough over time.

It is safe to say that small businesses, farming and supply chains collapsing during the end of the CA before the Rapture, may explain their weakened state world-wide.

 REPEAT

/[Rev 6:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/6/5/s_1173005) When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, “Come!” I looked, and behold, **a black horse,** and **the one who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand**.

The symbolism about the 3rd horsemen points us to the end result of world war and a demonic presence upon the earth.\

God the HS does not act as a restrainer during this period of time. HE is simply working in the arena of salvation.

God the HS will only be working within HIS ministry of efficacious grace during the 7 years of Tribulation.

The indwelling and filling power are not part of the Tribulation period.

The black horse and scales representing justice are a symbol of corruption across all government bodies. This introduces an economic downward spiral like we have never seen before.

Again, this will already be established across many regions prior to the beginning of the Tribulation. None of this happens overnight, there is a foundation of all of these catastrophes set up in advance.

The whole world does not simply collapse into chaos and starvation in the course of 3 years without foundational damage prior to the collapse and chaos.

 REPEAT

/Rev 6:6 And I heard *something* like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and **three quarts of barley for a denarius**; and do not damage the oil and the wine.”

Barley was considered the poor man’s choice. 3 quarts could not match up to one quart of grain/wheat for sustenance. A denarius was a day’s wage.\

The translation: *“three quarts of barley for a day’s wages.”*

Barley was the core food of the poor and it took much more to sustain life.

Three quarts of barley could only do what one quart of wheat/grain could do. Those who had families had to live on barley and obviously a family of more than two would starve to death in a very short period of time.

The oil and wine were the more precious commodities and they were the treasure of the poor and even the wealthy considered them luxury or a comfort.

The Bible must be interpreted in the time in which it was written. At the time of writing in Revelation a denarius or a day’s wages would ordinarily buy close to 20 quarts of wheat.

This is pointing to a time of high inflation and depression where a day’s wage only could buy one quart of wheat.

Even the cheaper barley is expensive so it is stressing that the families will suffer malnutrition.

Today’s lesson is important for those who want to discern the times we are living in. Look at what is happening to our supply chain and food costs.

 REPEAT

The Fourth Seal: brings us to death.

[Rev 6:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/6/7/s_1173007)When *the Lamb* broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come!”

/[Rev 6:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/6/8/s_1173008)I looked, and behold, **an ashen horse; and the one who sat on it had the name Death**, and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, and famine, and plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.\

The fourth horsemen, is symbolic for when the floodgates of misery really open wide. Which would most likely be sometime into the 5th or 6th year of the Tribulation.

This is the fourth historical trend that will be the trend that sets the stage for demonic activity of the highest order.

That is why it tells us HADES follows.

The horse is called- *chlōros,* (CLOR-US) which really means pale…looking like death with a green hue to it.

The demons and fallen angels that can be released will become active and visible and this will carry on for months.

Many scholars believe this coincides with chapter nine so we can jump over there to close out this lesson today.

/Rev 9:5 And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to **torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion** when it stings a person. 6 And in those days **people will seek death and will not find it**; they will long to die, and death will flee from them!\

There is a point probably within the last two years of the Tribulation where it appears it will be nearly impossible to commit suicide.

Death will not be allowed or at least very difficult to achieve. So there is no hiding from this discipline and misery.

[Rev 9:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/9/7/s_1176007) The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like human faces. 8They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like *the teeth* of lions.

The description is that they are like a scorpion or they are like a human…it points to similarities without being exactly the same. The interpretation from the Apostle John is from a man trying to describe visions beyond his own imagination.

[Rev 9:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/9/9/s_1176009) They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle.

/[Rev 9:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/9/10/s_1176010) They have **tails like scorpions, and stings**; and in their tails is their **power to hurt people for five months**.

This may explain advanced weaponry or a weapon created by demonic forces hidden for thousands of years.\

[Rev 9:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/9/11/s_1176011) They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.

Both in the Hebrew and Greek culture it is a title for destruction.

/The Church Age is the only dispensation in which there are historical trends and no prophecy. The Church Age began with an event prophesied—the baptism of the Spirit. Our Lord prophesied this in the Upper Room Discourse and just before He ascended. The Church Age terminates with the Rapture, which was also prophesied (Jesus & Paul). There is no prophecy between these two events. This is the dispensation of the mystery doctrine.\

No prophecy between the baptism of the Spirit and the Rapture means that the Rapture is imminent. It could occur at any time; no one knows the day or the hour.

The resurrection of the CA Bels, like our dying day, is completely out of our control.

Just as we have no control over the time and manner of our death, so we have no control over the time and manner of the Rapture.

/The Rapture is imminent; the Second Advent is not. Before the Second Advent there are important prophecies which must occur, the Rapture, the Bema Seat Judgement of Christ, 7 years of Tribulation – while 7 years of wedding ceremony occurs in heaven for the Bride of Christ. Also, a gathering of enemy nations for the battle of Armageddon.\

The Apostle remained steadfast about the Rapture they knew it was coming - they simply just did not know when.

This kept their focus very intense upon finishing the canon of scripture and establishing Christianity across the landscape.

All the early church leaders had this intense focus because no one knows.

/Jas 5:7 Therefore **be patient, brothers *and sisters,* until the coming of the Lord**. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. 8 You too be patient; **strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near**.\

Whether it was the Apostles, the brother of Jesus (James) or any other teacher, even the humanity of Christ does not know exact times or dates.

Jesus clearly stated this in HIS teaching to the Apostles.

/Mat 24:36 But about **that day and hour no one knows**, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.\

Teachers who name times and dates or claim to know every exact detail of the Rapture or Tribulation period are often times, trying to build a reputation for themselves.

Sadly, it usually comes from a place of greed and approbation lust.

We are told to study the word, accurately handle the word…grow in God’s grace and knowledge and gain discernment.