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West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

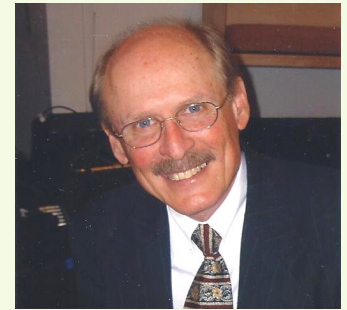
"Truth"

Truth is a rare commodity anymore. It was rare in Jesus' day, and it is even more difficult to find today — in business, in politics, and even in the church. Businesses lie to get you to buy their products, (if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is — always read the fine print!), politicians lie to get your vote (blatant lies are rampant everywhere in the media and in political ads right now — check the facts before you take the bait!), and even the church has compromised biblical truth to blend into the mainstream conglomerate of Christendom, in the interest of "unity" — and at the expense of Scriptural truth!

Jesus said to the Jewish leaders, "You shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Of course they were offended by His words and responded to Him by saying, "We...have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free?'" (John 8:32, 33). The leaders of that day **were** in bondage. They were in bondage to self-interest and a lust for power, willing to reject the truth — whatever the cost — the truth Jesus had come to reveal that would make them free. In fact, any threat to their power had to be eliminated! They sought to silence the voice of Christ from the earliest days of His ministry, and eventually did literally "eliminate" Him and silence the Source of truth and freedom by putting Him on a cross! Prophecy indicates that the experience of Jesus will be the experience of the special messengers of God in the earth at the end of time. The world will buy into the lies and deceptions of the corrupt and compromised leaders of the church and the world and will seek to silence their voices. Even now the voice of the Church of Jesus Christ in the earth is only faintly heard by a world distracted by "the pleasures and cares of this life", and deaf to truth!

Jesus came to set us free — free from the guilt of our sin, free from the penalty and power of our sin, and free from the deceptions of the enemy all around us — from the lies of corrupt politicians to the false doctrines of corrupted Christianity. Our hope for clear vision during these times will come only by the discernment of the Holy Spirit, the truth of God's Word, and an unwavering allegiance to Jesus Christ — "the Way, the Truth, and the Life".

In Him,
Pastor Chilson

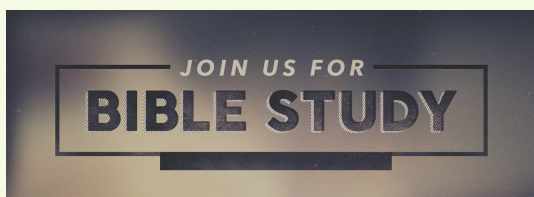


Pastor Darrell Chilson

"We are living in the season of Christ's return."

Jesus said, "Watch and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The mission of West Valley Ministries is to help Christ's followers recognize the signs of His approaching return and be prepared for that Great Day.



John 8 – Part 3

“Jesus Predicts His Departure”

21 Then Jesus said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come." **22** So the Jews said, "Will He kill Himself, because He says, 'Where I go you cannot come'?" **23** And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. **24** "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am [He], you will die in your sins." **25** Then they said to Him, "Who are You?" And Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning. **26** "I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him." **27** They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father. **28** Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am [He], and [that] I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. **29** "And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." **30** As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.

“The Truth Shall Make You Free”

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. **32** "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." **33** They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How [can] You say, 'You will be made free'?" **34** Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. **35** "And a slave does not abide in the house forever, [but] a son abides forever. **36** "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.



- 1) What four things did Jesus tell His listeners in verse 21?
- 2) What did Jesus mean when He said they would “die in their sin”?
- 3) As the Jews tried to understand where Jesus was “going”, what options did they miss? Was this comment sarcasm?
- 4) In the next several verses, Jesus is speaking a language His listeners don’t understand. What kept them from understanding Jesus?
- 5) In verse 24, what did Jesus say would cause His listeners to die in their sins?
- 6) Finally, the Jews said, “Who are You”? Was Jesus expecting too much of them to know who He was?
- 7) Some eventually caught on to Jesus’ claim to be the Son of God, and “many believed in Him.” Was that what this whole conversation was about — believing in Him?
- 8) Recount other texts of Scripture which reiterate this same truth.
- 9) Discuss how verses 31-36 apply to us today in regards to:
 - ◆ Faith in Christ
 - ◆ The role of the Word
 - ◆ Discipleship
 - ◆ The freedom Jesus offers



“THE JUDGMENTS OF GOD” PART 1

The end will not come, and Jesus will not return until every living person on this planet has seen the fullness of the power of evil, the manifestation of God’s mighty power, and is settled in their choice as to who their master will be – who they will give their full and unreserved allegiance to.

And in order for that to happen, the world must see clearly who Satan is and who God is in the fullest display of their power and character. Satan will have all restrictions removed by God, that his deceptive power may be seen by all, and God will make known to the world, through the voices of His servants and the show of His might in the judgments He sends upon the earth, that He is God and there is no other!

In this next series of studies, the curtain will be drawn back that we might see how the Book of Revelation portrays the full display of the forces of “heaven and hell” as the world prepares to close the door on earthly history and fully enter into eternity. In this and subsequent issues, we will carefully examine what the Bible says this world will experience from God’s sovereign hand that will bring an end to the evil which brought pain, tears and death to the perfect creation of God in the beginning. God is preparing to restore to mankind that which He gave us in Eden, and He is going to destroy forever the one who stole it from us through his seductive deception!

We begin this segment of our journey with an introduction to the judgments ahead which will move every undecided person on earth into the camp of the saved or the lost before the end comes. Revelation tells of three distinct sets of judgments to expect:


- 1) The Seals – the first warning judgments, intended to awake those who are asleep and get the attention of the distracted.
- 2) The Trumpets – the second and final warning judgments, intended to dramatically warn the world of impending doom and move every person to a decision as to his/her allegiance to God or to the Axis of Evil
- 3) The Plagues – God’s judgment upon the forces of evil, intended to make known to them that God will not be mocked – judgments which will “stop them in their tracks” and in their pursuit of the “saints” – the Church.


THE SEVEN SEALS: Revelation 6:1-17

The First Seal: Revelation 6:2 – The Rider on the White Horse

And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

This is another text which tells of the powerful proclamation of the final message to the world by Jesus Christ (“the Rider”), through the voices of His Spirit filled servants – the 144,00, the Two Witnesses, the Angel of Revelation 14:6; 18:1 – all different descriptions of the same messengers of God sent into the earth during the last 3 ½ years of time, to call the world to **worship** Him who made the heavens and the earth – at the same time the False Prophet is using spectacular and supernatural signs and wonders to deceive the world and calling the world to **worship** the Beast.





The Second Seal: Revelation 6:4 – The Rider on the Red Horse

Another horse, fiery **red**, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that [people] should kill one another; and there was given to him a great **sword**.

The Third Seal: Revelation 6:5, 6 – The Rider on the Black Horse

I looked, and behold, a **black** horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine (**famine**).

The Fourth Seal: Revelation 6:8 – The Rider on the Pale Horse

I looked, and behold, a **pale** horse. And the name of him who sat on it was **Death**, and the **grave** followed with him. And **power** was given to them **over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with famine, with pestilence** (NASB, ESV, RSV), **and by the beasts of the earth**.

The Fifth Seal: Revelation 6:9-11 – The Experience of the End-time Martyrs for Christ

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. Revelation 6:9.

The Sixth Seal: Revelation 6:12-17 – A Description of the Coming of Jesus

I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves 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 who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"


The Seventh Seal: Revelation 8:1-5 – The Seal Which Connects All the “Seven’s” of Revelation Together as the End of All Things! (Another Study).


THE FIRST SET OF WARNING JUDGMENTS:

The second, third and fourth “seals” are the actual warning judgments we wish to highlight. The other four “seals” are the “bookends” of these judgments.

The First Seal is the backdrop of these judgments – the voice of God through His messengers, calling the world to an allegiance to God in the “judgment hour” Revelation 14:6, 7.

The Fifth Seal describes the experience of these messengers of God that results from their witness, and the Sixth Seal is the description of the “Rescue” of God’s people and the final cry of fear from the wicked as they see Jesus coming in the clouds of heaven.





The Judgment Seals:

- 1) The Sword
- 2) Famine
- 3) Pestilence
- 4) Beasts of the earth

These judgments are literal, and their effects are also literal – the sword results in bloodshed (note the color of the horse – “red”); the famine results in hunger; and the pestilence results in death (note the color of the horse – “pale”). Together, these three judgments, in addition to the “beasts of the earth” affect **one-fourth of earth’s inhabitants!**


At this point it is critical to state two important principles of prophetic interpretation:


- 1) The **characters** of prophecy are most always symbolic – **masked** – while their **actions** are **literal**. Thus the riders on the horses in the above scenes are symbolic – characterizations, and in this case a personification – of the agents of judgment. Even the colors of the horses signify the results of their actions – “red” representing bloodshed, “black” representing the effects of famine, and “pale” representing death. And consequently, the effects of their actions result in death, affecting $\frac{1}{4}$ of the earth – **literally!**
- 2) The second principle of prophetic interpretation to be noted is that the Bible is faithful to interpret itself. If something is initially vague in prophecy, we must examine how the Bible uses the same terms and concepts in other places where the same truths are clearly visible. Thus, to understand this passage of Scripture on the judgments of God we can expect before Jesus returns, I wish to direct your attention to how the Bible uses the terms, “sword, famine, pestilence, and beasts of the earth” in other places. Only then can we understand the reality and purpose of these judgments which John indicates will be God’s initial wake up call to a sleeping, distracted world just before His return.

In Matthew 24:7-8, Jesus, in His prophetic account of the end of time, indicates that the [sword], famine, and pestilence will be the “beginning of sorrows”, just before He says that His followers will experience persecution – just as John does in Revelation 6.

Twenty-five times in the Old Testament, the Bible records God as warning Israel that because of their disobedience and the “abominations” done in Israel, He will “punish” them with the judgments of “the sword, famine, and pestilence” – “that they may know that [He is] the Lord.” There are an **additional sixteen times** where God warns Israel with at least two of these judgments – i.e. “sword and famine,” or “sword and pestilence.” Below are good examples of these texts:

Therefore thus says the LORD: “You have not obeyed Me in proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother and every one to his neighbor. Behold, I proclaim liberty to you,” says the LORD – “to the **sword**, to **pestilence**, and to **famine!** And I will deliver you to trouble among all the kingdoms of the earth.” Jeremiah 34:17.





“For I will **punish** those who dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have **punished** Jerusalem, by the **sword**, by **famine**, and by **pestilence**.” Jeremiah 44:13.

“One-third of you shall die of the **pestilence**, and be consumed with **famine** in your midst; and one-third shall fall by the **sword** all around you; and I will scatter another third to all the winds, and I will draw out a **sword** after them. ... So I will send against you famine and **wild beasts**, and they will bereave you. **Pestilence** and blood shall pass through you, and I will bring the **sword** against you. I, the LORD, have spoken.” Ezekiel 5:12, 17.

Thus says the Lord GOD: "Pound your fists and stamp your feet, and say, Alas, for **all the evil abominations of the house of Israel!** For they shall fall by the **sword**, by **famine**, and by **pestilence**. He who is far off shall die by the **pestilence**, he who is near shall fall by the **sword**, and he who remains and is besieged shall die by the famine. Thus will I spend My fury upon them.” Ezekiel 6:11-12.

"But I will spare a few of their men from the **sword**, from **famine**, and from **pestilence**, that they may declare **all their abominations** among the Gentiles wherever they go. **Then they shall know that I [am] the LORD.**" Ezekiel 12:16.

For thus says the Lord GOD: "How much more it shall be when I send **My four severe judgments** on Jerusalem--the **sword** and **famine** and **wild beasts** and **pestilence**--to cut off man and beast from it?" Ezekiel 14:21.

You will also notice that in two of these verses, that one of the judgments of God are “wild beasts” – one of the judgments which John the Revelator includes in the fourth seal.

I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And **power** was given to them **over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with famine, with pestilence** (NASB, ESV, RSV), **and by the beasts of the earth**. Revelation 6:8.

It's important to realize that this first set of judgments **will come upon the earth** and for the purpose of

- ◆ Making known to its inhabitants that the end is near
- ◆ To persuade people to acknowledge the authority and sovereignty of the God of heaven, and
- ◆ As a call for humanity to make a decision to come to Christ in faith while there is still time.

For there will be a day when Jesus Christ stands up with “one foot on the sea and one foot on the land and raise His hand to heaven and declare that there will be no more delay.” Revelation 10:5, 6.

In our next issue, we will examine the next set of judgments found in Revelation 8 and 9 – the Seven Trumpets.

Stay tuned!

