

## **PART 3**

### **THE FIRST PART OF THE TRIBULATION (REVELATION 6:1 – 10:7)**

*“For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.” (Mark 13:19)*

## **Chapter 14**

### **Approaching Horses**

*“Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.”” (Revelation 6:1)*

Listen closely ... can you hear them? I remember in the old westerns how that both cowboys and Indians would bow themselves low to the ground, press their ear to the earth and listen. When they would get back up they would give their report to the others that men were coming. Sometimes they would even give an estimate as to how many. They could supposedly tell this from the pounding of the hooves of the approaching horses as they picked up the rumbling noise that vibrated in the ground.

So we spiritually bow towards the earth, place our ear to the ground and listen. As we do we can also hear the pounding of approaching horses. As I read the word of God and look around at all that is taking place in our world today, it sounds like the horses are coming. God, through the prophets, and our Lord, Jesus Christ foretold us of things that would be happening to warn us of their coming.

For a great many years men and women have looked at current events as signs. And, for the most part, they have been right to do so. Habitually we have dismissed them as perhaps some have gotten their facts wrong. Their warnings of imminent danger may not have come to pass as predicted and because of it mankind has dismissed it as yet another false report. But have they been completely wrong? I think not.

A great and terrible earthquake takes place and the predictions of the coming of the Lord begin. But nothing seems to happen and we let it slide by. A volcano erupts and the prophecies start again. Nothing happens and it is again dismissed. Nearly every time a tragedy takes place, whether earthquake, flood, hurricane, fire, or whatever there are those who once again warn of the coming of our Savior. But it seems nothing happens.

Mockers and doubters will tell us that there is nothing to be alarmed about. It is nature doing its thing and we shouldn't be afraid. They quote tragic events one after another as proof that the warnings are false and we shouldn't be concerned. And so life continues.

To a degree they are right. These things have been happening since recorded time. But we must remember that from the beginning it wasn't meant to be this way. When God created the heavens and the earth, placed the splendid Garden of Eden in the middle of it all, created all life forms and then put man and woman right in the thick of it all, it was meant to be a perfect world. God was in control (and really He still is). There was no such thing as a wild animal. There was no death, no hatred, or struggle for survival. Harmony permeated life's existence.

Man messed it all up. His original sin is what threw things out of order. As a result both plant life and animal life became wild, untamed and dangerous. Existence became a struggle and the fight to survive was birthed. God was forced by man's action to curse not only human life, but all of creation, including nature. Because of sin the order did become the survival of the fittest. Both man and animal killed to eat. Death became the order of things. Animals had to die in order to cloth us, feed us, and entertain us in sport. So they became terrified of the human creature.

In order to grow fruit and vegetables man had to fight the earth to keep it from producing thorny plants, thistles and poisonous weeds. The serpent grew its fangs and the struggle began. The ground would shake periodically warning us that one day it would get us.

But worst of all, men battled each other for control. They wanted to have the most land, the most slaves or the greatest pile of wealth. And so they fought. Wars took place as the struggle continued - And still do. We may fight to gain freedom and in some cases this has been unavoidable. More often than not there have been underlying reasons – Reasons that the common man knows nothing about. Powers struggle and they use others like pawns in a game of chess as they sit in their comfortable chairs and let others do their dirty work all in the name of patriotism and freedom.

Despite the struggle God provided a way of escape. He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, as the sacrifice that would reverse the greatest tragedy that has ever fallen on the earth. His provision can reverse the upheaval caused by man's sin. It requires a personal sacrifice on our part. We must acknowledge Him as our Savior and allow Him to be formed in us by way of the Holy Spirit who is at work in the earth today.

In the ranks of those who have accepted His provision are those with their ears to the ground. They have studied the ancient writings that have come from God by way of the hand of man. We call it the Bible – and it is the Word of God. Because men didn't want to give up their power and control over others God's prophets and teachers have been historically persecuted, imprisoned and executed sometimes cruelly and torturously only because they warned of the approaching horses. Evil does not want God to win. The satanic influence in mankind doesn't want things to change. And so they attempt to silence the voice of warning.

Yet when one is quieted, two take his or her place. Man cannot silence the voice of God. Despite what we deserve God continues to love us, speak out to us, and warn us of what is coming. Whether we choose to listen or not does not alter to approaching hooves that thunder against the ground.

Even though some have added to the prediction erroneously (some by mistake and others purposely) and their predictions have been proven wrong, it does not change the fact that signs are happening. They have been happening for centuries but never more frequently than our present age. The world is changing regardless what we may want to think. We are told that these tragedies are greater today only because the population has increased. Why does that make a difference? Could that not be a part of making the cataclysmic events more horrible? Of course it is. God knew that. In fact He foreknew that. Volcanoes are erupting. The earth is

shaking. Despite their debate the world is warming up (we call it Global Warming). It is changing and getting itself in place for the approaching horsemen. The Bible does tell us that the seasons will not stop but will continue until the end of time and while this is true it does not mean that their change will not come with greater, more terrifying force.

We call it “El Nino,” “Global Warming,” and other official sounding names. It seems to make it more tolerable I suppose. When we have an official name for it somehow it feels like we know it’s coming and we have some control. But call it what we may, it is a signal of what God has already told us.

In Revelation chapter 6 we see Jesus – The Lion of Judah, the Lamb as it had been slain, standing, holding the seven-sealed scroll that is the title deed to what God gave to man and man foolishly sold to the devil in exchange for the knowledge of good and evil. He had paid the price to hold it and to open it. He had given man sufficient time to repent and accept His provision. It was time to remove the seals, read the contract and take possession of what man had lost.

While I believe firmly that we as Christians should have victory, peace, joy and happiness in Jesus Christ, I also firmly believe that over the centuries and ages past, those cataclysmic events and disasters have struck terror in the hearts of men and have produced death becoming the echoes of the seals beginning to be torn from the scroll.

Scoffers continue to do their thing. They will produce doubt, tell lies and attempt to discredit those who are sounding the warning cries. Let them do their vicious duty for unbeknown to them their very acts are also part of the warning. Their persecution has also been predicted and they have fallen right in line to help fulfill the plan of God. Even the devil, with his wicked lies and evil influence is but a pawn in the plan of God. Throw down this book and dismiss it if you wish, but know that it will change nothing. It will not make one simple truth to become a lie. The world can kill the prophets but ten will arise in the place of each because God will not be mocked and no invention, no weapon of mass destruction and no war of man or devil can stop His divine plan. It will happen just as He has told us. Let God be true and every man a liar. These things are happening and will continue to happen until the time has come.

Beginning with the white horse, we will be paralleling with other chapters of Revelation. We know to do this because of the words of Revelation 10:8-11 which says, *“Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, “Go, take the little book which is open (meaning that the seals had been loosed and the scroll is now open) in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth.” So I went to the angel and said to him, “Give me the little book.” And he said to me, “Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth.” Then I took the little book out of the angel’s hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. And he said to me, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.””* The horses are sort of a preview of the unfolding events of the Revelation. God said that everything should be established by two or three witnesses. With the preview we have three witnesses. So let’s begin the journey.

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