

THIRD STUDY: JESUS RETURN, WHAT ~ WHY ~ HOW ~ WHEN?

THE 'LAST DAYS SIGNS' ~ POSSIBLY MATCHING ~ 'BREAKING OF THE SEALS'. Combining New Testament Scriptures in a prayerful way.

• EXPLANATIONS

1. Most Christians know about, and are looking forward to the last great event for this World, the Last Day that Satan will be 'in charge' of most of the world.
2. Even more the Day when for the second time (only), Jesus Messiah will come to this Earth not as Saviour; this next time He will Return in His glorified body, to be the King of the Earth in peace and love.

Reading: Hebrews 9: 27 & 28.

1. Most Christians know that Satan, [an evil Angel] brought sin and rebellion into this world.
2. Ever since Satan tempted Adam and Eve, Satan encouraged rebellion against the God of Heaven.
> The sad part is that it has been millions of *human people* who have gone Satan's way and rebelled against God, and His much better Way.
> So the World has had thousands of years of terrible sin, which has only got worse and worse.

Question. It seems strange God allowed that to happen. Why did He allow so much evil for so long?

> This is all because God honoured every human person, by giving him or her a *free will* to make their own choices, to do what GOD wanted or - rebel. All sin is rebellion against the God of love.
> If God decides to do something that is RIGHT, He will not ever change, because He is Holy.
> So God has allowed mankind to rebel against HIM, and even to keep rebelling, and sinning! Yet sin brings great suffering that God never wanted!
> Therefore God will allow Satan to make things worse and worse, even to almost Rule the World, through his chosen agent called 'The Beast'.
> But at the same time GOD did say He would punish great Evil at the right time...
> And the Bible is full of stories about His anger, from the Flood, to the Tower of Babel, until now.
> But also His amazing patience and mercy! The Death of Jesus by crucifixion was the greatest and most costly act of God's MERCY!
Allowing Jesus to take the full punishment for our sin!

Reading: Romans 9; 22 & from the Jewish N.T. "What if God, even though He was quite willing to demonstrate His anger, and make known his power, ~ *patiently put up with people* who deserved His punishment? What if He did this in order to make known the riches of His glory to people He wanted to give His mercy to?"

1. However as things get worse and Jesus is longing to come back ~ there will be many Special EVENTS happening.
2. Jesus told us what they would be ~ so these are a bit like 'Traffic Signs' ~ just so we would know about His Plans!

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- THEREFORE: MANY SERIOUS EVENTS ON EARTH WILL HAPPEN ~ CALLED 'SIGNS'. [It seems they will match the breaking of the 'SEALS' on the Scroll.]

> From different parts of the Bible, and different Bible Prophets, (including Jesus Himself), we can learn about these serious 'SIGNS'.
> All of them are the result of the increasing effect of man's SIN.
> Matthew 24 is a good place to start reading about 'SIGNS'.
> Notice: God did not write these Signs for Himself ~ He wrote them *for us today!*
> GOD ALWAYS warned people of judgement that is coming... from the Flood to the events in these End Times ~ because SIN has got worse.
> Some of the SIGNS are terrible disasters, which have been getting worse for at least 150 years. The SEALS indicate great disasters will come.
> God knows about them all, because God wrote about them on a special holy 'Scroll of the Future' ~ in Heaven. ONLY the Holy LORD Jesus could open the Scroll by "*breaking the Seals*" that it was fastened shut with.

You see, TO SHOW GOD IS TOTALLY IN CHARGE OF ALL EVENTS HE HAD THE PLAN WRITTEN [thousands of years ago] ~ IN A BIG SCROLL ~ IN SEVEN STAGES ~ EACH ONE 'SEALED', with a legal seal.

Revelation tells us that Only Jesus could break the 7 'wax' Seals on the Scroll, with His nail-pierced hands, to start each main event. These will 'launch' or start the 'Last Days Events'!

Reading: Revelation 5: 1 - 7.

Then there are 6 long PRAISE verses about the Worship Service everyone in Heaven joined in!

So the 'SEALS' match the SIGNS that show that GOD is in total control of everything that has or will happen. God does not make these evil things happen, He does *allow them to happen*, as they are the result of man's rebellion! Probably for all 6,000 years!

- **FIRST WE CAN LOOK AT THE GENERAL LIST OF SIGNS, JESUS GAVE TO THE DISCIPLES.**

These are in Matthew 24: 1-14, also Mark 13: 1 -14, and Luke 21: 5 - 11, [12 - 19 mainly for Jews.]

These 'SIGNS' include false Prophets - and people pretending to be 'Messiah's'.

Also wars and rumours of wars, famines, earthquakes and plagues, and many more terrible things with 1,000s of people being killed.

Again; the reasons for these awful things are: because of *the increasing wickedness of people* against God, even Christians who are lazy. Therefore GOD gives SATAN permission to bring these catastrophes on the world.

LATER, the Apostle John describes 2 sets of 'Seven JUDGEMENTS' [Trumpets and Bowls] God will send *but always hoping they will bring repentance*, as written in Revelation...

Reading: Revelation 9: 20 & 21.

So these will affect parts of 'Nature' very seriously, because people are already, now, worshiping Nature and the false god called Gaia or 'Mother Earth' instead of the Almighty Creator GOD. So God will punish people.

But there are TWO GOOD SIGNS!

1. One is that the "Gospel of God's Kingdom will spread to the whole world", before the Tribulation time, and this will make Jesus' Return happen sooner!

Reading: Matthew 24: 14.

2. The other good EVENT is: that God will help all JEWISH People *come to know Him and Who Jesus is*, ~ and He will finally make them into a HOLY Nation to honour Him. Exciting results too!

Reading: Ezekiel 36: 25 -27.

OTHER DISASTERS AND SIGNS HAPPENING WORLD-WIDE.

- > The terrible disasters happening at the same time - will really test the true Christian's faith in God.
- > Sadly, the Bible tells us ONE BIG 'SIGN' will be a huge "*increase in wickedness*" all over the world.
- > This will be the reason many Christians will stop believing in God or Jesus.
 - > May God help us to *keep TRUSTING in GOD*, no matter what happens!

Questions: So how do you see the different SIGNS, fitting in with the SEALS?

- **OUR SUGGESTION OF WAYS EACH 'SEAL' MATCHES THE BAD 'SIGNS' ON EARTH.**

Reading: Revelation ch. 4 & 5: 6 -10. Then ch 6: 1 & 2.

Please stop and read them ~ maybe leave your Bible open there.

There are many suggestions about what the Seals mean but it seems the first five are quite clear!

> When you read Revelation chapters 4, 5 and 6, see if you can try to imagine what John saw and heard in Heaven.

> Every detail has special meaning! Some are real creatures, some Symbols.

> Four special Created Beings, called 'Living Creatures'. Their FACES represent 4 kinds of Earthly Creatures GOD made on Earth, for very special reasons, but above all to show HIS LOVE in every way.

>One was a LION, 'king' of all WILD creatures; second an OX - representing all DOMESTIC animals; the third looked like a human MAN, and the last, a powerful flying EAGLE eyed bird. They were all real. Spectacular BEINGS.

>You need to read the other descriptions, in Revelation chapter 4, for yourself.

> But NOTICE: Each one admires God's HOLINESS and "*gives glory and honour and thanks to Him who sits on the Throne, and lives forever and ever!*" [Revelation 4.]

> [They are the only ones to add 'thanks' to their worship.]

> Each of the 4 Creatures give commands to the waiting Symbolic actors. -

Each 'Living creature called out "*in a voice like thunder*" a different SYMBOLIC HORSE and RIDER to 'Come!' That sounds like a 'drum roll' to me!

[In Scripture there are hundreds of 'symbols' - some made up pictures and some real things to represent something much bigger - like the icons on a computer? Or logo's for businesses, universities, and groups/ clubs.]

- THE SEALS REPRESENT BIBLICAL SYMBOLS THAT MATCH THE SIGNS.

1. JESUS BROKE THE FIRST SEAL, REPRESENTING 'DECEPTION' [Revelation ch. 6: 2]

The first symbolic SIGN was a WHITE HORSE, "with a rider, [who was] GIVEN A CROWN, as a Conqueror bent of conquest."

This SIGN, warning of DECEPTION, started to happen, perhaps around the 1800's [19th c] when all kinds of wrong ideas and FALSE TEACHING was like a bad 'crown' on people's MINDS.

> It began a long time of changing GOD'S TRUTH into LIES. "People will believe THE LIE," Paul wrote, because they did NOT want to know the TRUTH.

> Evolution - was a terrible 'crown' affecting the minds of millions of people and denying the God of Creation.

> 'Humanism' - re-emerged to tell people they didn't need God, they are 'crowned' so 'people are gods' themselves.

> Many wrong Bible based theories started then, too. 'Liberalism' it is called.

> This SIGN was (I believe) the one JESUS WAS THE MOST SAD ABOUT: DECEIVERS = 'FALSE PROPHETS'!

Wrong theories and teaching - equal to absolute lies - from about 1750!

> The very first SIGN Jesus gave in Matthew 24 to the Disciples who asked Him for the SIGNS was; "Watch out that no-one DECEIVES you!" Many will come in My name ~ claiming 'I am the Messiah', and will DECEIVE MANY."

> False teachers, like Darwin teaching Evolution, Preachers like Sun Myung Moon, Dictators like Hitler in Europe, Mao Zedong bringing cruel Communism in China... and Stalin in Russia... also Pol Pot in Cambodia... and many others around the world. Whole nations living under a LIE!

> YET also, many Bible teachers, who say that there are two resurrection Days for Christians and Christians, will be Raptured 'Pre- Tribulation', and Signs are not important because it might happen without any warning.

> As well as those, hundreds of other debateable Biblical theories, were taught since the 1800's.

> 'Lies' are condemned in Scripture, yet millions of people don't think 'telling a lie' is evil!

Why is always telling the truth important?

An Answer: There are 2 things that are - 'only mine' and are very precious.

One is the 'Free Will' that God has given every single person.

The second one is called 'Integrity' - always telling the Truth.

If people get to know you always tell the truth, it is a badge of honour.

It is interesting that the Bible only says that 'GOD is LOVE'.

Of course Jesus and the Holy Spirit love people too.

But the Bible says clearly, that:

God is the GOD of Truth, and JESUS said 'I am the TRUTH'.

The HOLY SPIRIT of God is called "The SPIRIT of Truth", and the Bible is "the WORD of Truth".

2. WHEN JESUS BROKE THE 2ND SEAL - [drum roll], THE SECOND LIVING CREATURE, CALLED FOR A RIDER ON A RED HORSE.

READING: Revelation 6: 3 & 4.

This matched the second SIGN Jesus gave of: "WARS and rumours of wars" Matt. 24:6.

> "Its Rider was given power to take peace from the Earth, and to make men kill each other".

> 'He was given a large weapon'. More money is spent of weapons than food, in many countries!

> God allowed the first - actual WORLD war, in 1914/18, and it reoccurred in 1939 - 45, as the 'Second WORLD WAR' -killing a record number of more than 63 million people.

3. THE BREAKING OF THE 3RD SEAL... SHOWS ONE RESULT OF ALL WARS: IS FAMINE...

Revelation 6: 5 & 6.

> John said: "I looked and there before me was a BLACK HORSE. Its RIDER was holding a pair of scales in his hand" And John heard a voice calling out about very high prices, for basic food!

> We've seen hundreds of pictures of droughts, floods and disasters wrecking farms and food production for millions of people, creating terrible famines and millions of deaths... Often food supplies are disrupted as well.

> All this was over the last 120 years and is still ongoing... [See notes below.]

Now, Jesus only briefly mentioned EARTHQUAKES in Matthew 24, but they are mentioned in Revelation at the 6TH SEAL BEING BROKEN, and 5 more times in Revelation! So recent severe earthquakes are important signs... Please see our Study 'How Events in the Middle East will change the WORLD

4. THE BREAKING OF THE 4TH SEAL HAS NOW BEGUN TO HAPPEN WITH FOUR CAUSES OF DEATH IT IS VERY TRAGIC!

Reading: Revelation 6: 5 & 6...

"When the Lamb opened the Fourth Seal, I heard the voice of the Fourth Living Creature say: "Come!" I looked and... there was a PALE HORSE! Its RIDER was named 'DEATH'; and 'HADES' was following close behind him."

This HADES, or 'SHEOL' is a 'holding place' - for dead souls - not actual 'Hell', but without God - no Love, or Light of Life, is tragic.

But those BELIEVERS, who die before Jesus comes, go to PARADISE, a restful Garden where Jesus is with them, just as He is able to keep His Word to be "with us" ~ even in this life for Believers.

In Philippians 1: 21 - 23, Rabbi Paul told his readers, *"For me to live is Messiah and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me. Yet, what shall I choose? I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Messiah which is better by far!"*

Jesus said to the dying criminal beside Him on the next cross, *"I tell you the truth, 'Today you will be with Me in PARADISE'."*

□ Continued reading: Revelation 6: 7 - 8.] *"Death and Hades... were given power to kill by sword [war], famine and plague, [Pandemic], and by the wild beasts of the Earth."*

> John goes on to explain what he saw: *"They were given power over a quarter of the Earth."*

> This is a very, very serious SIGN because of great killing and huge numbers of DEATHS!

> It seems this is still future - as it has not happened like Revelation says.

> The killing is by *"SWORD, [weapons of all kinds] FAMINE and PLAGUE, and the wild beasts of the Earth."*

These could be what we call wild beasts - bears, lions, tigers, sharks, etc, in the sea...

> OR these 'beasts' may even be very strong bacteria or viruses causing a 'PANDEMIC' worse than the one in 1918, [or many other Plagues that happened before - in History.]

Under a microscope they can look like beasts!

> Sadly, *"They were given power over one fourth of the Earth."*

With today's world population going over seven billion, that could be almost 2 Billion men, women and children - almost 1 in 3 - 4 people...

5. Jesus OPENED the FIFTH SEAL TO AN AMAZING SIGHT!

Reading: Revelation 6: 9 - 11

>And John's eyes were opened to see the horrific number OF MARTYRED, PERSECUTED BELIEVERS, *"because of the Word of God, and the Testimony they had maintained."*

> There are some puzzles here that we do not know about like: ~ what ~"under the Altar" means, or how they called, *"in a loud voice, 'how long, Sovereign LORD, Holy and True, until You judge the inhabitants of the Earth, and avenge our blood?'"*

> They were very aware of everything it seems, but there's more of a message for us to consider.

> Two responses came: *"Each of them was given a white robe..."* [You can compare this with Rev. 3: 4 & 5. 'White robes' ~ in Bible times were very expensive robes, hand woven from special linen flax that only Caesars or very special Athletes and Heroes could wear them.]

>The second response was to *"wait a little longer,"* [but sadly it was] *"until the number of their fellow servants and brothers, who were to be killed, as they had been, was completed."* Could this be referring to the Tribulation?

> They say that more people have died as Christian Martyrs in the last 100+ years than in all the years before 1900. Ver many have been killed this year, alone...

I wonder, if any of us will be honoured that way? Let us Pray for those in prison, now...

6. THE SIXTH SEAL BEING OPENED BRINGS A HUGE 'COSMIC QUAKE' ~ THAT WILL CHANGE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE WORLD!

We will consider this in another study...Please ask for Study Four, 'How Events in the M.E. will Change the World'

THE NEXT STUDY 4 IS ABOUT:
"THE TIME OF TRIBULATION", THE BEAST AND THE FALSE PROPHET