

## Questions for further study and application from Revelation 6

Revelation is Christ's revealing to His people 'things to come' (1:1,19;4:1) regarding How He will return and establish God's kingdom on earth. This will take place after a period of time, called the 'great tribulation' (Matt 24:21) in which God pours out His wrath on mankind through a series of global judgments. Chapters 6-18 describe these judgments. As Jesus opened the 7-sealed scroll containing God's plan for establishing His kingdom on earth, each opened seal revealed a different judgment. Chapter 6 describes the first 6 of these seal judgments. The seventh seal contains 7 'trumpet' judgments each preceded by a trumpet blast (8:1-9:21). After the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet sounds (11:15) there are described 7 bowl judgments (15:1;16:1-21).

1. Read Revelation chapter six and Matthew 24:3-12. What similarities do you notice?
2. The first seal is probably referring to a world peace movement orchestrated by a man conquering, yet without conflict. This is implied by the second seal which removes peace from the earth. This probably is referring to the Beast, (or Antichrist). He will start this final 7 year period before Christ returns with a peace treaty with Israel, which he will break after 3 1/2 years ushering in the start of horrible persecution called by Daniel an "Abomination of desolation". What does Jesus say about this time Matthew 24:15-22?
3. Revelation 6:3-4 opens the second seal and describes killing on a global scale. What does Jesus say about this in Matt. 24:6-7. In addition to killing by war, murder will become rampant (See Rev. 9:21). What did Jesus tell us about people's hearts in the last days in Matt. 24:10-12? How does this relate to murder? Is this heart attitude increasing today?
4. In Revelation 6:5-6 what other judgment does the earth experience? Do you think it is interconnected with the previous judgment?
5. In 6:7-8 the cumulative effect of the prior judgments is noted as well as death caused by pestilence and wild beasts (which could also refer to violent mankind). How many die through these judgments? What does Jesus say about this in Matt. 24:22? Death on this scale indicates a technology capable of killing on a mass scale and world by travel and economy so that in a short period of time, nations can be infected and global shortage of food experienced. Why do you think the Lord would want man to know ahead of time how many would die? How does it affect you knowing this scale of catastrophe is coming to earth due to God's judgments?
6. In 6:9-11 who has been killed? For what reason? What are they testifying of? What does that reveal about why Christians were hated? What does this reveal about the Lord's purpose in their death? What does this reveal about the heart of

Christians is towards those who hated them? Is this different than from many Christians today? How? From your heart? How?

7. In 6:9-10 What does Jesus want us to know about vengeance? Why do you think He wants us to know this?
8. 6:11 says God will not avenge them until the number of Christians who would be killed would be 'completed.' What does this reveal about who ultimately controls their death? Why do you think the Lord did not deliver His people from death? Notice how many are in heaven that came out of the Tribulation in 7:9. What does this tell us about how many come to faith in Christ during this time through their testimony?
9. In 6:12-14 what signs of God's judgment are seen in the sky? These are described using metaphorical (picturesque) language not to be taken literally, but which describe literal events. Revelation 15:3-4 says mankind has no fear or reverence for God. Why do you think the Lord would put on such a spectacular visual display for man?
10. In Matthew 24:29-30, what does Jesus say these signs in the sky would precede? What does Zechariah 14:3-7 and Joel 2:30-32; 3:14-16 reveal about this day? What affect does it have on you knowing this day is coming?
11. In 6:15, who is terrified by God's wrath? Why would God want people to know this?
12. In 6:15-16 what is man's response to God's wrath? What does Rev. 9:20-21 and 16:11 reveal man does not do? What do this reveal about man's heart? What affect does it have on you knowing this about man's heart?
13. What does Isaiah 2:10-11, 17-22 and 13:6-13 reveal about the affect God's judgments has on man?
14. What does Isaiah 2:20-22 say the reality of God's coming wrath should have on the way we view people now? Why would this attitude be important?
15. In 6:17 what is the question that man has no answer for? What answer to this question according to 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and John 3:36? What people in your life that need to know this answer? Pray together for your boldness and love to tell them. Praise God for His grace in delivering you from His wrath.