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REVELATION

Chapter 06:01-02

THE 7 SEALS - PART 1 - THE FIRST SEAL

I. INTRODUCTION

A. **Luk 21:25-27 NKJV "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; (26) men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (27) Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.**

1. Last study we found Jesus Christ to be the only One with the right and the authority to open the scroll and loosen its seals.
2. We also determined that this scroll is representative of the title deed to the earth!
 - a) **Chapter 6** begins the opening of the seven seals that have kept the scroll bound until its rightful owner returned.
 - b) It is here (in this first seal) that the final judgment of the earth begins!
 - (1) The judgment does not fully end until **chapter 19**.
 - (2) The judgment of the earth is executed in three different stages.
 - (a) The **seals**, the **trumpets**, and the **vials**.
 - (i) This has been illustrated with a telescope made up of three sections, the outer section containing the inner two.
 - (ii) Out of the larger outer section (the **seals**) - comes the second section (the **trumpets**), and out of the second - comes the last section (the **vials**).
 - (b) It is important that we understand the time frame this chapter represents: **THESE EVENTS HAVE NOT YET TAKEN PLACE!**
 - (i) They are yet future, though no doubt, many persecuted peoples and groups have experienced similar "holocausts".
 - (ii) But, all of the world's tragedies combined will not compare with what is about to unfold before us in **chapter 6!**

B. For us to really understand the events of **chapter 6** we must first take a look at the book of **Ezekiel** chapters **38** and part of **39**.

II. **EZE 38:1-39:15 NKJV NOW THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ME, SAYING, (2) "SON OF MAN, SET YOUR FACE AGAINST GOG (RULER OF MAGOG), OF THE LAND OF MAGOG (RUSSIA ACCORDING TO THE HISTORIAN JOSEPHUS), THE PRINCE OF ROSH, MESHECH, AND TUBAL (MODERN DAY TURKEY), AND PROPHECY AGAINST HIM, (3) AND SAY, 'THUS SAYS THE LORD GOD: "BEHOLD, I AM AGAINST YOU, O GOG, THE PRINCE OF ROSH, MESHECH, AND TUBAL. (4) I WILL TURN YOU AROUND,**

PUT HOOKS INTO YOUR JAWS, AND LEAD YOU OUT, WITH ALL YOUR ARMY, HORSES, AND HORSEMEN, ALL SPLENDIDLY CLOTHED, A GREAT COMPANY *WITH* BUCKLERS AND SHIELDS, ALL OF THEM HANDLING SWORDS. (5) PERSIA (IRAN), ETHIOPIA (SUDAN), AND LIBYA ARE WITH THEM, ALL OF THEM *WITH* SHIELD AND HELMET; (6) GOMER (EASTERN TURKEY AND THE UKRANE) AND ALL ITS TROOPS; THE HOUSE OF TOGARMAH (TURKEY NEAR THE SYRIAN BORDER) *FROM* THE FAR NORTH AND ALL ITS TROOPS—*MANY PEOPLE ARE WITH YOU.* (7) "PREPARE YOURSELF AND BE READY, YOU AND ALL YOUR COMPANIES THAT ARE GATHERED ABOUT YOU; AND BE A GUARD FOR THEM. (8) AFTER MANY DAYS YOU WILL BE VISITED. IN THE LATTER YEARS YOU WILL COME INTO THE LAND OF THOSE BROUGHT BACK FROM THE SWORD *AND* GATHERED FROM MANY PEOPLE ON THE MOUNTAINS OF ISRAEL, WHICH HAD LONG BEEN DESOLATE; THEY WERE BROUGHT OUT OF THE NATIONS, AND NOW ALL OF THEM DWELL SAFELY (ISRAEL). (9) YOU WILL ASCEND, COMING LIKE A STORM, COVERING THE LAND LIKE A CLOUD, YOU AND ALL YOUR TROOPS AND MANY PEOPLES WITH YOU." (10) 'THUS SAYS THE LORD GOD: "ON THAT DAY IT SHALL COME TO PASS *THAT* THOUGHTS WILL ARISE IN YOUR MIND, AND YOU WILL MAKE AN EVIL PLAN: (11) YOU WILL SAY, 'I WILL GO UP AGAINST A LAND OF UNWALLED VILLAGES; I WILL GO TO A PEACEFUL PEOPLE, WHO DWELL SAFELY, ALL OF THEM DWELLING WITHOUT WALLS, AND HAVING NEITHER BARS NOR GATES'— (12) TO TAKE PLUNDER AND TO TAKE BOOTY, TO STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND AGAINST THE WASTE PLACES *THAT ARE AGAIN* INHABITED, AND AGAINST A PEOPLE GATHERED FROM THE NATIONS, WHO HAVE ACQUIRED LIVESTOCK AND GOODS, WHO DWELL IN THE MIDST OF THE LAND. (13) SHEBA, DEDAN (ARAB PEOPLES), THE MERCHANTS OF TARSHISH (SOUTH OF SPAIN), AND ALL THEIR YOUNG LIONS WILL SAY TO YOU, 'HAVE YOU COME TO TAKE PLUNDER? HAVE YOU GATHERED YOUR ARMY TO TAKE BOOTY, TO CARRY AWAY SILVER AND GOLD, TO TAKE AWAY LIVESTOCK AND GOODS, TO TAKE GREAT PLUNDER?' " ' (14) "*THEREFORE, SON OF MAN, PROPHECY AND SAY TO GOG,* 'THUS SAYS THE LORD GOD: "ON THAT DAY WHEN MY PEOPLE ISRAEL DWELL SAFELY, WILL YOU NOT KNOW *IT?* (15) THEN YOU WILL COME FROM YOUR PLACE OUT OF THE FAR NORTH, YOU AND MANY PEOPLES WITH YOU, ALL OF THEM RIDING ON HORSES, A GREAT COMPANY AND A MIGHTY ARMY. (16) YOU WILL COME UP AGAINST MY PEOPLE ISRAEL LIKE A CLOUD, TO COVER THE LAND (AN INNUMERABLE ARMY). IT WILL BE IN THE LATTER DAYS THAT I WILL BRING YOU AGAINST MY LAND, SO THAT THE NATIONS MAY KNOW ME, WHEN I AM HALLOWED (SANCTIFIED – PROVEN TO BE GOD!) IN YOU, O GOG, BEFORE THEIR EYES." (17) THUS SAYS THE LORD GOD: "ARE *YOU* HE OF WHOM I HAVE SPOKEN IN FORMER DAYS BY MY SERVANTS THE PROPHETS OF ISRAEL, WHO PROPHESED FOR YEARS IN THOSE DAYS THAT I WOULD BRING YOU AGAINST THEM? (18) "*AND IT WILL COME TO PASS AT THE SAME TIME, WHEN GOG COMES AGAINST THE LAND OF ISRAEL,* " SAYS THE LORD GOD, "*THAT MY FURY WILL SHOW IN MY FACE.* (19) FOR IN MY JEALOUSY *AND* IN THE FIRE OF MY WRATH I HAVE SPOKEN: 'SURELY *IN THAT DAY THERE SHALL BE A GREAT EARTHQUAKE IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL,* (20) SO THAT THE FISH OF THE SEA, THE BIRDS OF THE HEAVENS, THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD, ALL CREEPING THINGS THAT CREEP ON THE EARTH, AND ALL MEN WHO *ARE* ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH SHALL SHAKE AT MY PRESENCE. THE MOUNTAINS SHALL BE THROWN DOWN, THE STEEP PLACES SHALL FALL, AND EVERY WALL SHALL FALL TO THE GROUND.' (21) I WILL CALL FOR A SWORD AGAINST GOG THROUGHOUT ALL MY MOUNTAINS," SAYS THE LORD GOD. "EVERY MAN'S SWORD WILL BE AGAINST HIS BROTHER. (22) AND I WILL BRING HIM TO JUDGMENT WITH PESTILENCE AND BLOODSHED; I WILL RAIN DOWN ON HIM, ON HIS TROOPS, AND

ON THE MANY PEOPLES WHO *ARE* WITH HIM, FLOODING RAIN, GREAT HAILSTONES, FIRE, AND BRIMSTONE. (23) **THUS I WILL MAGNIFY MYSELF AND SANCTIFY MYSELF, AND I WILL BE KNOWN IN THE EYES OF MANY NATIONS. THEN THEY SHALL KNOW THAT I *AM* THE LORD."** ' (39:1) **"AND YOU, SON OF MAN, PROPHECY AGAINST GOG, AND SAY, 'THUS SAYS THE LORD GOD: "BEHOLD, I *AM* AGAINST YOU, O GOG, THE PRINCE OF ROSH, MESHECH, AND TUBAL; (2) AND I WILL TURN YOU AROUND AND LEAD YOU ON, BRINGING YOU UP FROM THE FAR NORTH, AND BRING YOU AGAINST THE MOUNTAINS OF ISRAEL. (3) THEN I WILL KNOCK THE BOW OUT OF YOUR LEFT HAND, AND CAUSE THE ARROWS TO FALL OUT OF YOUR RIGHT HAND. (4) YOU SHALL FALL UPON THE MOUNTAINS OF ISRAEL, YOU AND ALL YOUR TROOPS AND THE PEOPLES WHO *ARE* WITH YOU; I WILL GIVE YOU TO BIRDS OF PREY OF EVERY SORT AND *TO* THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD TO BE DEVoured. (5) YOU SHALL FALL ON THE OPEN FIELD; FOR I HAVE SPOKEN," SAYS THE LORD GOD. (6) "AND I WILL SEND FIRE ON MAGOG AND ON THOSE WHO LIVE IN SECURITY IN THE COASTLANDS. THEN THEY SHALL KNOW THAT I *AM* THE LORD. (7) SO I WILL MAKE MY HOLY NAME KNOWN IN THE MIDST OF MY PEOPLE ISRAEL, AND I WILL NOT *LET THEM* PROFANE MY HOLY NAME ANYMORE. THEN THE NATIONS SHALL KNOW THAT I *AM* THE LORD, THE HOLY ONE IN ISRAEL. (8) SURELY IT IS COMING, AND IT SHALL BE DONE," SAYS THE LORD GOD. "THIS IS THE DAY OF WHICH I HAVE SPOKEN. (9) "THEN THOSE WHO DWELL IN THE CITIES OF ISRAEL WILL GO OUT AND SET ON FIRE AND BURN THE WEAPONS, BOTH THE SHIELDS AND BUCKLERS, THE BOWS AND ARROWS, THE JAVELINS AND SPEARS; AND THEY WILL MAKE FIRES WITH THEM FOR SEVEN YEARS. (10) THEY WILL NOT TAKE WOOD FROM THE FIELD NOR CUT DOWN *ANY* FROM THE FORESTS, BECAUSE THEY WILL MAKE FIRES WITH THE WEAPONS; AND THEY WILL PLUNDER THOSE WHO PLUNDERED THEM, AND PILLAGE THOSE WHO PILLAGED THEM," SAYS THE LORD GOD. (11) "IT WILL COME TO PASS IN THAT DAY *THAT* I WILL GIVE GOG A BURIAL PLACE THERE IN ISRAEL, THE VALLEY OF THOSE WHO PASS BY EAST OF THE SEA; AND IT WILL OBSTRUCT TRAVELERS, BECAUSE THERE THEY WILL BURY GOG AND ALL HIS MULTITUDE. THEREFORE THEY WILL CALL *IT* THE VALLEY OF HAMON GOG (THE VALLEY OF THE MULTITUDE OF GOG). (12) FOR SEVEN MONTHS THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL WILL BE BURYING THEM, IN ORDER TO CLEANSE THE LAND. (13) INDEED ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND WILL BE BURYING, AND THEY WILL GAIN RENOWN FOR IT ON THE DAY THAT I AM GLORIFIED," SAYS THE LORD GOD. (14) "THEY WILL SET APART MEN REGULARLY EMPLOYED, WITH THE HELP OF A SEARCH PARTY, TO PASS THROUGH THE LAND AND BURY THOSE BODIES REMAINING ON THE GROUND, IN ORDER TO CLEANSE IT. AT THE END OF SEVEN MONTHS THEY WILL MAKE A SEARCH. (15) THE SEARCH PARTY WILL PASS THROUGH THE LAND; AND *WHEN ANYONE* SEES A MAN'S BONE, HE SHALL SET UP A MARKER BY IT, TILL THE BURIERS HAVE BURIED IT IN THE VALLEY OF HAMON GOG.**

A. These events are the immediate background of **chapter 6**.

1. At some point in these events the Lord will return and gather His church.
 - a) It is impossible to know whether it will take place before or after the Russian invasion of Israel (I am praying that it will be soon)!
 - b) But we do know that here in **chapter 6** - the saints are already before the throne. Representative of the 24 "crowned" elders before the throne worshipping the Lord! As we have talked about before.
2. The threat of Russia's global conquest will have been removed!

- a) However, many any other nations will seek to fill the vacuum left by Russia and her allies and a "ten nation" organization will unite to "manage the world"! (By the way, scripture tells us that these ten nations will have cultural and legal ties to ancient, and most probably, current Rome!) **Rev 17:12-13 NKJV** "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. (13) These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. (If you desire to know more about this – please read **Daniel 7** for greater detail)
- (1) In one of these nations, a brilliant charismatic leader will immerge with tremendous solutions to many of the world's global problems.
 - (2) He will be adored and gain tremendous power.
 - (3) He will also enter into a 7-year treaty with Israel which he will break after 3 1/2 years.
 - (a) It will be during this first 3 1/2 years that the Temple in Jerusalem will be rebuilt and the sacrifices reinstated.
 - (b) At this mid-point, this brilliant, charismatic, antichrist will exalt himself as the one to be worshipped.
 - (i) **2Th 2:3-6 NKJV** Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition* (utter destruction), (4) who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. (5) Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? (6) And now you know what is restraining (Holy Spirit), that he may be revealed in his own time.
 - (4) But the first 2 or 3 years the people of the earth will experience peace and safety and prosperity like they have never experienced!
 - (a) You see – at this point - the threat of war seems to be over, those "Christians" are out of the way and are not keeping the world from "evolving".
 - (b) And finally, "mother earth" is becoming one!
 - (c) It is from this very necessary background, we begin our study of **chapter 6** – but we will only have time for the first 2 verses.!

III. **REV 6:1-2 NKJV** 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." (2) 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.

A. So the Lamb (which is Jesus) - opened one of the seals!

1. This is an event that all of heaven has been waiting for – so **one of the four living creatures** tells everyone (and John is included) - "**Come and see.**"
 - a) This is an event that no one should miss!

2. And as John watched he saw a **white horse** and the person **on it had a “bow”**.
- a) In **chapter 19** we will see another white horse and the person on it is clearly Jesus because he is called “***Faithful and True!***”
 - b) But I don’t think that this is Jesus for several reasons:
 - (1) **The first reason**, as Jon Courson says, “*..is the company he keeps.*”
 - (a) The next 2 horsemen – on the red and the black horses – are instruments of judgment and destruction.
 - (b) The second reason is the “bow” – but notice that there are no arrows mentioned!
 - (i) I believe that this is because we are not talking about the bow (as in) bow and arrow.
 - (ii) I believe that we are talking about a rainbow:
 - (a) The rainbow was a “peace treaty” of sorts that the Lord would never again destroy the earth by water (so follow with me here).
 - (i) This rider comes AFTER the church has been raptured.
 - (ii) And **Daniel 6** told us that a man will come with a 7-year peace treaty with Israel.
 - (iii) I believe that this bow in the rider’s hand **could be** representative of the antichrist’s peace treaty with Israel!
3. This rider was also given a **crown** and he went out conquering and to conquer!
- a) But the crown here is *stephanos* not *diadema*.
 - (1) The diadem was permanent – where as the *stephanos* was simply a wreath placed upon the head of the victor - as in the “Olympic” games of the time.
 - (a) This crown is temporary.
 - b) How does this rider on the white horse conquer?
 - (1) **Dan 8:23-25 NKJV** "And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes. (24) His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and *also* the holy people. (25) "Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall exalt *himself* in his heart. He shall destroy many in *their* prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without *human* means.
 - (2) He at first speaks of peace but terror is in his heart!

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. **2Th 2:11 NKJV** And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, (The lies of the antichrist)
- B. **Rev 13:13-14 NKJV** He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come

down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. (14) And he deceives those who dwell on the earth—by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

- C. **Rev 17:17 NKJV** For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

On a crowded street, a young man was snatched from the path of a speeding truck, his life was saved by a stately looking gentleman. Still breathless from fright, the youth thanked the man for saving his life, and soon the man was lost in the crowd.

Two weeks later in a crowded courtroom, an anxious young man stood before the courts to be sentenced for murder. The Judge asked, "Young man, have you anything to say before the sentence of death is passed upon you?"

The young man responded, Yes! Yes, Judge, "You know me!"

A silence moved like a shock wave over the court room. "I'm sorry, I cannot place you," said the Judge.

But the young man persisted, "You remember- two weeks ago. At 7th Ave. and Camelback, you saved my life. Surely, Judge, you can do something to save me now."

*The Judge said, "Young man, I do remember you now. But that day I was your savior. **Today I am your judge.**"*