**Revelation 4-6**  - December 24th

Today’s Summary: Revelation also is known as the *Apocalypse* because both words mean the same thing – *an uncovering* *or revealing* - as *revelation* comes from Latin and *apocalypse* from Greek. This book continues to be Jesus’ uncovering and revealing of His final message and warning to all of His creation – repent for the end is really near and this has been warned about since Eve ate the fruit and you have had every chance to avoid the *Great Tribulation* and *Eternal Damnation*, but have refused. Today starts the *Day of God’s Wrath* that we have been reading about for 66 books and an entire year. So tragic and yet meant to bring Hope and Love for eternity to those who are perishing. Warn all those you love as God has begged you to do. Again, Revelation 4-18 describes all that will happen during the 7 year Tribulation – which is the 70th week or 70th sevens in Daniel 9:27. The Church is raptured after the 6th seal and Revelation 7 clearly says that now God’s wrath has started. The rapture happens in the twinkling of an eye (1 Corinthians 15) – and believers disappear in less than a nanosecond with clothes left behind just as Jesus’s were in the tomb. Chapters 4 & 5 are showing John and us what is happening in HEAVEN, and Revelation 6 show what is happening on the EARTH.

The Throne in Heaven

**4**After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “**Come up here**, and I will show you what must take place after this.” **2At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.** **3**And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. *(the God who lives in unapproachable light – 1 Timothy 6:16)*

**4**Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were **twenty-four elders** *(representing the 12 OT patriarchs and the 12 NT Apostles – see Revelation 21 for 12 gates and 12 foundations named after the same in the New Jerusalem)*.

They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. **5**From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits*(the Holy Spirit – showing God’s completeness and perfection and that He is everywhere)* of God. **6**Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

In the center, around the throne,were **four living creatures,**and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. *(same as we talked about and saw in Ezekiel 1 & 10)***7**The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. **8**Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

“‘Holy, holy, holy

is the Lord God Almighty,’

who was, and is, and is to come.”

**9**Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, **10**the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

**11**“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

The Scroll and the Lamb

**5**Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals *(a Jewish will was written on both sides and sealed with 7 seals – Matthew 25:34 -* *“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance)*.

**2**And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” **3**But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. **4**I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

5Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, **the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed**. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

6**Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne**, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

**7**He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. **8**And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. **9**And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,
because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. **10**You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

**11**Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. **12**In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

**13**Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

14The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

I believe the 7 Seals – are in the first 6 months of the 7 year tribulation = the birth pangs Jesus describes in Matthew 24, but the worst is still yet to come

**6**I watched as the Lamb opened the **first** of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, “Come!” 2I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider *(Anti-Christ not Jesus)* held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

3When the Lamb opened the **second** seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” 4Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider *(demon)* was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other. To him was given a large sword.

5When the Lamb opened the **third** seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider *(demon)* was holding a pair of scales in his hand. 6Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, “Two pounds of wheat for a day’s wages, and six pounds of barley for a day’s wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!”

**7**When the Lamb opened the **fourth** seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!” 8I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider *(demon)* was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

9When he opened the **fifth seal**, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. 10They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” 11Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.

12I watched as he opened the **sixth seal**. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, 13and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. 14The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. *(Isaiah 34, Joel 2)*

15Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17For the great day of His wrath has come, and who can withstand it?”

**Daniel’s Prayer**

**9**In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom - **2**in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. **3**So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

**4**I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed: “Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, **5**we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. **6**We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land.

**7**“Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame—the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you. **8**We and our kings, our princes and our ancestors are covered with shame, Lord, because we have sinned against you. **9**The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; **10**we have not obeyed the Lord our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. **11**All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you.

“Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you. **12**You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing on us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem. **13**Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come on us, yet we have not sought the favor of the Lord our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth. **14**The Lord did not hesitate to bring the disaster on us, for the Lord our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.

**15**“Now, Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong. **16**Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.

**17**“Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. **18**Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. **19**Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name.”

The Seventy “Sevens”

**20**While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the Lord my God for his holy hill— **21**while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. **22**He instructed me and said to me, “Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. **23**As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision:

**24**“Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed **for your people and your holy city** to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.

**25**“Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem *(Nehemiah 2 – Decree of Artaxerxes)* until the Anointed One *(Matthew 21 - Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem because this is when the people called him the Messiah)*, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ *(49 years)* and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ *(434 years)* It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

**26After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing.**

The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. *(the destroying of the Temple in 70 AD)*

The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, **and desolations have been decreed.**

**27**He *(the Anti-Christ)* will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’[[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel+9&version=NIV#fen-NIV-22016h)] *(7 year = the Great Tribulation)* In the middle of the ‘seven’ *(3 ½ years)* he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. **And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.**

**Matthew 24**

The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

**24**Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. **2**“Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

**3**As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

**4**Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. **5**For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many. **6**You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. **7**Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. **8**All these are the beginning of birth pains. *(= the Seven Seals)*

9“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. **10**At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

**11and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.** *(Anti-Christ)*

**12**Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, **13**but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

**14And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.**

**15**“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel ***(Daniel 9, 11, 12)*** - let the reader understand - **16then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.** **17**Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. **18**Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. **19**How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! **20**Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

**21For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now - and never to be equaled again.**

**22**“If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. **23**At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. **24**For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. **25**See, I have told you ahead of time.

**26**“So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. **27**For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. **28**Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

**29**“Immediately after the distress of those days

“‘the sun will be darkened,
    and the moon will not give its light;
the stars will fall from the sky,
    and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’*(Isaiah 13:11)*

30“Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

 **31**And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

**32**“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. **33**Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. **34**Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. **35**Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.