

“Who’s in Heaven now?”

(Rev. 6:9-17)

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August 12, 2007 a.m.

I. Introduction

A. Flying over Mt. St. Helens

1. Flying up to Eastern Washington
 - a. To join Gospel Team (ladies)
 - b. Shortly after May 18, 1980
 1. The explosion
 - c. The appearance of land
 1. 300 miles from the volcano
 2. Shoveling ash off of roofs
 3. Panty hose over intakes
2. Driving to Michigan with another gospel team
 - a. Ash in the jet stream
 - b. Had traveled over 2,000 miles
3. All from one volcano
 - a. ...and a small one at that

B. The Power of Volcanoes and Earthquakes

1. The recent earthquake in Japan was very minor
2. Some of the worse quakes...
 - a. 1556 in Shensi, Central China....killed 830,000 people

b. On July 28, 1976 near Peking, China, 655,000 people died.

3 Then there was the eruption of the Krakatoa volcano

a. On August 27, 1883, Krakatoa (on an island in the Dutch East Indies) exploded

b. The explosion was heard in Rodriguez, South America, 3,000 miles away.

1. like hearing something from San Diego

c. At Bondune, 150 miles away, the sun was blotted out and the moon appeared red.

d. The ash changed the world's climate for years

1. The year with no summer

2. August snow storms in New England

e. Tidal wave circled the globe 4 times

f. Left a cavity 1,000 feet deep on the ocean floor

C. A taste of things to come

1. The time of tribulation

2. We haven't seen anything yet!

a. When the big one hits

II. Review

A. Revelation

1. Details of God's reclamation of the earth

2. A time of judgment

3. Specifically during the 7 years of Tribulation

B. The Seven-Sealed Scroll (ch. 6)

1. Seal #1.....The Anti-Christ

- a. The White horse
- b. Offers the world peace
 - 1. Israel accepts his offer of protection
- c. The Anti-Christ's bloodless victory
 - 1. Introduces the Tribulation
- d. The US appears out of the picture
 - 1. The Rapture
 - 2. or part of the deceit

2. Seal #2.....War

- a. The Red Horse
- b. The failure of the Anti-Christ to provide peace
- c. War breaks out
 - 1. Civil wars

3. Seal #3.....Famine

- a. The Black Horse
- b. Famine usually follows war –
 - 1. Darfur, etc.

4. Seal #4.....Death

- a. The "Pale" Horse
- b. "chloros" – color of chlorine gas
 - 1. Deadly pale green
- c. 1/4 of population dies
 - 1. A billion people

2. Less than 100 million in all the wars of history!
- d. We have the technology to do in the world—
 1. Nuclear weapons
 2. Germ warfare

III. Text

A. The Last Three Seals

1. Remember the 7 trumpets flow out of the 7th seal
2. ...and the Seven Bowls, out of the 7th trumpet

B. Still in the early months of the Tribulation

C. The Remaining Seals

1. Seal #5.....Martyrdom

- a. John gazes into Heaven.....v.9-11
- b. Sees souls under the altar.....v.9
 1. “the altar”
 - a. The “brazen altar”
 - b. Payment for sins
 1. Sacrifice placed on top
 2. Blood sprinkled at base (under)
 3. Sign of *COMPLETION!*
 4. All judgment is forgiven
 2. “souls”
 - a. Tribulation Saints

b. Died for faith

1. But only a small sample of what is to come
2. Terrible persecution

c. They cry for God to stop Satan.....v.10

1. Cry for vengeance
2. “Judge the inhabitants of earth!”

c. God’s response.....v.11

1. Gives each a white robe (sign of purity!)
2. “Hang in there, guys (just a little longer)”
3. More of the saints must first die!

d. Lessons from these verses

1. *Multitudes will be saved during the Tribulation*

- a. The early years of the Tribulation will witness the greatest harvest of souls in the history of mankind
- b. These are martyrs from the Tribulation
- c. Revelation 7:9

“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language standing before the throne in front of the Lamb.

- d. John asked “Who are these people?”
- e. Revelation 7:14

“These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

f. What will cause the revival

1. *The impact of the Rapture*

- a. Many will figure it out

2. *The 144,000 special evangelists*

- a. Next chapter

3. *The out-pouring of the Holy Spirit*

- a. Promised in Joel 2:28-32

(28) And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people, Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. (29) Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. (30) I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billow of smoke. (31) The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. (32) And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the survivors whom the Lord calls.

- b. Only got a taste of the power at Pentecost

- c. Next week

4. *The chaotic world conditions*

5. *The angelic calls for repentance*

- g. Will people get a second chance?

1. Maybe....Maybe not

- h. II Thes. 2:9-12)

⁹ The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- h. Please don't take the risk

2. *Christians will be hunted down during the Tribulation*

- a. Will die for their faith....v.9

- b. Will refuse the mark of the beast

3. There is no soul sleep

- a. Tribulation Saints
 - 1. Absent from the body—present with the Lord
- b. They are given robes to wear
- c. Others added to their number as they died on earth

4. They know what was happening on earth

- a. And they're *angry!*
 - 1. Want justice
- b. Tears are not wiped away until the new heaven and new earth
 - 1. They see the sin in this world
- c. Lazarus and the rich man
 - 1. Rich man saw beggar in Heaven
 - 2. Also saw his brothers' sinfulness

5. God is holy and hates sin

- a. Judgment!
- b. Punishes sin!
- c. No watered-down preaching
 - 1. there is a HELL
 - 2. And it is AWFUL beyond words
- d. God loves sinners -- but He HATES sin!
- e. The Book of Revelation –Judgment
 - 1. The Age of Grace is over
 - 2. The Saints keep saying—“Repent”

--And get killed for it

--World kills the messenger because it hates the message

f. The souls cry—"How long?"

1. Same as John the Baptist
2. Bring on the Kingdom!

2. Seal #6.....Natural Catastrophes

- a. Major physical disturbances...v.12-17
- b. Still in the first quarter of the seven years
- c. ***"I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. (v.12)***
 1. "seismos"
 2. Seismograph
 3. Violent shaking of the earth
- d. Jesus told of it in Matt 24:4-8

⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows.

1. Just starting
2. The whole 7 years is time of judgment
3. Earthquakes
4. Like 10,000 Krakatoas
 - a. Like the days of Noah (Sea creature fossils on top of 15,000 ft. peaks, ruins of cities under the sea)
 - b. The whole earth shakes and explodes

e. *“The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair”*...v.12

1. Result of the terrible upheavals
2. Volcanic ash, etc.
3. After Krakatoa

f. *“the whole moon turned blood red,”*....v.12

1. Through smoke filter
2. Reddish tint

g. *“and the stars of the sky fell to earth”*v.13

1. Greek for any objects in sky other than the sun or moon
2. Had 3 words
 - a. Sun
 - b. Moon
 - c. All others

1. “stars” is the word for “all others”

3. Belt of 50,000 planetoids
 - a. Some as large as 500 miles in diameter
 - b. Fiery crashes to the earth
4. Chicken Little was right
 - a. Sky is falling

h. *“The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up”*v.14

1. Like releasing a shade
2. Clouds blow by (or, rotation of earth speeds up)
3. Incredible winds

i. ***“and every mountain and island was removed from its place”....v.14***

1. Incredible shaking
2. Shifting of great tectonic plates
3. Hawaii moves!

j. God gets man’s attention

1. Would expect man to repent
2. Yet they believe the lie!
 - a. II Thess.
 - b. regarding the Rapture?
 - c. Deluded

k. They try to hide from God....v.15

“Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains.”....v.15

1. Even the great leaders and warriors try to hide

1. When the thunder rumbles
 - a. Expect a 5 year old to be afraid
 1. but not dad!

2. The dads are petrified

m. Run to the rocks....v.16

“They 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!...v.16

1. Hide us from God
2. “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of an angry God!”

“For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”.....v.17

IV. Summary

A. Will people get a second chance?

1. Maybe....Maybe not

(II Thes. 2:9-12)

⁹ The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

2. Please don't take the risk
3. The joy of knowing that "absent from the body...present with the Lord."