

Revelation 6:1-8

The Riders of Judgment

Good morning, church.

It is a blessing to be here with you today.

This morning we are going to continue our study of the Book of Revelation; we will be in chapter 6 this morning.

Now, understand we are a Bible teaching church.

We are not driven here to entertain man, to prop man up, to scratch itching ears.

In fact, if you are new here, understand I love the people that attend here so much, that I desire to give nothing but the truth of God's Word from the pulpit.

That being said, when we take on the task of teaching the Word of God verse by verse, there are portions of scripture that are more difficult than others to digest on a Sunday morning.

This morning, and for the next few weeks, we will be in a portion of judgments, and we will not be learning

about the typical Sunday morning delights that are typical of the church culture.

I believe my calling is to teach the Bible plainly and simply, and to let God speak through His Word.

My hope is that you all will grow in your knowledge of God's Word in this diluted culture we live in.

If ever there is something you do not understand or you disagree with me on, find Pastor Joe and talk to him.

No, you can message me, email me, mail me a letter, or call me here at the office during the week, and we can reason together about the things we are discussing.

I even put my notes online if you feel you missed something in the teaching and you do not want to go through the whole audio to find it.

So with that being said...

I want to remind you of the breakdown of the Book of Revelation, as John received it.

Rev 1:19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

The first part of the vision John receives was found in chapter 1, the things John saw, then the second part of the vision, the things which are, was found in chapters 2 and 3.

That section of John's vision was the church age.

The last section is the largest section, speaking of still yet future events, this is the 'things that will take place after this.'

Meta Tauta, after the church age.

There will be a defining event that separates the church age, from the next age.

The Rapture of the Church.

Now I put timelines in your bulletin this morning, I know we have many new people here since I handed them out last.

These will help you follow the timeline of events here in our study of Revelation.

So let's remember, Jesus spoke to the faithful church found in Philadelphia.

Rev 3:10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

Jesus speaks of a time of tribulation that will come upon the whole world, but the faithful will not be here. The church will be spared from that hour.

As we progressed in John's vision past the church age, into chapter 4, we started that chapter with the words 'after these things.'

Meta Tauta, we went with John as he was raptured up into heaven in his vision, and the church as it is known now, disappeared off the pages of scripture.

The church came to us in a new light, as Elders before the throne of God.

We understand from chapter 4 on, the church age is done, and in this future time, the church would have been taken to heaven.

We saw evidences of this in John's heavenly vision in chapters 4 and 5.

Now, with the church age over, after this time, God will turn His attention back to the earth dwellers who rejected His Grace in this age.

Remember last week, John was introduced to a seven-sealed book, we identified as the title deed to the earth.

Jesus, the Lamb of God, took hold of it, as He was the only One worthy enough to take it, and loose the seals.

Well this morning we will go from heavens glory, to a time period known as the Tribulation, and see the first 3 and a half years of a 7 year judgment, which will come into view as the Lamb of God begins to open this sealed scroll.

The rumblings of heaven, and God's stored up wrath will now turn to this earth, and a tumultuous time like never before seen will come upon the earth dwellers.

This will also be a time when God turns back to the nation of Israel as well, this seven-year period is known as the seventieth week, or time period of Daniel's prophecy, the prophet Jeremiah refers to this time period as Jacobs Troubles or Sorrows. Jer. 30:7

We will see throughout Chapters 6-19 that John will see broad timelines, and then God will center in on a parenthesis or a smaller portion of time within that broad view.

Similar to what we see in the Book of Genesis, where we see 6 days of creation very broadly, then God's Word centers in on an event within that broad picture.

Today, we will see the first 4 seals of judgment opened, then next week, we will finish chapter 6, after that will be chapter 7, and we will have a parenthesis as John focuses in on special details within that sixth seal.

It will not be until chapter 8 do we see the seventh seal opened.

I don't know if you are familiar with matryoshka doll from Russia.

But it is an elaborately decorated doll usually, and when you hold it, you can feel right in the middle that it is not actually one whole doll, but two pieces put together, as you hold it, your natural tendency is to open it...

To pull apart the two pieces, and when you do, you find another doll within it, and you find that doll can be opened, and when you open it there is another.

All the way down to this little tiny decorated doll.

Well the seventh seal is kind of like that, when it is opened, seven trumpet judgments are revealed, when the seventh trumpet is blown, then opens up the seven bowl judgments.

And it seems every time you open something up in Revelation something new is revealed.

Well the seven seal judgments seem to represent the first 3 and half years of the tribulation, where God deals with the rebellion on earth, then in the last 3 and a half years the trumpet and bowl judgments are meted out.

The trumpets will bring judgment on the spirit world; we will see ghastly demons unleashed on the earth, as Satan and his fallen followers are cast out of heaven for good.

This will be a time of such terror, as our physical world has been for the most part blinded too the spiritual world.

We get glimpses now, but it is mostly hidden, but in the Great Tribulation, the terror and reality of the spiritual hosts, and principalities will be in full view.

The final seven bowl judgments are where God's Wrath comes into its final phase against all rebellion, as the world is prepared for its rightful King.

So understand as crazy as these seal judgments will be this morning, this is only the beginning.

So, the time of Grace is behind us in the pictures before us, God will now began the final judgments.

They will start with the four horsemen of the apocalypse.

Now, you must work really hard here not to place these pictures into the parts of your brains that Hollywood conditions humanity to put them.

Part of the delusion of the day is to condition us to put these things into fantasy or imagination.

These events will happen; it will not be as anything Hollywood portrays.

Now this morning we will only get through the first four seals of judgments, with the four riders of the apocalypse.

I want to spend time on the identity of the first rider, we will see him all throughout the Revelation in various ways, and this is as good a place as any to develop his character.

So let us pray before we get into it.

What is before us in the rest of Revelation is the climax of human history.

The text here serves as a warning and a wakeup call to those who are living selfishly, without a care or concern about their offense to a holy and just God.

The unbeliever will find themselves unexpectedly engulfed in the midst of God's judgment....

John's vision continues...

First Seal: The Conqueror

6:1 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.

As John sees the Lamb open the first seal, one of the living creatures speaks with a voice thunder.

The crackle of his words "Come and see!" signal a coming storm.

In the summer time, we get those monsoons usually from here in Victorville or Apple Valley, right before bed, we can see off in the distance lightening, and perhaps we can hear a faint pop from the peeling thunder.

We go to bed, forgetting about that storm in the distance.

But it never fails, at least once or twice a year those monsoons come overhead in the middle of the night.

And while I am dead asleep, a monstrous noise will wake me up as the house shakes from the booming pop.

As my eyes open, I see another flash, and an instant boom.

And in a moment after that thunder shakes the house, usually a downpour of rain begins to pound our roof.

The drops sound as big as golf balls in those summer storms.

But that thunder is always a signal of a coming storm.

And here in John's vision the noise triggers the downpour of God's Wrath.

John sees the first of four riders here on a white horse. Now, remember from our introduction of the Book of Revelation, the reasons why John perhaps did not write plainly.

A Roman soldier who was persecuting the church would pick up this writing and see all the illustrations John uses to describe what he sees, and the Roman soldier would throw down the writing in confusion.

These images are madness to the unconverted heart.

Now the key to understanding these pictures is we trust our heart to guide us, right?

We search how these things makes us feel, and we ask the Holy Spirit to make sense of this, right?

Or we can look at events in history, and the things happening in this world?

Or we can look at the stars and moon, and use astrology to make sense of it all?

No, none of those, the Key is the Word of God, the believers in John's day would know the Old Testament, and Jesus' teachings, and the Apostle's Doctrine, and they would use that to decipher John's vision.

And we will do the same as we strive to make sense of the imagery in the Vision.

Now this rider has been a source of confusion for many.

Some see this rider as non-other than Jesus Himself.

The white horse, the crown upon his head, and seen as a conquering ruler here.

Yet in Revelation 19:11-16 we see Jesus clearly identified at the end of the tribulation.

There it states **Rev 19:11-16 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His**

name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Now, this is Jesus clearly coming at the end of the Tribulation to establish His Kingdom, surely there are some similarities.

But this first rider before us at the beginning of the Tribulation seems to be a counterfeit.

The first rider comes in imagery that points to a false christ.

The picture of Jesus in Revelation 19 is like having John Wayne ride in on his spectacular horse Dollar.

The rider here in Revelation 6 is like a young boy, playing dress up, riding in on his mother's broom, with a hat too big, and a belt he can barely keep up.

A plastic gun bouncing around at his side.

A far different reality than the real Cowboy.

Let me explain...

The clues are in the symbols as to who this rider is.

He has a white horse like Jesus' horse, symbolizing a victorious warrior.

But unlike our image of the conquering King in Revelation 19, we see the one who sat on this white horse had a bow, yet no mention of arrows.

A weapon of war, that is only for show and intimidation.

Jesus the King, when He comes at the end will come with a Mighty Devastating Sword.

Jesus' tool will be used for slaughtering His enemies; it will not just simply be an empty threat.

So the first rider here is riding in confident, and conquers and rises to power peacefully.

We see this rider too has a crown, but this crown is the stephanos, not the diadem.

Christ rides in with many Diadems on His head, speaking of full authority and rule.

Christ will receive dominion over all of creation.

This false christ in our picture has a victors crown.

He could never wear the Diadems that were made for the Lamb of God.

We see this false christ is sent out to conquer.

So here at the onset of the Seven year tribulation we see the man, who Daniel the prophet called the “prince who is to come,” in Daniel 9:26.

The Apostle Paul also speaks about this coming prince in... **2 Thess. 2:3 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,**

This man of sin, the son of perdition will come on the scene and captivate the whole world.

Paul later explains that even now the mystery of this lawless one is already at work in the world.

2 Thess. 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way

Notice, now, in our age, He who restrains holds back the full representation of this Antichrist.

The Apostle John explains in his epistle **1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.**

You see the system for this man to captivate humanity is already at work.

You see here in Revelation he is first seen as a peacemaker.

Understand immediately after the Rapture of the church, there will be chaos as many try to explain the phenomenon of millions of people disappearing.

The chaos will be remedied by this smooth talking, intelligent, captivating man, Satan's masterpiece and prize.

This man, will have answers to the world's problems, and at first his message will be soothing to the ears of a hurting humanity.

He will have a strong presence, but be seen as a great liberator.

He will even as Daniel explains bring peace in the hottest country in the world, in Israel.

The Jews will be enamored with hopes that this is their long awaited Messiah.

He will make a covenant with Israel, for 3 and half years.

But there will be a defining moment that Paul says will happen

This lawless one 2 Thess. 2:4 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.

Daniel also warned about this in... Dan 9:27

Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week

He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

This is the midpoint of the tribulation, and will be the trigger point for the Great Tribulation, as Jesus warned about in Matthew 24 when He told the Jews that are in Judea to flee immediately the coming persecution.

Now I would like to encourage you all to revisit our teachings on Matthew 24 if you have time, the Olivet Discourse in many ways parallels what we are reading now.

Now, for us today, we need to pay attention, like I said earlier this is not a fiction novel, the Bible tells us the mystery of this lawless one is already at work, the spirit of the antichrist is now working toward this day.

Pay attention to the messages being proclaimed today.

There is an urgency for all of humanity to come together, to do away with borders.

You are considered a racist if you hold to the view of protecting our borders from evil.

Our movies now are promoting this agenda, I remember growing up, and watching Rambo, American soldiers saving the day, America was portrayed as heroic, and an advocate for good around the world.

The movies now are portraying the UN as the means for heroic feats.

They are constantly pushing a message of a borderless world.

You know war is a tool for governments to arouse nationalistic pride, to make a person loyal their country.

Remember even the Cold War, how America came together against the evils of Russia.

War has a way of bringing nations together.

Well who is our enemy today? Terrorists.

And this new promoted enemy has done what? It has brought nations together, and has greatly advanced the agenda of a one world government.

Global Warming, something greater than war, is now being touted as the greatest threat to humanity.

Now, no longer is a nationalistic passion acceptable, now the mantra is for the better of the world.

And the globalist use fear to push this agenda of control over the world.

All of this has opened new channels of communication between world leaders, and it has created a centralized system of control.

The recent technology boom has brought nations closer than ever.

In my lifetime, I have gone from writing letters to friends overseas, to now in our day; I can talk in real time with dear friends in Siberia.

The world is at our finger tips literally.

The message and agenda today is so blatantly for a one world system.

The message and plan is not concealed any longer; the politicians are very vocal about it.

And soon, when that which restrains is taken away from this planet, and the church is gone, the first horse rider of the apocalypse will come on the scene.

And the world will rejoice, with those pesky Christians out of here, and they will embrace this leader and all the seemingly good he promises to do.

The hostility toward Bible believing Christians is increasing every day.

I can only now peak on social media for a moment before I see some post rallying people against our faith.

It seems that every tragedy especially in the US, the Christian's are blamed somehow.

The recent tragedy in Las Vegas, by a man who was not a Christian, who was methodically wicked, and has nothing in common with those of us who worship Jesus Christ.

This lunatic has triggered a huge assault and media outrage against Christians.

I peeked on Facebook Thursday night to see a young man, blaming the Bible and Christians for the gun violence in America, and people are chiming in and agreeing with him.

You see this coming prince's message is already prevailing in the world, He opposes God, and all that comes from God, and you Christians, no matter the problem in society, you are the issue in his system.

We stand in the way to this man's false peace, and God must take us out of the way before the son of perdition can rise to power.

Now his peace will of course be false peace, there will be no peace on earth until Shiloh come.

Jesus, the Prince of Peace will usher in a time of true peace in His Kingdom.

The world will know no time of true peace.

This horse rider, the Antichrist will show his true colors as his companions come riding with him....

Next, we read the second seal is broken...

Second Seal: Conflict on Earth

3 When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." 4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

Now in the Book of Daniel, he records many campaigns of this conqueror, the Antichrist, who will continually be at war.

But we see the empty bow of the white rider is replaced with a sword.

The temporary false peace was a ruse, and his true colors began to show forth.

The image before us now we see the color red, described as fiery red.

This color is associated with terror and dread.

Red is as sign of bloodshed and death.

We will see later in the Revelation a dreaded red dragon and a terrible red beast.

We see war here, none like this world has ever seen before.

Notice it says peace will be taken from the earth.

Anarchy and total absence of authority will rise all over the planet.

Notice again, the spirit of the Antichrist, today; we know in the last days, children will be disobedient to parents, and with the breakdown of the home, the lack

of respect over authority plays out now in every avenue of society's life.

No respect for police, for government, for anyone in authority.

Have you talked to a teacher today? They will tell you of the lack of control and respect now in schools.

This is all preparing and conditioning man for a time when peace will be taken from this world altogether.

Now this earth has seen world wars before, some think when history is told of our era, that it will tell of a 3rd world war already upon us.

Though wars and rumors of war are a characteristic of our age, the wars here in the tribulation will be like nothing this world has ever experienced.

The next age, in the tribulation, especially the second half, will be an age of constant conflict and chaos.

Perhaps the nuclear war that seems so unavoidable will be upon this world during this time.

The conflicts of the tribulation will gain momentum until the very end, when the earth dwellers are in the midst of their greatest battle between each other; and they see the Coming Messiah and all of earth's weaponry is then joined together and turned heavenward, in a feeble attempt to oppose the omnipotent Lamb of God.

But understand this, the United Nations nor any other human organization will never bring a sustaining peace on this earth.

War is a part of humanities nature, ever since Cain killed Abel; man has fought and warred with each other for power and control.

This push for world peace can never be accomplished as long as fallen men are at the helm of the planning process.

Describing carnal man in **Romans 3:15-17** Paul says...

"Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 Destruction and misery are in their ways;

17 And the way of peace they have not known."

This is the climax of all that fallen man can amount to. The next rider brings in the reality of the aftermath of war...

Third Seal: Scarcity on Earth

5 When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

The third seal reveals the third horseman, riding the deathly black horse.

The color black is connected with famine.

Famine is the companion of war.

We see scales in his hand, and a measurement is pronounced.

"A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

A denarius was a standard wage for a laborer in John's day.

Remember in Jesus' 'parable of the workers in the vineyard' in **Matt 20:2** Jesus used this wage as an illustration... **2 Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.**

So we see here in Revelation a quart of wheat could be purchased for a full day's work.

That is enough for one person for one meal.

How maddening it will be in this time for a father to work a full day for only his food.

If he is malnourished he cannot work, and the daily decision for him to nurture himself, or have his whole family eat enough to tease their grumbling stomachs as they all starve to death, the torment of this decision would drive anyone mad.

Death will come first to little ones as famine usually takes them in high numbers first.

They could buy more barely the cheaper grain, but still not enough for more than one person.

But the command goes forth not to touch the finer things of oil and wine.

In the tribulation, the divide between rich and poor will be so severe, as the elite enjoy the spoils of their corruption.

The only thing close to this today is communism or even socialism, but in the tribulation, it will be on a larger scale.

You see in North Korea now people starving as their lush ruler can barely walk because he is so obese from his uncontrolled appetite.

The contrast is so huge and evil. And this has been the tale of communism everywhere it has spread.

Look at Venezuela's socialism now, and see how corrupt and unjust that system is, as their people are famished in the streets.

The contrast in the tribulation will be even more severe; there will be starvation and feasting, and no in between.

The Middle Class of society will be done away with, as the fancy enjoy their control, and the poor beg for their substance.

Notice today, if you look closely at the progressive agenda today, you will see a war, to do away with the middle class.

The liberals today, demonize the wealthy, and stir up the poor against the rich.

They divide us, so they can control and conquer, you see the system of the antichrist is among us today, as these liberals claim justice for the poor, but they themselves look to suppress people into poverty so they can regulate the masses.

Do you ever marvel at the so called champions of the poor today, that party that preaches big government is the solution, as they leave their rallies with the impoverished of society and get into their own private

jet, and collect their multi-million dollar check for their speech, and off they go to the next meeting to get more votes.

The hypocrisy is outrageous, yet those blinded by the delusion, they defend the lunacy of it all.

When I was in Russia, during the election season, I went into the colleges, and almost every classroom, the question came, “Why is a socialist running for president in the US?”

They marveled, because they all dream of one day coming to America, to be free of that wicked system that they are under.

They pled with us, “Don’t you see what socialism has done to our country.”

Yet, we have a whole generation in our society coming up thinking socialism, and even communism is the answer.

And the system of the last days will amplify all of this, as humanities hearts are being prepared to usher in this world dictator.

We are seeing a day, where many in our country are willing to sell their freedoms and liberties to get a free cell phone.

They run to government who has its fat arms wide open to embrace them, and coddle them, meanwhile the hug and grip becomes tighter and tighter, until those in the embrace find themselves trapped.

Today government has become god to many people, and again this is all conditioning for the end game.

And it will get worse until, finally they usher in this false christ's system, unhindered.

And in the end they will live with scarcity and poverty like this world has never seen before.

The injustice will leave humanity hopeless and desperate.

Now, as the seals are opened here in Revelation, the poor will suffer while those in power flourish.

War, famine, and pestilence are permitted by God, as the first strike of His full wrath.

The next rider reveals for us something that this world has ever seen before, we have yet to see anything like the events that will take place at this future time.

Mark my words, those who claim we are in the tribulation now, will have a hard time explaining the next rider.

Fourth Seal: Widespread Death on Earth

7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." 8 So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

The fourth seal is open revealing the fourth rider; Death was upon this pale green horse.

He brought with him Hades.

Death rides and takes out a quarter of humanity.

Hades comes with him to gather up behind him.

These two are often personified in scriptures, and it is not clear if they are represented by some powerful entities.

But we know Death claims the physical body, and his companion Hades claims the soul of the person.

We will see these two be done away with forever at the final judgment.

Rev 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

But here in the tribulation they are used in as tools, as God's wrath is unleashed on a unrepentant world.

Remember Jesus now has control over these two, as He explained in **Rev 1:18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.**

Now these two are ministers of God's judgment.

Now, World War 2 was the most devastating war humanity has ever beheld.

Over 60 million people killed, even upwards to 85 million.

At the time, as devastating as that was it was about 3% of the earth's population.

Think now of the severity of 25% of the population being wiped out.

Right now, there are somewhere around 1.8 billion users on Facebook, that is a quarter of the world's population.

That is an incredible number, but here we see a number of that size is wiped out.

And remember this is not over decades of battle, this is a number so large killed over a span of 3 and half years.

The weapons of modern warfare have been so advanced, some say that in the US alone we have enough nuclear warheads to destroy planet earth 5 to upwards of 50 times over.

Now, with this kind of devastation available to humankind, it is not hard to fathom the devastation that the wars of the tribulation will bring.

Notice here as well, that the beasts of the earth will even rise up in judgement against a God rejecting humanity.

Think of the terror, as for thousands of years man has had dominion over the greatest creatures, we have forced giant elephants to walk tight ropes.

We train killer whales to perform a ballet for our entertainment.

We have caged the mighty lion for our children to gaze upon while they eat their cotton candy.

We have diligently put fear into all the beasts of the world.

Yet, in the tribulation, God will open their understanding into a new way.

Story: Dog's Eating Chicken's changed them...

The animals with this new instinct will throw the shackles of their oppression off, as they will finally know their strength is that of hundred men.

As the mighty ape's strength turns on his former ruler with no fear in its heart.

The terror of all of this is unthinkable.

Yet we see glimpses today, when Keiko the Killer Whale no longer wants to play ballerina and the whale after many years of this song and dance turns unexpectedly on its oppressor.

Elephants going on rampages after wanting free from their tormentors.

But there will be a day, where the beasts of this earth will put terror into the heart of arrogant mankind.

These are insane pictures before us describing the tribulation.

(Deep Breath)

Well, have a nice Sunday, glad you could make it out this morning the Lord bless you and keep, may His face shine upon you.

No, we have to end this this morning with some kind of meaning for us today...

Understand this is not a movie, these things will take place.

Notice this is The Antichrist, with Death and Hades only using war and famine to bring the horror of this time about.

We have not even got to the events that God will bring about through His mighty power.

The heavens are about to be shaken as well.

Soon we will see nature join in the recovery of earth back to its rightful Ruler.

You understand all the devastation man can create with his finite understanding is nothing to even close the capacity of God's arsenal.

NASA claims a hurricane "during its life cycle can expend as much energy as 10,000 nuclear bombs!" And we're just talking about average hurricanes.

<http://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/energy/energy-hurricane-volcano-earthquake1.htm>

There will be earthquakes and calamity like never experienced before here on earth.

The oceans will show their fury, the mountains will crumble, and God will put fear and anxiety into every man great and small.

Now, God gave this vision to John to serve as a warning and a wakeup call to those who are living selfishly, without a care or concern about their offense to a holy and just God.

Understand this, an unbeliever can find themselves unexpectedly engulfed in the midst of God's judgment if they do not repent before this Great and Terrible Day of the Lord.

And I will say this, if you are having trouble believing in Jesus Christ during this time period today, where we come to Him through His Grace.

Perhaps you are an adventurous person, and you say to yourself, “I will wait until the Great Tribulation to finally surrender my life to Jesus.”

We will see next week, there will be those who come to faith in the tribulation, but they are known as Martyrs, those who have died for their faith.

It will be a lot harder to die for your faith in the tribulation than it is to live for Jesus Christ now.

Come to Jesus today, and live for Him now, and as I understand the scriptures, we will be raptured out of here before the events of the Apocalypse.

You will be spared from the wrath to come.

That is promised to those who are washed by the blood of the Lamb. We are not appointed to wrath.

During and after this last song come up and pray with one of the leaders up here.

Look, as we have discussed, the preparation for the man of sin is already among us.

If the New Testament writers thought they were in the last days 2000 years ago, we are surely in the final part of the last days.

This false christ's system and delusion is already swaying the masses, if it were possible this system would deceive the elect.

Go about this week in wisdom, pray for God to give you discernment.

In everything you watch, everything you read, in every conversation use God's Word to filter out the constant lies we are being bombarded with.

Lastly, I know many of you have family members who are in the world, who are living their lives like there is no God to be accountable too.

They do as they wish; they have fully embraced humanism and the message of this world.

One of our most powerful weapons is prayer.

I have heard so many stories of the prayers of mothers being the means of children coming to Christ.

So many times, it is a father's desperate prayer that finally shakes the scales of his daughter's eyes.

It was a grandmother and grandfather who prayed my wife would somehow come to Jesus.

In fact, the last letter Jessica received from her grandpa was a letter explaining without her knowledge that he was praying that she would come to the Lord, and he had peace now that she had found Jesus.

He died not to long after that.

So I want to encourage you to come up and pray for your family members, and watch as God begins to answer your prayers.

The world is getting darker, and our battle is not in flesh in blood, but in the spiritual places.

Take advantage of this this precious time of prayer during this last song.

So next week we continue on, learning all that we can from this incredible vision.

Let us pray.