

REVELATION

6:1-17

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Taught by Simeon Forder on Sunday morning, 15th February 2026 @ Deal Christian Fellowship

Reading: John 14:25-27

Introduction

We are studying our way through the book of Revelation, which the apostle John wrote down (under the guiding hand of the Holy Spirit) while he was in exile on the Greek island of Patmos. And so far we have seen him record the vision of Jesus he had in chapter 1, then seven letters Jesus instructed him to write to seven churches in chapters 2 & 3, and then in chapters 4 & 5 we saw him record the wondrous scene he saw in the throne room of heaven, which is yet to come, as the church — in heaven by that point — offers her undiluted worship to God, thanking and praising Him for *who* He is, and *what* He has *done* — not only as their creator, but as their redeemer too.

But now as we move into chapter six and beyond, we see a change of focus and tone. For whereas God dealt with His church in earlier chapters, He now must deal with this wicked world. And there will be lots for us to consider. Indeed, whereas chapters 2 & 3 cover around 2000 years of history, chapters 6 through 19 will cover a seven year period. An intense period of time that we also know as Daniel's 70th week. And as a very loose summary of what is to come in chapters 6 to 19, we will see a series of *seven* things.

First there will be seven seals that are opened as God's judgment begins, six of these seals being opened in chapter six that we'll look at this morning, before chapter seven looks back at things that were happening previously. Then, in chapters 8 & 9 we have six out of seven trumpets sound, followed by further chapters that record further details *and* look back, before in chapter 16 we see the seven bowl or vial judgements poured out. In essence, these chapters sum up all of God's wrath as He deals with mankind.

So given that, there are some ideas or questions that we should address before going any further.

And the first of those is the notion that this world is going to get better. Of course, that's a lovely idea. But we know that it's not the reality we see playing out on our TV screens, right?! Yet, this is what many standing in church pulpits teach; that Christians are here to establish God's kingdom on Earth *before* Jesus returns, that when He returns, He would receive the kingdom from our hands. Saying also that there will be no rapture, but rather right now we would establish His kingdom through social justice, and by influencing every sphere of life — from Government to the arts. That as *overcomers* we would make this world the place God wants it to be. And as such, there will be no need for God to judge this world.

But — that is wholly unBiblical, and I want to underline to you how someone merely saying they are speaking God's truth is not reason enough to believe them. Let me read to you from Jeremiah chapter 14, the context of which was that Jeremiah had been repeatedly warning the nation of Israel that if they didn't repent, that judgement would come on them. We read in verse 11 onwards:

Jeremiah 14:11-15

Then the LORD said to me, "Do not pray for this people, for their good. When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. But I will consume them by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, the prophets say to them, 'You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place.' "

And the LORD said to me, "The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart. Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who prophesy in My name, whom I did not send, and who say, 'Sword and famine shall not be in this land'—'By sword and famine those prophets shall be consumed!

Those who say God will not judge this world, are speaking contrary to the Bible. Both of the pattern we read in passages like this, but also what it explicitly says here in Revelation.

But, you may ask, is it *fair* that God judge this world? After all, if people are trying their best, isn't that good enough? Well, simply put, no. For if God does not judge this world, He would not be good. He cannot be perfect, just, and holy, and leave sin un-dealt with. Let me make this a little more real to you. And please, feel free to go verify these stats.

In the last 25 years there have been around 1.3 *million* murders in the USA, Canada, UK and Europe alone. As well as 76K assisted suicides in Canada since it was legalised in 2016. Then of course we've seen assassinations, school shootings, and terrorist attacks from 9/11 in New York, to 7/7 in London, and the November 2015 attacks in Paris. It's also been estimated that in the same time there have been over 300K people murdered through genocide, and more than 10 million killed through war throughout the world. Sadly, though, all of that is dwarfed though by the estimated 60 million+ abortions carried out in the USA, Canada, UK and Europe in those 25 years (5 million of them here in our country, currently at a rate of around 280K per year).

Then, when we consider the state of marriages and relationships; in the UK alone there have been as many as 3 million divorces in that time, 10-15% of which were knowingly as a result of adultery — and in just one year (ending in March 2025) there were 1.3 million domestic abuse related incidents and crimes in England and Wales. Furthermore the *average* number of sexual partners in the UK is now reported to be between 8 and 10 people.

Then there is the pornography epidemic — with an estimated 8 *million* pornographic web sites that have as many as 1 million people visiting them *each minute* (one site reporting it has 90 million visitors *daily*). At *least* 1 in 3 of those videos is reported to show sexual violence or aggression, with 1 in 12 adults in the USA reporting they have been victims of so called revenge-porn, and 1 in 20 admitting to be perpetrators of such. Furthermore, 73% of teens report they have consumed pornography, and according to a 2020 report, approximately 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 10 boys aged 13-17 report sharing their own nudes, despite the fact that those images are legally considered "child pornography". This world is in a mess.

Yet it doesn't stop there. In 2022/23, Police in the UK recorded around 87K sexual offences against children across the UK, including rape, sexual assault, grooming, and exploitation. While globally it is reckoned there are almost 25 million victims of human trafficking (pornography ranking as the second most common driver of such).

Then, also in the last 25 years there have been around 5 million drug related offences in the UK, as well as the cost of alcohol abuse now calculated to be costing this country *£27 billion a year* on the health and social harms of drinking. Not to mention the impact of roughly 500K people in the last 25 years losing their lives to drink driving in the UK, Europe, USA and Canada.

Given these things, that frankly only *begin* to touch on the sin that is so prevalent in this world, do we really think it's *not* fair for God to judge this world?! If anything, it feels overdue. Surely our sense of justice kicks in and says — of course! God must judge those that are doing these things. The problem is, that everyone thinks *they're* the exception. For after all, they're not Hitler, right! But the Bible tells us that *all* have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God — that each one of us has sinned against the God who made us. And because He is holy, He can't just let us off.

That horrible predicament is exactly *why* He sent Jesus to earth, to live a perfect, sinless, life, and to die in our place — the innocent for the guilty — that we might be forgiven, and set free. That we would not *have* to be judged with this world. But we *must* come to Him in repentance and faith. Turning from our sin, and putting our trust in Him alone to save us. For if we don't, He will have no choice but to judge us, as He rightly should do. And as He rightly will do, to this world.

So God *will* judge, and it is *right* that He does. But before we get into the details of chapter six, there's one more thing that I want us to consider — and that is **mankind will not be able to escape God's judgement**. Unfortunately, I think we're being conditioned to think that mankind can overcome anything... just look at the number of disaster movies that depict mankind as victorious; whether faced with earthbound asteroids, natural phenomena such as earthquakes, volcanos, the planet's core failing, or alien invasions. But when God's judgement comes, there will be no escape. Indeed mankind will find that Hebrews 10:31 is right in saying "*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*". So let us take note of what this chapter says — for there will be no escaping the events it foretells.

Overview of chapter six

- **v1-2** — The first seal: The white horse
- **v3-4** — The second seal: The red horse
- **v5-6** — The third seal: The black horse
- **v7-8** — The fourth seal: The pale horse
- **v9-11** — The fifth seal: The cry of the martyrs
- **v12-17** — The sixth seal: The earth and heavens are shaken

So then, as we start this chapter we will quickly see that Jesus is the One in control of all that is going on as He opens the seals of the scroll (which we saw last week He *alone* was worthy to take from the right hand of God). And He opens each of these seals, we will read that they trigger events to occur on the earth, with both mankind reaping what it has sown as it is left to its own devices (without the influence of the church or the restraining hand of the Holy Spirit any longer), but also triggering the beginning of God's righteous judgement of this earth.

And the first four events will be symbolised by what have become known as the four horsemen of the apocalypse. And in the case of the first, it will be more than just a symbol. As these first four seals are opened in the first eight verses of this chapter, we will see the world be deceived into a false peace, followed by war, famine, and death — on an almost unthinkable scale. Then, as we reach verse nine we will briefly have our attention turned to Heaven where those killed for their faith cry out to God, before in verses 12-17 we will return to earth as it is shaken to the extent that mankind will be found trying to hide from God.

And so there will be an intensity to these events, and there will be a pace to them, as Satan tries to go down fighting, and mankind is left to his own devices — with verse after verse saying and... and... and... Indeed, these things will build one upon another.

Chapter six

So let us read what this chapter says. Starting in verses one and two:

Revelation 6:1-2

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." 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.

So then, this is all under Jesus' control. He is the one opening the seals. And as He opens the first we hear one of the four creatures that surround God's throne speak with a voice like thunder — the only of these events that begins with such a description... as if a prelude to what is to come, as thunder warns of an incoming storm. And he says "*Come and see*" as translated here. And as John looks, he sees a white horse, with one sat on it that goes out conquering. Who is this?

Well, some believe it is Jesus — however that is confusing matters with what we read in chapter 19 that records Jesus' second coming, at which time He will *also* ride a white horse. But here we have one who in a sense is pretending to be Him. For Jesus at this moment is in Heaven, opening the seals. But this man riding the horse we find to be the Antichrist, who will unite the world in a *false* peace. False, because what will follow him will be war, famine and death (which are *not* the marks of our Saviour!). And that false peace will come in the form of a singular world leader who finally solves (or so it seems) the Middle East peace crisis, bringing about a 7-year peace treaty with Israel.

And isn't the world ready for such deception? I mean, with all the turmoil of recent years, politically, and militarily, there is high appetite for *someone* who can finally get a hold of the world's economy, politics, and technology, and lawlessness. Someone who can seemingly calm heads, and cool tempers. And the Antichrist is going to come into view talking peace, and promising unity. Indeed, the world will lap it up. They won't have Jesus rule over them. But this man, they will gladly elect.

But this false peace won't last long. For we read:

Revelation 6:3-4

When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "*Come and see.*" 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.

And so again, the first horseman could not be Jesus, because when He brings peace to the earth it will be permanent. But this *false* peace brought by the Antichrist will be short lived. And as this second seal is opened, the second creature simply says "*Come and see*", and a second horse is noted. And the one that sits on it, we read, takes peace from the earth. In other words, the world will become engulfed in war. The description here of people killing one another is a graphic one too, for the Greek word used for *kill* here means *to butcher*.

And this is what we read of in 1 Thessalonians, which says:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

Indeed, the world is going to be presented with false peace, but end up with outright war. They will be faced with sudden destruction. And this will be unrestrained. *Today*, we have the restrained version, and even that is scary if you don't have Jesus as your Saviour, for in 2024 the nations of the world spent \$2.7 trillion USD on weapons and military resources. \$2.7 trillion. That's \$7.4 billion per day. \$308 million per hour. \$5.1 million per minute. Or \$85K per second.

Or to put it another way, it's reckoned that 40% of the world's wealth in one way or another, whether it's research and development, whether it's directly to weapons or military, is involved in these kinds of things. 50% of the world's scientists, even at a distance in research and development and so forth, are involved in military hardware and war in one way or another. And this is enough money to feed the world for somewhere between 35 and 50 years.

Joe Focht, commenting on this, noted that *there used to be what was called the MAD doctrine. When the United States had nuclear weapons and Russia had nuclear weapons, When China began to come into the picture, there was the MAD doctrine. That's mutually assured destruction. Because the Russians thought, why should we fire on America? Because they've got enough subs, they've got enough stuff in space. Even if we blow up the mainland, we're going to disappear too. So that's mutually assured destruction. There's no winner. Same thing with China. Countries were rational. We don't want to let this out of the bag. This is the end of us all.*

But now, these are the countries that have nuclear weapons now. The United States, Russia, China, France, Britain, India, and Pakistan, Israel, North Korea, and some say Saudi Arabia and Iran. And that kind of changes everything because several of those countries believe in reincarnation. So they got nothing to lose. People who believe in reincarnation with nuclear weapons makes me a little unnerved. And then some of these countries believe if you die for the cause of Allah, you go straight to paradise and get 70 virgins. So for them, losing is winning. How do you play chicken with somebody who thinks losing is winning? The MAD doctrine is out the window. It's just madness now. Amongst those eight or ten nations, there's 13,000 nuclear warheads.

And to put that in perspective, even a single one of the now *older* Trident enabled submarines had the capability to destroy 360 individual cities with a nuclear warhead that is 500 times more powerful than the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Or another way of putting it, one of these submarines has 40 times the detonating power of all sides in World War II. And that's with a world that is restrained compared to what we will see at this time that John is writing of here. And note this isn't even God directly intervening yet, but simply letting mankind have its own way.

And he next writes, speaking of Jesus:

Revelation 6:5-6

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. 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."

So what is it that this third horse depicts? Well, it's quite clear from these verses that there will be famine. There will be scarcity of food. There will be inflation such as we have not seen in our lifetimes. And that is a common occurrence following war. Right now there is already starvation on a horrible level — not because of man's need, but man's greed — resulting in around 25,000 people a day in this world dying of starvation. But what we are reading of here is the unrestrained version.

And we're told that a quart of wheat — enough for a loaf of bread — will cost a denarius. How much is that? Well, a denarius was a working man's wage for one day. So if we take the UK's Office for National Statistics at their word that the median salary in the UK is £39,039 per year, then that would equate to more than £100 a day. So let that sink in — more than £100 for a loaf of bread. And that's the Club Card price! Maybe that would have seemed far-fetched 5 years ago, but what did we see following the breakout of war in Ukraine? Food prices spiked. And some are still rising, right? And that's war in just *one* country. We're talking of *worldwide* war here.

And again, famine naturally follows war, because farmlands are destroyed. Equipment to cultivate that land is destroyed. So, look, it's not saying everybody is going to starve to death, but there's going to be such scarcity, and rationing is going to be so bad that the average working person is going to have to spend their entire day's wage to get a loaf of bread. Yet, what else do we read? A voice saying "*Do not harm the oil and wine*". And I don't believe this is so much a command, but an observation. For God isn't setting the prices of the wheat and barley either.

Rather, what I believe this is pointing out is that what the wealthy enjoy will be left well alone. That just as we've seen in other wars — and frankly, even in peace-time — the rich, the elite, will still live in luxury as always. J Vernon McGee recalls how during World War II his family would struggle to get a cut of meat, often resorting to eating tongue, yet one rich man he met years later recalled how he never struggled to get a T-bone steak any time he wanted. That's the way our world is increasingly set up, with 1% of the world's population controlling 90% of the wealth.

So when people object to the gospel, saying *Oh, if God's a God of love, how come all these people are starving?!*, remind them it's because those controlling the wealth are enjoying its luxuries, rather than helping those in need. That's not to say it's wrong to earn money. It's not wrong to have it. But it *is* to say that you ought to consider what you ought to do with it. That you ought to consider how a hundred years ago some of the rich were building hospitals and orphanages. And now it seems we're more likely to hear of them signing up to fly in space, buy a super-yacht, or add a yet another high-value sports car to their collection.

At this time of scarcity for the world, there will still be those who are still enjoying life's luxuries. But their comfort won't last. We read:

Revelation 6:7-8

When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." 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.

So this fourth horse is described as pale — the Greek word being `chlōros` which is where we get the word *chlorine* from — is a pale yellow or green. Not the most attractive of horses, right? And we read that *the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him*. *Death* speaking of physical life being taken, and *Hades* speaking of taking human souls into the darkness.

And we read that power was given over them to kill one quarter of the worlds population. One quarter. Based on today's worldwide population that's almost 2 billion people dead. 1 in 4. Through continued fighting, through starvation, through pestilence that again inevitably follows war, and through the beasts of the earth — not necessarily large animals, though I'm sure that could be the case, but perhaps anything from disease (think of Covid-19, or the Spanish Flu which itself killed 50 million people) to disease carriers such as rats, such as were responsible for transmission of the Bubonic plague throughout Europe which killed 30-40 million people in Europe between 1347 and 1351 — which equates to 40-50% of the population at that time.

These things might seem unlikely at first, until we consider examples that have gone before us. Yet once again, this is the unrestrained version following all out war in this world. And there should be no part of us that wants to see anyone we know go through this. These things should wake us up as to how seriously we take sharing the gospel, and supporting those that do.

So then, we've briefly considered the four horsemen of the apocalypse, as the world descends into utter chaos without the presence of the church or the restraining hand of the Holy Spirit, but with the presence of Antichrist who first offers false peace, yet fails to bring that as the world, under his leading, ends up at war, with famine, death, and disease following.

But as the next seal is opened there are no more horses. Rather, we read:

Revelation 6:9

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

And so, for a moment, our attention is drawn back to Heaven where we read of these souls "*who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.*" — the same as John had been exiled to Patmos for. Where did they come from? Well, since the church has already been raised to Heaven by this point — both those that were dead and who were alive — these are those who are saved *after* the rapture of the church, during the tribulation, as these events we've been reading of start to unfold.

But how are they saved if there is no-one to witness to them? Well, for a start you'll not be taking your copies of the Bible to heaven with you. Nor will you be taking your Christian books, CDs, DVDs or so on. And our church web site will remain online until they figure no-one is paying the bill for the hosting any more. There will be countless Christian videos available for a time on YouTube, from Ray Comfort sharing the gospel, to many more explaining the Bible. There *will* be ways that people will find out the truth. Maybe we'd do well to keep a copy of the Bible in our office drawer at work, for those of us that have a permanent desk there, that our colleagues might find in our absence.

But also, we should be witnessing now, right? I mean, we want (or should want) everyone we know to know about Jesus. To understand the predicament they are in. And to know about His offer of grace and forgiveness. We know that not everyone will listen to us. But there *will* be those one day, who have heard their friends, spouse, parents, or children share the gospel with them, that all of a sudden not only find that Christians everywhere have disappeared, but that the crazy things they said would happen are *actually* taking place before their very eyes. And they will fall on their knees before God, putting their faith and trust in Him to save them.

They will be doing so late. But praise God there will still be opportunity at this point. And knowing the *certainty* of what they believe, they will share the gospel with everyone they can. But a Christ-rejecting world will *not* want to listen. And, these believers will be martyred. They will be murdered for their faith. Which leads us to verse 10, where we read:

Revelation 6:10

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

Not that they will be asking for revenge personally, but rather asking God to enact everything the prophets spoke of that would usher in the kingdom. And those things will come quickly. They really will. But consider how very real this is. For there are times we don't understand what's going on, and we ask God to intervene, we ask Him to act. But God's plan and His timing are perfect, and often what seems like a delay for us is for the benefit of another. And we will see here that God will indeed see that justice is done. We read:

Revelation 6:11

Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

That is, here I believe they are clothed in the righteousness of Christ, and told to wait a little longer until *all* those who will come to know Jesus during the tribulation have done so, following which their blood would then be avenged. Not out of spite or over-reaction, but out of justice.

Now, as we reach verse 12 our attention returns to the events taking place on earth. We read:

Revelation 6:12

I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.

And for the first time in the Great Tribulation we see natural phenomena start to occur — yet we have to conclude that these are not naturally triggered events. For they begin precisely following Jesus opening this sixth seal. And in the case of this great *earthquake*, it is one of *four* that are recorded in Daniel's 70th week — the others being recorded in Revelation 8:5, 11:19 and 16:19. God is fully in control of all that is happening here.

And following this quake we read that *the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood*. And you might wonder how on earth that might happen, but consider for a moment the possibility that volcanic eruptions could be part of this, or result from this. For as recently as 2010 we saw an Icelandic volcano explode, launching so much volcanic ash into the sky that it closed UK and European airspace for eight days straight! And there are greater examples than that which I'll come to in a moment.

Now, there are those that suggest this might be the aftermath of nuclear warfare — and I get why. But the key I believe is that this is triggered not by mankind's actions, but by Jesus opening this sixth seal — which not only is the trigger for what we read in verse 12, but what we read in verse 13 and beyond, which say:

Revelation 6:13

And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

And, you might think — hang on, a star even the size of our sun would destroy the earth — and you'd be right. But the Greek word used for *star* here can mean stars when they're viewed in the sky, or it can mean planets, meteors, or asteroids. It basically speaks of any luminous body that might fall or be in the heavens. So John's describing what he sees. And evidently this is not a single meteor or such — rather it is clear to John, that there is a severity to this. And indeed, it only gets more intense, for we read next:

Revelation 6:14

Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

This is a big deal. That the sky itself appears to roll up, and every mountain and island moves out of its place. This is seismic activity on a scale the world has *never* seen. Of course, we have earthquakes today in many places — but not usually in several places at once. And certainly never throughout the whole world such as we read of here. Again, I can't help but think there will be volcano's spewing lava as all this happens, as the Earth's crust gets pushed around on a scale not seen since Noah's Flood.

Indeed the forces at play here make the mind boggle. When Mt St Helens erupted in the US in 1980 the eruption produced a force equal to 10–50 megatons of TNT, the equivalent of 25,000 atomic bombs released over the city of Hiroshima during World War II, and superheated gas and rock exploded out of the volcano sideways at speeds of up to 400 mph. And that was a small one. When Krakatoa erupted in 1883 the explosion was heard 3000 miles away, and the resulting Tsunami travelled as far as 6000 miles with waves as high as 46-46 meters high at their peak.

So try to imagine multiple of these events happening at the same time as every mountain and island are moved out of their place. It will be truly terrifying. Now, there's some speculation as to the effect multiple nuclear weapons would have on the earth if all being detonated at the same time — that's not really one we want to test, right — but again, these events are all timed with the opening of this sixth seal. And as we'll see, the world will not attribute these things to their own actions, but to the hand of God.

You see a meteor — that's normal. A volcano — that's News At 10. An earthquake — That's perhaps a Panorama special. But so much is happening all at once that this is *not* normal, it's *not* a natural occurrences of these things. So much so that an unbelieving world will not try and explain it away, but rather will recognise that they are dealing with a just and holy God who is only just starting to pour our His wrath on a wicked world. We read:

Revelation 6:15-17

And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

You know, it doesn't matter who you are — you *will* be held accountable for your actions, and your thoughts. The God who knows everything — including your every move, your every word, and your Internet history — will hold you accountable. Not to your standard, or the world's standards. But His.

Here, it seems the world will finally realise how powerful God is. But sadly, rather than turn to Him in repentance, they harden their hearts and make a futile effort to hide from Him. Where? Well, we read in the rocks of the mountains, and in caves. And I've got to say, it's going to be pretty hard to fit 8 billion plus people into the a finite number of natural hiding places. So I don't think they're going to be that successful at this. But here's the thing. It's not just natural hiding places mankind will have available to flee too, but manmade places too.

I'm sure many will retreat into road and train tunnels. Maybe some into the tunnels under Dover Castle, for example. But then there's nuclear bunkers, right? And of course, we might think those are the luxury that those in the Government or military might have. But increasingly, it seems, it is something desired by the super rich. And I find this fascinating. For just a few months ago the BBC ran an article that noted how Tech leaders like Mark Zuckerberg have been buying up properties from Hawaii to California and installing basements — or bunkers as many are referring to them as — underground. These aren't just small holes in the ground. Two of Zuckerberg's are reported to be 5,000 and 7,000 square feet in size. And he's not alone in doing this.

The BBC article I mentioned states *"Reid Hoffman, the co-founder of LinkedIn, has talked about 'apocalypse insurance'. This is something about half of the super-wealthy have, he has previously claimed, with New Zealand a popular destination for homes."* And it goes on to say *"So, could they really be preparing for war, the effects of climate change, or some other catastrophic event the rest of us have yet to know about?"* Well, I think they might not be sure themselves, they might be worried about AI, but I have a *guess* what these bunkers might end up being used for when the events of this chapter come to pass!

The reality is though, that there is a series of terrible events coming upon this world. And the best insurance policy is not one that helps you hide from God, but allows you to run into His open arms. For God doesn't want anyone to endure these things. He wants to save you. But you must repent of your sin and put your faith in His Son — Jesus — to save you. Nothing else will do. The alternative is to reject Jesus as this world will do. And that will leave you with nowhere to hide, for as those living at this time will conclude, *"the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*

Conclusion

So then, as I wrap up this morning, I want to underline three things, as it were:

First, if you love the Lord, if you know Jesus as your *Saviour*, then you have nothing to worry about. We will *not* be present on Earth to endure these things. That's why He has told you "let not your heart be troubled".

Second, however, knowing *what* will come upon this world, He wants you to share the gospel with as many people as you can. For He is not willing that any perish. But that means the question is, however, are *you*?

And third, if you do *not* know Jesus as your Saviour — I want to plead with you; don't leave this place without talking to someone about this today. There is nothing more serious. Nothing more pressing. Nothing more urgent than this.

Application questions

Now, in terms of applying this chapter to our lives, there's four questions I want to leave you with:

- How do you define sin? If not through the Bible, then you don't have a right view of Scripture
- Do you think sin should be judged? If not, you don't have a right view of righteousness
- Do you think God is worthy to judge? If not, you don't have a right view of God
- Do you want to see others saved? If not, then you don't have a right view of love

For the audio recording of this Bible study, and for additional studies, please see the DCF web site:



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