

I. PRELUDE TO THE STORM

A. We saw the true worship of God

1. We were given a hint in God's testing of Abraham
 - a. Praise is important – it is a VITAL component of prayer
 - b. But worship is sacrificial! It GIVES UP something dear
 - c. Worship calls us to put pride upon the altar!
2. We aren't to put ourselves into a mindless "trance"
 - a. God doesn't approve of brainless worship – it sacrifices NOTHING!
 - b. How are worldly beats and repetitious incantations different?
 - c. Pagans have danced to drum and chanted since the BEGINNING!
3. A song of praise ENGAGES the mind and makes the heart SING
4. Like a River Glorious (below)

B. We saw the Four Horsemen

1. The fake white horse, the antichrist
 - a. Many things have been anti-Christ over the course of history
 - i. Lawlessness in our society, sexual promiscuity
 - ii. The abdication of MEN - DISHONORABLE towards women
 - iii. We have trained men to take what they want
 - iv. Secular humanism ignores God but it is not the worst!
 - v. "Religion" may be the most antichrist thing ever created!
 - b. Many PEOPLE have been anti-Christ
 - i. Immediately we think of Hitler, but why not Herod?
 - ii. We think of Roman Caesars, but why not Popes?
 - iii. We think of Mohammed, but why not our atheism?
 - c. If God is not God of all, He is not God AT ALL in our lives
 - d. Do we live our lives compartmentalizing God to Sunday?
2. We see the blood red horse and his rider – he brings war / bloodshed
3. We see the black horse and his rider – he brings darkness and famine
4. We see the PALE horse and his rider – he brings DEATH unleashed

C. We saw the TRUE One riding on a White Horse

1. He is worthy to take the Scroll!
2. He is FULLY engaged with His Churches (He hasn't taken a vacation)
 - a. (Men in white apparel) ACTS 1:11 – "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."
 - b. ACTS 7:55 – "But he [Stephen], being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,"

- c. (He dealt with Paul) ACTS 9:5 – “And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.”
 - d. (He spoke to John) REV. 1:17 – “And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:”
 - e. And He receives GLORY in THIS church – Naples Baptist Temple
3. The stage is set, we see the Prelude to the Storm,
- a. The Prayers of the Souls
 - b. The Planet-wide Shaking
 - c. And the Pleading of the Sinners!

II. PRAYERS OF THE SOULS

- A. Who are the souls under the altar in REV. 6: 9-11?
- 1. They are the souls of those Saved DURING the Tribulation
 - 2. They lost their lives for their Testimony and the Word of God
 - a. Like John, who was exiled for the same reason
 - b. Never once have we been confronted with that choice
 - c. It WILL happen to people (it is not a thing of the past)
 - d. This book, prophecy from God, PROVES that
 - 3. These did NOT receive the Mark of the Beast nor did they worship him
 - a. REV. 20:4 – “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”
 - b. They were offered the choice. Guillotine in “A Distant Thunder”
 - c. The character rushes back in to accept the mark
 - d. These saints took the BETTER path (the ONLY path)
- B. Let’s take a closer look at this group of Saints
- 1. Their prayer (vs.10) – They cried out for Judgement (THIS IS WRONG!)
 - a. Look around the world! The Saved soul knows it is OUT OF ORDER
 - b. This is much like the cry of the Hebrews in Egyptian bondage
 - c. A cry from the gut, almost inarticulate – simply Lord, HELP!
 - 2. Their Clothes (vs.11a) – Given white robes
 - a. Fulfills ISA. 61:10 – “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.”
 - b. They aren’t clothing themselves, they were CLOTHED
 - c. No works for Salvation, Freemasons won’t bring their aprons.

3. Their Duties (vs.11b) – They were told to REST for a little season
 - a. PSA. 46:10 – “Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”
 - b. PSA. 90:9 – “For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.”
 - c. Trust in the Lord, lean NOT unto your own understanding
 - d. It’s good advice for us too!
- C. We see this group again in REV. 7:9, 13-14
 1. The Left Behind novel series had an assistant pastor who got Saved
 - a. It cannot happen. He could not be in this group
 - b. Let me hasten to add: YOU cannot be in this group!
 2. Why? Because you are sitting here listening to the Gospel
 - a. And if you won’t believe now, then you CANNOT believe THEN!
 - b. 2 THESS 2:11 – “And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:”
 - c. Today is the day of Salvation!

III. PLANET-WIDE SHAKING

- A. Earthquakes but a WHOLE
 1. Fulfills HAG. 2:6-7 – “For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; (7) And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.”
 2. See the description in LUKE 21:24-26
 - a. Verse 24 puts it into context – Speaking about the Tribulation
 - b. AFTER the time of Gentiles THEN lift up your heads (not for us)
 - c. THEY will SEE (not the Rapture)
 - d. Not a thief in the night, but in POWER and GLORY
 3. These events are LITERAL not figurative or symbolic
 - a. They are UNIVERSAL not local
 - b. Like the Flood of Noah
 - c. EVERY mountain and island (vs. 14)
- B. Sun Blackened (vs.12b)
 1. EXO. 10:22 – “And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: (23) They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.”
 2. MATT. 27:45 – “Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.”
 3. Final darkness of all dark times in history
 - a. Not over a country like Egypt
 - b. Not over a land, like the Holy Land

c. But over EVERYTHING

C. Moon as Blood (vs.12c)

1. Don't listen to the Internet – every few months it seems like
2. This isn't a faint orange glow like a beautiful sunset...
3. THIS IS BLOOD RED. THICK, DEEP, CRIMSON!

D. Stars fell from Heaven (vs.13)

1. Possibilities:
 - a. Darkness – possibly a cloud completely obscuring the Sun
 - b. Possibly the “stars” are a terrible meteor shower
 - c. Possibly... but it doesn't matter HOW God does it
2. As ripe figs in a tree shaken by the wind...
3. Heaven departed “as a scroll” (vs.14)
4. God rolled it up and put it away out of sight

IV. PLEADING OF THE SINNERS

A. All classes of people (vs. 15)

1. God is no respecter of persons
2. Just as all people, great or small, Jew and Gentile alike can be Saved
3. This group included both Kings and bondmen
4. Neither money nor power could help them!

B. Their Prayer (vs. 16)

1. They prayed, but to the wrong “rock”
 - a. “Mother Earth” could not help! Neither could the “Universe”
 - b. They looked for hope from “things below”
2. They should have prayed to a different Rock
 - a. PSA. 61:2 – “From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.”
 - b. PSA. 118:22 – “The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.”
 - c. LUKE 20:18 – “Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.”

C. The great question (vs.17) – Who SHALL be able to stand?

V. PREPARE YOURSELF SWIFTLY

A. Who among those will be able to stand? No one!

B. Only those who have been washed in the Blood of the Lamb!

1. Only those who have humbled themselves in repentance
2. Only those who have placed their faith entirely in Jesus Christ
3. Fall upon the Rock in brokenness or be ground underneath

C. Be Saved Today!

1. Like a river glorious is God's perfect peace,
Over all victorious, in its bright increase;
Perfect, yet it floweth fuller every day,
Perfect, yet it groweth deeper all the way.

2. Hidden in the hollow of His blessed hand,
Never foe can follow, never traitor stand;
Not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,
Not a blast of hurry touch the spirit there.

3. Every joy or trial falleth from above,
Traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love;
We may trust Him fully, all for us to do;
They who trust Him wholly find Him wholly true.

Refrain:

Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest
Finding, as He promised, perfect peace and rest.