

Last Chance Bride (2)

First let us deal with Revelation 14:1-5.

In E. W. Bullinger's long respected "Companion Bible", 1837, he explains that in the structure of the book of Revelation, starting in chapter 4 and continuing throughout the book, there are a series of alternating visions, starting with one *in Heaven*, 4:5, then *on Earth*, 6:1-7 ... right through to 19:17-20, *on Earth*, before finally the New Earth and conclusion. So, these are separate visions, not necessarily always in chronological order, though in chapter 14, the 144,000 resurrected Saints appear before the throne of God in Heaven with their Father's name upon their foreheads, ie. that the marriage has taken place, though we are not told how long the gap may be before Babylon falls, in the very next verse, 8.

Indeed, the rest of chapter 14 *is* in chronological order. [Do not become confused by the 144,000 mentioned in chapter 7, along with the 'great multitude' v.9. This occurs AFTER the First Resurrection in the *previous* chapter 6, as we saw in (1), and these newly repented Christians are *then* sealed with the Holy Spirit, whereas *we* are already sealed, Ephesians 4:30, '**And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.**']

As a result *the newly repentant miss the First Resurrection* and experience the 7th Seal, the Great Tribulation, Revelation 7:14, '**And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb"**, where most of humanity die, (Isaiah 24:6). Verses 15-17 indicate the repentant receive *their* reward at the Second Resurrection, See Revelation 21:4, 23, 22:5.

Does the First Resurrection occur at *the 7th Trump*?

The Seven Seals

Jesus Christ qualified to dispossess Satan, open our understanding of the Day of the Lord and claim His Kingdom, Revelation 5:9, '**And they sung a new song, saying, "Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation."**' The 7 Seals are depicted in Matthew 24 and in Revelation chapter 6, a most important chapter, and more details are provided in Revelation 14!

The book, actually a scroll, was sealed with 7 Seals, each Seal a judgement upon sinning mankind. The first 4 seals are **symbolised by 4 horsemen**. The first rider on a **white horse**, (v.2) represents false Christianity, summed up in the End Time

Antichrist who claims to be God, 2 Thessalonians 2:4. The second rider on the **red horse** symbolises war, Revelation 6:4. This world war occurs when God brings down the **still** greatest trading nation on Earth, America, (Revelation 18) closely followed by its sister nation the UK, for both have successively acted as Babylon. Next, symbolised by the **black horse**, as nations scramble for their advantage, comes famine, likely caused by a nuclear winter, Revelation 6:5. The fourth horseman is pestilence and death; disease brought on by the effects of famine, in the form of the **pale horse, v.8**. The four horsemen together bring the world to its knees, but still not in repentance!

One man takes advantage of this worldwide chaos to make good his rise. Isaiah 10:5-7
'Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger;
the staff in their hands is My wrath.
I will send him against a godless nation;
I will dispatch him against a people destined for My rage,
to take spoils and seize plunder,
and to trample them down like clay in the streets.
But this is not his intention;
this is not his plan.
For it is in his heart to destroy
and cut off many nations.'

This is the Beast, who is then the ascendant German leader of the European Union. His first easy target for invasion / rescue? is fallen Britain, (Isaiah 10:5-7) but the scriptural impression is that he quickly becomes a dominant *world* figure, and he will not let China and Russia take all the US!

The book of Daniel helps us understand. Daniel 10:14, 'Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in **the latter days**: for yet the vision is for many days.' The oil rich Middle East is his next target, Daniel 11:25, 'And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand.' The Beast has some success against this Islamic combine, v.28, 'Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land.'

The holy covenant mentioned here is the one between God and His people, some few of whom broadcast a message of hope to invaded Britain and America, from Jerusalem (Jeremiah 31:7-8) until the 5th Seal. The Beast is angry with them, for their message includes his eventual defeat, and he begins to persecute them, Daniel 11:30, 35 'For the ships of Chittim (China?) shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have **indignation against the holy covenant**: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.....And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge,

and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.

This is the 5th Seal, persecution of the Saints, Revelation 6:9-11, ‘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 witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, **who were to be killed as they themselves had been.**’ Here is evidence that some of God’s faithful people give their lives at the 5th Seal **for following His Command** about the broadcast. Does this remind you how Abraham was told to get out of his country, and did, while the Church will not even mention Jeremiah 31:6-8, cf. Rev. 18:4. They are **not** raptured away to safety at the start of the 7 Years!

Notice this! Matthew 24:29-31, **“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”**”

What is **“the tribulation of those days”**? It is the **first 5 Seals**, at the conclusion of which occur the heavenly signs, and Jesus Christ’s arrival in the clouds at the 6th Seal to collect His Bride!

Does anything happen between the 5th and 6th Seals? Yes. The Beast arrives in Israel with His army, Daniel 11:40-41, as his point of entry into the Middle East. **“At the time of the end, the king of the south shall attack him, but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through. He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of thousands shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites.”** (Jordan)

The Beast immediately stops the broadcast, a sacrifice which has by then already cost lives of God’s people, appears in the Church, and claims to be God, 2 Thessalonians 2:4, ‘Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.’ Corinthians 6:16, ‘And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? **for ye are the temple of the living God;** as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

This fulfilment of Matthew 24:15 causes God’s servants who have been broadcasting the message hated by the Beast, to flee for their lives, Matthew 24:16-19. Angry at

this, the Beast sends troops after them into the Judaeian wilderness as they flee towards Jordan, bringing about Revelation 12:15-17, ‘ Then from the mouth of the serpent spewed water like a river to overtake the woman [God’s Church] and sweep her away in the torrent. But the earth helped the woman and opened its mouth to swallow up the river that had poured from the dragon’s mouth. And the dragon [Satan inspired Beast] was enraged (He dare not follow them into Jordan after his loss of one army) at the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.’ The latter are the ‘Laodicean’ Christians who experience the Great Tribulation.

It is at Christ’s arrival in the clouds at the 6th Seal, that the glorious event occurs, as we can read in Zechariah 9:14-17, when the Lord God will blow the trumpet at the rescue/Resurrection of His faithful Saints, who become His Bride. 2 Thessalonians 4:16.

Only then, AFTER the First Resurrection, does the Great Tribulation of the 7th Seal begin, Matthew 24:21, ‘**For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.**’

Revelation 6:12,16,17, And I beheld when he had opened **the sixth seal**, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;16, ‘And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:’ 17, ‘**For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?**’

The 7th Seal consists of 7 trumpets depicted in Revelation 8-11.

So, we have seen that the first 5 Seals occur UNTIL the point where the Beast breaks his covenant with Israel, invades, and insists on idolatrous worship of himself. **The 6th Seal directly follows, as the flight and resurrection of the Saints, and is the pivot and half way point in the 7 years,** AFTER which the 7th Seal and ‘Great Tribulation’ begins, ‘**For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand**’, Revelation 6:17, culminating in the bloodbath of Revelation 14:18-19, ‘**the wine of the wrath of God**’ (Revelation 14:8-10).

The First Resurrection obviously cannot and does not occur *after* the Great Tribulation, despite the false belief of the Church of God, and if you visit any good Bible bookstore, find the section dealing with the book of Revelation, and locate the editor John Stott’s famous series, “The Bible Speaks Today”; in “The Message of Revelation”, it confirms that Matthew 24 and Revelation 6 expound the identical subject. “The two chapters engage at point after point like the two sides of a zip... and so we come to verses 29, 30 [in Matt. 24] which correspond, as we have noted, to Seal 6.”

Even the *world’s churches* recognise that Matthew 24 ties the 6th Seal to the First Resurrection! Why can’t the COG see this? Because God has blinded the eyes of the

Sabbath keepers who refuse to look directly at Jesus Christ's words in the Bible, because they have been taught instead to follow a man!

If you follow a man without checking everything in the Bible it is idolatry! You will be led to believe that the First Resurrection occurs at the 7th Trumpet in Revelation 11:15, at the *end* of the Great Tribulation, but notice who blows that trumpet, '**And the seventh angel sounded;** and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

This is not "the Last Trump" of 1 Corinthians 15:52 is it, '**In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**' It is God who blows the trumpet at the resurrection, is it not? 2 Thessalonians 4:16, Zechariah 9:14, and when Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 15:52, the book of Revelation had not been written, so he could not have been referring to that verse, but rather to the well-known military trumpet call (as Vine's Expository Dictionary points out) such as was then used to proclaim the end of a watch, when those on watch could go home, most appropriate to our future resurrection and destination!

So, *if* you rely on *false* teaching, you will not be prepared or found doing God's work at the 6th Seal, will you? You will miss the Resurrection by almost 3½ years and instead end up in the Great Tribulation!

To be continued.