

Revelation 7 Part 2

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, and we are looking at part eighteen of our study into the book of Revelation. And it's probably time for a quick review.

In chapter one, Jesus Christ reveals Himself as Jehovah of the Old Testament. He is the Almighty God, the One who was dead and came alive again.

Then in chapters two and three, we have what is known as the seven church ages. Each letter to each church is actually a prophecy over time. So there were seven times, or seven church ages, basically from the time of Paul through till today, ending in the Laodicean age.

Over and above that we also had the revelation of the seven seals in the following chapters, four, five, six and seven. The key elements here for the Christian church is the picture of the riders of the apocalypse. Now, often we talk of riders, but in actual fact there was only one rider who rode the four horses. A horse, in the bible, represents a power, and it always represented war. If a king wanted to go to war he rode on a horse, if he wanted to come in peace he rode on a donkey. It was part of the imagery.

The rider on the first horse looked like Christ. The rider on the second horse was making war against the church, the true church that is, true believers, and yet was the church itself. It was the earthly church. The two vines, the vine of the earth and the vine of Christ. And the earthly church was making war against true believers. Why? Because it was based on the Nicolaitan concept. That is, that the laity were to be controlled by the priesthood or the ministers. This, God hates. And hence hierarchy or structures of a church or a church organisation are, in God's eyes, an abomination. God wants to lead His church as individuals, each individual being led by the Holy Spirit. There isn't any need for man-made control and interruption, placing of people for certain jobs and so on, the Holy Spirit can do all that. And should be able to do all that.

So, the first horse rider looked like Christ and this was the beginning of the Nicolaitan spirit. It developed, of course, into a Jezebel spirit which then ruled the earth, the spirit of a woman taking control from man, taking it from God, and developed into the wars and then the red horse rider and then the dark horse rider which was the Dark Ages.

The Dark Ages were called that because, of course, the bible was in Latin, and basically only the church and the priests could read Latin so they often gave out what they believed was the Word of God. But there were always true believers, people who did a fantastic job, Martin being one, Columba being another, Paul of course, until in the end we came through to Luther and Wesley.

Now, behind the seven church ages, is also the four spirits of God, who called out and worked against the horse rider in turn. So the white horse rider was faced by the lion of the tribe of Judah. That was the spirit of God on the people trying to get the message of the gospel out to the world. Then we had the red horse rider, control the fighting and the beginning of the Dark Ages. Here's your time with the calf, the beast of sacrifice. And then the Dark Ages really developed and held everyone down and the church was controlling virtually everything, then we have the spirit of the man. And intellectuals such as Luther, such as Wesley, and many others who translated the bible, Calvin, Knox, you name it, they translated the bible into the local tongues, German, French, English and so on, and suddenly the people had the Word of God available to them. They could break free. They could get in touch with Jesus Christ directly.

Finally we have the Laodicean church age, the age when the church believes it is all perfect, it doesn't need another prophet, it doesn't need anyone from outside to correct it or guide it, it's working perfectly, but it's neither hot nor cold. And you'll notice at this point that Jesus is outside the church. He stands at the door and knocks. So He's been left out completely. The beast for this age is the eagle, and an eagle is a prophet. It is the only beast that is not stuck on land. It is a beast that is a revelation, uses revelation to lift itself up to the heavenlies.

And that, basically, is the story of the four first seals followed by a picture that takes us back to the Jews, the fifth seal.

Now these seals are not in sequence, as far as the world's history is concerned, because, of course, the part of the fifth seal is the Jews at the time of Hitler. They're being persecuted, these are the people under the seal who were saying, 'Lord, you know, we've been killed, we've been murdered, six million of us have died, why don't You avenge us?' And God says 'No, you've got to wait a little bit more for the hundred and forty-four thousand who are also to die'.

So then we move on and we start looking at the Jews which we will do in the next session, which is number nineteen, Revelation chapters eight and nine.

May God bless you.