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Sermon Notes

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## **The Lamb Opens the Seals**

### **Revelation 6:1-17**

Matthew 24: The “little Apocalypse”

Matthew 24:37 “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man”

AS IT WAS... SO IT WILL BE

The four horsemen represent recurring themes throughout the history of the world that will be played out again and again, but will have full fruition at the end of the world:

***Matthew 24:6-8 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. <sup>7</sup> Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of birth pains.***

In each of the six seals of this chapter, I will approach it by an describing the “already” interpretation (how we have already seen this in every era of human history) and the “not yet” or final fulfillment (what the final generation will experience)

Last time: sermon WAY TOO LONG... broke it up into two parts... the first being the “four horsemen of the Apocalypse”

I. The First Seal Broken, the First Rider Unleashed: Deceptive Peace

***Revelation 6:1-2 I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!" <sup>2</sup> I looked, and there before me was a white***

*horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.*

A. The Lamb Initiates Everything

B. The First Horseman Described

1. The image of a horseman riding on the surface of the earth is terrifying... to a foot soldier, the sight of a mounted warrior riding at full gallop toward him would be enough to cause him to run for his life... but how could he escape?
2. The horse alone, weighing over half a ton, running at over 40 miles per hour, could easily trample you to death
3. TERRIFYING image... for all four of these prophetic horses!!

C. The First Horseman Interpreted

1. Some commentators believe this rider on the white horse represents Christ and the spread of the gospel
2. HOWEVER, it seems very unlikely that the LAMB (Jesus Christ) would break open a seal and a living creature would command a rider on a white horse to COME and that rider IS Christ... the very one who broke open the seal... also, why would Christ come at the command of a heavenly living creature?
3. Better to see this rider as more of a COUNTERFEIT Christ... imitating him in some way... we will see especially with the Beast of Revelation 13 the Satanic mimicry of a FALSE CHRIST who will come to rule the world
4. So I think this represents the devious, sly, secretly wicked conquest of a false Christ who advances his kingdom by peaceful means with the threat of war always lingering behind...
5. Throughout history, there have been devious, wicked, sly politicians who have skillfully conquered lands by evil and treacherous treaties and false diplomacy
6. This is a pattern that will continue to the end of the world, but especially employed by the Antichrist

#### D. The Temporary Success of the First Rider

1. This first rider is GIVEN A CROWN and rides for conquering and to conquer
2. He is given power and authority for a short time
3. So the final world ruler, the Antichrist, the Beast from the Sea will exercise authority over the world for 42 months... his time is very brief
4. So also is the false peace the first rider brings.... Like his own beauty and apparent righteousness, the peace he establishes is a lie... war soon follows

#### II. The Second Seal Broken, the Second Rider Unleashed: War

***Revelation 6:3-4 When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!"<sup>4</sup> Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword.***

##### A. The Lamb Initiates Again: the Second Seal is Broken

##### B. The Second Horse and Rider Described

1. The second horse is more terrifying than the first one... this one is FIERY RED
2. This rider is given power to take peace from the earth and make men slay each other
3. To this rider is given a large sword
4. There is little doubt what this represents... the symbolism is obvious... this is the terrifying stampede of WARFARE resulting in bloodshed
5. The false peace that came with the first rider is over; the true murderous intentions of the evil ruler are made known, and the ruler advances his empire in the usual way, with the invasion of an overpowering army that sweeps away all opposition

6. ALREADY: Wars and rumors of wars come in every generation
7. NOT YET: there is an endtime fulfillment of this as well... for the Beast from the Sea will be given power to rule over the entire earth, including the power to wage war against the saints and to defeat them

***Revelation 13:7 He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.***

8. This second horseman ultimately represents the bloody conquest of a final world ruler who will begin his conquest through deception and intrigue and false diplomacy, but who will end his conquest by warfare... by the swinging of a LARGE BLOODY SWORD given to him for a short time

### III. The Third Seal Broken, the Third Rider Unleashed: Famine

***Revelation 6:5-6 When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. <sup>6</sup> Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!"***

- A. The Lamb Once Again Initiates the Next Horse and Rider
- B. The Third Horse and Rider Described
  1. A black horse ridden by a rider holding a pair of scales in his hand
  2. The scales are associated with merchants in that era... the weighing out of merchandise and the weighing out of money... of silver and gold to pay for the merchandise
  3. As this black horse and its rider move across the earth, John hears a voice among the living creatures giving the significance... like a merchant calling forth his price for his commodities

4. The careful weighing of a small amount of wheat—effectively a QUART—for a denarius (which was a day’s wages) is FAMINE conditions
  - a. So a worker would labor for an entire day to earn not enough for himself or his family to eat
  - b. The barley also is rationed, however... a larger quantity would be available for a day’s wages... three quarts... but again, this is not really a suitable meal; barley was often used only as fodder for animals
  - c. Famine is the logical consequence of war... men are slaughtered; farmers can’t plow or sow or reap... fields lie fallow; navies blockade nations’ ports; populations are gathered into cities and fortresses trying to survive
  - d. So Jesus said “There will be famines in various places”

#### C. BUT the Famine is Not Universal

1. The voice that called out for the famine conditions limited it, saying “Do not hurt the olive oil and the wine”
2. So the famine is not as bad as it could be... some look on the “oil and the wine” as the symbol of luxuries
3. This limitation perhaps points only toward the NOT YET aspect of these seals... since other famines in human history have been total and devastating to every level of society

#### IV. The Fourth Seal Broken, the Fourth Rider Unleashed: Death

***Revelation 6:7-8 When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!"<sup>8</sup> I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.***

#### A. Now Comes the Fourth Horseman of the Apocalypse!

1. Again this terrifying rider rides forth only at the command of heaven
2. It starts when the Lamb, Jesus Christ, breaks open the fourth seal and the fourth living creature commands the horse and rider to come

#### B. The Fourth Horse and Rider Described

1. This horse is PALE, perhaps with a green tint... the Greek word is “chloros” from which we get the word “chlorophyll”... the green tint in all vegetation
2. So this rider has a ghostly pale green color, characteristic of the decaying of a corpse
3. The rider is clearly identified: his name is DEATH... and HADES (the grave) followed close behind him
4. This horse and rider together have power to kill a fourth of the earth by sword, famine, plague and wild beasts
5. These are the standard plagues the prophets always spoke of to the nation of Israel
6. Notice the great escalation of horror from the other three horses... a quarter of the earth’s population slaughtered is absolutely mind-boggling
7. This has an ALREADY aspect, in that in every generation war and famine are followed by death
8. The world death total connected to World War II estimates go as high as 60 million... the world population in 1940 was 2.3 billion... so that means that only 2.6% of the world died as a result of the war
9. This plague of death extending to ¼ of the earth’s population is beyond our ability to conceive... in our present age, it would equate to almost 2 billion people dying
10. Yet... as terrible as this will be, Jesus says

***Matthew 24:8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.***

The judgments that will fill the pages of the rest of this awesome Book of Revelation will be even worse.

As we've been following Jesus' teaching in Matthew 24, it is reasonable to see the next stage in Jesus' predictions:

***Matthew 24:9-10*** "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. <sup>10</sup> At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

## V. The Fifth Seal Broken: Martyrs Slaughtered

***Revelation 6:9*** When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.

### A. The Lamb Initiates the Slaughter of His Own People

1. Christ breaks open the fifth seal
2. The result is the slaughter of many of his own people... martyrs whose blood soaked the earth
3. They are slaughtered because of the word of God and the testimony they maintained... the testimony of Jesus Christ
4. This is a major theme in the Book of Revelation... the witnesses of Jesus courageously standing before the wicked powers of the earth to testify to the truth of Christ and of the gospel
5. The martyrdom of his precious people is of powerful interest to Christ
6. It is part of his sovereign plan for the advance of the gospel

***John 12:24*** Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

***Colossians 1:24*** Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

## B. Already and Not Yet

1. Martyrs have shed their blood in every generation for the love they had to Christ, for the courage of their bold witness to Christ

Tertullian: the blood of martyrs is seed for the church

2. However, the end of the world will see a GREAT INCREASE of this level of suffering...
3. The Antichrist, the Beast from the Sea, the “Little Horn” of Daniel... this one world ruler... will be given power to slaughter the saints of God, as we mentioned earlier

***Daniel 7:20-22 I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell-- the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. <sup>21</sup> As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, <sup>22</sup> until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.***

***Daniel 7:24-25 After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. <sup>25</sup> He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.***

4. The Kingdom of the Antichrist will be a reign of terror for the saints of God alive at that time... they will run for their lives and hide in caves and other locations to try to survive... they will refuse to receive the mark of the Beast, so they cannot buy or sell anything... they will be men and women of whom the world will not be worthy, for they will

***Hebrews 11:38 wander in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.***

## C. The Righteous Cry for Vengeance



1. The slaughtered saints are seen IN HEAVEN, under the altar of God
2. This is a picture well known in the Old Testament... people running for their lives would seek refuge in the temple, holding onto the horns of the altar; a plea to God for mercy and protection
3. BUT they did not receive miraculous deliverance... for it was God's will that they should seal their testimony with their own blood
4. They are already under this blessing:

***Matthew 5:11-12 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.***

5. But notice their CRY FOR JUSTICE?!! Their righteous cry for VENGEANCE!

***Revelation 6:10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"***

- a. It has long been the cry of the suffering people of God... "HOW LONG, O LORD until you act for us???"

***Psalm 94:3 How long will the wicked, O LORD, how long will the wicked be jubilant?***

***Psalm 74:10-11 How long will the enemy mock you, O God? Will the foe revile your name forever? <sup>11</sup> Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand? Take it from the folds of your garment and destroy them!***

- b. We should not imagine that such a cry for justice and vengeance is somehow UNWORTHY
- c. Of course, Jesus said "Father, forgive them..."
- d. And Stephen as he was dying said "Lord, do not lay this sin to their charge"

- e. Jesus commanded us to love our enemies and pray for their conversion
- f. BUT YET, the desire for justice and vengeance actually LINES UP with the very thing God is planning on doing to vindicate his suffering people

***Romans 12:19-20 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."***

- g. God has promised VENGEANCE IS MINE... I WILL REPAY!
- h. No book in all the Bible so clearly depicts God repaying the wicked for the way they attacked and murdered the righteous as does the Book of Revelation

***Revelation 16:4-7 The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. <sup>5</sup> Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; <sup>6</sup> for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve." <sup>7</sup> And I heard the altar respond: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments."***

- 6. Notice also that these dead saints are aware of the events on earth... they KNOW that their murderers, the inhabitants of the earth, have not yet been repaid for their wickedness
- 7. Also, God refrains from punishing these people as a final display of his patience

***Romans 9:22 What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath--prepared for destruction?***

The patience of God is supposed to lead them to repentance and salvation through Christ:

***2 Peter 3:15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation***

BUT these wicked people do not use the patience of God properly,  
but only harden their hearts and store up more wrath

***Romans 2:4-6 do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance? <sup>5</sup> But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. <sup>6</sup> God "will give to each person according to what he has done."***

D. The Martyrs Comforted and Partially Rewarded

***Revelation 6:11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.***

1. The white robe represents the atonement Christ worked for their sins
2. Even the holiest martyrs who courageously lay down their lives for Christ are still sinners saved by the grace of God in Christ
3. Their sins are paid for by the blood of Christ; and their unrighteousness is covered by the imputed righteousness of Christ... they are seen to be HOLY and PURE as they wait in heaven
4. They must WAIT... this is a picture of the imperfection of their heavenly state... they are morally pure, and have in some sense received their reward by gaining access to heaven... but they are still WAITING for the fullness of what they expect... total vindication from God against their enemies
5. Heaven is a place of WAITING... all of the dead saints are

***2 Corinthians 5:8 absent from the body, and ... present with the Lord.***

6. The dead saints are waiting for their resurrection bodies

7. And in particular, these dead saints are waiting for their vindication from their murderers, their wicked enemies
8. And all of heaven is waiting for the FULL NUMBER of the martyrs who were to be killed as they were to come it
9. Everything is NUMBERED... all the days ordained for us were written in God's Book before one of them came to be (Psalm 139); even the very hairs of our heads are all numbered (Matthew 10); and the total number of martyrs to die as witnesses for Christ is also numbered... preordained by the plan of God

## VI. The Sixth Seal Broken: The End of This Heaven and Earth

***Revelation 6:12-17 I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, <sup>13</sup> and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. <sup>14</sup> The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. <sup>15</sup> Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. <sup>16</sup> They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! <sup>17</sup> For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"***

- A. These Sights are Breathtaking and Overwhelming... the End of the Universe
  1. To some degree we can see here the end of the universe as we know it
  2. The earth itself is shaken and moves beneath the feet of the inhabitants of the earth... every island and mountain is removed from its place
  3. The celestial bodies, the sun, the moon, and the stars are shaken... the heavens are completely affected by these judgments
    - a. Copernicus rightly discerned that the earth revolved around the sun, not the other way around

- b. However, the sun, moon, and stars were put in the heavens FOR AN EARTHLY PURPOSE

***Genesis 1:14-17 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made two great lights-- the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth***

- c. But when the events of human history have run their course, the sun, moon, and stars will end their existence in the heavens... the universe EXISTS for an EARTHBOUND PURPOSE!!
- d. The sun turns dark, the moon turns blood red, the stars fall from the sky like figs from a fig tree
- e. I cannot understand what this means in terms of cosmology... the stars are incomprehensibly distant

**B. The Terror of the Earth's Inhabitants: the Great Day of God's Wrath**

1. God has a terrifying and active WRATH against sin... God is not mild or indifferent toward it... he is ANGRY... sin enrages him

***Psalm 18:7-13 The earth trembled and quaked, and the foundations of the mountains shook; they trembled because he was angry. <sup>8</sup> Smoke rose from his nostrils; consuming fire came from his mouth, burning coals blazed out of it. <sup>9</sup> He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet. <sup>10</sup> He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind. <sup>11</sup> He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him-- the dark rain clouds of the sky. <sup>12</sup> Out of the brightness of his presence clouds advanced, with hailstones and bolts of lightning. <sup>13</sup> The LORD thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded.***

2. Though God expresses his wrath every single day, most people do not recognize it as such
3. God has patiently deferred the full display of his wrath on the earth's wicked inhabitants; he is patient, and has reserved his wrath

for the day of God's wrath when his righteous judgment will be revealed

4. There is something called "the Day of the Lord"... that day is the coming day of wrath
5. As the sixth seal is opened, the inhabitants of the earth recognize the day has come at last!! And they are terrified of it
6. There is a vast PRAYER... but the prayer is NOT TO GOD!! This prayer comes from the mouths of every single unsaved person on the face of the earth... cutting across ALL socioeconomic and governmental levels:

***Revelation 6:15-17 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. <sup>16</sup> They called to the mountains and the 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 their wrath has come, and who can stand?"***

C. Only One Refuge... and they Missed It!!

1. They are calling to the earth to hide them... to the mountains to give them refuge
2. But the earth will DISCLOSE the blood shed upon it
3. The earth will not hide these wicked people!
4. And no one can hide from the eyes of the Lord:

***Amos 9:1-6 I saw the Lord standing by the altar, and he said: "Strike the tops of the pillars so that the thresholds shake. Bring them down on the heads of all the people; those who are left I will kill with the sword. Not one will get away, none will escape. <sup>2</sup> Though they dig down to the depths of the grave, from there my hand will take them. Though they climb up to the heavens, from there I will bring them down. <sup>3</sup> Though they hide themselves on the top of Carmel, there I will hunt them down and seize them. Though they hide from me at the bottom of the sea, there I will command the serpent to bite them. <sup>4</sup> Though they are driven into exile by their enemies, there I will***

*command the sword to slay them. I will fix my eyes upon them for evil and not for good." <sup>5</sup> The Lord, the LORD Almighty, he who touches the earth and it melts, and all who live in it mourn-- the whole land rises like the Nile, then sinks like the river of Egypt-- <sup>6</sup> he who builds his lofty palace in the heavens and sets its foundation on the earth, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out over the face of the land-- the LORD is his name.*

5. They will seek a refuge from the wrath of God and of the Lamb, but there was ONLY ONE refuge, and they missed it
6. The only refuge there is from the wrath of God is the grace of God in Christ
  - a. Christ took the lightning strike of the wrath of God for us
  - b. Christ is the refuge, Christ is the hiding place

*Romans 3:24-25 Sinners are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> God presented Him as a propitiation through faith in His blood, to demonstrate His righteousness*

- c. We must flee to him NOW

*Proverbs 18:10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.*

*1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.*

#### D. How the Sixth Seal Relates to the Rest of Revelation

1. The sixth seal really seems to predict the end of the world
2. If every part of the universe is shaken, if the stars fall from the sky, if the sun is darkened, is that not the end?
3. Furthermore, the stars in the sky fall to the earth with the sixth seal, but when the fourth trumpet is sounded...

***Revelation 8:12 The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.***

4. So this gives me a strong sense that the Book of Revelation covers the same ground again and again... just in more detail the second and third times around

E. At Any Rate... Keep in Mind this Significant Teaching

1. This is how the universe will end! By the sovereign power of God

T.S. Elliot's famous poem, "The Hollow Men":

This is the way the world ends  
 This is the way the world ends  
 This is the way the world ends  
 Not with a bang but a whimper.

2. No, T.S. ... the universe will end with an open display of the wrath of God against humanity for its sin
3. At that time, there will be no refuge, no place to run to, nowhere to hide

***2 Corinthians 6:2 I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.***

FLEE TO CHRIST NOW!!

## VII. Applications

A. Understand the Sovereign Power of Christ Over Events on Earth

1. When Christ breaks open each seal, events start to move on earth
2. So even now, as history is unfolding, it is unfolding as Christ has determined, as he controls it



3. Christ owns earth; and the “title deed” of the earth is his by right; as he breaks open each seal, the judgments that follow are his righteous reactions to the sins of the human race
4. As a Christian, do not fear that the world is spinning out of control, even when we see many of these “beginning of birth pains”: wars, rumors of wars, famines, earthquakes in various places

B. See the Pattern of “Already/Not Yet”

1. These things are already happening, because we are already in the Last Days
2. But there are some things that are unique to the end of the world
3. We must realize the “as it was, so it will be” aspect of End Times teaching
4. History is giving us dress rehearsals of the final drama that will end human history

C. Prepare for the End of the Universe by Living a Holy Life and Spreading the Gospel

1. This universe is temporary... we need to understand that completely and not live like we will be here forever
2. There will come a time when the stars will fall from the sky, when the sun will be darkened and the moon turn blood red... even the celestial beings are not eternal
3. Peter made it plain that the best way we can live in light of the temporary nature of the universe is by holiness and evangelism

***2 Peter 3:11-13 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup> as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. <sup>13</sup> But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.***

4. We need to put sin to death because the wrath of God is coming for such sins
5. We need to warn our unsaved neighbors, because the end is coming
6. We need to LOOK FORWARD to the Day of the Lord... Look forward to the New Heavens and New Earth

D. Recognize the Place of Martyrs in the Plan of God

1. Many more brothers and sisters in Christ will have to die before the end has come
2. This is not an accident... the number of martyrs is already preordained and fixed by the sovereign plan of God
3. We need to be courageous in our witness and not shrink back from the gospel and from suffering for the elect to come to Christ

E. Embrace the Doctrine of the Wrath of God for Sin

1. It is biblical to understand God's passionate reaction to evil
2. If we don't accept it, we can not accept the atoning work of Christ on the cross, or the rest of the Book of Revelation

F. Once More... Flee to Christ NOW!!!