

~Revelation Six~

The Beginning of the End for All heathen nations

The sixth chapter of Revelation is a prophecy covering a very dark and violent period of man's history when there was catastrophic death and suffering on a world-wide scale.

Although man was never created to oppress or hate one another nor to suffer the way that they have from the beginning of time, he has had the misfortune of living through just about every horror that any one creature could imagine experiencing in this world. The reason for this is that man, being a creature of reason, must learn firsthand the results of disobedience and sin. Living in this, the devil's world, man can see for himself what a failure it is to live outside of YAHWEH'S* guidance and that the only way for his total and complete happiness is to follow the one and only course that YAHWEH has purposed to make all of mankind happy forever.

The time period that this chapter deals with begins with world war one, wherein the whole world, for the first time in man's history, was at war. It was such a horrible time of suffering and devastation that millions of men, women and children died.

This prophecy also details the attitude of the world at this time towards their CREATOR YAHWEH, and HIS Will. The calamities of the war, one would think, would have started mankind searching for the mysteries of life and questioning what went wrong and what course they could follow that would please their GOD to avoid this suffering and sorrow again. Yet instead of repenting and searching and asking for answers, they made leagues with other worldly heathen nations and treaties and contracts with others as imperfect as they themselves, as if they were wiser than YAHWEH and could solve their own problems this time. But, as this chapter also expresses, even though man was behaving as if he had all of the answers during this time when he should have been searching, YAHWEH had an Organization that was looking to *HIM* and they grew and moved forward and continued to make progress.

This chapter brings out information concerning the time period when the number of the 144,000 Kings and Priests was completed and sealed. This is YAHWEH'S Heavenly Organization Zion made up of Yahshua** and the 144,000 who were men and women as we are and who had to prove themselves loyal and die faithful while still on the earth. These, during this dark period just prior to the war, were all sealed at one moment and those

who were dead were resurrected that same instant. So the result was those who were dead were now alive in the heavens and those who remained were fulfilling their mission on earth, thus bringing their total of living Members to 144,000. These all were given a position as Kings and Priests that they now possess and will hold throughout eternity to rule over the earth and guide righteous mankind forever.

YAHWEH has created mankind to be happy and we need this great education of life's lessons, hard as they may be at times, to show us that we will not be entirely fulfilled until we serve YAHWEH. Life in this world is the greatest education that mankind will ever experience, for when this world goes down, this world as we know it, we will truly be able to say with all of our hearts that YAHWEH'S course is the *only* course to follow. YAHWEH has created us to live and has lovingly caused this prophecy and many, many others to be recorded so that we could see what HIS beautiful Purpose is for HIS People.

In going through this chapter, as with the other chapters of Revelation, we must remember that the Apostle John is seeing a vision. The creatures he sees, the sounds he hears, and even the sequence of events, for the most part, cannot be taken literally. YAHWEH has given us the honor of studying under one of HIS resurrected Spokesmen on the earth in these last days. (See Isaiah 1:24-26.) HE has resurrected those whom HE chose as Earthly Rulers and we have had the great privilege of learning this prophecy and many others from HIS resurrected Prophet Jeremiah.

Verse 1:

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts [four living creatures (R.S.V.*)] saying, Come and see.**

The Lamb spoken of here is Yahshua. He is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. He is the One that John is speaking of in John 1:29 wherein it states, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." In the fifth chapter of Revelation, a scroll (improperly alluded to as a book) was described, sealed with seven seals and having writing on both sides. Now this is one of the seals that was completely hidden, and only

*YAHWEH, יהוה the original Hebrew Name of the Living GOD, erroneously written Jehovah.

**Yahshua, composed of the Names YAH and Hoshua, signifying YAHWEH-Savior in the Hebrew language, and presently known as Jesus from the corrupted Greek version Iesous.

*** Revised Standard Version

Note: the names of different portions of satan's organization are not capitalized because we show no respect for satan's doomed system.

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Yahshua has been given power to open up this seal and reveal the understanding.

The "thunder" is representing a heavenly phenomenon. This particular thunder is symbolic of a loud noise to attract attention to YAHWEH'S creatures, indicating that YAHWEH is taking action, and notice at the end of this verse the Angel is saying, "Come and see." In other words, everyone will take notice when YAHWEH brings out HIS righteous message. The "four beasts" are more correctly rendered "four living creatures" in the *Revised Standard Version* because they are symbolic of YAHWEH'S attributes of justice, power, love and wisdom. There are actually no literal creatures around the Throne, but these are four symbolic creatures, or living souls, who have specific characteristics. They are described in Revelation 4:7, R.S.V. The first was like a lion, the second like an ox, the third had the face of a man and the fourth was like an eagle. The lion, who is symbolically referred to as the king of the beasts, represents authority or justice. The ox symbolizes YAHWEH'S attribute of power because of its unusual strength. Man, because of his ability to understand dark sentences and his concern for the welfare of others and because of his desire to execute true justice and true consideration in the lives of others, symbolizes love. The eagle has been described as possessing eight times the eyesight of a man. He can be almost out of sight and still recognize a field mouse on the ground, whereas at this distance we would see nothing. This means the ability to see, and when you see you understand and this is symbolic of YAHWEH'S attribute of wisdom.

Verse 2:

And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

One of the keys to understanding the four horsemen of this chapter is in the *color* of their horses. A white horse would depict the rider as being on a righteous and pure mission, as the color white, Revelation 19:8 verifies, is used to picture righteousness. The rider in this verse pertains to Yahshua who is moving forward to accomplish something, to accomplish a righteous and pure mission. Revelation 19:11 states:

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in

righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Yahshua is given a crown, which pictures rulership or authority, but at this point it is not a crown of Kingship that Yahshua is given, but the authority to carry out a certain mission, as Yahshua is pictured as having many crowns in Revelation 19:12. There are many things that Yahshua is commissioned to do. This particular mission that Yahshua is given was to cast satan and his host out of the heavens. (Refer to Revelation 12:7-9.) YAHWEH says concerning HIS Son in Psalm 110:1 "Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool." In Isaiah 66:1 HE adds: "The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool." The enemies HE is referring to are the devil and his demonic host.

These passages prove that Yahshua does not start reigning until the devil and his hordes are cast out of heaven onto earth. Everything must happen in its proper order. Only after this mission is accomplished and satan and his demons are cast out of heaven onto the earth can it be said: "The LORD [YAHWEH] shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies" (Ps. 110:2). In other words, He begins His rule, now, while the enemy is still here.

Now, to emphasize—opening up the first seal as verse 1 brings out, does not indicate that Yahshua takes His authority as King at this time, but He *does* get authority from YAHWEH to begin to make war with His enemies. As prophesied in Revelation, Chapter Twelve, the war begins in the heavens.

It goes on and says, "He that sat on him had a bow." Now a bow is used for warfare and shows that war is imminent. This symbolizes the time period just prior to the beginning of 1914 when Yahshua first began His campaign. This is when the devil was thrown out and Yahshua started moving forward in righteousness and He conquered and continues to conquer.

"And he went forth conquering, and to conquer," meaning that there is much to be conquered; there is a lot of unrighteousness, a lot of wickedness—there is the entire organization of the devil. Yahshua is shown as moving forward continuously conquering and to conquer. In other words, every time He conquers something, there is more to conquer until "he hath put all enemies under his feet" (1 Cor. 15:25). By this time He will have conquered everything.

Verse 3:

And when he had opened the second seal, I

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**heard the second beast [living creature] say,
Come and see.**

Here more of the understanding is being unfolded, which, as with verse 1, is in harmony with YAHWEH'S attributes. In reality it is not significant which living creature, or attribute of YAHWEH is symbolically saying "Come and see," for all of YAHWEH'S attributes are in harmony with each other. The prophecy in Ezekiel, Chapter One, describes YAHWEH'S Organization and HIS attributes as all working in unison; one attribute is not used apart from the other three, which is symbolic of the complete harmony that exists in all that YAHWEH does.

Verse 4:

And there went out another horse that was red; and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

Remember that this is a vision, a prophecy of things to come given by symbolic pictures, and there are no literal horses in heaven.

The horse being red would indicate the color of blood as the rest of the verse suggests. What makes this warfare different is that it follows satan being cast out of heaven. It is the beginning of when Yahshua comes "conquering, and to conquer," and the first thing that He does is to cast the devil out of the heavens. Following this, great repercussions were felt on the earth. Revelation 12:12 states the devil's attitude in being hurled out of the heavens:

...Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Just as this verse says, peace was taken from the earth. One of the results of satan being cast out of heaven was the first world war beginning in 1914. Other agonizing results were famine, pestilence and all manner of death. The "great sword" spoken of here indicates the tremendous amount of slaughter and bloodshed that took place. Therefore, the repercussions would have a global effect and not be a localized conflict as prior wars.

Verse 5:

And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast [living creature] say, Come and see. And I beheld and lo, a

black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

At this point John sees a rider on a black horse. Black is a color associated with mourning and suffering. The balances, or scales, show that things are measured, or that there would have to be rationing because of a food shortage. Even this country, which was one of the richest nations on the earth, had to ration food. Several countries in Europe had been previously involved in different wars which left them even more unprepared for the arrival of world war one.

Verse 6:

And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts [living creatures] say, A measure of wheat for a penny [denarius, approximately a day's wage], and three measures of barley for a penny [denarius]; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

Not only was there a tremendous amount of bloodshed with the advent of world war one, but one of the plagues that followed was a severe famine. Do not let the price of a penny, or denarius fool you into believing that the price is cheap. It is referring to approximately a "day's wage" for these things, as the *Modern Language Bible* puts it. (Also refer to Matthew 20:2.)

This verse is indicating a scarcity, famine on a world-wide scale that was unparalleled hitherto. Through "natural" causes and political irresponsibility, approximately ten million peasants in Russia *alone* died of starvation. They were eating leaves and tree bark and anything that grew. Many made their last meal sawdust. Their bellies bloated up from this. There were signs saying "go over there to die." In other words, do not die here or you will clutter up the place. While they could still breathe, they were told where to go to die. It was horrendous.

H.G. Wells in his *Outline of History* describes the horror that befell these people:

But now a new and still more frightful disaster was preparing for the Russian people. In 1921 there was an unusual drought. The attentive reader of this history will have noted already what a precarious and fluctuating thing is the climate of the great land areas about the Caspian Sea. Naturally these are nomadic lands; it is doubtful if they will ever be safe for a mainly agricultural population. Now, with the drought, the crops over vast areas

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of South-eastern Russia failed absolutely, and the most terrible famine in the whole recorded history of our race ensued. Millions perished. Multitudes, whole villages, and townships sat down in their homes to die, and died. Many ate hay and earth and indescribable filth. Men dug in the graveyards and became cannibals. Great areas were depopulated.

Yet there was corn to burn not only in America but even in the Ukraine and Roumania and Hungary. But the communications of this country had been hopelessly shattered by the operations of Koltchak, Denikin, and Wrangel, and the Bolshevik government had neither the resources nor the ability to cope with this monstrous disaster. An American commission and a commission under Dr. Nansen, the great Arctic explorer, organized relief with the assent and assistance of the government, and fairly generous American supplies were poured into the country. But the chief European governments responded grudgingly or not at all to the extreme appeal of the situation. The British government, which had spent a hundred millions in illegitimate military operations against her former ally, smirched the good name of Britain in the world by refusing any contribution to the work of relief. So little, as yet, had the lesson of human solidarity that the Great War should have taught mankind been learnt.

While the hapless multitudes perished in Russia, corn wasted in the granaries a few hundred miles away, and in Western Europe ships lay up for want of freight, steel works where rails and engines could have been made stood idle, and millions of workmen were unemployed because, said the business men, "there was nothing for them to do." And thousands of square miles of South-eastern Russia became a desert of abandoned fields and of towns and villages of the dead.¹

History tells the story in an undeniable way that shows how politics and the greed of big business in no way is the benefactor of mankind. So these are some of the plagues that start to befall mankind as the end draws near.

Now throughout all of this famine, the "oil and the wine" were not to be harmed. The oil and wine are not literal, but are symbolic. Oil represents anointing, or YAHWEH'S Holy Spirit. It was used

in the anointing of someone to a position granted him by YAHWEH. This is what David said when he was blessed by YAHWEH. Psalm 23:5:

...Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

¹ Samuel 16:13 states:

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of YAHWEH came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

The wine is used in the Scriptures to symbolize that which makes the heart glad. This represents the revealed Truths. Psalm 104:15 brings out the beautiful effects that the Truth will have on the righteous. Not hurting the oil and the wine tells us that even though there was war and tremendous food shortages all over the globe, the Truth was still on earth in abundance. It means do not prevent blessings from being poured out on YAHWEH'S People at this time. The starvation that ended so many lives was in sharp contrast to the Spiritual Blessings that were poured out upon YAHWEH'S People during this dark period.

Those whom YAHWEH'S Spirit was influencing were a group known as the International Bible Students who later became known as Jehovah's Witnesses. When Yahshua was on earth, He began to gather the bulk of those who would make up the Heavenly Class, which is the New Jerusalem, or the Ruling City, or Ruling Organization in the heavens. The Twelve Apostles were the first to be gathered of the Heavenly Class, and they are the beginning of the total number which is made up of only 144,000 Members (Rev. 21:15, 16). Now when Yahshua made His Second Presence in 1913, He resurrected the Heavenly Class, or New Jerusalem, and one of their first missions was to aid Yahshua in His righteous war against the devil and his demons, which was to cast them out of the Heavens to the earth, thus cleansing the Heavens. This resurrection took place just prior to the devil being cast out of the heavens and this casting out resulted in world war one (Rev. 12:10-12). Also at this time, the number of the 144,000 was sealed and all accounted for (Rev. 7:1-4). Now although all of the Heavenly Class was sealed and accounted for in 1913, not all had died and gone into the Heavens. There remained a Remnant still on earth. These were the Last Members of the Faithful Heavenly Class who had not as yet died and gone into the Heavens to begin their reign. This Remnant had to remain faithful unto death in order to receive their

¹ H.G. Wells, *The Outline of History*, 2 vols. (Garden City: Garden City Books, 1949), vol. 2, pp. 1134, 1135.

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This chapter, Revelation Six, relates to the first world war and the effects upon the earth, but Revelation 7:1-4 begins with the time period just prior to the first world war, when the total number of the 144,000 was sealed and accounted for. Revelation 7:1-4 states:

1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Not hurting the earth or the sea or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads means that the number of the 144,000 was to be sealed prior to the hurting of the earth, or prior to satan being cast out of the heavens and the trouble starting on the earth, or world war one.

So not hurting the oil and the wine shows that YAHWEH had preserved HIS Spirit and continued to guide and nourish HIS Faithful Remnant even in the face of adversity. These faithful men and women proved themselves faithful unto death as those who died prior to them did. Here are a few excerpts from *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose* which shows how YAHWEH'S Spirit was abundant for these faithful men and women and how they persevered and continued in their faith even in the face of severe persecution.

Jehovah's witnesses have always carried on an intensive campaign, but these years from

1909 to 1914 were truly climactic in the activity exerted by these early modern Witnesses and in the results obtained. Day and night those at headquarters, as well as the pilgrims and colporteurs in the field and those volunteer service workers giving freely of their spare time, were truly expending themselves to give a global witness with the facilities they had.

Beginning with the year 1909 the Society began to put out a new series of tracts first called "People's Pulpit," then "Everybody's Paper" and still later "The Bible Students Monthly." Each month a different issue appeared with a powerful new salvo released against Protestantism, false religion and apostasy. Illustrations and cartoons added to their telling effect. These were distributed literally by the millions under the doors of homes and in front of churches and by personal contact. This tract distribution, however, was by no means the limit to the Society's efforts to give as great a witness as possible. Distribution of pamphlets and bound books, especially by colporteurs, was also running into many millions of copies.

At the same time, the brothers organized an international newspaper syndicate that featured the sermons of Pastor Russell. His sermons were sent out weekly to about 3,000 newspapers in the United States, Canada and Europe....

Another feature of the intensified activity of this period was an extensive public platform campaign. This was known as the "class extension work," beginning in 1911. In that year alone 12,113 public and semipublic lectures were given. This was an extension of the public lecture service formerly undertaken by Pastor Russell himself. To do the work, fifty-eight special traveling ministers were sent out as speakers on a lecture schedule following assigned routes.²

In 1917 the publication of *The Finished Mystery* exposed religion—baptism of infants, confession, purgatory, the selling of indulgences, and so on.

The clergy were aroused to such a white heat by this stinging exposure that they seized upon certain statements in *The*

² Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York Inc., *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose*, (Brooklyn, N.Y.: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York Inc., International Bible Students Association, 1959), p. 49.

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Finished Mystery, then being widely distributed, in a determined effort to put the Society out of business. It was claimed that these statements were of a seditious nature.³

They were out to get the Society, but got the government to do their dirty work. Anyone possessing the book would be open to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars and five years in jail.

Reporting on the sentence of some of the Bible Students for serving YAHWEH, this quotation is from the *New York Tribune* of June 22, 1918:

"This is the happiest day of my life," said Mr. Rutherford on his way from the court to jail, "to serve earthly punishment for the sake of one's religious belief is one of the greatest privileges a man could have." One of the strangest demonstrations that the Marshal's Office in the Brooklyn Federal Court has ever seen, was held by the families and intimate friends of the convicted men soon after the prisoners had been taken to the Grand Jury room. The whole company made the old building ring with the strains of "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds." "It is all God's will," they told each other with faces almost radiant. "Some day the world will know what this all means. Meanwhile, let us be thankful for the grace of God that has sustained us through our trials, and look forward to the Great Day that is to come."

...International Bible students in all parts of the country have suffered persecution for their fidelity to the Lord and their zeal in declaring the blessings that are coming to mankind through his kingdom. In a town in the State of Oregon the Mayor and two clergymen organized a mob, chased one of the lecturers of the Association out of the city and followed him to a neighboring town. The lecturer escaped, but the mob caught the friend who accompanied him and covered him with a coat of grease and tar.⁴

Although YAHWEH'S Organization underwent a tremendous shaking during this time, and there are many more instances where YAHWEH'S People were greatly persecuted (See the book titled, *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose*), YAHWEH'S Organization not only survived, but they were cleansed of the insincere element. So all in all, the blessings of YAHWEH'S Holy Spirit were

not harmed during this dark period of man's history.

Verses 7 and 8:

7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast [living creature] say, Come and see.

8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

We have just learned what the first three horses and their missions stand for. But this fourth horse mentioned is where the most confusion comes in. A pale horse is one lacking any real color. Now this is the closest that we get to the color grey. Grey is the pallor of a dead person, and we should take notice that the one who sat on this horse was death. The mission of this horse is evident: that death would terrorize the world as never before. A "pale" horse is a horse that is not white—it has no color of any kind. *The Twentieth Century New Testament* translates this as being a "grey horse." Now the "grey" is a mixture of black and white. White is all the colors mixed together. Black is the absence of color. The mixture of the two kills all of the colors and you get a grey effect. This is one reason why grey goes with anything you wear—because there really is no color, no blue, orange, and so on. It is like a dead color. So this "pale horse" is the closest thing to the grey, which is more correct. Now to repeat verse 8:

And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

This is picturing all manner of death affecting one fourth of the earth. If you were to look on a map and check where the war was actually fought, you would find that it encompassed one fourth of the land mass. Now this does not mean that one fourth of the earth's population died off, but it means that the biggest plagues were felt on one quarter of the globe. So the amount, or you might say, the space that the first world war occupied, where the battles were really fought, took place on

³ Ibid. p. 74.

⁴ Ibid. pp. 80, 81.

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crown of life (Rev. 2:10). During this time of the first world war, there were some twenty thousand faithful men and women busily engaged in the worship of YAHWEH. They were the Faithful Remnant of the 144,000. These are those spoken of in the Bible as the "feet of him," or the Feet of Yahshua—the Last Members of the 144,000 to be gathered to go into the Heavens (Isa. 52:7).

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about one fourth of the earth's surface, and this is as prophesied. Strangely enough those that were involved in the fighting were the most "civilized" and "christian" nations. This was primarily in the "christian countries," all making the claim that "GOD is with us!" It was really a so-called war of those who claimed to be the closest to the Living GOD, and the atrocities that were performed at this time outdid the heathen. Here are some of the statistics. By November 11, 1918, 8.5 million of the 65 million involved in the war lay dead. Twenty-one million were wounded, and millions were listed as missing. Twenty-eight nations and empires participated in this madness which historians are at a loss to find solid reason for.⁵

Now we have already described the famine in russia, which was by far the most severe, but in great areas of europe, the conditions were nothing less than tragic. It was reported in britain, that at that time, romania was starving, serbia was starving, austria was starving and germany was starving.

The wealthiest countries such as the united states had rationing and certain items were just not available. Again, this was the worst famine in history.

Pestilence is also named in the manners of death. Here again, as we will refer to history, all previous records are broken. *The World Book Encyclopedia* records the statistics. First noted in 1918 in spain, a strain of influenza virus, labeled for its origin, began to quickly spread death to the people of the world. The winter of 1918-1919 was a living nightmare. Twenty million persons died of the disease (the largest number of people who ever succumbed to a single epidemic in the history of the world).⁶ Another of the deadly diseases at that time was typhus. Typhus took its toll by the millions in russia in 1917 and lasted until 1921; 2.5 to 3 million died there from this disease.⁷

So these four horses symbolize warfare, a righteous war, actual warfare, starvation and death.

Now with the coming of these events, and because there had been nothing like this on the face of the earth until that time, many people figured that the end of the world had arrived. religion, for the first time, did bring out that from the fulfillment of the signs it appeared like "the Kingdom of GOD has arrived." The religionists actually started this; they saw from the evidence that something was happening, that there were really signs in the heavens that this was not just

man's doing but the great events were really taking place such as the world had never seen. And the warfare was really getting out of hand. When they did stop fighting (although there was nothing settled) all that they did was rest for a brief period of time to recover, and they continued fighting again in 1939, some twenty-one years later. The atrocities of the second world war were truly such as the world had never seen. In human lives the cost of world war two was astronomical. More lives were lost in this war than in any other war in recorded history. *The World Book Encyclopedia* has this to say of its toll:

It has been estimated that civilian and military dead totaled 55 million....

The war left millions in Europe and Asia without adequate food, shelter, or clothing. They lacked fuel, machinery, raw materials, and money. Their farms lay devastated....

The war caused vast population shifts. Millions fled their homes because of their race, religion, or political beliefs, or were sent to isolated areas as slave laborers.... Returning soldiers and prisoners of war added to the problems of adjustment. About 10 million refugees had to move from their homes....

In some countries, whole groups were uprooted. The Poles moved westward from Russian-occupied eastern Poland. Millions of Chinese fled westward from the Japanese, and had to return. Many Arabs were forced out of Palestine, and Germans had to leave the Baltic states, East Prussia, Silesia, and the Sudetenland. Nearly 6 million European Jews died in German concentration camps. Refugees by the thousands moved to the United States, Canada, Latin America, and Israel.⁸

Now with all of this evidence and fulfillment of prophecy, one would think that the people living during that period of time would have seen some connection somewhere along the line. After all, they had warfare, famine and pestilence all in a relatively short span of time, and all of record-breaking proportions. Couldn't they read the Scriptures and associate what they were living through with what the Scriptures taught? Strangely enough they did! As stated before, certain individuals, blinded as they were by false

⁵ "World War I," *The World Book Encyclopedia*, (Chicago: World Book Childcraft International, Inc., 1981), vol. 21, pp. 364-377.

⁶ "Flu Epidemics," *The World Book Encyclopedia*, (Chicago: World Book Childcraft International, Inc., 1981), vol. 10, p. 206.

⁷ "Typhus," *The World Book Encyclopedia*, (Chicago: World Book Childcraft International, Inc., 1981), vol. 19, p. 444.

⁸ "World War II," *The World Book Encyclopedia*, (Chicago: World Book Childcraft International, Inc., 1981), vol. 21, pp. 410, 411.

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teachings, did make statements along the lines of "by the events taking place, it would seem that the Kingdom of GOD is at hand." But they did not heed the signs. The prophecy recorded in several verses of the first chapter of Zechariah corresponds with Revelation Six and the four horsemen and sheds more light on the attitude of the world. We will begin with verse 8 and will read it out of the clearer translation. *The Septuagint Version, Greek and English* renders the verse:

I saw by night, and behold a man mounted on a red horse, and he stood between the shady mountains; and behind him were red horses, and grey, and piebald, and white.

One inconsistency noted is that first the man is "mounted" on a red horse, but then it is said that he "stood between the shady mountains." Therefore *The Jerusalem Bible* (J.B.) will also be referred to:

'I saw a vision during the night. It was this: a man was standing among the deep-rooted myrtles; behind him were horses, red and sorrel and black and white.'

This makes more sense, but the colors of the horses do not exactly match. Here YAHWEH'S Spirit must be relied on as the word, per se, is insufficient due to the corruption of the text. Through YAHWEH'S Spirit, YAHWEH'S Prophet has been shown that these four horses are the same as those we have just described in the sixth chapter of Revelation. This means that *The Jerusalem Bible* is the most correct, with the exception of the sorrel horse, which must be substituted with the Septuagint's grey horse. With the thought in mind that these are the same horses as those in the Apocalypse, we will continue with Zechariah 1:9, 10, J.B.:

9 I said: what are these my lord? (And the angel who was talking to me said, "I will explain to you what they are.")

10 The man standing among the myrtles answered, They are those whom YAHWEH has sent to patrol throughout the world.

Now to patrol is to go throughout and look things over. These horses having done this then stood behind the deep-rooted myrtles, which are thick immovable, protective trees. However, this prophecy deals with the time immediately prior to the restoration of Jerusalem, which as we have established was in 1917. The plagues were not over until some time after 1920.

The situation is this: that although the warfare, famine, pestilence, and so on were not over, by 1917 enough of the physical evidence was given so that humankind should have realized that something was drastically wrong. Add to this the recognition of the signs that were to precede the Kingdom even by the blind leaders of religion. But by 1917 what was the world's reaction to these signs? Verse 11 of the first chapter of Zechariah (J.B.) gives us the answer:

They then spoke to the angel of YAHWEH standing among the myrtles; they said, "We have been patrolling the world, and see, the whole world is at peace and rest".

Now the "rest" spoken of certainly could not pertain to the warfare, so what then could it be referring to, as all Scripture must harmonize. It is referring to the world's attitude concerning YAHWEH'S wishes and Purpose. The International Bible Students recognized these signs and acted upon them, seeking even more zealously the answers of why and where they had made their errors. However, those of the world not only failed to recognize their errors, but further provoked YAHWEH by later establishing an organization known as the league of nations. This was an organization known by certain religious leaders as "the political expression of the Kingdom of GOD." Naturally this failed most miserably as YAHWEH had not built the house. Psalm 127:1, R.S.V.:

Unless YAHWEH builds the house, those who build it labor in vain....

Zechariah 1:15, R.S.V., proves that the type of peace, or shall we say mankind's lethargic attitude towards the Will of the ALMIGHTY, was not pleasing in HIS eyes.

And I am very angry with the nations that are at ease; for while I was angry but a little they furthered the disaster.

Verse 9:

And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held.

Those slain for the Word of GOD are all those who have sacrificed their lives entirely for YAHWEH and for HIS service and who have not necessarily been literally killed for the Word of

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GOD, but have remained faithful unto death. They are dead and are resting, having died with the hope of the resurrection. This resurrection is a Heavenly resurrection and is the reward that avenges their death on a satanic world that has fought against them to the bitter end. Their resurrection, which is their reward, was not to take place, however, until the total number of the 144,000 had been sealed and accounted for, as brought out previously in verse 6. The entire number had to be sealed when they were avenged, or resurrected, and they were resurrected only when the entire number was sealed. As stated before, this resurrection had to take place before 1914, for these resurrected ones, along with Yahshua, make up Zion, YAHWEH'S Heavenly Woman, and Revelation 12:1-5 describes this Woman as already being in the Heavens before the devil was thrown out of heaven:

1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

The crown of twelve stars is added proof that the Members who made up the Woman were taken from True Israel*, which in typical form was made up of twelve tribes. Therefore this Woman is not a preexisting organization that ruled before the New Jerusalem was established in the Heavens. The birth of the Man Child does not refer to a literal birth of a child, but to the birth of YAHWEH'S Heavenly Organization, when the Body Members were resurrected and joined with Yahshua, the Head. The seven crowns or the seven heads of the dragon refers to the devil being in the heavens and exercising his complete heavenly authority over the earth. Revelation 13:1, which refers to his earthly organization, however, numbers his crowns as ten,

ten being an earthly number.

Each one of the Remnant of the 144,000 at this time had to go through the same severe trial, which began in 1914, in order to test them. The fulfillment of 1914 was not according to the expectations of many of them. Divisions arose in their ranks, and, for the first time, the true evil servant was revealed within their organization. Those who were left were the true and complete Remnant, for this was the trial YAHWEH had decreed all of the Remnant had to pass in order to be accepted. The trial was very severe. It appeared that YAHWEH had deceived them and that they were on the wrong road. Only those who put YAHWEH first survived.

The Woman that satan persecuted and pursued, mentioned in Revelation 12:13, was the entire Remnant of the Woman and not just a small portion of this Remnant whose remaining Members would continue to be gathered in bits and pieces after the trial that was to determine the true from the false was past. It was the entire Remnant of the Woman who fled into the wilderness for 1,260 days and who was corrected and nourished in preparation to take the lead in gathering the other Sheep. These other Sheep are the Children of Zion, or the Children of the Kingdom, who became Jehovah's Witnesses, or the first of the Two Witnesses.

Earthly Israel will likewise be faced with a common trial. It will be brought about by the establishment of satan's "abomination of desolation," wherein all men within its jurisdiction will be forced to give their support and allegiance to this new world-encompassing organization built by russia and the united states and presided over by the pope of rome. Again, it is one major trial that must be met and passed.

Returning to the Remnant, Matthew 24:45-47 has this to say:

45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

Plainly stated, this selected Class, the Faithful and Wise Servant, which is the entire Remnant of Yahshua's Body, had to be busily engaged proclaiming these precious revealed Truths at the time Yahshua made His Second Presence in 1913. There was war in heaven during that same

*Israel, the name of YAHWEH'S True People, meaning "he who strives with GOD [for HIS blessing]" (Gen. 32:24-28). The Promised Israel will be made up of all nations, kindreds and tongues.

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year and the devil was thrown out of heaven. Yahshua came to His Temple in 1917 and began His One Thousand Year Reign. Therefore everyone who was not already consecrated prior to 1914, when the devil was cast out of heaven, could not possibly fulfill all of the requirements demanded of the Heavenly Class as outlined in YAHWEH'S Word, the Bible. Their number had to be sealed when the Woman first appeared in the Heavens, for the Woman was made up of the resurrected Members who had remained faithful unto death (Rev. 12:1-5). When these were avenged by being resurrected, the entire number was sealed (Rev. 6:9-11).

Verse 10:

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

Because the 144,000 had been unjustly persecuted by christendom and had been objects of scorn by this world, the question is asked how long would it be until YAHWEH would avenge their blood? In other words, how long will it be before you vindicate us? This vindication does not mean that YAHWEH is going to slay all of the wicked. That would be a final vindication, but the answer is not that. The answer is they will be avenged or vindicated when they receive their reward in the Heavens or when they are resurrected to their position alongside of Yahshua. In other words, as long as they are dead, it looked like the world was right and they were wrong. There was no change in anything. When Yahshua died everybody said, "What kind of a King is He? How could he be the Son of GOD? He couldn't save Himself." So it looked like He was wrong. But then when He came back, only those who had the Spirit understood that there had been a great victory. So the vindication for these is when they are resurrected.

Verse 11:

And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

Now this means that they are proven righteous.

Being given a white robe means that they have proven themselves and they have met with YAHWEH'S approval. "And it was said unto them that they should rest yet for a little season." In other words they are going to remain dead for a little while longer, "until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled," or they are going to remain dead until the number is fulfilled. When the number is fulfilled, they would be resurrected. We have already detailed the evidence when the number of the 144,000 was sealed (1913) in verse 9.

When the resurrection takes place, the number is sealed. YAHWEH knows what HE is doing; HE does not make mistakes. When YAHWEH says that the number is sealed, it is sealed. Now it is true that amongst Jehovah's Witnesses there were a lot who claimed to be of the Remnant who fell out. But because they claimed they were of the Remnant, does not mean to say that YAHWEH chose them. YAHWEH knows every hair on your head. HE knows all things. HE does not make mistakes. HE told Jeremiah in Jeremiah 1:5, R.S.V.:

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Verse 12:

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.

The Revelation given to John was not written in chronological order, but is given in bits and pieces of a great Purpose to be assembled and understood when revealed by YAHWEH through HIS Prophets.

The "great earthquake" is going back to the time in the beginning of this study when Yahshua was coming conquering and to conquer. An earthquake symbolically is a shaking up of the earth. The earth represents the visible ruling organization of the devil, or the devil's ruling organization, and at this time the earth is greatly shaken. All of these heavenly phenomena—the sun becoming black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon becoming as blood—are indicating great omens, or signs from the heavens that YAHWEH is making a move, that HE is stepping in and waking up HIS creatures. These four symbolic horsemen that we have described had

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made their move by 1917 and had given evidence that the Kingdom of GOD was truly at hand, and these were signs from the heavens that something *drastic* had taken place, that YAHWEH'S wrath was being poured upon them. This is the time of world war one when the nations become angry and HIS wrath has come (Rev. 11:18). Also 2 Peter 3:13 says, "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." HE is doing away with the old heavens, or the old invisible ruling element made up of the devil and his demons, and setting up the New Jerusalem, the 144,000 Kings and Priests. The devil's organization on earth, as well, is going to be destroyed and along with it his followers, the politicians, kings, dictators and so on. The Scriptures state that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all of the Prophets will be the Rulers that YAHWEH chooses to deal with, and HE has resurrected them on this earth today. These are the rightful Rulers for the earth. Isaiah 1:26, R.S.V., states:

I will restore your judges as at the first and your counselors as at the beginning.

Verse 13:

And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

These verses are backtracking, giving reason as to why all this anguish was taking place. The stars, as we have seen before, are angels (Rev. 22:16) that were cast out of the heavens to the earth when war arose in heaven in 1913 just before the devil and his demons were cast out. These falling to the earth portray their being cast out of heaven.

Verse 14:

And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together" is likened when one would roll a scroll or close a book, you would be through with it; you have put it away. The "heavens" here are the heavens occupied by the devil and his demons. They were rolled together as a scroll and done away with because the devil no longer had authority in

the heavens after he was cast out.

"And every mountain and island were moved out of their places." Now mountains indicate strongholds or kingdoms. Islands indicate individual organizations or kingdoms, small kingdoms. They indicate isolated nations which have, up to this time, not had to associate themselves with anyone. "Every mountain and island were moved out of their places" means that with the first world war it actually upset the whole geography of the earth; nothing was the same. Some nations had land added to them, others had something taken away. Every nation on the face of the earth was affected by this tremendous upheaval. It was considered the first *world* war.

Verses 15 and 16:

15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

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.

The dens, rocks of the mountains, mountains and so on picture the strongholds of the world which men use to protect themselves, or to find shelter and security in. This is an indication that these people did not want to do right but they wanted to be miraculously covered so that they would not be exposed for what they were. This shows what a hypocritical worldly organization this is which was not looking for YAHWEH'S blessings, which was not looking for the end; but they were trying to cover over their guilt. And they did cover themselves in the mountains or the organizations of this world. They hid in the league of nations; they became christians; they tried to make the world a better place; they made excuses for what they were doing. But what they should have said is that the end of this wicked system is here and you are going to be completely wiped out. But they did not have the guts to say anything like this because they were afraid of becoming enemies of the political rulers. You see, the things Israel speaks are not popular and are altogether different from what the religionists speak. When Jeremiah was on television back in the 70's, he brought out with John Facenda that "there's no such thing as a christian nation" and Mr. Facenda got upset. But this is a

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true statement. There is no such thing as a GODly nation (which they imply by calling it christian). They are really all satanic, because the devil is the god of this world and all the nations belong to him. If you speak the Truth, you offend the members of this world and religion does not want to do that. YAHWEH calls religion a whore in Revelation Seventeen because they are not faithful to HIM. Why don't they separate from the world like the Bible says that they should? They support this world entirely, even going so far as to hold elections right in a catholic church. In other words, she is like a whore that is trying to please these different men, the politicians and big businessmen; she cannot do enough for them, and she is actually going against YAHWEH.

Verse 17:

For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

This was YAHWEH'S wrath that actually begins as soon as the devil was cast out of the heavens. Notice that the whole world was at war, and after the war you had famine and pestilence. You had pestilence here too—there was the spanish flu where millions of people died. You also had the great depression where people lost all their life savings, all that they had worked for, and had to take to the streets long hours day after day to find work. We will quote a short excerpt from H.G. Wells' *Outline of History* concerning the depression:

So much stress, in earlier sections of this history, has been laid on the defects and disappointments of the post-war world that a short time must be spent on showing why 1929 became for millions of people the last of the golden years to which they looked back....

The collapse of 1929, as no one will forget who lived through it, began on the 24th October, in Wall Street.... But from that moment the panic spread until the whole surface of the world was affected by industrial paralysis: paralysis is an apt word, for it was like a disease, but a disease with no cause in nature. The starvation, the silent factories, the goods thrown away, the men standing idle were the results of human activities. There had been no famines, floods, or national disasters (indeed, at one

time men even prayed for these to relieve their troubles); there had not even been wars or devastations. Nevertheless, in the richest country in the world, the United States, "nearly twenty million people were facing starvation in the early months of 1933" (Mr. Hampden Jackson). The condition of poorer countries was correspondingly worse. The crisis continued beyond 1933—indeed, it can be argued that it did not really cease until war [world war two, in 1939] and the preparations for war ended it.⁹

This is a quote from the *Britannica Junior Encyclopedia*:

The stock market crash of October 1929 marked the beginning of the Great Depression. Over-speculation helped bring about a collapse of the stock market. World trade decreased rapidly; businesses closed and unemployment increased. Farm prices continued to fall. The people were afraid. There were "runs" on the banks as people hurried to withdraw deposits. When too many people took too much money from a bank it had to close. Savings of individuals—poor and rich—were lost overnight. People lost their homes when they could not keep up the payments.¹⁰

If you could turn all of this information and statistics of the hardships that the war brought, which we cannot forget is a result of the devil being cast out of heaven onto the earth, into terms of human feelings, you would find an enormous volume of fears, anxieties, cruel disappointments, tragic distresses, hardships, illnesses, despairs and deaths including the taking of one's own life.

When Hitler came up, immediately there were jobs because the nations began to make preparations for what they called "defense." So there were war contracts; people got jobs in shipyards and airplane factories and so on, and the u.s. snapped out of the depression. It took a war to help them do it.

So when men saw the signs of GOD'S wrath being poured out upon the earth, the time of HIS judgment approaching, you would think that in meekness and humility, they would return and obey HIM and do HIS Will instead of having to hide like criminals in the mountains, or in their

⁹ H.G. Wells, *The Outline of History*, pp. 1152-1154

¹⁰ "Herbert Clark Hoover," *Britannica Junior Encyclopedia*, (Chicago: William Benton, 1970), vol. 7, p. 190A.

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organizations. Men continued to disregard YAHWEH and trust in their own devices, but the Bible Students, the Remnant of Yahshua's Body, the Last Members of the 144,000 were a glimmer of hope and light in a dark and devastated world. They persevered, did not lose faith, and were busy announcing that the Kingdom of GOD had begun, that HIS reign had begun. Isaiah 52:7:

How beautiful upon the mountains [or the governments] are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that

publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

This faithful Class of beautiful men and women, whom the Almighty GOD YAHWEH has hand-picked to rule in the Heavens, were busy doing YAHWEH'S Will and preparing the people for YAHWEH'S Kingdom. They were endowed with HIS Spirit and went house to house telling the people that the Kingdom had begun. These are the ones that Yahshua found "so doing" (Matt. 24:46) when He made His Second Presence and they are lovingly caring for and guiding us now.

Please feel free to express your desire to acquire more Knowledge.
