

## *Peace, Be Still*

Waves were breaking over the little vessel that rolled in the violent sea of Galilee. The terrified men did all they could to keep the boat from being swamped, probably shifting their bodies to offset the buffeting from one side and then the other. The storm got worse and all appeared to be lost. Despite their efforts, they had lost control of their circumstances. Finally, they turned to the One who, astonishingly, was found asleep in one corner of the boat.

Jesus of Nazareth awoke and calmly surveyed the heaving, tumultuous sea which threatened to destroy the tiny craft (Mark 4:35-41). Today, you and I stand within a sea even more violent than that stormy sea about 2,000 years ago. It will get worse, much worse. As a matter of fact, it will become so violent that God's Word says, "*If Christ Himself did not return, all life on earth would end in violence*".

### **Man would literally destroy himself.**

The next six paragraphs were written by Ronnie Rush, and were taken from his article titled, "Showing How Bad The Tribulation Will Really Be".

"Try to imagine just what the first four of the Seven Seal Judgments bring forth; I just wonder how many of you who are unsaved out there are really thinking about how bad, terrible, awful, and painful the events mentioned in Revelation will really be. For starters, I would like to point out that when food supplies are really good, predatory/scavenger animal, bird, and insect populations increase. These are bears, lions, mountain lions, wolves, foxes, rats, hornets, yellow jackets, flies, and coyotes, to name a few.

#### **"Let's read what the Bible says the first four seals will accomplish:**

Revelation 6:1-2: 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 saying, Come and see. 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.

"Revelation 6:3-4: And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. 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.

"Revelation 6:5-6: And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast 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. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

"Revelation 6:7-8 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. 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.

"I hope you paid close attention to the statement made about the fourth seal. One-quarter of earth's population is killed. To put that in its proper perspective, earth's population is almost 7 billion right now. Divide that by four, and you will have the answer to how many deaths have happened by the time the fourth seal is completed. That number is *1,750,000,000 deaths*, or, as that number is spoken: one billion, seven

hundred fifty million deaths! There is only one way you could get that number of deaths in such a short period of time, especially way within seven years, and that is by a nuclear exchange. Only certain countries possess such weapons, and right now, there is soon to be another to join the nuclear club. That country, Iran, has a leader who seeks to use them as soon as he has them. After that, many deaths will occur—and there will be no one to really clean up afterward, except for the animals, birds, and insects. In other words, things will get very smelly on planet earth. Also, after these events, we will likely have nuclear radiation worldwide, combined with disease and pestilence from all the rotting corpses!"

More than half (approximately two-thirds) of earth's population will die during the seven-year Tribulation period. Many will be killed through man's own murderous efforts when God removes His restraining hands for a time. Billions will die as a direct result of God's wrath during the last three and a half years of the apocalypse. Great armies will march and roll and fly into the Valley of Jezreel.

Two hundred million men (200,000,000) will come from the east while millions upon millions more invade from the west, north, and south of Jerusalem. All unregenerate humanity will, through sin-engendered insanity, determine to battle to the final breath of the last man standing. Blood will literally flow and pool for many miles at depths up to three or four feet, according to God's prophetic Word.

When the rage intensifies to a level God can no longer tolerate, the dark, sulphurous clouds blanketing earth's atmosphere because of the terrible carnage of that dark hour, the very fabric of space itself, will scroll apart. A blinding laser-like path from heaven to earth will thrust forth. Heaven's armies will descend, led by the King of kings and Lord of lords.

While the sea of humanity on the planet's surface viciously roars in an attempt to prevent the heavenly intervention, those warring forces will turn from battling with each other to curse God and all His righteousness. Then Jesus Christ, mounted upon a stunningly white steed, will speak words sharper than a two-edged sword.

Maybe He will speak the same words Jesus of Nazareth spoke to that raging sea of Galilee nearly two millennia ago. They are the same words He speaks today to all who turn to Him, realizing there is *nothing, and no one but Christ* who can save them. He speaks those words to all who accept Him and trust Him to save them from their sins and to make them born-again children of God. Just as His words instantly calmed that violent sea, thus saving the men in the little boat, Jesus' words will instantly end the warfare and rebellion at Armageddon. Christ's words to your troubled heart likewise will bring tranquility and joy to your soul, supernaturally. When He speaks those life-changing words, you will never be the same.

Revelation's thunder rumbles in the near distance. Before the coming storm is full-blown, Christ will come for those who trust Him and Him alone for salvation. It will happen in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. Even so Come, Lord Jesus.

***"Peace, Be Still"***

(Mark 4:39)