

## Revelation Ch. 6

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### INTRODUCTION:

- The stage has been set; the opening of the first six seals brings on judgment time.

Review: The book of revelation is divided into three main parts: **Revelation 1:19**

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| 1. | "Write the things which thou has seen."   | Ch. 1      |
| 2. | "And the things which are."               | Ch.'s 2-3  |
| 3. | "And the things which shall be hereafter" | Ch.'s 4-22 |
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- The third portion, which we're now in the midst of, is also divided into 3 subsections:
  1. Chapter's 4 & 5 take us to the throne of God.
  2. Chapter's 6-19 amplify the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel, the great tribulation. (Dan 9:24-27)  
This is a detailed account of the horrors that take place after the rapture of the church leading directly up to the 2nd. coming of Jesus Christ.
    - This is also referred to by the un-believing nation of Israel as "the time of Jacob's trouble" (**Jeremiah 30:7**) and by the un-believing gentiles as the time of "the indignation of the Lord upon all the nations" (**Isaiah 34:2**).
    - No matter what you call it, the time has arrived.
  3. Chapter's 20-22 speak of Christ's kingdom and eternity.
    - This is all part of an orderly recording of the events as they were shown to John, they were intended to be understood, and are not a secret or of a mysterious nature.

**2 Peter 1:20** "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."

- The scene now shifts from Heaven back to what's about to happen, or been happening on Earth.
- The great tribulation is triggered from Heaven, by Jesus, and it's done in a very firm manner."

**Psalm 2:9** "Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron, thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

**Luke 12:46-47** <sup>46</sup>The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. <sup>47</sup>And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes."

- As the tribulation begins we'll start to see several things take place:

1. The Holy Spirit will no longer restrain evil:

**2 Thessalonians 2:7** "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only He who now letteth will let, until He be taken out of the way."

2. The true church, the light and the salt will not influence events on the Earth as they have been removed.
3. Satan knows that time is short, and having free reign will make good use of it.
4. Evil men will likewise be free to carry out their plans, and Antichrist will be able to take over the Earth for a brief time.
5. There will be direct judgment from God.

**Revelation 6:17** "For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

- The opening of the seals is gradual and purposeful, not rushed. All done in order.
- The stage has been carefully set. Those who view these prophecies as historical (preterist), along with the Amillennialists are going to have a difficult time reconciling their views to these yet future events."

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## ESCHATOLOGICAL VIEWS OF THE MILLENNIUM:

1. **Pre-millennialism:** Christ returns before the millennium and establishes his 1,000 year kingdom upon his return.
  2. **Post-millennialism:** Christ returns after the millennium which comes about as a result of Christian preaching and teaching.
  3. **Amillennialism:** There is no millennium or 7 year tribulation period.
- Amillennialists spiritualize the millennium while the postmillennialists spiritualize the resurrection that precedes it. (This is a clue to where we're headed, no pun intended)

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- The scene moves from wonderful praise in Heaven to the tragic judgment upon the Earth.

- These judgments proceed in 3 sets of seven judgments, seals, trumpets, and bowels. Each of these happens in order, one after the other and is recorded from chapters 6 through 16.
- 1/2 the world's population is eliminated through these judgments.
- The scroll with 7 **seals** is opened.

1st. seal: the rider on the white horse.

2nd. seal: the rider on the red horse.

3rd. seal: the rider on the black horse.

4th. seal: the rider on the pale horse.

5th. seal: the martyrs.

6th. seal: a great earthquake.

- The great day of his wrath is come.

7th. seal: seven angels sound 7 **trumpets**.

1st. trumpet: trees and grass burned up.

2nd. trumpet: bloody seas.

3rd. trumpet: bitter waters and springs.

4th. trumpet: partial eclipse.

5th. trumpet: locust plague.

6th. trumpet: demonic horsemen.

7th. trumpet: seven **bowels of wrath** poured out.

- In them the wrath of God is complete.

1st. bowel: terrible sores.

2nd. bowel: sea life destroyed.

3rd. bowel: bloody rivers and springs.

4th. bowel: sun scorching with great heat.

5th. bowel: total eclipse.

6th. bowel: battle of Armageddon.

7th. bowel: mighty earthquake

IT IS DONE!

- Chuck Smith calls the title of his commentary on Chapter 6 "*Bad News*", considerably understated I would say.

**V: 1** *"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four creatures saying, Come!"*

- And I saw: a personal testimony or witness.

- Jesus begins to open the seals.
- One of the living creatures commands "come!" or "go!" to which the white horse and its rider respond in verse 2.
- Voice of thunder = power.
- KJV & NKJ both translate this as "come and see", the "and see" isn't included in the earliest manuscripts.

NIV, NASB, Living; translates this as "come!"  
JB Phillips: "come out!"

- All of which would essentially be the same as "go!"

**V: 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."*

- The rider on the white horse is not Jesus. Jesus doesn't return to Earth until it's the final time. When it's Christ, we'll all know.
- Jesus gives us the identity of this rider.

**Matthew 24:4-5** "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."

- The rider is anti-Christ, one who pretends to be the Christ. (opposed / in-place of).
- As soon as the church is removed, the hindering power of the Holy Spirit goes with it. The forces of evil that have been kept in check up to this point now run rampant, and the son of perdition is revealed.

**2 Thessalonians 2:7-9** <sup>7</sup>For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only He who now letteth will let, until He be taken out of the way. <sup>8</sup>And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the Spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: <sup>9</sup>even him, who's coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders."

- Anti-Christ does not appear immediately as a villain, but as an angel of light.

**2 Corinthians 11:14** "... and no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

- This man will be accepted and embraced, unlike our Lord Jesus.

**John 5:43** "I am come in my father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."

- When anti-Christ eventually takes over, things will get real bad for the new believers and everybody else back on Earth.
- Conquering, taking over.

**2 Peter 2:19** "For of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."

- There will be a short period of relative peace, a false peace – that won't last.

**Isaiah 57:21** "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked."

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## IDENTITY OF THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE:

- When Jesus returns there won't be any more wars, it will be time for the millennial kingdom, a great period of peace.
- This rider brings or is followed by wars, famines, and death.
- Jesus is opening the seals, that places him outside and above the message written on the scroll.
- This is also just at the beginning, who is going to open the other seals? Jesus will!
- The crown this rider wears he has received from the prince of this world, Satan.
- Satan once offered the kingdoms of the world to Jesus, who had no need for them. Satan has now given those same kingdoms to the Anti-Christ, false Christ, who does accept both the power and submission to Satan.
- Jesus earned and deserves His crowns. He was not "given" them; this rider is given his crown by Satan.
- Note also that it is crown singular vs: crowns, plural. In this verse the word is crown / "stephanos", not "diadem" which is many crowns, or the crown of a king, the King.
- This rider is armed with a "bow" which is a weapon of the enemy (**Ephesians 6:16**), fiery darts are shot with a bow. Jesus uses a sword!
- This first rider conquers the world without a shot, through deception.

**Matthew 24:4-5** "... Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."

- DECEPTION CONTINUED:

**1 John 4:3** "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

**2 Corinthians 11:14** "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

**2 Peter 2:1-3** "<sup>1</sup>But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. <sup>2</sup>And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. <sup>3</sup>And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."

**1 Timothy 4:1-2** "<sup>1</sup>Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; <sup>2</sup>Speaking lies is hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"

**2 Timothy 4:3-4** "<sup>3</sup>For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; <sup>4</sup>and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

- Every good thing that God does, Satan tries to counterfeit, including his Son in the form of Anti-Christ.
- The only cure or protection is to know the truth so you'll recognize the lie.

**John 8:31-32** "<sup>31</sup>Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, if ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; <sup>32</sup>and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

**2 Timothy 2:15** "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

**V: 3** *"And when He had opened the second seal, I heard the second creature say, come!"*

- Jesus opens the second seal.
- The second living creature says "come!"

**V: 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."*

- None of these "horsemen / riders" is Jesus.
- Jesus' second coming is just that, and it's final.
- After the white horse conquers, there is a short-lived peace, which the rider on the red horse breaks, the blood red horse.
- This short lived peace lasts 3 1/2 years, everybody is happy, peace and safety; then sudden destruction.

**1 Thessalonians 5:3**      *"For when they shall say, peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them,"*

- Now **Isaiah 57:21** comes true again.

**Isaiah 57:21**      *"There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked."*

- This all comes to a head at the battle of Armageddon.
- The appearance of the red horse brings 3 things.
  1. World peace is ended.
  2. Lots of people are killed.
  3. All military power is placed in the hands of one man.
- Mankind is now reaping what they've sown.

**Galatians 6:7**      *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."*

**V: 5** *"And when He had opened the third seal, I heard the third creature say, come! And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand."*

- Jesus opens the 3rd. seal.
- The third living creature says, "come!"
- The black horse and rider respond.
- Black horse = mourning, and famine.

**Jeremiah 4:28** "For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black: because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it."

**Lamentations 4:8-9** <sup>8</sup>"Their visage is blacker than a coal; they are not known in the streets: their skin cleaveth to their bones; it is withered, it is become like a stick. <sup>9</sup>They that be slain with the sword are better than they that be slain with hunger: for these pine away, stricken through for want of the fruits of the field. The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people."

- Famine always follows war.
- Balances speak both of judgment and of commerce.
- Daniel interpreting the writing on the wall for Belshazzar.

**Daniel 5:27** "... thou are weighed in the balances, and are found wanting."

**Psalms 64:9** "Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity."

- Scales also represent trade and commerce. Much of the power wielded by the forces of evil are monetary. Controlling who buys and sells, the haves and the have-nots.
- This all has a great impact on who eats and who doesn't.
- This may also be consistent with the subject matter from verse 6, food.



**V:6** *"And I heard a voice in the midst of the four creatures 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."*

- The Greek historian Herodotus recorded that a "koinix" (1/2 quart) of corn was a soldier's daily supply of food.
- Denarius / penny was a day's wage according to **Matthew 20:2**.
- Thus a working man will be unable to support his family in that day.
- Wheat and barley are necessities, whereas oil and wine are luxuries.
- Luxury items for the rich will still be around such as oils and liquors.
- The rider on the black horse brings 4 things:
  1. The economic balances greatly altered, re-arranged, mass inflation.
  2. Food prices rise dramatically.
  3. Quality of food is reduced; barley is food for animals and is what they'll turn to.
  4. Luxury items, liquor will not be affected, much like western culture today.
- There will also be a spiritual parallel at work. A famine for the Word of God. The church is gone, any new believers are very persecuted, and martyred, Bibles will be tough to find.

**Amos 8:11-12** <sup>11</sup>Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: <sup>12</sup>and they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the North even to the East, they shall run to and fro to seek the Word of the Lord, and shall not find it."

- The Holy Spirit will be present, and no doubt busy during this time. He just won't be restraining evil the way He has in the past.

**V: 7** *"And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth creature say, come!"*

- Jesus opens the fourth seal.
- The fourth living creature commands, come!
- The pale horse and rider respond.

**V: 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."*

- The fourth - pale horse whose rider is identified as "Death", followed closely by "Hell".
- The fourth horse is green. The Greek work "chloros" is also used to describe the color of grass. (**Mark 6:39, Rev. 8:7, and 9:4**)
- They are given power to kill by the sword, in violence; by famine; with death which is to say pestilence and disease; and with the beasts of the Earth.
- There will be no stopping this pouring out of God's wrath!

**Jeremiah 4:28** "For this shall the Earth mourn, and the heavens above be black: because I have spoken it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it."

- We haven't even gotten to the judgment yet!
- Death and Hell are tied together, associated.
  - Death takes the body.
  - Hell takes the soul.
- There are 3 levels of death:
  1. Physical death: referring to the body, a result of Adam's sin.
  2. Spiritual death: separation from God through sin and rebellion against God. Also inherited from Adam, but reversible if we so choose.
  3. Eternal death: eternal separation from God, the result of our not choosing to obey God. In a sense "spiritual" death confirmed in our hearts.
- During the tribulation death will be completely turned loose to do as it wills upon the Earth. So much so that God must shorten the time, otherwise they'd all be gone.

**Matthew 24:22** "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

- At the great white throne judgment death shall be destroyed (**Rev. 20:14**) but right now it is running rampant.

- Paul makes the same statement.

**1 Corinthians 15:26** "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."

- In the meantime death will have power over 25% of what the previous horsemen leave behind.
- As Matthew 24:22 suggests, there will be a remnant which has all been prophesied.

**Ezekiel 4:21-22** "For thus saith the Lord God; how much more when I send my four sore judgments upon Jerusalem, the sword, and the famine, and the noisome beast, and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast? Yet behold, therein shall be left a remnant that shall be brought forth,..."

- Jesus affirms the same, describing the 4 horsemen of the tribulation in the Olivet discourse.

**Matthew 24:4-8** "... take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. (WHITE HORSE) And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: (RED HORSE) see that ye be not troubled: for all these must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines (BLACK HORSE), and pestilence's, (PALE HORSE) and earthquakes, in diverse places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

- The impact of the pale rider:
  1. 1/4 of the world's population estimated to be 6 billion by the year 2000 means that 1 1/2 billion dead from this one judgment.
  2. The source or method of death: sword, hunger, pestilence, and beasts.

**V: 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:"*

- Jesus opens the 5th. seal.
- John then sees under the altar, the souls of those slain for the word of God.
- Under the altar as in covered by the blood of Jesus. (Heb. 8:5, 9:23, 9:11-14)
- Who are these souls? The tribulation martyrs.

- Not the church - they got raptured.
  - Not the O/T saints - Jesus set the captives free.
  - NT saints prior to the rapture already went to be with the Lord.
  - The only ones left are the tribulation martyrs.
- What about the end times churches?
    1. The "works" based churches (Thyatira) have long since become a snare of spiritual fornication, deceiving billions, leading to their deaths. They are ripe for God's great delusion of **2 Thessalonians 2:10-12**.

**2 Thessalonians 2:10-12**      “<sup>10</sup>And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup>And for this cause God shall send them a strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: <sup>12</sup>That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

2. The dead church of Sardis, left behind and still unbelieving, united in their hatred for Jesus receives the delusion.
3. Lukewarm faith (Laodicea) is not up to the challenge either of society gone mad, truly revealing men's hearts absent of any restraint.

**2 Thessalonians 2:7**      "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only He who now letteth will let, until He be taken out of the way."

**V: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?"*

- The tribulation martyrs cry out. How long until you avenge us?
- The tribulation martyrs refuse the mark of the beast, and refused to worship the antichrist.
- Looking ahead to **Rev. 14:9-11** an angel warns all the earth not to take this mark or worship the beast.
- Some people may think of the tribulation saints as an escape hatch, or back up plan. If you can't live for Christ now with the help of the Holy Spirit, it's not going to get any easier without the Holy Spirit after the rapture."
- Their cry is "how long", as opposed to "will you?" Their appeal is based on God's righteous character they know that the evil deeds will be re-paid, they are just asking how much longer?

**V: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."*

- White robes are given to the martyrs, the reward of the over comers.

**Isaiah 61:10** "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness."

**Revelation 3:4** "... They shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy."

- The tribulation martyrs are then told to wait a little while longer until their number is complete. This means there is a set, pre-determined number, and God is keeping track.

**Psalms 27:14** "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

**1 Corinthians 9:13** "Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? And they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?"

- 4 points from verse 11
  1. The "dead" are conscious and aware of the promises of God.
  2. These believers are "resting" for now, meaning their lives will be characterized by relative activity afterwards.
  3. God's plan is right on schedule, He's paying attention. His timetable is in operation.
  4. Many believers will be killed during the tribulation period; the number is not yet full.

**V: 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;"*

- Jesus opens the 6<sup>th</sup> seal.
- This marks the halfway point in the tribulation period, and begins with upheavals.

**Joel 2:30-31** "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord to come."

**Acts 2:20** "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord to come."

**Isaiah 13:6-16** All the above plus the making men more precious than gold.

- Earthquakes or quake or epic proportions!

**Haggai 2:6-7** "6For thus saith the Lord of Hosts; yet once, it is a little while; 7and I will shake the heavens, and the Earth, and the sea, and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of Hosts."

**V: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."*

- The stars of Heaven fall to the Earth, like ripened fruit in a strong wind.
- But not all of them.

**Psalms 148:3-6** "Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created. He hath also stablished them forever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass."

**V: 14** *"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places."*

- The heaven, sky? - is rolled up like a scroll.
- There is total upheaval.

**Isaiah 34:4** "And all the host of Heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree."

**V: 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;"*

**V: 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:"*

- Everyone, everyone that is left will try to hide from the Lamb.

**Isaiah 2:19**                *"And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the Earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of His majesty, when He ariseth to shake terribly the Earth."*

- At that point, all the men that are left suddenly find themselves equals, all subject to the Lamb.

**Genesis 6:3**                *"My Spirit shall not always strive with man."*

**Psalms 2:1-12**                *"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?..."*

- They still look to earthly coverings, rejecting the blood of the Lamb.

**V: 17**                *"For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"*

- The great and terrible day of God's wrath has arrived.
- No man can stand against it.

**Psalms 76:7**                *"Thou, even thou, art to be feared: and who may stand in thy sight when once thou art angry?"*

- "Wrath" would seem to be a contradictory term when used in connection with the living God who is love.
- God's anger or "wrath" is righteous and true, not like our own which is prideful, vindictive, or malicious.
- Jesus demonstrated this when he drove the money changers and merchantmen from the temple in Matthew 21:12, Mark 11:15, Luke 19:45, & John 2:15-16.

**Romans 1:18** "For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness;"

- Although, it's not like we haven't been warned.

**Psalm 2:10-12** <sup>10</sup>Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the Earth. <sup>11</sup>Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him."

- Good new bad news:
- Good news - God is not mad at us!

**1 Thessalonians 5:9** "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."

- Bad news – He is just getting started!