rev15 - Wrath Vs. Wrath - Rev 6:9-17

There's a time coming - when every person still on earth will be forced to choose - between ONE of TWO Wraths

After the Rapture - Every person on Earth will have to Choose Either - the Wrath of the Anti Christ - or the Wrath of God

At that time - on Earth It WILL be - Wrath Vs Wrath - One or the Other - There will be NO OTHER Choices

As I was studying these Warnings of the Wrath of God that is coming upon this earth

I <u>came across</u> a <u>story</u> of the <u>days</u> when the <u>True Danger</u> of <u>Smoking Cigarettes</u> was first <u>Discovered</u>

& there were so many Warnings In the NEWSPAPERS about the Danger of smoking

that <u>smokers</u> everywhere were <u>CANCELLING</u> their <u>Newspaper subscriptions</u> . . .

In Revelation - we have begun Studying the WARNINGS of the Judgment of God upon the Sin of this World

& there will be some - who CANCEL their SUBSCRIPTION to this information - so they don't have to hear it - or deal with it

But <u>I pray</u> - if you are <u>listening</u> today You would <u>NOT CANCEL LISTENING</u> But <u>instead</u> you would <u>HEAR</u> the <u>Warning</u> from <u>God's Word</u> & <u>HEED IT</u> - & <u>BE SAVED</u>

Remember - the Good News is only Good - to the extent that you understand - what it saves you FROM

Let's Pray

The <u>1st 4 seals</u> have been <u>opened</u> & the <u>4 horsemen</u> have <u>descended</u> on the earth

& those <u>1st FOUR Judgments</u> came <u>basically</u> from the Actions of <u>MANKIND</u> - with <u>some help</u> from the <u>Anti-Christ</u>

But **today** - **God** takes **things** to the **Next Level**

God becomes directly involved in Judgment upon earth
& His Judgment gets exponentially Worse - from this point on

But before it does - we're going to first see - in heaven

the souls of those who have been MARTYRED During the Tribulation - for their Faith in Christ

& there's one other thing we really need to start hearing

From a <u>Salvation standpoint</u> - <u>God</u> is Primarily <u>DEALING</u> with <u>ISRAEL</u> during <u>The Tribulation</u> - (we'll <u>see more</u> as we go)

Rom Ch 11 speaks of a Partial Hardening of Israel UNTIL the "Times of the Gentiles" is completed

The <u>Times of the Gentiles</u> - is the <u>Church Age</u> & the <u>Church Age ENDS</u> at the <u>Rapture</u>

& <u>During the Tribulation</u> - God is <u>turning again</u> to the <u>Salvation of Israel</u>

That doesn't mean Gentiles **CAN'T** be **SAVED** in the **Tribulation**

But <u>Much</u> of what we'll <u>begin seeing</u> in Rev - <u>has to do</u> with God's <u>Unconditional Covenant</u> with <u>Israel</u>

READ Rom Ch 11

& we begin to see some of that beginning to unfold today

Alright - let's jump into the Tribulation - at the 5th Seal

& the <u>5th seal</u> - is <u>NOT an Action</u> - Or <u>Judgment</u> - <u>Instead</u> it's looking at <u>ONE RESULT</u> - of the <u>things occurring</u> on Earth

Jesus is cont'g to open the seals - Revelation 6:9 (esv) 9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw <u>under the altar</u> the souls of those who had been <u>slain</u> for <u>the word of God</u> and for <u>the witness</u> they had borne.

This is the <u>first group</u> of <u>those</u> who've been <u>Martyred</u> for their <u>Faith</u> - & we'll <u>see MORE</u> of <u>these Martyrs</u> as we <u>continue</u>

& **because** all **true believers** have been **taken** in the **Rapture**

We know these are <u>NEW Believers</u>
Who've <u>been SLAUGHTERED</u> for their <u>Faith</u> in <u>Jesus Christ</u>

- "SLAIN" May be more accurately translated SLAUGHTERED
- STRONG'S LEXICON Defines the word "Slain" as to slaughter, to butcher, to put to death by violence.
- It <u>refers</u> to a <u>Hateful Murdering</u> of those who <u>choose</u> to <u>stand</u> for <u>Jesus Christ</u> in the <u>Tribulation</u>
- & as **we continue** in **Rev** it seems **MANY** of **these Martyrs** will be **JEWS** who **turn** to the **Messiah** during the **Tribulation**
- & the <u>Anti-Christ</u> will <u>SLAUGHTER them</u> in <u>great numbers</u> <u>along</u> with <u>anyone else</u> who <u>takes a stand</u> for <u>Jesus</u>
- & V.9 says they are "Under the Altar"
- It's a **Ref** to the **OT Sacrifice** Where **the Blood** of the **Sacrifice** was **POURED out UNDER the Altar**
- But John might also be using the Word as a "Covering"
 Like we say we are "UNDER the Blood of Christ"
- He sees these Martyrs Under the "Covering" of the Altar Arriving in Heaven as a Sacrifice to the Lord
- & notice WHY these martyrs are SLAIN in the Tribulation
- THE END OF V. 9 says they had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne.
- Rev 1:9 says these are the <u>same Two Reasons</u> The <u>Apostle John</u> was <u>Banished</u> to <u>the Isle of Patmos</u> "for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus"

& it's interesting that these are the same two things are Suddenly "Politically Incorrect" in our Nation that was originally - One Nation Under God

Speaking the Word of God - & Bearing Witness to Jesus Christ

Gets you Ridiculed & Mocked
by the Godless Powers in this country TODAY

But In the Tribulation it will get you SLAUGHTERED

David Jeremiah makes it very **simple** . . .

He says <u>during the Tribulation</u> - People will <u>EITHER</u>

<u>Suffer the Wrath of God</u> - Or <u>Suffer the Wrath of the Anti Christ</u>

If you <u>SIDE with *The World*</u> - you will <u>suffer *God's Wrath*</u> - & be <u>SEPARATED</u> from <u>Him</u> for <u>Eternity</u>

If you <u>SIDE with Jesus</u> - You will suffer <u>the Wrath of the Anti-Christ</u> <u>but</u> you will <u>gain Eternal Life</u> with <u>the Lord</u>

But <u>don't fool yourself</u> into <u>thinking</u> you can <u>party it up</u>

<u>UNTIL</u> the Rapture - & <u>then</u> take a <u>Stand</u> for <u>Jesus Christ</u>

If you **Can't Live** for **Christ** - in the **GRACE of God today** . . .

What makes you think you'll be able to stand for Him in the Wrath of the Tribulation?

Some WILL - But MOST will NOT be able to

- & HOW is it that these Martyrs Will be SAVED in The Tribulation?
- At **the beginning** of the **Next Ch** we'll meet **144,000 Jews** who are **SEALED by God** To **be** His **Witnesses**
- & their **primary purpose** is to **turn the hearts** of **Israel** to the **Messiah**
- & <u>Later</u> we'll <u>meet two more</u> very <u>powerful witnesses</u> who will <u>ALSO</u> turn <u>MANY Jews</u> to the <u>Messiah</u>

But **Here** - in **the beginning** of the **Tribulation** . . .

There's another <u>HUGE WITNESS</u> - to <u>BOTH Jews</u> & <u>Gentiles</u> - <u>often called</u> the <u>SILENT Witness</u> . . .

The Fact that Millions of Christians have Suddenly Disappeared

- <u>AND</u> they've <u>left behind MILLIONS of BIBLES</u> <u>Bibles</u> that the <u>Jews</u> already <u>embrace ONE HALF of</u>
- & the Rapture is going to be a pretty powerful ENCOURAGEMENT for them to strongly consider EMBRACING the 2ND HALF
- & <u>AS</u> they do with <u>the PROOF</u> of the Rap<u>t</u>ure in front of them they're <u>going</u> to <u>turn to Jesus</u> the <u>Messiah</u> in <u>huge numbers</u>
- & many will be SLAUGHTERED for their Faith
- & <u>not only</u> the <u>Jews</u> But <u>multitudes of people</u> who <u>think</u> their <u>"OK with God"</u> today
- Will <u>feel very Different</u> when they <u>get LEFT BEHIND</u> in <u>the Rapture</u> & <u>they'll</u> suddenly <u>be very motivated</u> to <u>Find a Bible</u>

- & They'll REALLY Read it & they will finally understand their need for a Real Personal Faith in Christ alone
- & many will get Saved & they'll be Murdered for their faith & Praise God if they are

Because although it will be a horrible END to their Earthly Life it will usher them into Eternal Life with Christ

As I thought about this - I thought <u>putting together</u>

"Rapture Packages" - to be Easily Found After the Rapture

We could **<u>put Bibles</u>** - with a **<u>Cover Letter</u>** explaining **<u>where to read</u>** about **<u>WHAT Has</u>** happened - & **<u>WHAT</u>** is **<u>Going</u>** to happen

Along with clear instructions on how to be saved & how to prepare to be martyred

& then we could seal it up & write on the outside "In case of Mass Un-Explained Disappearance - OPEN IMMEDIATELY"

<u>Can you</u> imagine <u>leaving</u> that in <u>your home</u> - where <u>Unfortunately</u> - <u>someone</u> in your <u>own family</u> might <u>find it</u> <u>after</u> the <u>Rapture</u>

That SHOULD have some Extra IMPACT after Millions of Christians Disappear instantly

& that is a wonderful HOPE
BUT - why WAIT until the Wrath of the Tribulation . . .

When you can Receive Christ TODAY
& come with us Before it gets ugly down here

I PROMISE - Going in the Rapture - is a MUCH BETTER PLAN

Cont'g in Revelation 6:10 (esv)

10 They (the martyrs) cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

Notice - these Martyrs address the Lord - "O Sovereign Lord" - In the GREEK it's one word - DES-POT-ACE

It's **the word** for a **Supreme Ruler Who** holds **complete Power** & **Authority** . . .

Who is in TOTAL Control & CAN Do - & WILL Do - Whatever He Desires

- & These Martyrs **KNOW** the **LORD** is the **Supreme DESPOT** The **Supreme Ruler**
- & **He** absolutely **WILL** Bring His **Plan** & **Purpose** to **Pass**
- & so <u>their prayer</u> is simple <u>WHEN</u> O Sovereign Lord WHEN will you **JUDGE** & **AVENGE** our Blood
- & <u>if</u> that <u>doesn't sound</u> like a very "<u>Christian</u>" Prayer to you We've got to <u>understand</u> the <u>Age of GRACE</u> is <u>OVER</u>

The <u>1st Martyr</u> of the "<u>Age of Grace</u>" was <u>Steven</u> - Who <u>Prayed</u> as he was <u>martyred</u> - <u>Lord do not hold this sin against them</u>

But at the Rapture - That "Age of Grace" is over

In the Tribulation period - this WILL BE a correct prayer
AND it will be a prayer that God WILL answer

Revelation 6:11 (esv)

11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

The Lord lets them know - their number is not complete

- & His <u>final Judgment</u> <u>CANNOT FALL</u> until **ALL** who *WILL BE* Saved - *ARE* Saved . . . & so
- 1ST these Martyrs are SAFE & SECURE COVERED by the Altar in Heaven
- 2ND they are each given a White Robe which symbolizes the Perfect Righteousness of Jesus Christ
- 3RD they are told to REST a little longer until the full number of those who will be martyred with them is complete

There are **MORE** who will be **SAVED**Who must also **FOLLOW** in their Footsteps

& so God gives them

His **COVERING**

& His **RIGHTEOUSNESS**

& His **REST**

& He **ASSURES** them He is in **TOTAL CONTROL** of the situation

One of the greatest things we see here - is that God STILL has a Plan for Salvation - Even AFTER the Rapture

In <u>Every Season</u> of God's <u>dealing with mankind</u> <u>He has a plan</u> that includes <u>Salvation</u>

The Tribulation will be a terrible & difficult time to get Saved

But what a Testimony to God's Love
That He STILL makes a Way for people to be Saved

In Luke 19:10 - Jesus said (esv)

10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

& <u>THAT PURPOSE</u> for <u>Jesus</u> coming <u>the FIRST TIME</u> <u>extends even</u> into the <u>terrible days</u> of the <u>tribulation</u>

Now - If you choose to be here during the Tribulation & you choose to Align yourself with the New World Order

You are **going** to **find yourself** in the **middle** of the **EARTH SHAKING** - **WRATH of God**

You Will Either - put your Faith in Jesus & experience the Wrath of the New World Order

Or you put your faith in that New World Order & experience the Wrath of God

& Here's what that Wrath Begins to LOOK LIKE

Revelation 6:12 (esv)

12 When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood,

OK - Here it comes - THIS is Wrath - DIRECT from the Hand of God

A <u>Great Earthquake</u> - <u>Like nothing</u> we've ever <u>experienced</u> - <u>because</u> this <u>earthquake</u> effects the <u>entire earth</u>

& probably **BECAUSE** of this World-Wide **Earthquake**

<u>Volcanoes</u> around the world <u>open up - & SPEW ash</u> into <u>the sky</u> <u>turning</u> the sun <u>BLACK</u> - & the Moon <u>RED</u> <u>Like Blood</u>

& the world WILL KNOW this is Trouble on a DIFFERENT SCALE

& then - in Revelation 6:13 (esv)

13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale.

Most <u>probably</u> a reference to a <u>Meteor Shower</u> - coming on <u>the heels</u> of a <u>Great Earthquake</u> & Massive <u>Volcano Eruptions</u>

& then - in Revelation 6:14 (esv)

14 The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

Most <u>probably</u> <u>Additional Descriptions</u> of the <u>Previous Judgments</u>

The Sky VANISHES like a Scroll being Rolled up

<u>Because</u> of the <u>Massive Volcano</u> Eruptions <u>AND</u> a <u>Meteor Shower</u> - <u>Pummeling</u> the Earth

<u>AND Because</u> of the <u>Earthquake</u> & <u>Volcanoes</u> & <u>Meteor Shower</u> <u>Every Mountain</u> & <u>Island</u> is <u>MOVED</u> from <u>its place</u>

NOT <u>REMOVED</u> as in "<u>Gone Forever</u>" but <u>MOVED</u>
Shaken Loose From its <u>Place</u>

<u>This</u> is the <u>1st time</u> in the <u>Tribulation</u> that <u>God</u> has <u>Directly</u> brought <u>His Judgment</u> upon <u>the Earth</u>

& **EVERY PERSON** on Earth **KNOWS** - This is **Different** - **THIS** is From **GOD**

& ALL LEVELS of people on Earth - Respond in the Same way

Revelation 6:15 (esv)

15 Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,

They all try to HIDE themselves
In Caves - & Among the Rocks of the Mountains

But the Question is - WHY are they NOT Calling Out to God?

<u>Certainly</u> they <u>KNOW</u> <u>Judgment</u> at <u>THIS Level</u> - is Coming <u>FROM GOD</u> & <u>if</u> they're <u>NOT Calling out</u> to <u>God</u> <u>WHO</u> (or What) <u>ARE</u> they <u>Calling out</u> to ??

Revelation 6:16 (esv)

16 (they are) calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,

Instead of Crying out to God in Repentance

The people <u>Cry Out to</u> the <u>Mountains</u> & <u>Rocks</u> to <u>FALL on THEM</u> . . .

to <u>HIDE THEM</u> from the <u>Face of God</u> & <u>From</u> the <u>Wrath of the Lamb</u>

WHY DON'T THEY Cry Out to God??
Why WON'T THEY Cry Out for God to SAVE them??

Because - What we see in Revelation is this . . .

As the Judgment of God continues to Increase The people on earth get Harder & Harder toward Him

Until Finally - They JOIN the Beast - in WAR Against God (ch19)

We <u>would think</u> - as <u>Judgment</u> begins to <u>Fall</u> <u>people</u> would <u>Recognize</u> their <u>sin</u> - & <u>turn</u> to <u>God</u> for <u>Salvation</u>

But **Just the Opposite** is true

As Mankind begins to experience God's Judgment
Their hearts become harder & harder toward Him

Until ALL who are WILLING to be saved - WILL be saved

& <u>ALL</u> who have <u>Hardened their Hearts</u> toward God - will <u>choose instead</u> - to <u>subject themselves</u> to His <u>Wrath</u>

We've GOT to deal with Our Sin - NOW . . .

We've got to soften our hearts toward God - NOW While we're still able to REPENT & be SAVED

Because - For the majority who MISS the Rapture

The Sin that Keeps them from the Rapture will also Harden their Hearts toward God in the Tribulation

The Answer is - REPENT NOW - Turn TO Jesus Christ NOW

Continued SIN - & Continued REBELLION against God will HARDEN your heart

& at **some point** - you will **become so hardened** - you will **CHOOSE to Experience** The **Wrath of God**

There is a **DAY Coming** - That **ONLY Faith** in **Jesus Christ** will **enable you** to **Escape From** . . .

Speaking of **God the Father** & **Jesus the Lamb** . . .

Revelation 6:17 says (esv)

17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?

Without Salvation in Jesus Christ - NO ONE will be able to Stand under the Wrath of God - Coming upon the Sin of the World

Hebrews 3:15 says (esv)

15 . . . "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

Don't allow your sin - to **Harden your heart** toward God

The ONLY Answer - is to Receive Salvation IN Jesus Christ & Be Saved FROM the Wrath that is to Come

Let's Pray