

Signs Of The Lord's Return

Matthew 24:7-14

The signs of Matthew 24 serve three (3) purposes –

- signs for the church (us) to be looking for the Lord to return in the air at the Rapture;
- God's wrath during the Tribulation on those who have rejected Him over and over during the church age;
- signs for those going through the Tribulation to be looking for Jesus' Second Coming to set up His 1000-year earthly kingdom.

4. The sign of devastation.

Matthew 24:7 - ... *And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.*

Luke adds more of Jesus' words concerning this sign,

Luke 21:11 - ...*and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.*

Putting Matthew and Luke together, we get the birth pains of *famines, earthquakes, pestilences, fearful sights, and great signs from heaven.*

Notice the phrase in Matthew 24:7 - "*in various places.*"

Revelation 6:5 - *And when He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a black horse, and the one sitting on it having a pair of balances (scales) in his hand.*

This is the first time that it is stated that John *looked* and *beheld*. Something about this affects John emotionally, in that he stares at disbelief at what is taking place.

Black is the color worn as a picture for _____ and _____.

What would the word *balances/scales* picture during the judgment?

Revelation 13:16-17 – *And he (Antichrist) causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man*

might buy or sell, except he that had the mark, or the name of the beast (Antichrist), or the number of his name.

Revelation 6:6 - *And I heard a voice from among the four living creatures, saying, 'A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine.'*

Whose voice comes from the middle of the living creatures (cherubim)?

The *denarius* in the first century was a day's wages for a common laborer. What would Revelation 6:6 tell us about the Great Tribulation?

How much more *barley* than *wheat* will the people be able to purchase? Why the difference?

Not touching the "*oil and the wine*" is one of those "secret things" of Deuteronomy 29:29 that belongs to the Lord.

Revelation 6:7-8 - *And when He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a pale horse, and the one sitting on it, the name of him was Death, and Hell was following with him; and authority was given to them over one fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, and with famine, and with plague, and by the beasts of the earth.*

The Greek word for "*pale*" is where we get our word "*chlorine*" or "*chlorophyll*" from.

Ezekiel 14:21 - *For thus says the Lord GOD, 'How much more it shall be when I send My four severe judgments on Jerusalem—the sword and famine and wild beasts and pestilence—to cut off man and beast from it.'*

As, the rider called Death (using the four instruments) kills the physical body, Hell consumes the soul. Therefore, the entire ¼ of mankind killed by Death will enter into the eternal torment of Hell.

5. The sign of _____.

Matthew 24:9 - *Then they shall deliver you up to be afflicted and shall kill you and you shall be*

hated of all nations for My name's sake.

Revelation 6:9 - *When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.*

Revelation 6:10 - *And they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?'*

Revelation 20:4 - *... Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

Revelation 17:6 - *I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.*

6. The sign of _____.

Matthew 24:14 - *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached (declared) in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come (the Millennial kingdom and then eternity with the New Heaven and New Earth).*

Have you ever heard Matthew 24:14 misquoted?

Revelation 11:7, 11-12 - *When the two witnesses have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the abyss will wage war with them, and will overpower and kill them...But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered the two witnesses, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell upon those who saw them. And the witnesses heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud as their enemies watched them.*

Revelation 7:9, 14 - *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands... And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

The book of Revelation is a book that is filled with the mercy of God, amidst the wrath of God.

When the Lord returns and sets up His kingdom, the calling of anyone to salvation is over. In fact, with the beginning of the bowl judgments, there is indication that at that point anyone having an opportunity for salvation is over.