

December 11–17. Revelation 6–14: “They Overcame ... by the Blood of the Lamb”

The War In Heaven

John gives us an account to the war in heaven where Satan and his followers were cast out

Rev 12:7-9

[7] And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

[8] And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

[9] And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

JST gives us an understand of what is represented by some of the symbolism

JST Rev 12

[6] And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon *and his angels* fought against Michael,

[7] And *the dragon* prevailed not *against Michael; neither the child, nor the woman, which was the church of God, who had been delivered of her pains and brought forth the kingdom of our God and his Christ.*

[8] Neither was there place found in heaven for the great dragon, who was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and also called Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

From modern revelation, what else do we know about Michael?

He would come to earth as Adam (D&C 107:54)

What/who is symbolized by the dragon, the woman, and the child?

The dragon: The devil, and also called Satan

The woman: The church of God

The child: The kingdom of God

John tells us that a third part of the spirit children were cast out of heaven and came to earth without bodies. He describes how they are fighting against the church and kingdom of God

Rev 12:1-6

[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.

[6] And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

What do we learn about those who followed Satan in the preexistence?

(the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth)

J. Reuben Clark, Jr.

“Satan was ‘cast down’ and with him went one-third of the hosts of heaven. He declared by his rebellion eternal enmity toward the plan that was adopted, and from that time until now, constantly sought to build the empire, the kingdom for which he planned, by leading us astray. He has never relented for a moment. Having our agency, he was to lead us to do evil.” (CR, Oct. 1953)

What do we learn about the apostasy that followed the death of the apostles?

(the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God)

Angus M. Cannon

“When John the Revelator was on the Isle of Patmos, he beheld the darkness that the churches indulged in, and realized that they would drive the Priesthood from the earth because of the errors that had crept in amongst them, which were being tolerated, and which were antagonistic to the truth.” (JD, 20:49)

The First Five Millennia

Recall from last week’s lesson that John was shown a book with 7 seals and that we know from modern revelation that each seal represents 1,000 years of earth’s history

D&C 77:6-7

Q. What are we to understand by the book which John saw, which was sealed on the back with seven seals?

A. We are to understand that it contains the revealed will, mysteries, and the works of God; the hidden things of his economy concerning this earth during the seven thousand years of its continuance, or its temporal existence.

Q. What are we to understand by the seven seals with which it was sealed?

A. We are to understand that the first seal contains the things of the first

thousand years, and the second also of the second thousand years, and so on until the seventh.

The 1st seal is from 4000 to 3000 BC. From the fall of Adam to Enoch and the translation of the city of Zion. (white horse)

Rev 6:1-2

[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 saying, Come and see.

[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.

What do you think is the meaning of these verses?

Bruce R. McConkie

"It is clear that the most transcendent happenings involved Enoch and his ministry. And it is interesting to note that what John saw was not the establishment of Zion and its removal to heavenly spheres, but the unparalleled wars in which Enoch, as a general over the armies of the saints, 'went forth conquering and to conquer.'" (DNTC 3:478)

From Moses 7 we know that the world fought against Enoch and Zion but Enoch and his people easily prevailed

The 2nd seal is from 3000 to 2000 BC. Specifically, Noah and the flood (red horse)

Rev 6:3-4

[3] And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

[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.

What do you think is the meaning of these verses?

Bruce R. McConkie

"Who rode the red horse, the red horse of war and bloodshed and sword, during the second seal? Perhaps it was the devil himself, for surely that was the great day of his power, a day of such gross wickedness that every living soul (save eight only) was found worthy of death by drowning, which wickedness caused the Lord God of Heaven to bring in the floods upon them." (DNTC 3:479)

The 3rd seal is from 2000 to 1000 BC. It includes Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. The bondage in Egypt and Moses, thru the reign of the Judges. (black horse)

Rev 6:5-6

[5] 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.

[6] 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.

What do you think is the meaning of these verses?

Bruce R. McConkie

"From 2000 B.C. to 1000 B.C., as never in any other age of the earth's history, the black horse of hunger influenced the whole history of God's dealings with his people. In the beginning years of this seal, the famine in Ur of the Chaldees was so severe that Abraham's brother, Haran, starved to death, while the father of the faithful was commanded by God to take his family to Canaan.... This search for sustenance was yet burdening the Lord's people in the days of Jacob, who sent his sons to Egypt to buy corn from the granaries of Joseph his son." (DNTC 3:479)

The 4th seal is from 1000 BC to 1 AD. From King David thru Christ.

Rev 6:7-8

[7] And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast 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.

What do you think is the meaning of these verses?

Bruce R. McConkie

"During the fourth seal... death rode roughshod through the nations of men, and hell was at his heels.... This is the millennium of those great kingdoms and nations whose wars and treacheries tormented and overran, again and again, the people whom Jehovah had chosen to bear his name. This is also the general era in which the Lord's own people warred among themselves and sent countless numbers of their own brethren to untimely graves." (DNTC 3:482)

The division of Israel and their being conquered by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, and the Romans.

The 5th seal is from 1 AD to 1000 AD, the time when John was living. The mission of Jesus Christ. The establishment of the Lord's church and ministry of the Apostles. The apostasy.

Rev 6:9-11

[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:

[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?

[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 fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

Who do you think is represented by, “the souls of them that were slain for the word of God”?

Bruce R. McConkie

"Among the ancient saints martyrdom was an ever present possibility, one which completely occupied their thoughts and feelings. They knew that by forsaking all to follow Christ, they might, if fate so decreed, be called to lay down their lives for Him who had laid down his life for them. In an almost death- inviting sense, the meridian of time was the dispensation of martyrdom." (DNTC 3:484)

The Sixth Millennium

We are living during the time of the sixth seal.

There's an event that takes during the 6th millennium that John discusses in a later chapter

Rev 14:6-7

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Who is the angel that is testified of in these verses?

Gordon B. Hinckley

“That angel has come. His name is Moroni. His is a voice speaking from the dust, bringing another witness of the living reality of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“We have not as yet carried the gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. But we have made great strides. We have gone wherever we are permitted to go. God is at the helm and doors will be opened by His power according to His divine will. Of that I am confident. Of that I am certain.

“I cannot understand those of small vision, who regard this work as limited and provincial. They have no expanding view of it. As certainly as there is

an Almighty Father in Heaven, as surely as there is His Son, our Divine Redeemer, so certainly is this work destined to reach out to people everywhere.” (CR, Oct. 1995)

Lets read what John focused on with the opening of the 6th seal

Rev 6:12-17

[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;

[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.

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

[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:

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

Does it seem like these events (or some of them) have transpired or do they think they are yet to happen?

D&C 88:87

[87] For not many days hence and the earth shall tremble and reel to and fro as a drunken man; and the sun shall hide his face, and shall refuse to give light; and the moon shall be bathed in blood; and the stars shall become exceedingly angry, and shall cast themselves down as a fig that falleth from off a fig-tree.

[88] And after your testimony cometh wrath and indignation upon the people.

Note the time-frame for some of these destructive events - “And after your testimony cometh...”

And it seems that this great destruction will be delayed until other important events take place in this, the 6th millennium

Rev 7:1-3

[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.

What are we to understand by the four angels?

D&C 77:8-10

[8] Q. What are we to understand by the four angels, spoken of in the 7th chapter and 1st verse of Revelation?

A. We are to understand that they are four angels sent forth from God, to whom is given power over the four parts of the earth, to save life and to destroy; these are they who have the everlasting gospel to commit to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people; having power to shut up the heavens, to seal up unto life, or to cast down to the regions of darkness.

[9] Q. What are we to understand by the angel ascending from the east, Revelation 7th chapter and 2nd verse?

A. We are to understand that the angel ascending from the east is he to whom is given the seal of the living God over the twelve tribes of Israel; wherefore, he crieth unto the four angels having the everlasting gospel, saying: Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And, if you will receive it, this is Elias which was to come to gather together the tribes of Israel and restore all things.

[10] Q. What time are the things spoken of in this chapter to be accomplished?

A. They are to be accomplished in the sixth thousand years, or the opening of the sixth seal.

What power and authority do the four angels possess?

(to save life and to destroy
to seal up unto life, or to cast down to the regions of darkness)

Why are the four angels asked to wait before they execute judgment on the earth?

(till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads)

Joseph Smith

“The world is reserved unto burning in the last days. He shall send Elijah the prophet, and he shall reveal the covenants of the fathers in relation to the children, and the covenants of the children in relation to the fathers.

“Four destroying angels holding power over the four quarters of the earth until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads, which signifies sealing the blessing upon their heads.” (TPJS, pg. 321)

This seems to correspond to what we read in Section 88, “And after your testimony cometh wrath and indignation upon the people.”

Rev 7:4-8

[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.

[5] Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.

[6] Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephtalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.

[7] Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.

[8] Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

What are we to understand by sealing the 144,000 out of all the tribes of Israel?

D&C 77:11

11. Q. What are we to understand by sealing the one hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel--twelve thousand out of every tribe?

A. We are to understand that those who are sealed are high priests, ordained unto the holy order of God, to administer the everlasting gospel; for they are they who are ordained out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, by the angels to whom is given power over the nations of the earth, to bring as many as will come to the church of the Firstborn.

What is the mission of the 144,000?

(bring as many as will come to the church of the Firstborn)

Joseph Smith

“It is not only necessary that you should be baptized for your dead, but you will have to go through all the ordinances for them, the same as you have gone through to save yourselves. There will be 144,000 saviors on Mount Zion, and with them an innumerable host that no man can number.” (TPJS, pg. 366)

Do you think that this event has already taken place?

The keys of the gathering have been restored but the gathering is ongoing

Russell M. Nelson

“The Lord is hastening His work to gather Israel. That gathering is the most important thing taking place on earth today. Nothing else compares in magnitude, nothing else compares in importance, nothing else compares in majesty” (“Hope of Israel”, Worldwide Youth Devotional, June 3 2018)

What are some events that still need to take place before the opening of the 7th seal (Millennium)?

(the earth shall tremble and reel to and fro as a drunken man; and the sun shall hide his face, and shall refuse to give light; and the moon shall be bathed in blood; and the stars... shall cast themselves down

everlasting gospel to commit to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people

gather together the tribes of Israel and restore all things)

The Beginning of the Seventh Millennium

The opening of the 7th seal is the beginning of the preparation of Christ's second coming

Rev 8:1-2

[1] And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

[2] And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

From modern revelation we learn that happens immediately after the “silence in heaven about the space of half an hour”?

D&C 88:95-96

[95] And there shall be silence in heaven for the space of half an hour; and immediately after shall the curtain of heaven be unfolded, as a scroll is unfolded after it is rolled up, and the face of the Lord shall be unveiled;

[96] And the saints that are upon the earth, who are alive, shall be quickened and be caught up to meet him.

[97] And they who have slept in their graves shall come forth, for their graves shall be opened; and they also shall be caught up to meet him in the midst of the pillar of heaven—

What will happen even before the sounding of the 7 trumpets?

(the curtain of heaven be unfolded_
the face of the Lord shall be unveiled
And the saints [shall] be caught up to meet him)

Orson Pratt

“Immediately after this great silence the curtain of heaven shall be unfolded.... The face of the Lord will be unveiled, and those who are alive will be quickened, and they will be caught up; and the Saints who are in their graves, will come forth and be caught up, together with those who are quickened, and they will be taken into the heavens into the midst of those

celestial beings who will make their appearance at that time. These are the ones who are the first fruits, that is, the first fruits at the time of his coming.” (JD 16:328)

Matt 24:40-41

[40] Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

[41] Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

What are we to understand by the sounding of the trumpets?

D&C 77:12-13

Q. What are we to understand by the sounding of the trumpets, mentioned in the 8th chapter of Revelation?

A... the sounding of the trumpets of the seven angels, are the preparing and finishing of his work, in the beginning of the seventh thousand years—the preparing of the way before the time of his coming.

Q. When are the things to be accomplished, which are written in the 9th chapter of Revelation?

A. They are to be accomplished after the opening of the seventh seal, before the coming of Christ.

It seems that “the face of the Lord [being] unveiled” isn’t the same as, and is preparatory to, “the coming of Christ”

Except for what we just read from Section 77 we know little about the interpretation of the first 5 events. Even in Elder McConkie’s commentary he makes it clear that his interpretations are speculative.

Does anyone have any thoughts that they would like to share about the first 5 angels and the events that they will usher in?

Gordon B. Hinckley

"I would venture a personal opinion that no event has occurred in all the history of the earth as dreadful as will be the day of the Second Coming—no event as fraught with the destructive forces of nature, as consequential for the nations of the earth, as terrible for the wicked, or as wonderful for the righteous." ("We Need Not Fear His Coming", BYU Fireside, March 25 1979)

Let’s jump to the 6th angel sounding 6th trumpet

Rev 9:13-15

[13] And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

[14] Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which

are bound in the great river Euphrates.

[15] And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

From Revelation 7:1-3, what power and authority do the four angels possess?

D&C 77:8

Q. What are we to understand by the four angels, spoken of in the 7th chapter and 1st verse of Revelation?

A. We are to understand that they are four angels sent forth from God, to whom is given power over the four parts of the earth, to save life and to destroy; these are they who have the everlasting gospel to commit to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people; having power to shut up the heavens, to seal up unto life, or to cast down to the regions of darkness.

Also during this period two prophets testify with great power and authority in Jerusalem for about 3 1/2 years before they are killed and resurrected

Rev 11:3, 6-8, 11

[3] And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days

[6] These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

[7] And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

[8] And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

[11] And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

D&C 77:15

Q. What is to be understood by the two witnesses, in the eleventh chapter of Revelation?

A. They are two prophets that are to be raised up to the Jewish nation in the last days, at the time of the restoration, and to prophesy to the Jews after they are gathered and have built the city of Jerusalem in the land of their fathers.

The 7th trumpet seems to be the destruction of worldly governments which will prepare the way for Christ to rule and reign

Rev 11:15,18

[15] And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying,

The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

[18] And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.