FF Notes for Episode 14 – The Seven Seals Part 1

For any viewers and readers who are still "pre-trib", what guarantees these seven seals do not start until the 70th Week? The 70th Week begins with antichrist affirming a covenant with Israel. To do that, he must first come to power over some realm that matters to Israel. He comes to power in chaos, deception and flattery. The point is that it is important for the body of Christ to be watching as Jesus commanded. Even if you do not think you will go through "the tribulation", you want to develop radical faith and obedience to live in God's care no matter what is going on in the world.

Revelation 6:1. First, notice who opens the seals—the Lamb. Notice what the 1st living creature says—Come. This is not things spinning out of control. It is under heaven's control and these events must happen to bring the judgement, cleansing and restoring of the earth to be ready for Messiah's reign.

Rev 6:1-2. The first seal is believed by many to be the beginning of the antichrist's conquests. It is connected with false christs in Matt 24:4-5. As a conqueror on a white horse, he looks impressive. Many will welcome and celebrate his conquests. FF agrees with Joel Richardson's book <u>The Mideast Beast</u>, which can be downloaded for free on joelstrumpet.org. Antichrist will be a Mideast leader, not a Roman Empire revival. The writings of Islam predict there will be an end-times heroic leader whom they call "The Mahdi". He will unite Israel's neighbors who hate her. It will likely be a revival of the Islamic Caliphate, which was the largest and longest ruling empire ever. When we look at the world today, the stage is set for that to be possible soon.

Rev 6:3-4. Again, the Lord Jesus opens the seal, the 2nd living creature says, "Come". It speaks for itself. He who sits on the red horse takes peace from the earth, and literally from the Greek, "one another slaughter". Matt 24 parallels this by prophesying wars and rumors of war. With the conqueror comes widespread death by war. This is likely to be mainly concentrate in the Mideast around Israel. It may also foretell civil wars around world. Peace has been taken away, living condition deteriorate. Perhaps the divisions and strife in many nations turns to bloodshed.

Rev 6:5-6. Lord Jesus opens this seal and the 3rd living creature says, "Come". These scales indicate food shortage and the price of food going way up. In the US, a day's wages is about \$80 and you can buy a lot of groceries with that. The denarius was a day's pay in Bible times, and it only buys a quart of wheat here, which would normally cost us ¼ of what someone earns in an hour. With war comes economic disruption, shortages and high prices. To solve Covid 19 problems, our government just gave out about \$4 trillion of borrowed money. The Federal Reserve "created" even more money that isn't really real. What if we come to the day when no one will buy the US bonds or trust the US dollar? How strong and prosperous will we be then? We need to live trusting in God and not the smooth running of the systems of the world. Even if the antichrist is operating in the Mideast, if there is world economic collapse, then chaos is everywhere.

Rev 7:7-8. Lord Jesus opens this seal and the 4th living creature says, "Come". This rider is death. War, people slaughtering one another, economic collapse, hospitals are destroyed or overwhelmed. People will be killed by the sword, by disease, by starvation, and by wild beasts (human or animal?). In the Olivet Discourse, Jesus said wars, earthquakes and famines are coming. This is the beginning of birth pangs. This is not even the fullness of labor pangs spoken by the prophets and by Paul... just the beginning. It says over one-fourth of the earth. The Muslim areas of the Mideast are about ¼ of the earth's land area. This could be a power struggle of the antichrist attempting to unite the Muslim world by conquest. It might also mean that conditions are so bad globally that ¼ of the population dies.

Christians should not fear death. At this time, the Lord's return is very near. If we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, we should remember that this is how that comes. It is not something that should fill Christians with fear. Our testimony will be very important and powerful in these times, if we are mentally and spiritually prepared. That is why it is important to study these things so we can Finish Faithful.

'But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.' 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17