

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 25

THE SECOND TO FOURTH SEAL

(REVELATION 6:3-8)




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Why should we take time to study and go deep in the Book of Revelation?

The reason is not for our self-preservation in the End Times, but it is about **giving us understanding, courage and grace** so that we can **endure, overcome and be faithful until the end**. The **glory of the End-Time Church** is not to be raptured away from the tribulation, but to **remain fearless and faithful in the midst of the greatest tribulation**, and to love Jesus even unto death!

**THAT WILL BE OUR
GREATEST GLORY!**



A recap on the **first seal**. When the first seal is released, it signals three things:

1. The beginning of the Great Tribulation
2. The rise of the Antichrist as a prominent, powerful and influential world leader
3. The shift in a prayer focus for the End-Time Church

What happens at the **second seal**?

When the second seal is being released, a fiery red horse comes forth. The red horse signifies an **outbreak of war and worldwide bloodshed**. The one who sat on the horse is the Antichrist. Three things happen at the release of the second seal:

“It was granted to the one who sat on it (Antichrist) to take peace from the earth”

THERE WILL BE OUTBREAKS OF WARS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

The Antichrist is the man who will sign a peace treaty with Israel and the surrounding nations at the start of the final seven years of human history (Dan. 9:27). In the beginning, he is not that well known. But around the middle of the seven-year period, he will emerge as **the prominent and influential world leader** at the opening of the first seal.

Initially, he will extend his empire by forming alliances through diplomatic and political manoeuvring. But all of a sudden, there will be a turn of events that will shock many (1 Thes. 5:3). **The Antichrist will declare war worldwide, starting a 3 ½-year Armageddon Campaign to conquer nations.**

*“that people should
kill one another”*

**GOD WILL REMOVE ALL RESTRAINT
FROM MEN SO THAT EVIL AND
WICKEDNESS WITHIN MEN WILL
MANIFEST TO THEIR FULLNESS.**

This is a crucial concept and paradigm that is not often talked about. God wants us to know that there is unperceived evil and wickedness in our hearts.

2 Thessalonians 2:7 tells us that there is this **mystery of lawlessness** that is already at work in every human heart. It's just that all along, God has placed some form of divine restraint over our hearts.

But at the End of the Age, **the Lord will remove all restraint and allow lawlessness and wickedness to hit their max**, and to reach a stage called the **fullness of iniquity** (Gen. 15:16; Dan. 8:23).

Wickedness in our hearts will increase if we don't deal with it. There is a **seven-fold progression of offence** against God:

1. PEOPLE ACCUSE GOD

(Rev. 12:10; 2 Cor. 10:5)

2. PEOPLE BECOME ANGRY TOWARDS GOD

(Rev. 11:18; Ps. 2:1; Rom. 1:30)

3. NATIONS BECOME DRUNK IN SPIRITUAL FORNICATION, IMMORALITY AND OCCULT

(Rev. 17:2; 18:3; 19:2; Rom. 1:24-26)

4. STRONG DELUSION – GOD WILL GIVE THEM OVER TO STRONG DELUSION AND A DEBASED MIND

(2 Thes. 2:11; Rev. 13; 14:9-11; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; Rom. 1:28)

5. WORSHIP OF SATAN/ANTICHRIST WORLDWIDE

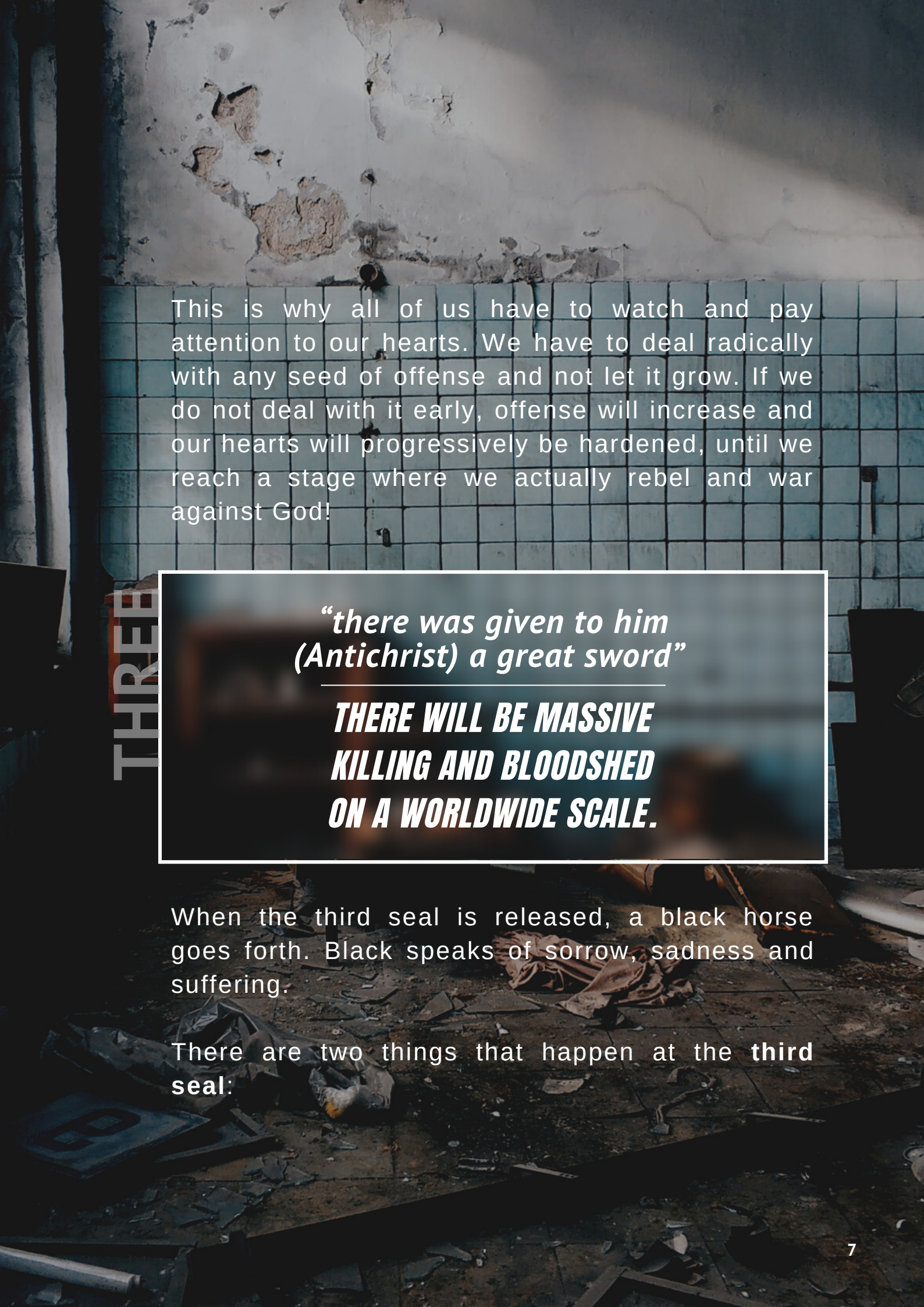
(Rev. 13:4,8,12,15; 14:11)

6. BLASPHEMY AGAINST GOD

(Rev. 16:9,11,21)

7. WAR AGAINST GOD

(Rev. 17:14; 19:19; Ps. 2:1-3)



This is why all of us have to watch and pay attention to our hearts. We have to deal radically with any seed of offense and not let it grow. If we do not deal with it early, offense will increase and our hearts will progressively be hardened, until we reach a stage where we actually rebel and war against God!

*“there was given to him
(Antichrist) a great sword”*

***THERE WILL BE MASSIVE
KILLING AND BLOODSHED
ON A WORLDWIDE SCALE.***

When the third seal is released, a black horse goes forth. Black speaks of sorrow, sadness and suffering.

There are two things that happen at the **third seal**:



*“he who sat on it had
a pair of scales...”*

THE ANTICHRIST WILL TAKE CONTROL OF THE WORLD ECONOMY!

The Antichrist will arise at the first seal. He destroys the Harlot Babylon at the second seal and at the third seal, he takes over the world economy. That is where he introduces the **Mark of the Beast Economic system**.

Revelation 14:9-11 clearly tells us that whoever puts on the Mark of the Beast will go to the lake of fire. **There is no turning back and no redemption because the Mark-of-the-Beast is a mark of allegiance to the Antichrist!**

What are the implications for us?

It is crucial that believers know this and make this known. We need to prepare and strengthen ourselves now so that we will not buckle when the pressures step up. We also need to learn to walk with the Holy Spirit and live by faith! Like the days of Exodus, the Lord will show forth His supernatural protection, provision and guidance for His people during those times!





“A quart of wheat for a denarius...”

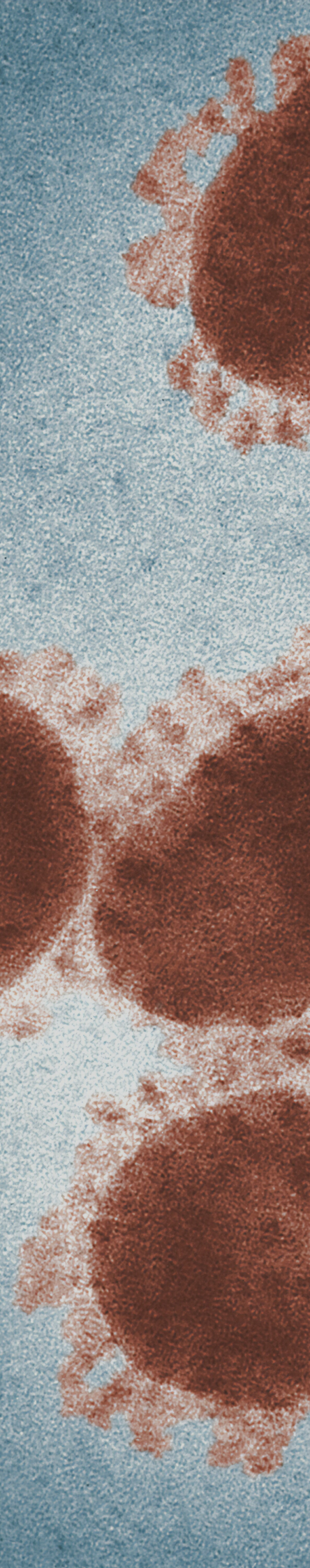
THERE WILL BE WORLDWIDE FAMINE AND ECONOMIC CRISIS

One denarius is the **average daily wage** during John's time. And one quart of wheat is the requirement of food an average person takes a day. Nutrition-wise, three quarts of barley is equivalent to one quart of wheat.

What this means is that the worldwide famine will be so severe and inflation so high that what an average person earns in a day is **only sufficient for his own meals for that day**, not even for the rest of his family!

The phrase “***and do not harm the oil and the wine***” means that the crisis will **not affect the wealthy and the upper class**, especially those who are in the Antichrist’s inner circle, because “*oil and wine*” refer to luxurious items. This should be a word of warning to us that if our goal in life is to acquire great wealth and to live luxuriously, we will bow down to the Antichrist when the time comes.





At the release of the **fourth seal**, there will be **massive death all over the earth**.

The spirit of Death and the spirit of Hades will be released throughout the earth. The phrase *“to kill with sword, with hunger, with death and by the beasts of the earth”* tells us that there will be four main causes of death. If we correlate this passage with Ezekiel 5:12-17 and Ezekiel 14:21, the four main causes are:

1. Sword — war

2. Hunger — famine

3. Death — this refers mainly to **disease and pestilence**. There will be an outbreak of disease and pestilence.

4. Killed by the beasts — animals

At the fourth seal, one-quarter of the world population will die. At the sixth trumpet, another one third of the remaining world population will die.

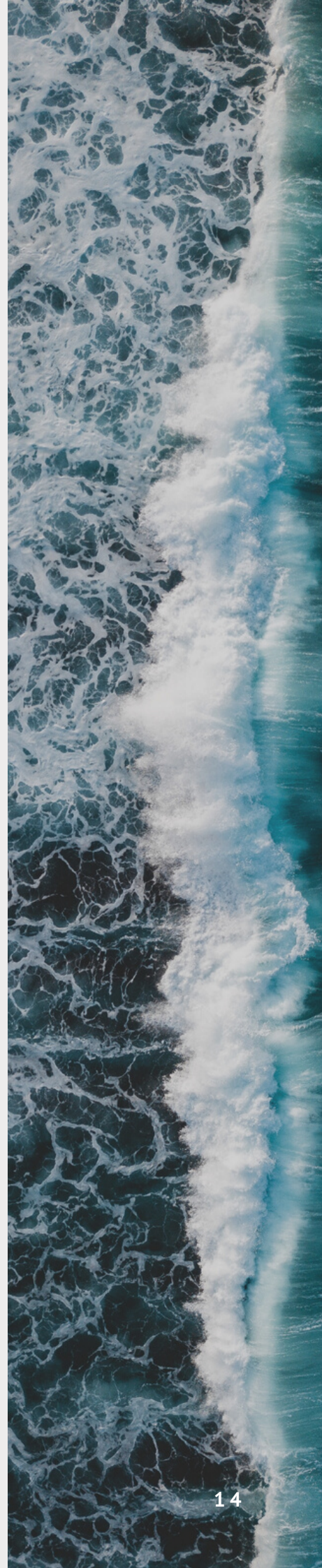
If we base our calculation on the current world population of 7.9 billion, it will mean that **a total of around four billion people will die by the end of the sixth trumpet.**



This is a staggering figure, far surpassing the 50 million people who died during the Second World War! And it works out to be an average of **three million people dying every day in the three and a half years of the Great Tribulation!**

We will be utterly overwhelmed and shocked if we are not prepared. Many of us, including believers, **will be swept away by the magnitude and intensity of what is to come.** We will be offended with God and there will be a Great Falling Away!

It is a matter of life and death. That is why we need to take this seriously!



At this point, let's remember that the seal, trumpet and bowl-judgments are primarily targeted at the Antichrist and His empire.

GOD'S JUDGMENTS ARE HIS MERCY.

His judgments are to establish love and righteousness and to remove all that hinders love.

Because of God's heart of mercy, He will use the **least severe means of judgment** to produce the **deepest level of love** in the **greatest number** of people **without violating their free will**.

Let's press in and wrestle with these truths. May we gain deeper understanding into God's heart of mercy so that we could say like the mature Bride in Revelation 19:2, *"True and righteous are His judgments"*!



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