

**Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon**

**Today's Message: The Seven Seals: The Sixth Seal; Revelation 6:12-17**

We come upon the Sixth Seal and now *The Day of the Lord* has certainly come!

Up until the sixth seal the terrors preceding it have been unprecedented in history. Yet, as several commentators observe, humanity has been able to explain the events away. The Wars have been initiated by power-grabbers; and the cataclysmic disasters can be explained as naturally occurring events. For instance, certainly drought has impacted agriculture causing famine. And as water levels drop significantly it can trigger earthquakes.

It is the Sixth Seal that triggers an awakening to the terror of the wrath of God and the Lamb (6:15-17). The Sixth Seal brings us to the brink before the Lamb of God comes riding forth on His white horse to destroy the armies of the earth and the enemies of God! Do not be confused, there are signs preceding His second coming. These signs preceding His Second Coming are the very seals we are studying; and when these signs begin, so begins *The Day of the Lord*, the final countdown before His Second Coming. But up til now, none of the signs within the Seals are as terrifying as the Sixth Seal. But let's take a quick look at *The Day of the Lord*.

## **The Day of the Lord**

### **I. The Uniqueness of *The Day of the Lord***

A. It differs from ***The Rapture***: There are no signs preceding the Rapture.

1. The Rapture is a separate coming of sorts.

a) 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17: "According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will come down from Heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."

2. There are no signs preceding the Rapture, which is why we believe the Bible teaches *imminency*, meaning, Jesus could Rapture His Church at any moment.

- B. *The Day of the Lord* on the other hand begins when the Church is Raptured.
1. But *The Day of the Lord* is not recognized as such until the **Sixth Seal**.
  2. By the Sixth Seal, *The Day of the Lord* is underway, but it came without warning!
    - a) The Rapture came without warning, yet not recognized by *the inhabitants of the earth*.
    - b) The first five seals have not registered in the minds of *the inhabitants of the earth* that the judgment of God has come and is still to come.
    - c) So, in essence, *The Day of the Lord* has come like **a thief in the night**.
      - (1) 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3, "...for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like **a thief in the night**. While people are saying, 'Peace and safety,' destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape."
- C. *The Day of the Lord* also includes not only the Tribulation period, but also the 1,000 year, millennial reign of Christ on earth and the events after that period.
1. 2 Peter 3:10-12 connects perfectly with Revelation 20:11ff and 21:1ff.
    - a) 2 Peter 3:10-12: "But *the Day of the Lord* will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat."
      - (1) Revelation 20:11: "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from His presence and there was no place for them."
      - (2) Revelation 21:1: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away and there was no longer any sea."
- D. Summary: If we can do it without damaging the awesomeness of *The Day of the Lord*, I will simplify it somewhat:
1. It is a period of separation
    - a) A separation of the enemies of God by Divine judgment:
      - (1) The enemies experience only wrath, anger, judgment, and eternal separation from God.
      - (2) The people of God experience only blessing, the millennial reign of Christ, and eternal glory in God's Heaven!

- (a) The Tribulation saints will suffer martyrdom. But that suffering produces a greater glory, like in 2 Cor. 4:17.

### **The Sixth Seal: The Unmistakable Hand of God and the Prayers of the inhabitants of the earth!**

#### **I. (Revelation 6:12-14) The Unmistakable Hand of God at Work in the Sixth Seal**

- A. (6:12) An unprecedented global earthquake
  - 1. We learn from Revelation 6:15-17 that *the inhabitants of the earth* know the source of the earthquake and the subsequent disasters.
    - a) Yet they refuse to repent and turn to God.
      - (1) The exception to this is the earthquake in Jerusalem (Revelation 11:13), when the two witnesses rise from the dead and are taken up into heaven (11:12) the survivors who saw it “gave glory to the God of Heaven.”
  - 2. Many OT prophets predicted this global earthquake and its ramifications:
    - a) Haggai predicted a global earthquake that would shake the nations before the Coming of the Lord to His Temple at the beginning of the Millenium.
      - (1) Haggai 2:6-7, 22-23
    - b) Joel predicted a global earthquake that would shake the Heavens
      - (1) Joel 2:10-12
        - (a) Joel even includes that this earthquake is God's last call for *the inhabitants of the earth* to repent and turn to God!
          - (i) Obviously, Joel is speaking to his contemporaries
          - (ii) But, I believe it is a last call to humans to repent
  - 3. The following signs in Revelation 6:12-14 are caused by the great earthquake.
- B. (6:12) The Signs of the Sun and Moon
  - 1. Genesis 1:14 tells us that the Sun and Moon were created for “signs”.
    - a) “And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark the seasons and days and years...’”
    - b) The signs pertaining to the Sun and moon here in Revelation 6:12 cannot be explained as natural occurrences.
      - (1) These signs result only from the actions of God who rules the universe. (See Genesis 1; Matthew 28:18; Colossians 1:15-17)
  - 2. The judgment affects the natural light of the world that mankind would turn to God!

- a) Mankind to this day and during *The Day of the Lord* idolizes the Sun and moon.

- (1) God will cut off this source of awe and wonder.

- b) God has sent the True Light of the world in the person of Jesus Christ. By this judgment on Sun and Moon and the stars (6:13) God is calling *The inhabitants of the earth* to turn from idols to serve the Living God.

- (1) Further Sun, moon and star judgments are seen in Revelation 8:12; 9:1-2; and 16:8-9

C. (6:13) The Signs of Stars falling to the earth.

1. The signs of the sixth seal are to be understood literally
  - a) A literal divine shaking of the heavens and earth!
2. Jesus told us that these astronomical signs will precede His Second Coming
  - a) Matthew 24:29-30: "Immediately after the distress of those days 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. (Is. 13:10; 34:4)' At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory."
3. See also Isaiah 13:9-13 and Hebrews 12:25-28

D. (6:14) The Signs of the sky and the mountains and islands

1. God is the source of the removal of all that mankind has considered immovable!
2. This cosmic disturbance will give *the inhabitants of the earth* a brief glimpse of God and the Lamb on their thrones (6:16)
  - a) Like what Stephen saw in Acts 7:56
  - b) Men will know that the wrath of God and the Lamb has come!

E. Application of the signs in Revelation 6:12-14

1. By these signs God is removing mankind's hope in anything but God so that all people will acknowledge their dependence upon God, their Creator!
  - a) Mankind cannot look to creation as the source of security.
  - b) Mankind cannot maintain creation
    - (1) Environmentalism will fail to preserve creation!
2. For us today, live fully trusting God through faith in Christ, the Son, "whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word." (Hebrews 1:1-3)
  - a) The only hope for the world and *the inhabitants of the earth* is in Christ! While we can, let us preach the gospel to every creature!

- b) And let us leave a witness and testimony that will reach into these days of the Great Tribulation. Perhaps some will come to know Christ at that time!

## II. (Revelation 6:15-17) The Prayers of the Inhabitants of the Earth

- A. (6:15) A People with knowledge but no faith
  - 1. Seven classes of humanity
    - a) Kings (rulers); Princes (policy makers); Generals (men of war); The Rich (Men and women of wealth, industrialists); The Mighty (movers and shakers); Every slave (literal slaves); Every Free man (everyday people)
  - 2. They try to “hide”: In Caves, and among Rocks and mountains.
    - a) Throughout the history of the church, according to Hebrews 11:38, Christians were forced to hide in caves and among the rocks and mountains when fleeing from these very same people.
      - (1) Now the tables have turned. And there is NO escaping!
    - b) When sinful people are face to face with the guilt of their sin, what is it they try to do? Hide! Everytime.
      - (1) Genesis 3:8: Adam and Eve tried to hide from God as His presence became known to the disgraced couple.
      - (2) You cannot hide from God!
- B. (6:16) A Prayer rooted in abject spiritual rebellion and unbelief
  - 1. Instead of facing God’s presence, they *pray* to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us!”
    - a) Revelation 9:6: “During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.”
  - 2. “Hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!”
    - a) Their rebellion is in **sharp contrast** to people who have believed in God and take to heart faith in the Lord Jesus!
      - (1) Those who have faith in Jesus long for His presence and actively and presently seek His face! (Enjoy Psalm 17:15; Prov. 8:7; Jer. 29:12-13; Amos 5:4; Matthew 5:1-12)
      - (2) Those who reject God fear His presence and flee from before His face.
    - b) People react to the gospel in the same way today. The gospel is both life and death: life to those who believe, and death to those who reject it!
      - (1) 2 Corinthians 2:15-16
    - c) **The Lamb** is Savior to His believers, and Death to His Rejectors.

- C. (6:17) A Principle without the response of faith (**Application**)
1. They recognize that “the great day of the Lord has come, and who can stand?”
    - a) This is *the day of the Lord*! And they **refuse to repent**!
  2. Challenge people whose hearts are hardened. *The Day of the Lord* will be a terrible
    - a) Study these verses: Zephaniah 1:14-17; Mal. 4:1-2; Luke 21:25-26
    - b) Don't be afraid to warn against the coming *Day of the Lord*.