

# The Seals Unveiled: Part 4

*Revelation 6:12-17*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fore The Lord Noyes Home Benefit Golf Tournament

-We have extended sponsor deadlines to this Wednesday, May 24th. Sign up online.

-If you're wanting to volunteer for this as well, you can sign up online to help out.

Men's retreat - sign up today

## BIBLE PASSAGE

**[Rev 6:12-17 NKJV] 12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. 13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. 14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. 15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves 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 who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"**

## INTRODUCTION

As each seal on the scroll is broken, events proceed from the Lord that increases in severity and wrath upon a rebellious and unbelieving world.

- The antichrist is revealed as a leader who initially comes with political prowess and smooth talk. He works His way up the ranks of world power to be the one who dominates the global economy and promotes global religion.
- As people are enamored with this man, things on Earth are progressively and rapidly getting worse and worse.
  - Famine, war, deception, and economic collapse all hit the world at an unprecedented rate that causes 1/4 of the world's population to experience mass extinction.
- As we approach the final two seals, we see that these initial judgments, as devastating as they were, were merely forerunners to the more intense divine wrath that will now take place.
- It's only with the breaking of the sixth seal that humanity finally begins to recognize that these things happening are actually divine in nature. They finally recognize that the horrific nature of what they see comes from the One who sits on the throne and the Lamb.
- Up to this point, the things they saw could be explained away by natural phenomena and human problems, but with the sixth seal, things can no longer be explained by natural means... these are divine things that couldn't take place outside the hand of God being involved.

Most agree that the 6th seal unleashes a period of judgment known in the scriptures as

"The Day of the Lord" this is not an insignificant but a very determined period of time in

11:49



how they might war against Him!

This goes to show that when people demand that God reveal himself and give them evidence, they rarely have any actual intention of turning to God. In the final phase of humanity, God is clear and made manifest to people in ways unparalleled in history, and instead of turning to God, they choose to war against him.

## THE DAY OF THE LORD

**It's a term that's mentioned 23 times in the OT and at least 6 in the NT.**

- In the OT it speaks of a time of great judgment coming from the hand of God. In some cases, the Day of the Lord refers to a specific temporal judgment that took place in the past, such as the destruction of Jerusalem and the Babylonian captivity. On other occasions, such as Joel 2 and Isaiah 13, it's what's called an "Eschatological Day of the Lord." This is when the OT prophets describe the ultimate or final day of the Lord, God's final judgment on the earth that is still yet future.
- This is the season that we see in the NT that culminates with the second coming of Jesus Christ, His 1000-year reign on the earth, and the ultimate renewal of the heavens and the earth.

Regarding the characteristics that seem to define the final Day of the Lord:

- 1. Cosmic upheaval**
- 2. Natural chaos**
- 3. Global confusion**
- 4. Unprecedented fear**

# 1 The Cry of Creation

## BIBLE PASSAGE

**[Rev 6:12-17 NKJV] 12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. 13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. 14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.**

## BIBLE PASSAGE

**[Rom 8:19-22 NKJV] 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.**

## THE INITIAL MARK OF THE SIXTH SEAL ARE COSMIC AND NATURAL UPHEAVALS THAT DEFY THE LAWS OF PHYSICS AND ARE UNPRECEDENTED IN HISTORY

### A Great Earthquake:

- Great as in greater magnitude than the localized earthquakes that we understand.
- The earth has known some significant earthquakes.
  - In 1812 Missouri had one of the largest earthquakes in American history, a 7.5 that destroyed quite a bit of infrastructure near St. Lewis. I grew up in California. I still remember in the early 90s watching the new development of houses next to us swaying back and forth as I watched in wonder. But even those earthquakes, where I live at least, pale in comparison to the great earthquakes of history.
  - In 2011 Japan experienced one of the strongest quakes ever recorded in modern times and the resulting tsunami claimed over 18,000 lives. In 1960 Chile was hit by a 9.5 magnitude earthquake that caused massive destruction all along its coast - it was the most powerful earthquake ever recorded. And in 2004, Sumatra was hit by an even bigger quake with a magnitude of 9.3 that caused widespread damage and over 230,000 deaths.
- Could this great earthquake's epicenter be in the land of Israel? Possibly. The Dead Sea Transform faultline is long overdue and is estimated to have the potential to produce a 9.0 + earthquake that could cause major tsunamis in Israel. This also could indicate the clashing of several major faultlines triggering an unprecedented globalize earthquake similar to what may have happened during the flood when the fountains of the deep were opened. It could simply be God's divine hand supernaturally shaking the earth, causing mass destruction.

- If the earthquake causes major volcanic activity, that may explain the color changes of the sun to black and the moon to blood red because of all the ash and smoke in the atmosphere.

### **Cosmic Disturbances:**

- The sun - black like sackcloth - made from black goat's hair. This could be from smoke. This phenomenon has been observed following volcanic eruptions. It could also be a lasting full solar eclipse. We get the sense that this won't be something that lasts a few days but actually remains for the final several years before Christ returns.
  - Interestingly, a recent discovery from Scientists reveals that the moon's surface is **increasingly "rusting"** because of the earth's atmosphere. This could lead to a Mars-like appearance, especially if something accelerated the process.
- Not only will the sun and moon be perceived differently and lose their light-giving properties, but the universe will also begin to shed stars like a fig tree sheds fruit when hit by gale-force winds.

### **BIBLE PASSAGE**

**Isaiah 13:9 - Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. 10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine. 11 I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; 13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth will move out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts and in the day of His fierce anger."**

### **BIBLE PASSAGE**

**[Joe 2:30-31 NKJV] 30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.**

## APPLICATION

Stars of Heaven fell to the earth (I think the best-selling book of the Tribulation will be **Henny-Penny**)

1. **The physical stars (Greek: Aster) - major asteroid activity on planet Earth.** All the doomsday movies coming true. But Bruce Willis won't be saving us.

Do you realize every day, the Earth gets bombarded with 20 tons of cosmic rock? Most of it is space dust, but larger strikes occur. Geologists can take you to over 140 craters all around the globe that are the result of incoming asteroids, comets, and meteors. And according to verse 13, it'll happen again, but on a much larger scale. There are astronomers today who estimate that there are over 400,000 NEOs, or Near Earth Objects, up to 1000 meters wide, that could strike planet Earth with little or no warning creating catastrophic damage.

## BIBLE PASSAGE

**[Job 38:31-33 NKJV] 31 "Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, Or loose the belt of Orion? 32 Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs? 33 Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth?"**

## BIBLE PASSAGE

**14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.**

## BIBLE PASSAGE

**[Isa 34:4 NKJV] 4 All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host shall fall down as the leaf falls from the vine, and as fruit falling from a fig tree.**

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## THE HEAVENS AND EARTH

Heavens and earth are mentioned together 126 times in the Bible. Here, the earth is also breaking apart when the heavens break apart.

The result of the mercy of Jesus at the cross was that the temple's veil was ripped open. The result of His judgment will be rending the fabric of time and space.

Let's not forget that the Lord is the one who rolled out the universe like a canopy. He can certainly roll it up.

- Some say that this could be the clashing of various dimensions.
- Some suggest that God splits the fabric of space and time.
- Some suggest that this is describing the final moment before the second coming of Jesus that reveals the lamb.

***This is a phenomenon we can't imagine because we haven't yet experienced it.***

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## BIBLE PASSAGE

**Quoting Psalm 102 - [Heb 1:10-12 NKJV] 10 And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 11 They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; 12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail."**

The key point of this is to show us that nothing can withstand the mighty hand of God. Nature won't provide safety; money won't provide safety, and status won't provide safety.

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## 2 The cry of those in the world

### BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 6:15-17 NKJV] **15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves 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 who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"**

### APPLICATION

**NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS:** On that day, it doesn't matter who you are. **Powerful, rich, mighty, poor, weak slave or free...** everyone will run and try to hide from God.

- Nothing that gave a sense of security on the earth will seem significant anymore.
  - What is your money worth when it can't purchase safety or comfort?
  - What is your position and prominence worth when there's nothing left to rule?
  - What good is your military might and physical strength when you're up against the might of God?
  - What difference does your status make when you're dealing with Jesus?

[Isa 2:19-21 NKJV] **19 They shall go into the holes of the rocks, And into the caves of the earth, From the terror of the LORD And the glory of His majesty, When He arises to shake the earth mightily. 20 In that day a man will cast away his idols of silver And his idols of gold, Which they made, each for himself to worship, To the moles and bats, 21 To go into the clefts of the rocks, And into the crags of the rugged rocks, From the terror of the LORD And the glory of His majesty, When He arises to shake the earth mightily.**

### INTERESTING:



I find it interesting that the first act of man after sinning was hiding from God and the last act of men in their sins is to try and hide from God. The first time God found man hiding, He gave them grace, this time He brings them judgment.

## APPLICATION

Here's the point, in the end, when faced directly with the hand of God, all human wealth, strength, position, and authority will fail, to the point that men of every status would rather be crushed by rocks than deal with the terror of the LORD.

## ILLUSTRATION

In the movie "Deep Impact," the United States sets up a survival village in the caves of Missouri called "The Ark" to protect the US from an impending asteroid. In the end, people will be running for the caves, but for other reasons. They are looking for the quickest, easiest way to hide and die from what's happening around them. Speaking of the Lord's judgment, God tells Ezekiel:

**[Eze 21:7 NKJV] 7 "And it shall be when they say to you, 'Why are you sighing?' that you shall answer, 'Because of the news; when it comes, every heart will melt, all hands will be feeble, every spirit will faint, and all knees will be weak as water. Behold, it is coming and shall be brought to pass,' says the Lord GOD."**

Jesus reiterates:

## BIBLE PASSAGE

**[Luk 21:25-27 NKJV] 25 "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; 26 "men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.**

## WHO'S SIDE IS GOD ON?

I thought it was timely that Tony taught the men's breakfast yesterday on Joshua 5.

- Joshua runs into who many believe to be a pre-incarnate Jesus. He has a sword drawn. Joshua approaches him with a question, "Who's side are you on? Are you on our side or theirs?" To which He answers, "NO..." I love that! " I am the commander of the Lord's army!"
- Joshua doesn't argue... he bows down and makes himself the Servant of the Lord.
- In many ways, the conquest of Canaan led by Joshua mimics the conquest of the earth led by Jesus... and whose side is Jesus on? NO.
- Jesus is on His own side. He's the king.

As a short side note, I think this is important for us to learn.

**"God is always by my side, but He's not always on my side."**

If you want God to be on your side, you have to be on his side first. I think some of you have a hard time even hearing that because we've been told so much that God is on our side. From a strict military term perspective, no, he's not. He IS for us. But to be on someone's side means you're coming to their cause; you're fighting for their ambitions and desires. God fights for us. We could say that God is always by our side, but he's not on our side. God is on one side... His own.

I read this quote the other day from Abraham Lincoln:

## QUOTE

**“I know that the Lord is always on the side of the right. But it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and this nation should be on the Lord's side.”**

## APPLICATION

From politics to "name it claim it" to health and wealth, everyone is trying to get Jesus on their side, to use Jesus for their own aims and purposes. We need to stop asking god to be on our side and start getting ourselves on His side, submitting our will to His, surrendering our desires to His, and being consumed with His glory, His righteousness, and His purposes. He is the King!

## DON'T MISS THE SOURCE OF THE WRATH

He who sits on the throne and the lamb. This is an act of the triune God.

But the phrase "the wrath of the lamb" is quite an oxymoron. When you think of a lamb, wrath is probably not the word that comes to mind. How intimidating would that be? **Watch out! That lamb's going to have its revenge!**

**But this isn't any ordinary lamb! It's a battle-tested lamb. A lamb that gave his life and, in doing so, made war against death itself, ultimately conquering it forever!**

**I think it's worth noting that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. It's not as if Jesus was gentle at one point, then flipped a switch and became angry.**

- He's the same Jesus Who welcomed little children - showed compassion to lepers - reattached the ear that Peter chopped off of His arresting officer - forgave sinners...
- But don't let Jesus' unfathomable mercy and grace overshadow the fact that there are things that make him angry. When Jesus was here, he restrained his righteous anger because of his specific mission, but we saw glimpses of Jesus getting ticked off... and that might be tame language.
  - He was angry at the Pharisees for placing the people in spiritual bondage.
  - Twice he drove greedy merchants out of the temple, once with a whip and once with his bare knuckles.
  - In Matthew 23 Jesus was the person who went on a Temple tirade. He called the religious elite "hypocrites, blind guides, fools and blind, whitewashed tombs... full of dead men's bones, lawless, sons of murderers, serpents, brood of vipers..." You don't call somebody a snake if you're not ticked off. Jesus got really angry.

- The source of Jesus' anger is His perfect love which fuels his perfect justice. There are times when love draws lines in the sand, "This far and no further." There are moments when love puts its foot down and rolls up its sleeves to deal with things that are unjust, unholy, and unrighteous.
- In Revelation 6, each seal that breaks also breaks the heart of Jesus, but it must be done if love is to win the day.
- And friend, if today you don't find yourself brokenhearted over sinners and, at the same time, angry over sin, you have not yet fully entered into love.

### 3 The direction of God's wrath

#### BIBLE PASSAGE

**[Heb 10:28-31 NKJV] 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

#### APPLICATION

I want to read you a series of verses and see if you can find a pattern as to the recipients of the wrath of God that is coming.

- **Colossians 3:6 - Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience**
- **Ephesians 5:6 - Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.**

- **Ephesians 2:3** - among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.
- **1 Thessalonians 1:10** And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.
- **1 Thessalonians 3:13** so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.
- **1Thessalonians 5:9** For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- **[2Th 1:6-8 NKJV]** **6** since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, **8** in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### QUOTE

**“** *If men and women will not yield to the love of God, and be changed by the grace of God, then there is no way for them to escape the wrath of God.* **”**

Warren Wiersbe