

The Book Of Revelation

Study 36

Last week we were talking about the results of the sixth seal being opened and the **force behind the opening of the seal was the prayers of the Saints of God under the throne**, asking when the judgment of God would be forthcoming upon the earth. The promise was that it was coming soon, just as soon as those who would be killed for their faith were killed then the judgment would come.

When the sixth seal comes and is opened in answer to the prayers **it brought into play another force the force of fear**. Great fear of those things coming on the earth. And we talked about the reason for the fear which is one of the three features associated with the sixth seal.

There are two more to look at.

- a. The reason for fear
- b. **The range of fear**
- c. **The reaction of fear.**

So let's take up the next one

THE RANGE OF FEAR

Revelation 6:15a (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,*

This verse indicates that the debilitating fear caused by the disasters associated with the sixth seal will affect all unbelievers.

These seven categories embrace all classes of society, **The kings of the earth** refers to the heads of state throughout the world.

The great men (*megistanes*) are the high-ranking officials in government. **The commanders** are the military leaders, while **the rich** are those who control commerce and business **and the strong** may well be the influential.

Together they comprise the elite elements of human society. Ironically, these are the very people who ignored the warning of God's impending judgment and persecuted those who proclaimed it.

Neither political power, military authority, riches, nor influence will exempt anyone from God's judgment.

Proverbs 11:4 (NKJV)

⁴ *Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death.*

Zephaniah 1:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ *Neither their silver nor their gold Shall be able to deliver them In the day of the Lord's wrath; But the whole land shall be devoured By the fire of His jealousy, For He will make speedy riddance Of all those who dwell in the land.*

Nor will the common people, the lower classes, escape; **every slave and free man** will be as terrified as the influential and wealthy.

THE REACTION OF FEAR

Revelation 6:15b-17 (NKJV)

^{15b} *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?"*

The reaction of the unbelieving world to the terrors unleashed by the sixth seal will not be one of repentance

Revelation 9:21 (NKJV)

²¹ *And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.*

Revelation 16:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ *They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.*

But of mindless panic. They will finally acknowledge what believers have been saying all along, that the disasters they have experienced are God's judgment.

Yet, like the demons of whom James wrote:

James 2:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ *You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble!*

They will believe and fear, but not repent.

They will follow Satan, believe his lies, and embrace his messenger, "Anti-"Christ.

As a result, God will judicially abandon them;

2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 (NKJV)

¹¹ *And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,*

¹² *that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

Those who repeatedly harden their hearts will have their hearts hardened by God; they will be unable to repent and believe.

The panic-stricken sinners will react irrationally, foolishly attempting to hide **themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains.**

Isaiah 2:17-21 (NKJV)

¹⁷ *The loftiness of man shall be bowed down, And the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; The Lord alone will be exalted in that day,*

¹⁸ *But the idols He shall utterly abolish.*

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.

They are going into the very places that are being shaken and that are moving out of their places,

They are no doubt seeking refuge from the swarms of meteors and asteroids bombarding the earth.

But in light of the massive earthquake and its continuing aftershocks, the widespread volcanic eruptions, and the other disturbances to the earth's crust, such hiding places will offer no safety.

Further it is impossible to hide from God or evade His judgment.

Speaking of rebellious Israel, God said:

Amos 9:2-3 (NKJV)

² *"Though they dig into hell, From there my hand shall take them; Though they climb up to heaven, From there I will bring them down;*

³ *And though they hide themselves on top of Carmel, From there I will search and take them; Though they hide from My sight at the bottom of the sea, From there I will command the serpent, and it shall bite them;*

Psalms 139:7-12 (NKJV)

⁷ *Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?*

⁸ *If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.*

⁹ *If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,*

¹⁰ *Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.*

¹¹ *If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me;*

¹² *Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.*

The terrifying events spark a worldwide prayer meeting, but the prayers are to mother nature, not to God.

As the unbelievers frantically burrow into the earth in their futile attempt to hide themselves, **they will say to the mountains and to the rocks, "fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"**

Too late, the people alive at that time will finally realize that all the disasters that have come upon them and their world are the result of God's wrath.

Unwilling and unable to repent, they will scream for the mountains and rocks to fall on them and crush them.

Two similar cries can be seen in Scripture;

Hosea 10:8 (NKJV)

⁸ *Also the high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, Shall be destroyed. The thorn and thistle shall grow on their altars; They shall say to the mountains, "Cover us!" And to the hills, "Fall on us!"*

Luke 23:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ *Then they will begin 'to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" '*

Both of these times in the midst of national calamity for Israel.

They are prophetic of the time referred to in the sixth seal.

People will be so terrified that they would rather die than face the wrath of a holy God, foolishly ignoring the fact that death will provide absolutely no escape from divine judgment, rather casting into the eternal lake of fire

Revelation 20:11-15 (NKJV)

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Him who sits on the throne refers to God;

Revelation 4:2-3 (NKJV)

² Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

³ And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

Revelation 4:9 (NKJV)

⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

They will have, by then, come to a clear understanding that God has been behind all the judgments.

More specifically, they fear **the wrath of the Lamb**. The Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ

Revelation 5:6-8 (NKJV)

⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

⁸ Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

He is the agent of direct judgment. The wrath of the incarnate Jesus was seen only twice before in Scripture, when He cleansed the temple;

John 2:13-17 (NKJV)

¹³ Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

¹⁴ And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers doing business.

¹⁵ When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables.

¹⁶ And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"

¹⁷ Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."

Matthew 21:12-13 (NKJV)

¹² *Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.*

¹³ *And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "*

In the future, He will judge like a lion;

Revelation 5:5 (NKJV)

⁵ *But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."*

The panic stricken people of the world will recognize the Lamb as the executioner.

The great day of their (God's and 'Christ's) **wrath** is another term for the Day of the Lord.

Apparently the world will understand that final wrath has come.

The primary Old Testament passages from which the images in the sixth seal are drawn prove that **the great day** must be the Day of the Lord are as follows;

(Isaiah 2:10-11, 19-21; 13:9-13; 34:4,8; Ezek 32:7-8; Hos 10:8; Joel 2:11,30; Zeph 1:14; Mal 4:5)

These Day of the Lord horrors precede the coming of the Lord and even anticipate the worst that is yet to come in the seventh seal, which includes the trumpet; (8:1-9:21) and bowl (16:1-21) judgments.

The scene closes with the asking of the rhetorical question **who is able to stand?** The answer is no one.

The prophet Nahum wrote:

Nahum 1:6 (NKJV)

⁶ *Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, And the rocks are thrown down by Him.*

In 1 Thess we read;

1 Thessalonians 5:3 (NKJV)

³ *For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.*

The ungodly will not be able to evade divine judgment.

This picture, horrifying and frightening as it is, is not altogether hopeless. The Church will be delivered from that time. Great multitudes of people will be saved in the midst of the terrors of divine judgment, both Gentiles and Jews.

Revelation 7:9 (NKJV)

⁹ *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,*

Romans 11:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

But for the rest sobering words of the writer of Hebrews will apply:

Hebrews 10:26-27 (NKJV)

²⁶ For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

Hebrews 10:31(NKJV)

³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Next study we will look at the Survivors of the Wrath of God in Rev 7:1-8