

“SEAL 6 – COSMIC DISTURBANCES & GREAT DISTRESS”

“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.”
Revelation 6:12-14 (NKJV)

Let me just say ... that the 6th seal is a big deal! It is massive. It is far bigger than most acknowledge and too many prophecy teachers don't give it the attention it deserves. Because many think that **the seals** are just the first set of judgements before the **'real bad stuff'** in the trumpets and bowls occur. ***We really shouldn't do that. Because it is dramatic, others try to spiritualize it away ... saying that it is just symbolism. We shouldn't do that either!***

The 6th seal contains events that the prophets specifically spoke about. Jesus spoke about it. **And both the prophets and Jesus place it at the end of the tribulation.**

So, what do we see in this seal? **Firstly, we see all sorts of heavenly signs.** Do you like the sun? Well, it goes black like sackcloth. Keen on the moon? Well, it turns blood red. Like gazing up into the stars? Well, they begin falling from heaven. If that wasn't bad enough the sky itself starts rolling back like a scroll and, for good measure, every mountain and island on this planet is moved from its place. Now if both the sun and moon are dark ... what is life on this planet going to be like? ***It will be pitch black!***

Look at what Isaiah wrote about this day: Isaiah 13:9-11 ... “See, the day of the LORD is coming --a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger-- to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. (10) **The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light. (11) I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins.** I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless.” (NIV)

Isaiah also links this event with a mind-boggling earthquake and the judgement of both the angelic realm and those on the earth. And it is further linked with **the coming of the Lord** to reign on Mount Zion:

Isaiah 24:19-23 ... “The earth is broken up, the earth is split asunder, **the earth is thoroughly shaken. (20) The earth reels like a drunkard, it sways like a hut in the wind**; so heavy upon it is the guilt of its rebellion that it falls--never to rise again. (21) **In that day the LORD will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below.** (22) They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon; they will be shut up in prison and be punished after many days. (23) **The moon will be abashed, the sun ashamed**; for the LORD Almighty will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before its elders, gloriously.” (NIV)

Isaiah also links this event where the stars fall and the sky is rolled back like a scroll with ... the Lord's destruction of the nation's armies - an event that occurs at the battle of Armageddon at the end of the tribulation:

Isaiah 34:2-4 ... “The LORD is angry with all nations; His wrath is upon all their armies. He will totally destroy them, he will give them over to slaughter. (3) **Their slain will be thrown out, their dead bodies will send up a stench**; the mountains will be soaked with their blood. (4) **All the stars of the heavens will be dissolved and the sky rolled up like a scroll; all the starry host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig tree.**” (NIV)

So how would that impact those dwelling on the earth? Well, Revelation 6:15-17 says ... “**Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every freeman hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. (16) They called to the mountains and the 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 their wrath has come, and who can stand?"**

In short, they are petrified and just want to hide from something they have seen. In fact, they are so scared that they even want the rocks to fall on them. And who is asking for their lives to be taken? Well, people from all walks of life that have rejected Jesus ...

- This includes the kings of this earth, the princes, the rich and mighty ... *the so-called elite of this world*. Imagine for a moment that you are a Elon Musk, a Bill Gates, a Mark Zuckerberg, a Larry Ellison, a Jeff Bezos in that day. Everyone will be brought to the same level ... and all the wealth and power in the world won't help them. It will mean nothing at this point!

Conclusion

This is a full-on chapter – giving an overview of the Tribulation period and we've seen a progression ... from deception, to wars, to famines and finally to death. The chapter begins with the coming of the Antichrist in all deception ... and ends with the coming of the Lord in all glory!

And the last thing we read is a dramatic question spoken by unbelievers – **“For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”** It is a good question and one that should be asked right now: Who can stand before the Lord? Who can stand before this One who is perfect righteousness?

- **Answer: No one can stand before Him in their own righteousness. Only those that have been redeemed, justified by faith in Him and given a gift of righteousness can stand!**

Taken as a whole, chapter 6 is one of the most important and pivotal chapters in the entire book. It describes the first six seals and also introduces the seventh seal ... which consists of and introduces the seven trumpets and the seven bowls of the wrath of God in chapters 8-9; 16.

The contents of chapter 6 should put to rest the false teachings that God, being a God of love, could not judge a wicked world. It also raises the important question contained in the closing words of verse 17: Who can stand? Only those who have availed themselves of the grace of God before the time of judgment will be able to stand when God deals with the earth in this final period of great distress. Those who will be saved in the Great Tribulation are described in the next chapter.

This is the true gospel that has been preached for 2000+ years - That we are all sinners, deserving of God's judgement. **But through faith in the shed blood of Jesus and His death upon the cross on our behalf ... We are saved! And we can stand!** (1 Corinthians 15:1, Romans 5:1-2)

But God's judgement is coming on those that do not accept His offer of salvation ... and a chapter like this should motivate us to remember our family, friends and co-workers that do not know the Lord ...

There will come a time when the day of grace changes to the day of vengeance.